



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

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“Deliver Proper Nutrition to All Mothers and Children!” Symposium on Nutrition Hosted Jointly by Parliamentary Associations

On January 25, a symposium on nutrition was held in the International Conference Room of the House of Representatives First Members’ Office Building. It was co-hosted by the following parliamentary associations:

- Improving Nutrition of Mothers and Children;
- Parliamentary Association for Nutritionist;
- Friends of Global Fund Japan Diet Task Force;
- Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF);
- Parliamentary Association for Stop TB Partnership Japan (STBJ);
- Diet Task Force on Global Polio Eradication;
- Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship Associations;
- Japan-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Associations;
- Japan-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Associations;
- Parliamentary Group for Vaccines and Prevention;
- Parliamentary Group for NPO;
- Parliamentary League on SDGs Diplomacy;
- All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Promotion of the Tokyo Olympics 2020;
- Parliamentary Associations for UNICEF,
- Parliamentary Associations for WHO,
- Parliamentary Associations for WFP;
- Parliamentary Associations for FAO; and
- Parliamentary Associations for UNHCR.

More than 100 parliamentarians and participants from international organizations, government ministries, and NGOs attended.

Providing adequate nutrition for all is critical in actualizing the goals of the joint declaration adopted at the UHC Forum 2017 last December in Tokyo and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In particular, in 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Nutrition for Growth Summit

is planned to take place in Japan and the country’s active involvement is expected in this field. From the perspective of population and food security, JPPF has been, since its establishment, grappling with the issue of nutrition, which constitutes a foundation of health and nurtures healthy future generations.



The symposium’s program consisted of Part I “Africa and Nutrition”, Part II “Refugees and Nutrition”, and Part III “Towards the Tokyo

Olympic and Paralympic Games: Let's Talk about Nutrition, Food, and Life as Global Citizens". The keynote speeches and panel discussions were followed by presentations from a range of angles.

In Part I "Africa and Nutrition", moderated by Hon. Keisuke Suzuki (Secretary General of the Parliamentary Association for FAO), Hon. Ichiro Aisawa (Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Association for Improving Nutrition of Mothers and Children) gave an opening address, which was followed by an address by H.E. Michiyo Takagi (State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare), keynote speeches by FAO and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, an exchange of opinions by representatives of parliamentary associations, and an address by Ms. Hiroko Kato (Chair of Japan Dietetic Federation).

In Part II "Refugees and Nutrition", moderated by Hon. Yayoi Kimura, Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl (Commissioner-General of UNRWA) and Dr. Akihiro Kiyota (Director of Health of UNRWA) noted that the biggest challenge for Palestine refugees is non-communicable diseases such as diabetes caused by lack of sufficient meals. They emphasized that emergency relief as well as efforts to improve living conditions and realize social justice were needed.

Hon. Motohiro Ono (Executive Director of Japan-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Association) spoke from his experience of participating in relief activities in the region, while Hon. Ichiro Aisawa, who also serves as Chair of the Parliamentary Association for UNHCR and Acting Chair of JPPF, commented, "One in every 120 people on the globe is a refugee, and there are 65 million refugees around the world. We need to make efforts towards improving their nutrition and education, which are the first things that refugees need".

Furthermore, Hon. Yukio Ubukata shared his experience of visiting refugee camps and slums through the activities of JPPF over the years and stated, "Women and children are the most vulnerable and efforts to address the issue of population including reproductive health (RH) are very important". "Religion is often highlighted in relation to the issue of refugees", observed another parliamentarian. "But the issue of food security is often the cause of refugee issue. It is important to resolve this issue by securing a stable food supply".

In Part III "Towards the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games: Let's Talk about Nutrition, Food, and Life as Global Citizens", moderated by Hon. Seiji Kihara (Secretary General of the Parliamentary League on SDGs Diplomacy) and Hon. Yuichiro Hata (Secretary General of the Parliamentary Association for UNICEF), parliamentarians representing various parliamentary associations shared their thoughts, followed by presentations by representatives of government agencies and private firms on the efforts towards 2020.

Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko (Vice-Chair of JPPF) noted that JPPF was established as the world's first non-partisan parliamentary association on sustainable development, which is now a global concept developed through Japan's leadership and underlined that parliamentarian activities were essential for achievement of the SDGs. He explained that this commitment was upheld at an Asian-African parliamentarians' meeting organized last September in India by APDA (JPPF Secretariat) and drew international attention. Hon. Mashiko further called on the parliamentary associations working in their respective fields to unite in advancing the SDGs. The symposium was closed with concluding remarks by Hon. Akiko Santo (Chair of the Parliamentary Association for Improving Nutrition of Mothers and Children).

