

**THE FIFTEENTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

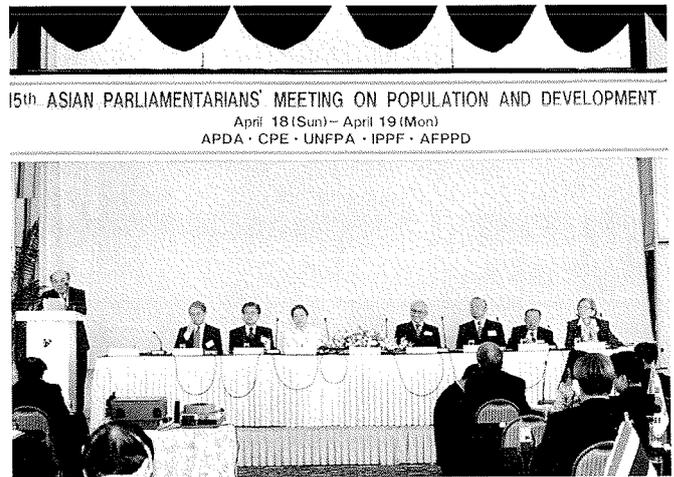
Seoul, Republic of Korea  
April 18–19, 1999

THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
(APDA)



Participants of “The 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Population and Development”

Opening Ceremony (*from left*) Dr. Taro Nakayama – APDA Chairman, Dr Hirofumi Ando –UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Sang–Mok Suh – CPE Chairmen, Ms. Mo-Im Kim – Minister of Health and Welfare of Republic of Korea, Mr. Jyun Kyu Park – Speaker of Korean National Assembly, Mr. Shin Sakurai – AFPPD Chairman, Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn – AFPPD Secretary General, and Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann – IPPF Director General



A View from the Meeting

A View from the Meeting



APDA presented life-time achievement award, “APDA Award”, to (*from left*) Mr. Tsuguo Hirose – APDA Executive Director/Secretary General, Mr. Manmohan Sharma – IAPPD Executive Director, Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn – AFPPD Secretary General, Dr. Taro Nakayama – APDA Chairman (presenter of the award), Mr. Shin Sakurai – AFPPD Chairman, Mr. Colin Hollis – AFPPD Vice-Chairman, and Dr. Hirofumi Ando – UNFPA

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# THE FIFTEENTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Main Theme: "Asian Parliamentarians' Action After The Hague"

## Program

April 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

- [10:00–10:40]      **Opening Ceremony** (*Doksu Hall, 22F*)  
**Welcome Address**      Mr. Jyun Kyu Park, Speaker, Korean National Assembly  
**Opening Address**      Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman, APDA  
**Address**                      Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman, AFPPD  
**Address**                      Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman, CPE  
**Address**                      Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
- [10:40–11:00]  
**Keynote Address**      Ms. Mo-Im Kim, Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea
- [11:00–11:20]      **Coffee Break**
- [11:20-12:40]      **Session I: "Reproductive Health / Reproductive Rights and Population Issues"**  
Chairperson:              Dr. Apenisa Kurisaqila (Fiji)  
Resource Person:        Dr. J. R. Nereus O. Acosta (Philippines)  
Followed by Discussion
- [12:40–14:00]      **Lunch Reception** (*Doksu Hall, 22F*)  
Hosted by Ms. Mo-Im Kim  
Minister of Health and Welfare, Korea
- [14:00–15:00]      **Session II: "Environment, Food Security and Population Issues"**  
Chairperson:              Sen. Datuk Iblahim Ali (Malaysia)  
Resource Person:        Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii, Ph.D. (Japan)  
Resource Person:        Dr. Ui Wha Chung, M.D. (Republic of Korea)  
Followed by Discussion
- [15:00–15:20]      **Coffee Break**
- [15:20–16:30]      **Session II** (continued)
- [18:00–19:30]      **Welcome Dinner** (*Annex, Grand Ballroom, B2F*)  
Hosted by Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP, Chairman, APDA
- [20:00– ]              **AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting**

April 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

- [9:30–10:50]      **Session III:**  
**“Gender and Population Issues”**  
Chairperson:            Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn (Thailand)  
Resource Person:        Ms. Akiko Dohmoto (Japan)  
Followed by Discussion
- [10:50–11:10]      **Coffee Break**
- [11:10–12:30]      **Session IV:**  
**“Adolescents, Youth, the Elderly and Persons in Disability”**  
Chairperson:            Mr. Colin Hollis (Australia)  
Resource Person:        Dr. Low Seow Chay (Singapore)  
Resource Person:        Mr. Zhu Xiangyuan (China)  
  
Followed by Discussion
- [12:30–13:50]      **Lunch Break** (*Doksu Hall, 22F*)  
Hosted by CPE
- [13:50–15:10]      **Session V:**  
**“Economic Crisis and Population Issues”**  
Chairperson:            Dr. Sung-Gon Kim (Republic of Korea)  
Resource Person:        Mr. Vayalar Ravi (India)
- [15:10–15:30]      **Coffee Break:**
- [15:30–16:00]      **Slide Presentation** (*Doksu Hall, 22F*)  
**“A Warning from the Earth – The Future of Asia, Water and Food”**  
Presented by Mr. Tsuguo Hirose, Executive Director of APDA
- [16:00-17:00]      **Closing Ceremony**  
**Closing Remarks**      Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman, CPE  
**Address**                    Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman, APDA  
**Address**                    Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, Director General, IPPF  
**Address**                    Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Secretary General, AFPPD
- [18:00-20:00]      **Farewell Dinner** (*Annex, Grand Ballroom, B2F*)  
Hosted by APDA, AFPPD and CPE

## **Opening Ceremony**

[10:00-10:40]

**Welcome Address**  
**Mr. Jyun Kyu Park**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**  
**Republic of Korea**

Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association, Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Hon. Mo-Im Kim, the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Ms. Ingar Brueggemann, the Secretary General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment, Dear parliamentarians, Distinguished guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today at the opening of this important gathering of parliamentarians from Asian Pacific countries. Allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to our hosts, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development (CPE), for inviting me to deliver a welcoming speech and congratulate their endeavours to make this conference a success. As Speaker of the National Assembly of the host country, I extend my heartfelt welcome to all participants, and I thank all of you for taking time to attend this 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

It is my understanding that the Hague Conference was an important milestone, assessing five years of progress since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Today, we are here in Seoul to extend the scope of the work done in Hague and explore ways to achieve our common goal. I hope that you find this Seoul conference a productive and useful one and enjoy the remainder of your stay in Korea. I also hope that you can take some time out to possibly visit the National Assembly. You will find that although, politically, spring has yet to come, the flowers around the Assembly are in full bloom.

Today and tomorrow, you will discuss a wide array of subjects, ranging from reproductive health and rights issues, the environment, food security and population issues, gender equality and equity, adolescents, the elderly and the handicapped to the economic crisis. We need to address such issues to ensure the quality of life of the people we are elected to serve. We, as parliamentarians, need to identify ways to strike a balance between population and development through a mutually agreed framework.

Then, how can we forge a consensus while attaining what we set out to achieve in the first place? Finding an answer to this question is exactly why we are gathered here today. Asian Pacific countries have varying degrees of economic development; there are economies in transition, developed countries and less developed ones. However, the common thread that binds us together

is relevant to the theme of today's conference. That is, the need to strike a balance between population and development, we need to bear in mind the fact that this is no ordinary issue because it permeates the social fabric of all countries and impacts every façade of our lives.

Once again, it all comes down to how we allocate public resources in a more efficient manner and explore ways to forestall any unfortunate events. By taking preventive measures, we can ensure the quality of life of the people for whom we are elected to serve. Without addressing issues relevant to population and development here and now, they will come back and haunt us in the immediate future. I emphasise the urgency of these issues because the mere flap of a butterfly's wings or any seemingly insignificant event in a country is enough to cause a tidal wave in today's volatile world. I believe the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development offers a great opportunity for us to share information and knowledge, to present policy options and to gain insight on how to translate such policies into legislation.

Fourty years have passed since I first became a politician. You could easily say that I'm an old soldier in the world of politics. As General MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." So now, I'll take my cue and fade away to let you all engage in what I hope are most fruitful and productive sessions through which many ideas and suggestions can be exchanged. Thank you very much.

## **Opening Address**

**Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP**

**Chairman**

**The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)**

**Chairman**

**Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF)**

Your Excellency, the Honourable Jyn Kyu Park, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Your Excellency, the Honourable Mo-Im Kim, Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman, Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE), Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development I wish to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Korean delegation and all those concerned for your most generous co-operation in organising the meeting. I wish also to extend my hearty welcome to my Asian parliamentary colleagues who are here with us.

The host of the current APDA meeting, the Republic of Korea and Japan are geographically close neighbours. The two countries have had extremely deep historical relationship bound by long and special ties.

Japan, having achieved demographic transition, is today faced with an urgent and serious decline in the number of children per couple. Legislators from both the government and opposition parties have identified this as a basic national policy issue and have placed before the Diet a joint parliamentary bill. It does not mean that we simply encourage couples to have more children. It does, however, mean putting an end to an extreme case of families having small number of children by supporting couples who cannot have children even if they so wish as a result of ongoing trend towards nuclear families and higher educational achievements.

I believe that this is in line with the spirit of the Cairo Program of Action. If it is a tragedy to bear unwanted children, it is also a tragedy not to be able to have them against their will. Resolution of the problem of small families is synonymous to improving the environment surrounding women. In fact it is nothing less than promoting improved reproductive health and rights and empowering women.

In retrospect we can say that the most significant factor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with regard to population is its increase particularly in Asia. In 1950 the world population stood at 2.524 billion of which Asia accounted for 1.42 billion. In 1995, Asia alone accounted for 3.438 billion out of the world's total of 5.687 billion, recording an increase of 2.036 billion.

The rate of Asia's increase was 1.83 times that of the increase of three regions of Africa, the Americas and Europe combined—namely 1.111 billion. It is staggering to note how mammoth the Asian population increase had been and what large impact it had on the world population. While the rate of population increase is declining it is expected that the impact of Asian population increase will be felt for some time. According to the present estimates in the three decades between year 2000 and 2030, Asia is expected to see an increase of 1.22 billion people, a size larger than the present day China.

While we continue to see a vast population increase in Asia we have seen fertility decline in some countries. Five countries (China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea) have experienced a rapid decline in fertility since 1960. The combined Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of the five countries from 1950 to 55 was between 5.40 and 6.59, which was higher than the combined TFR of Japan, U.S. and Europe which ranged from 2.16 to 3.45. Since 1960 fertility rates of the five Asian countries as well as that of Japan, U.S. and Europe continued to decrease. After 1965-70 period, the five Asian countries experienced a sharper rate of decline. As a result, the TFR of China, Korea and Thailand reached the same level of Japan, U.S. and Europe.

While various factors may account for this phenomenon, changes in society had reduced the social security effect of raising many children to support the ageing parents. At the same time the opportunity cost of women has increased above the expected advantage of having many children. In the meantime, the improved public health, midwifery and maternal facilities as well as higher level of education of mothers combined to reduce infant mortality. This has been an outstanding factor in reducing mortality and achieving a dramatic increase in life expectancy.

From the aspect of population structure, rapid increase in ageing and decline in the number of offspring follow rapid population increase. In other words, rapid population increase and ageing /fewer offspring are two sides of the same phenomenon. In the process of ageing, the crucial time is when countries cross the critical point at which the 65 year olds and above account for more than 15 percent of the population, that is to say, Hyper Aged Society. Japan crossed this turning point in 1997. Asian countries are expected to join Japan in this process one after another. According to the United Nations material, Korea will reach the critical point in the second half of 2020s, China and Thailand in the first half of 2030s and India and Indonesia in the latter half of 2040s. Since these countries have achieved demographic transition at a faster pace than Japan, it is likely that they would, from the nature of the population structure, experience violent pace of ageing and fewer children.

As politicians we are dedicated to the sound management of national affairs. At the same time we must seriously consider how humankind can live peacefully together on this earth. At the macro level, we must cope with the question of feeding and supporting the rising population that threatens to increase beyond the capacity of mother earth. The countries that have successfully achieved demographic transition from high-fertility-high-mortality to low-birth and low-death pattern would have to cope with the major issue of ageing and reduced pool of their offspring. Both issues are part of the larger population problem that we as members of parliament must address as part of our

mandate to manage our country, the earth and the future of humankind.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development met in Cairo, Egypt and agreed to implement the ICPD Program of Action by 2014. As you know, the Program of Action places at the heart of the resolution of population problem, the promotion of reproductive health/rights and empowerment of women. An epoch making shift in paradigm was achieved when it stated that substantial solution of the problem will be sought by improving the social environment and not just by achieving numerical targets.

This is the fifth year since the ICPD Program of Action was adopted. Earlier this year in February, the International Forum was held in The Hague, Holland. The International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review was held under the committed leadership of Shin Sakurai, the Chairman of AFPPD also in The Hague in advance of the International Forum. 210 parliamentarians attended it from 103 countries that adopted the Hague Declaration. The substance of the Declaration was presented by AFPPD Chairman Shin Sakurai and IFP Secretary General at the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review (IFP) in The Hague International Forum, as well as at the Preparatory Committee on March 24 in New York for the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly, containing proposals for key actions for further implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (PrepCom). I was told that it earned much empathy and support from national representatives.

Dramatic changes are taking place in many fields. We should take advantage of this change and do our utmost to leave this earth in its best form for the next generation. The theme of this meeting is Asian Parliamentarians' Action After The Hague. I believe that the result of the International Parliamentarians Forum of ICPD review is distributed to you. Let us together seriously discuss what we ought to do in order to do our best towards the resolution of the population problem.

I sincerely wish to thank you all for joining us at this meeting. Once again I wish to thank the Korean National Assembly and Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE) as well as all those concerned for your generous co-operation and your special efforts in arranging this meeting. In concluding my opening address, let me say that I am most confident that with your co-operation the meeting will make a fruitful contribution towards the resolution of the population problem.

Thank you for your attention.

## **Address**

**Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP  
Chairman**

### **Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)**

Your Excellency, the Honourable Jyn Kyu Park, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Your Excellency, the Honourable Mo-Im Kim, Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman, Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE), Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman, APDA, Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), The honourable delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you most heartily for your participation at the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

In the last few years, an economic storm hit us in Asia including Japan which too was adversely impacted. The storm did not merely hit our economies. It had an enormous and serious damage on population in general and reproductive health in particular. Investment in the fields of population and reproductive health is the most important, if we are to secure long term prosperity. Most unfortunately, however, it is the spending on population, health and education fields that is reduced in most countries whenever there is tight budget. The currency crisis that took Indonesia, in particular, I was told, had enormously impacted the field of reproductive health and maternal mortality. One cannot blame the Asian currency crisis but I am told that our northern neighbour, North Korea suffers from serious food shortage and famine. As a result, it is the expectant mothers and infants who are placed in most dire circumstances.

It is always the most vulnerable—children who are the future of the country and their mothers—who are victimised by difficulties experienced by any society. It is always the children who are placed in the most difficult situation, the children who should be looked after the most to ensure a future for the humankind. We have faith in the goodness of human beings and their potential. It is with this belief that we work hard to resolve the population issue. If human beings are not allowed to use their brains and work for the future, what good reason is there for us to exist?

Let us believe in our potential and work to build our future. I urge all of us here to work on our respective governments to ensure budget for reproductive health, well-being of the pregnant women and for family planning. This year marks the fifth year since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Everywhere in the world there are review activities evaluating the progress as well as obstacles that lie in the way. Some of us were at the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review held in conjunction with the United Nations International Forum in The Hague, Holland in February. The forum was held at the generous invitation of the Honourable Jan Hoekema of the Parliament of Netherlands in a most beautiful historic building, Ridderzaar Hall, with 210 elected representatives from 103 countries in attendance. The fruit of the

forum was compiled in the Hague Declaration, which was presented to the International Forum at The Hague as well as at the preparatory committee for the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly, containing proposals for key actions for further implementation of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (PrepCom) in March in New York.

What was made clear through the review of the last five years is that we have a huge shortage of funds if we are to achieve the objectives agreed to in the Program of Action. While this matter is basically a matter for the developing countries to help themselves, the situation is grave because developed countries have fallen greatly below the target to which they have committed themselves due to the deterioration of their economic environment. We must find ways of addressing this situation. It is an important role of us legislators who deliberate on national budget to channel national resources to the population problems.

Furthermore, I made an important proposal on our behalf to the United Nations Secretary General's Draft Report at the preparatory committee that met in New York for the UN Special Session on Population. Drawing from the discussions we had at our parliamentarians' forum in The Hague I stated that international agreements and conventions must be made compatible with the rational standards developed from a long-term perspective dictated by the population problems. In the global society of ours we are invariably directly affected by the international conventions and agreements. Among the various international conventions, inter-alia the trade agreements including the World Trade Organisation rules, affect national economies in unaccountable ways as well as on the lives of our citizens. It is important that various conventions are integrated in the process of globalisation so that they reflect rational approach. The present rules of trade, however, are drawn up from the perspective of pursuing short-term economic rationality on the principle of comparative advantage.

Is this the right approach? The future we draw from the population issue is not a society of surplus. It is a society of want, a society of scarcity. The present economic principles are developed from the perspective of selling and marketing the surplus. No one has a clue as to what is rational in a society where goods are in short supply.

Asia has thousands of years of history. We have maintained a large population in a limited region. We have accumulated experiences and knowledge more than any region of the world in making do within the limits, limits dictated by production. I am convinced that we in Asia must draw from our own wisdom to build a strategy for sustainable development, particularly for food and fresh water resources that are vital to the human survival. Since Cairo, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has convened international parliamentarians meetings in conjunction with every United Nations conference related to population and development. During the process we have created the Forum of Africa and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD). A new current for population and development always emerges from Asia. Our roles will be greater, not less. Let us work hand in hand to solve population problems, food and environmental issues that are crucial to the future of humankind. Thank you for your attention.

## **Address**

**Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, MP  
Chairman**

**The Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE)**

Dr. Nakayama, Hon. Sakurai, Dr. Ando, Ms. Brueggemann, dear parliamentarians, distinguished delegates,

It is truly a great honour for the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE) to co-host the 15th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Seoul, under the theme of "Asian Parliamentarians' Action After the Hague." I would first like to express my sincere thanks to the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the organiser of this conference, for all the support extended in helping us prepare this conference. I would also like to thank Mr. Park Jyun-kyu, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Kim Mo-Im, Madame Minister of Health and Welfare for sparing their precious time to attend this conference. I attended this APMPD conference ten years ago in Manila. I am very happy to host this conference here in Seoul.

The issue of population and development is important now more than ever, when we are heading toward the next millennium and thinking about our future in a long term. The subject of population and development covers a wide range of areas such as reproductive health, gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, environment and food security, and resource mobilisation, to name a few. These are all directly or indirectly related to our daily life and the quality of our life.

We have come a long way from Cairo, where more than 350 members of parliament attended the International Conference on Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) in 1994. I remember that conference very vividly because I was the head of the Korean delegation as Minister of Health and Welfare. As the theme of this conference indicates, we are here today to discuss our action after the ICPD Hague Forum, which was held in February this year. For the next two days, we will discuss the outcome of the Hague Forum and appropriate actions that need to be taken by Asian parliamentarians to follow up on the decisions made in the Hague.

Now let me talk briefly about the current status of population and development in Korea. I can confidently say that that overall status is in a very good shape thanks to successful population and family planning programs and female education and employment. The ultimate goal of Korea's population and development policy is to improve the quality of life of the population in general.

However, we are not without problems and challenges. Despite concerted efforts made by the world community, a lot of problems still exist and are becoming more difficult to solve. The case in point is North Korea. We are all aware of the serious food shortages North Korea is experiencing. As regional neighbours, I think we need to deal with the situation at the regional level, and I hope we can discuss the issue at this conference.

Recently, our region has experienced unprecedented economic crises. Even though some of us were fortunate enough to escape the worst times, there are still many issues to be resolved in our region. The issue of population and development is all the more important at this juncture because—due to recent economic crises—some may think that economic recovery comes first and, therefore, the issue of population and development can be put on the back burner. This is absolutely wrong. It is wrong because those issues are too closely tied to our daily lives to be neglected and overlooked.

However, in the course of recent economic restructuring, human suffering side of the issue is being neglected. Human resources and social development is being overlooked, and the demand by the underprivileged is being ignored. Our role as parliamentarians is to make their voices heard and be reflected in our policies. We need to come up with workable plans for population and development and implement them in our respective countries. To that end, resource mobilisation is as important as, if not more important than, the plans themselves. Without appropriately allocated resources, all those great plans that we have vigorously worked on will be nothing more than just pages of papers. We need to persuade our governments so that they mobilise and allocate enough resources to put our plan of action into practice. We would also need the support from NGOs and general public to carry out our plans effectively and successfully.

With distinguished members of parliament and dignitaries from supporting organisations including the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), I have no doubt that this meeting will prove instrumental in assessing the progress made so far and developing the action needed to be taken.

I hope this conference will be a field of many action-oriented discussions and also present solutions to the current situation. Going forward, we need more regional discussions and co-operative networks, in which the CPE is prepared to play an important role.

Once again, I welcome you to the 15th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Seoul in this beautiful season of April.

Thank you.

## **Address**

**Dr. Hirofumi Ando**  
**Deputy Executive Director**  
**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Honourable Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Mr. Jyun Kyu Park; Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare, Ms. Mo-Im Kim; Honourable Dr. Taro Nakayama; Honourable Mr. Shin Sakurai; Honourable Sang-Mok Suh; Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me on behalf of UNFPA to attend with my colleague, Mr. Vernon Mack, the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Seoul. First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and its Executive Director, Mr. Tsuguo Hirose and his staff for organising this Meeting. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development (CPE), especially its president Dr. San-Mok Suh and Executive Secretary, Amy Kim for hosting this Meeting and for extending their warm hospitality to all of us. In addition, I would like to commend all of you, distinguished participants for taking the time out of your busy parliamentary schedule to attend this Meeting.

It is quite timely for you to meet and discuss your roles in facilitating the successful implementation of the Programme Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo almost five years ago, because the United Nations is now undertaking a 5-year review of the progress made in achieving the goals of the Programme of Action. This review has been proceeding through a process called the ICPD+5. As many of you know, the inter-governmental Preparatory Committee meeting took place at the United Nations two weeks ago to review the draft Secretary General's report. I am pleased to report to you that despite severe time constraints, the Preparatory Committee completed the review of almost all substantive issues including reproductive health including family planning, empowerment of women, population and education, adolescent reproductive health and migration. There are remaining few substantive issues, two additional chapters on Partnership and Resource Mobilisation, and the main framework chapter will be reviewed at the resumed session of the Preparatory Committee meeting next month. In this connection, on behalf of UNFPA, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) for organising the extremely successful International Parliamentary Forum in the Hague last February as key part of the ICPD+5 process. Our special thanks go to Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Asian Forum, despite his extremely busy schedule, for convening and chairing the International Parliamentary Forum with the able assistance of Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of Asian Forum. We are also grateful that Mr. Sakurai addresses the main Hague Forum organised by UNFPA as well as the Preparatory Committee meeting in New York.

It is also very fitting for you to attend the Meeting to discuss actions needed to implement the Programme of Action since the Hague parliamentary forum, because despite successful population

and family planning programmes especially in East Asia and despite declining global population growth rates, the world population is still increasing by about 80 million annually. The population of Asia is growing by about 50 million every year, more than the population of the host country. There is continuous needs to strengthen and expand reproductive health services including family planning even in the Asian region in part because of unmet needs and of growing young population which will be entering the reproductive age shortly and uneven availability of information and services.

Asian countries are also facing or will face a number of emerging population issues before too long. They are, among others, migration, rapid urbanisation, ageing of population and the young population, HIV/AIDS to name a few. Asian governments should be urged to deal with these issues more proactively. Here again, as noted by the ICPD Programme of Action, you, Parliamentarians can and must play a critical advocacy role individually and collectively. Occupying a unique position in your respective society, you are the bridge between your people and the Government. You are respected community and national leaders. Thus you can be strong advocates for population issues. You can also call the attention of the Government, non-Governmental organisations and the public at large to the emerging issues and their societal implications. You can furthermore formulate and legislate appropriate laws to help financial resources domestically and internationally.

As you recall, the ICPD Programme of Action established the financial goals of mobilising \$17 Billion annually by 2000, \$5.7 Billion from the donor community and \$11.3 Billion from the developing countries. At present, the commitment by the latter has been most met despite the financial crisis affected many developing countries. However, the former has provided only about \$2 Billion annually. You can continue to support the mobilisation of domestic financial resources through your parliaments. You can also urge donor countries to meet their obligations through the dialogues you may have with them especially through international meetings.

\$5.7 Billion annually may sound astronomical. But as His Excellency, Vice President of India reminded us at the last APDA meeting in New Delhi that \$800 Billion per is spent for armament, \$600 Billion and \$400 Billion are spent respectively for alcohol and tobacco consumption. What we need is a tiny fraction of these expenditures to meet the needs of many people including about 250 million couples who want to practice family planning. What is needed is indeed political will to translate the ICPD Programme of Action into reality.

In conclusion, I would like to again thank APDA and CPE for organising this Meeting, and the Asian Forum for its active participation and its commitment to work in the field of population and development. We at UNFPA are grateful to you all for your continued support to UNFPA. I wish you all a very successful and fruitful deliberation. Thank you.

## **Keynote Address**

**Ms. Mo-Im Kim**  
**Minister of Health and Welfare**  
**Republic of Korea**

Honourable Mr. Jyunky Park, Speaker of the Korea National Assembly, Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (AFPPD), Mr. Sang Mok Suh, Chairman of the Korea Parliamentary League on Children, Population, and Environment (CPE), and Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure in being able to deliver this speech, and the occasion is especially meaningful since I served as a member of the Korean Parliamentarians' Committee for Population and Development in the National Assembly 19 years ago. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Taro Nakayama for providing me with this opportunity.

Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are well aware of, the Programme of Action, adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, established a number of time-bound population and development goals for a 20-year period, from 1995 to 2015. The ICPD Programme of Action is, in principle, aimed at improving the quality of life for every individual woman and man through sustainable development. It especially stresses the empowerment of women, both as a highly important end in itself and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone.

The quality of people's life is strongly interrelated with population change, patterns and levels of use of natural resources, the state of the environment, and the pace and quality of economic and social development. For example, population growth influences poverty, which, in turn, is often accompanied by malnutrition, low status of women, and limited access to social and health services, including reproductive health services.

As a result of such complexity, all countries, particularly developing countries where almost all of the future growth of the world population will occur, face increasing difficulties in improving the quality of life of their people in a sustainable manner. This is why population concerns need to be integrated into the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes relating to sustainable development and resource allocation at all levels.

Indeed, the ICPD Programme of Action underscores the integral and mutually reinforcing linkages between population and development and subsequently many countries have increased political action and public attention concerning the linkages between population and a country's social, economic and environmental concerns.

Korea can be taken as an example. Until the early 1960s, there was a very low level of economic development and very high level of population growth, resulting in poverty being prevalent throughout the country. The Korean government therefore, adopted the National Family Planning Programme as part of the Five-Year Economic Development Plans, which started in 1962. The strong implementation of the national family-planning programme, together with changes in socio-economic conditions and economic development, has resulted in a rapid decrease in population growth.

The population growth rate has been maintained below the population replacement level since the mid-1980s, which is why the Korean government made a transition from population control policy and adopted a new population policy in 1996. The new population policy basically aims to improve quality and welfare of the population, and puts great emphasis on the linkages between population and other development concerns in accordance with the ICPD Programme of Action. This shift in population policy, together with low population growth, has played an important role as a social safety net in reducing the negative effects of the recent economic recession on the quality of life.

Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The population in Asia is almost 3.6 billion and currently has an average annual growth rate of 1.4 percent. Over 50 million persons are being added annually to this region's population. Moreover, the demands of the growing population on the improvement of their quality of life will increase in diversity and a higher level of services will also be requested. Accordingly, in the 21st Century population control will be continuously important as a base in meeting the ICPD's ultimate goal, namely improvement of the quality of life.

In recent years, the issue of the necessity of family planning has been raised in some countries, which have fertility levels under population replacement. The increasing number of AIDS patients, adolescents' sexual problems, high prevalence of induced abortions, and sexual discrimination shows that family planning programmes still need to be continuously emphasised to control population growth in high fertility countries and to improve the quality and welfare of the population in low fertility countries. Since the ICPD Programme of Action provided the shift from using family planning programmes for controlling population to employing the right-based approach, reproductive health that incorporates early family planning into the general health programme, needs to be emphasised as a key programme in all countries. Although many countries have made policy, legislative and/or institutional changes in the area of reproductive health since the ICPD, full support is still needed for legislation to ensure reproductive rights and reproductive health.

The promotion of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women must also be emphasised, as women's disadvantaged social position helps perpetuate poor health, inadequate diet, early and frequent pregnancies and a continued cycle of poverty. At the policy level, the greatest challenge has been in improving the legitimacy and necessity of gender equality as a fundamental value that should be reflected in all population and development choices and in institutional practices. For legislative support, all countries must revise the legal systems that discriminate against women in accordance with international mandates, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

## Discrimination against Women.

In Korea's case, there have been considerable legislative efforts to support the elimination of sex discrimination since the ICPD. These include promulgation of the Basic Law on Women's Development in 1995, which aims at improving sex equality, protecting maternity, eradicating sex discrimination, developing women's capability and increasing active participation of women in socio-economic activities; the Law on Punishment of Sexual Offenders and Protection of Victims in 1994, which aims at protecting women, including adolescents, from domestic violence and sex crimes; and the Special Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence in 1998. Parliamentary groups should establish strong linkages with civil society, especially NGOs, to strengthen advocacy for the utilisation of international instruments and conventions to gauge progress towards gender equality at the national level.

Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Food security, which is determined by food availability, food access and food utilisation, is also of great importance in the maintaining of a healthy and active life and improving the quality of life. High population growth in developing countries has increased food demand, threatening food self-sufficiency. The increase in food production, as an effort to achieve food security of the growing population, has often caused environment degradation, such as soil erosion, desertification, depletion and contamination of fresh water, etc. Therefore, meeting the basic human need of food security must be dependent on a healthy environment. It is especially necessary to bring about a population trend consistent with the achievement of sustainable development, which can be done by improving the quality of life through food security. In order to achieve this, comprehensive policies for sustainable development need to be developed in the context of population growth.

Today, food security is strongly influenced by the proper distribution of food and rise in income to purchase the food. In Korea's case, food production decreased 15.1%, from 7,012 thousand tons in 1985 to 6,031 thousand tons in 1997, although the total population increased from 40.8 million to 46.0 million during the same period. Food imports increased 103.2%, from 7,336 thousand tons to 14,904 thousand tons, recording food self-sufficiency under 57.9%. However, in Korea food security with equal access to food for every man and woman has been achieved, which can be attributed to low population growth, rise in income and international trade. Thus, international efforts to attain food security at both the national and global level, should be focused on controlling population growth, together with improvement of food accessibility through appropriate distribution systems and maintenance of sustainable food supply systems. In addition, to ensure food accessibility, the rules of international trade must be kept fully consistent in the long-term prospective.

Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Most countries in this region have tried to integrate population factors into their development plans. However, there are varying degrees of success in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The chief constraints include the lack of political commitment and limited human and financial resources. Moreover, the recent financial and economic crisis affecting a number of Asian countries continues to compound the challenges.

The financial and economic crisis in Korea has not only caused a reduction in real income and mass unemployment but also had widespread socio-economic consequences. The unemployment rate increased to approximately 8%, which is an increase of 6%, from before the crisis took place in November 1997. The crisis is having immediate effects on levels of income, health, education, and overall social well being. There has been a rapid increase in misconduct such as crimes of necessity, the suicide rate, addiction to alcohol and drugs, domestic violence, family dissolution including divorces and abandonment of homes, undernourished families, and the homeless, which all reflect instability of society. The living and health problems of unemployed households that support the elderly are especially serious. In particular, women are more likely to face sex discrimination in the labour market during the crisis, including low wages, long working hours, lack of job security, lack of child care centres, etc. As a result, the social effects, which include low health status of family, lack of childcare, and abandonment of children become particularly problematic among unemployed female-headed households.

The social crisis is being driven by reduction in public spending on essential services such as health care, including reproductive health and education. To ensure the quality of life of the people in countries under economic crisis, there should be security of basic livelihood to all unemployed persons who need assistance and emergency relief should be the priority for unemployed households in underprivileged classes. Special measures are needed to focus on keeping schools and health care affordable for poor households, quality of services intact, and rehabilitating the family's function as the basis of society. Strategies should be established aiming at alleviating poverty. In the long run, the government should establish a social safety net and make social programs more financially sustainable to solve the social problems and sustain the quality of people's life.

In conclusion, in order to ensure the improvement of people's quality of life in the 21st Century, parliamentarians in every political and legislative activity must continue to pay great attention to population programmes, which integrate socio-economic and environmental factors, including food security. Parliaments also need to urge international assistance to be reinforced in population programmes for countries that have recently undergone economic crisis. Korea looks forward to co-operating with all other nations in identifying areas in which the international community can work in concert, and in determining how common goals of the population and development can be best achieved.

I wish you a very successful meeting and a happy stay in Seoul. Thank you.

**Session I**

**Reproductive Health / Reproductive Rights and Population Issues**

[11:20-12:40]

## **Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights: Policy and Practice After The Hague Forum**

**Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Apenisa Kurisaqila, MP  
Vice Chairman, AFPPD (Fiji)**

**Resource Person: Hon. Dr. J. R. Nereus Acosta, MP  
Secretary, PLCPD (Philippines)**

Honourable Jun Kyu Park, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Honourable Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association, Honourable Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Honourable Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development, fellow members of Parliaments in Asia, distinguished guests, Your Excellencies, good morning.

Barely two months ago, some of us represented our respective Parliaments in the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action. In the lovely city of The Hague, in The Netherlands, we reviewed the advances made, and the challenges encountered in our respective country's implementation of the Programme of Action. There were heartening leaps, especially in the issue of reproductive health, but so much is still left to be desired when we talk of fundamental policy action regarding reproductive rights. As it is, reproductive health and reproductive rights are closely intertwined, since success in the implementation of our respective reproductive health programmes are largely dependent on the policy flatbed by which each individual's reproductive rights are based upon.

Chapter 2 of the ICPD Programme of Action states, in part, that: "Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States should take all appropriate measures to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, universal access to health-care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health... All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education, and means to do so." Within these parameters, our task as parliamentarians is very compelling. With the full knowledge of constraints each of our country faces in our policy formulation, we are challenged to create an enabling policy environment that would pave the way for the attainment of ICPD goals, especially on policy issues on reproductive rights and reproductive health. This, fellow parliamentarians, put forward the Programme of Action we made in Cairo, which we then reviewed and reaffirmed in The Hague.

But I am certain that for every obstacle that lies in our path, for every challenge poised before us, all these would be overcome by forging new partnerships, by fostering the existing ones, and by sharing breakthroughs and successes in policy-making that will contribute in making the vision of

ICPD true for our citizens.

### **Developments in Policy Formulation and Implementation of Reproductive Health Programs in Asia**

ICPD made every State conscious of the need to integrate family planning and other reproductive health programs in the formulation or revision of national population policies and strategies for sustainable development. So far, sector wide progress in policy formulation has been noted, while work on improving specific aspects of policies has started in other countries.

Response to the challenge of ICPD on reproductive rights and reproductive health has been diverse. Some countries embarked on the development of national reproductive health policies; others included reproductive health in policies that address women's health; and some dealt only with specific aspects of reproductive health.

But overall, policy changes in many countries demonstrate a clear commitment to move from a preponderance of vertical family planning programmes to a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health approach with an emphasis on quality of care.

In the Philippines, for example, the population program has undergone a paradigm shift when the primary authority of the family planning program was transferred from the Commission on Population (POPCOM), a population management agency, to the Department of Health (DOH), a health service agency. The policy change was reflected in the treatment of family planning as a health issue with population implications, rather than family planning as a population issue with implications to health. This paradigm shift evolved into the adoption of the reproductive health approach to family planning, which emphasises client-need focus and culturally- and gender-sensitive IEC components stressing male involvement.<sup>1</sup> This also meant offering a comprehensive range of reproductive and sexual health services consistent with the ICPD definition of reproductive health components: (a) family planning; (b) obstetric care; (c) prevention and treatment of infertility and sexual health disorders; (d) prevention of abortion; (e) prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections; (f) prevention and treatment of breast cancer and other diseases relating to the reproductive system; (g) counselling and education on sexuality; (h) violence against women; and (i) nutrition.<sup>2</sup>

Consensus building regarding the reproductive health concept and investing time and resources in the development of policies itself is one of the progressive strategies used by our counterparts in Asia.

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<sup>1</sup> Impact of the Economic Crisis on Reproductive Health in the Philippines. Cecile Joaquin-Yasay and Alejandro N. Herrin.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Bangladesh offers a unique example of NGOs engaged in a consortium and of donors working together to support a national goal. The 1997 “Health and Population Sector Strategy” was formulated with the involvement of civil society groups, professional groups and consultants. The strategy made affirms the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action and recognises the need for client-centred, life-cycle approach in which four areas are prioritised: safe motherhood, family planning, menstrual regulation and care of post-abortion complications, and the management of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).<sup>3</sup>

ICPD recognised that reproductive right is a human right. Thus, there should be no barriers, no defence needed, in implementing ICPD objectives. But Asian *realpolitik* dictates otherwise. Hence, we must constantly affirm the people’s right to survival and right to life, and reflect this affirmation in our respective reproductive health programmes. In the Philippines, for example, comparative data from the 1993 and 1998 National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) indicates increased response to safe motherhood. The percent of women who received prenatal care rose from 83.1 percent in 1993 to 85.8 percent in 1998, with about 77 percent receiving 6-11 of the required components of good prenatal care. Women who receive at least one tetanus toxoid injection rose from 64.4 percent in 1993 to 69.1 percent in 1998.

Another area, in which we have obviously made a significant progress on, is the area of involving civil society actors for the success of our reproductive health programmes. This is typified by the earlier mentioned Bangladeshi experience in the formulation of their “Health and Population Sector Strategy”. Civil society groups are increasingly recognised as effective entities for further implementation of the POA. Non-government organisations (NGOs) have fostered partnerships with Governments, and have been very actively participating, whether at the policy formulation level, or at the service-delivery level.

We have also addressed the issue of violence against women squarely. No Government can claim to have truly embraced the ideals of the Programme of Action if they could ignore the plight of the women in their community. Women hold half the key to the development equation.

The ICPD POA is very clear; as a matter of fact it is unique in its recognition of the importance of women’s contribution to sustainable development. As such they should be freed from cultural, social and legal constraints that abrogate women’s right to self-fulfilment and self-determination. In the Philippines, various laws have been crafted ensuring that the woman’s place in society is secure, and that their health will never be compromised. Some example of this would be the Anti-Rape Law and the Women in Nation-Building Act. Other legislative measures are currently under consideration, such as the Domestic Violence Act.

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<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health, *Population and Health Sector Strategy* (Dhaka, 1997).

## **Constraints in Policy Formulation and Implementation of Quality Reproductive Health Programmes**

Despite unmistakable progress in policy development in Asia, there are very real issues which hamper our determination to formulate policies consistent with the Programme of Action.

The recent Asian economic crisis has made the attainment of ICPD goals more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. Even in countries where policy commitments to ICPD objectives are clear, declining exchange rates and fiscal restraint are threatening full implementation of comprehensive reproductive health programmes. More so in situations of scarce resources, where family planning and reproductive health services have to compete with national development priorities.

Moreover, in some developing countries and countries with economies in transition, population and reproductive health issues have been seen as independent of, or secondary to, economic growth or poverty alleviation. Thus, there is a need for more awareness creation and advocacy activities on the interrelationships between reproductive health, population and development issues.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of non-compliance with ICPD goals are those that pertain to social and cultural barriers that often derail plans for formulating national reproductive health and reproductive rights statements and policies. In the Philippines, the Catholic Church has been very consistent in opposing plans to legislate a national population and development policy. This is mainly due to their opposition to the reproductive health concepts espoused in the ICPD Programme of Action, particularly on the issues of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health and the use of artificial methods of contraception. Perhaps, we must double our efforts in holding dialogues and building consensus with the Church to address reproductive health and reproductive rights issues. Maybe our Asian counterparts could impart lessons on constructive engagement with religious leaders in their own countries.

While adolescent reproductive health issues are now on the public agenda of some Asian countries, political commitment to adolescents' right to reproductive health is perceived to be weak. Unmet need for reproductive health service for adolescents is still very high. This is largely due to the treatment of adolescent sexuality as a taboo. Misconceptions abound among parents, political leaders, policy makers, religious leaders, teachers, and among adolescents themselves, about the actual adolescent's sexual behaviour, needs, knowledge, views and problems.

The knowledge of Asian adolescents, whether married or unmarried, of a variety of reproductive health issues, including sexuality, reproductive functions, safe sex, etc. appears to be very limited. In the Philippines, the results of the Young Adult and Fertility Survey reveals that respondents actually know less than they think they do. Close to 50 percent of the 11,000 respondents did not know that a woman could become pregnant as a result of one intercourse. More than 20 percent did not know the relationship of the menstrual cycle to reproduction, and only 2 percent could tell correctly when the safe and unsafe periods were in a woman's cycle. Yet 18 percent admitted to engaging in premarital sex and a large majority of them did so without using any contraceptive method to prevent pregnancy or STD. In Vietnam, about 40 percent of young persons reported to have no knowledge of contraceptive methods. We can not just sit idly by and pretend that they do

not need our help, or pretend that they have the least interest regarding their sexuality and their reproductive health. We could not just watch the future of our countries go about their ways without any assistance from us.

Studies made by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women on Post-Cairo Population Policy and Programmes in eight countries in Southeast Asia reveal that the perceived relevance and importance of the Cairo Programme of Action to government development policy was not strong. A number of countries referred to “the national sovereignty principle” in justifying their limited attention to the Cairo agenda. The same study revealed that Government and health/family planning NGOs lacked conceptual clarity and innovative ideas on implementation of key concepts such as reproductive health, reproductive rights and gender equality. In addition, they did not want to work in areas seen as “sensitive” or “controversial” such as abortion, sexuality and women’s rights.<sup>4</sup> They viewed these as “moral” not “health” concerns. Sadly, The Hague Forum still bears these facts out.

Prevention and management of STDs and HIV/AIDS have received considerable attention in national health priorities. Yet, while most countries now recognise that control of STDs is essential for the achievement of reproductive health, they experience many constraints in services provided at the primary health care level. These include lack of accurate local epidemiological data on STDs, lack of rapid, cheap and reliable diagnostic tests, and the fact that most facilities and services are designed and dedicated solely for married women, making it difficult for adolescents, single women, and men to use them<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, the moral and cultural dimension often interferes with the process of formulation and development of appropriate policies for prevention and management of sexually transmitted diseases. This must be addressed the soonest considering that the end-1998 Report of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reveals that STD and HIV/AIDS cases continue to rise. In Asia and the Pacific, an estimated 7,530,000 adults and children are currently infected by the HIV virus, with close to 700,000 new cases of adolescent infection reported every year.<sup>6</sup> To say that the situation is alarming is an understatement.

As stated earlier, most of the reproductive health facilities and services are designed with the reproductive and sexual health needs of married women in mind. This runs contrary to the principles of the programme of Action where Governments are urged to endeavour to make these services accessible to adolescents, single women and men. Male involvement to reproductive health is encouraged by the Programme of Action, considering that males too have their own reproductive health needs and problems that need immediate attention.

Reproductive health policies oftentimes are shaped primarily by health-sector organisations and professionals, excluding other sectors and disciplines. The result has been inadequate attention to

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<sup>4</sup> *Changes in Population Policy and Programmes Post-Cairo*, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women.

<sup>5</sup> *Asia-Pacific Population Policies and Programmes: Future Directions*, Asian Population Studies Series No. 153. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific & United Nations Population Fund.

<sup>6</sup> 1998 Year-end Surveillance Report of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

the social, economic and political dimensions of sexual health and reproductive rights and little attention to the psychosocial, gender and emotional aspects of individual health and wellbeing.

### **Proposed Action for Parliamentarians in Asia**

The Hague Declaration of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review has agreed on a set of priority actions for us to consider. Among the most vital action resolutions made by our colleagues at the closing of that Conference were the following:

- Review of relevant existing legislation in all countries regarding reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, and for the enactment of new laws where necessary;
- Removal of legal, social and cultural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in society, including policy-making;
- Enactment of laws and fiscalising of reproductive health programmes giving special attention to meeting the needs of adolescents, including HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Examination of international agreements, including those of the World Trade Organisation, and see how such agreements affect the nations' agricultural production and environmental quality;
- Direct budgetary measures for population and reproductive health;
- Pressuring of creditor-Governments to re-evaluate debt repayment by developing countries, the poorest countries and countries affected by natural disasters; and
- Establishment of a worldwide network of parliamentarians on population and development to exchange information, share best practices, promote and support legislative decisions, advocacy activities and resource mobilisation in all countries.

Furthermore, Governments are urged to ensure that national health plans, including health-sector reform processes, fully take into account the sexual and reproductive health needs of their population in their policy development. We are urged to enact and implement legislation and policies that will continue to promote reorientation of the health care systems to ensure that policies, strategic plans, and all aspects of implementation are rights-based and serve everyone. That any reproductive health programme we may be able to develop would fully involve all stakeholders, and be based on a careful assessment of sexual and health needs. We should also ensure that NGOs and the private sector are enabled to make their fullest possible contribution to national reproductive health programmes.

As for the issue of male involvement, States should work together with NGOs and international organisations in enhancing our support for the promotion of male responsibility in reproductive and sexual health, including respect for human rights, support for a partner's access to reproductive health care, and increased responsibility in child care.

As parliamentarians, we are in a unique position to make improvements in the status of our citizens' reproductive health and reproductive rights through development of rights-based policies. It is our singular duty, and we owe it to our respective constituencies. This is the challenge poised to us by the Cairo Programme of Action and The Hague Forum, and may we all be true to that challenge. Your Excellencies, thank you very much and a very pleasant good morning.

## Discussion

### CHAIRPERSON :

Honourable members, this morning we heard some very strong and informative comments from our distinguished speakers, and now we also heard it from Dr. Acosta. The floor is now open to your comments and observations on what we have already heard and discussed so far. And the theme, as you all know, is the Post-Hague observation on population issues.

### AUSTRALIA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to compliment the speaker very much on his presentation this morning. I thought it was excellent, and I thank him very much. I would like to pose a question to him, which may be a difficult question, but he can approach it from the perspective of youth. Over the years much progress has been made in many fields concerning reproductive health. One area that progress hasn't been made is tackling the obstructions by religious groups. Not only the Catholic Church, the Catholic Church is, as you wrote, especially in your country, is perhaps the most vocal, but other religions also put bearing on this. Do you have any suggestions by which we can identify the problems of religions? But sooner or later we are going to have to tackle that problem of the obstructions of the religions, because until we tackle it, we are really not going to make very much progress in this very, very important field.

### DR. ACOSTA:

I feel that there is a growing sense, a movement even on the intellectual level to really address what you have just brought up, to really tackle the religious opposition, if you may call it that, and bring the discussion into, I would still like to call it some kind of a rational discourse, and not leave it to the impassioned, sometimes all too emotional debates that have characterised the discussions in the past.

I would like to say, though, that the Catholic Church's influence in the Philippines, although we are nominally 85% Catholic, the only Catholic country in Southeast Asia, is really over-rated. Their force, their power, their influence, I believe, is far too over-rated or overblown. Yes, they do wield influence, but I believe, and this is from my work with NGOs and in the field, that when you go down to the very basics of health care and issues like reproductive health, you will see that the Church among the grass-roots would have little or no bearing in their decisions related to health. Mothers will not say, I want to have artificial contraception because I already have had eight children, and I don't want to have four more, and will say it not because the Catholic Church has any bearing on this decision. She will make it purely from a health perspective.

And if I would decide this, the classic example is that in the previous administration of President Fidel Ramos, he appointed a very highly popular barrio (village) doctor by the name of Dr. Juan Flavier. He worked all his life with women and children in all the villages of the country, and he is a very respected political figure now. And he was appointed to the Department of Health, and he pushed for these kinds of issues and programs that we are talking about. The Catholic Church went against him, but he was highest in popularity ratings, and he went on to become one of the top Senators of the country. So what I'm saying is that we're not arguing, and even Senator Flavier now, the former Secretary of Health used to say that we're not fighting the Catholic Church. Also what

they're saying about issues in abortion, we can discuss those if you want to talk about a moral dimension, and I don't think that there is any quarrel. But we are still coming down to deal this as a health concern. And if you have to deal with it as such, with all the population implications, you have to have science, research, advocacy and a lot of commitment on your part to be able to push it along. And I believe that the time will come when the Catholic Church of the Philippines will have to submit to realities that are prevailing in the Philippine social, political and economic system. Thank you.

**NEW ZEALAND:**

Thank you. I wanted to take up an issue that you raised. You talked about, from The Hague recommendation, reviewing the impact of the World Trade Organisation's decision on food production and food security. I believe this is a key issue, and a motion came before the World Health Organisation. I believe sponsored by Norway and India, I'm not sure, to give health and social issues equal weight with trade promotion in the World Trade Organisation's policy decision-making. Is that a useful way forward, and are there things we can do to promote that as a strategy to insure that organisation gives equal weight to health issues when it makes these decisions. Because it seems to me that if we had health and trade as an equal weight at the highest level, many of these problems could possibly be solved.

**DR. ACOSTA:**

I totally agree with you, and I would like to bring it down to the domestic situation of the country. As I said, I serve also on the House Committee on Appropriations, and it is very dismal, and a very sad commentary that the Department of Health in the country receives only less than 5% of the whole national budget. So that already puts it into a perspective as far as the low priorities that are really ascribed to health concerns.

And true, the World Trade Organisation must see health concerns and public well-being as part of the entire framework for decision-making and policy, because these policies from the WTO especially the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, impact severely on poor and still developing countries, especially when we speak of safety nets for small farmers. In the Philippines we have a very big problem now with a real conflict between the needs of the small farmers, which comprise up to 70% still, and that's really where our clientele is in terms of reproductive health. That's where all the mothers, that's where all the primary health care services should be. These are the wives of these farmers, and even women farmers. But 70% of those are subsistent in small scale. But we as a country have already committed to the WTO that by the turn of the century and up to 2010 and on to 2020, we are going to further liberalising agriculture. And it severely impacts all of these communities we should be very concerned about.

So I see it, at this point, and on our level, as an effort to make as much representation as we could to broaden the scale and the scope of the WTO's decision-making and policy-making initiative or framework and structure, so that these are really talked about seriously. And it really ties in with a policy-making approach that should be integrated and holistic. You cannot speak of health care without speaking of a degraded environment. I mean, we in the Philippines speak about our environment if it were a patient that's being already of the intensive care unit. Our forests are gone, the air, the water, the land erosion, everything... And I am the principal author of the Clean Air Act, of which the debates are still ongoing. But we rank fourth dirtiest air-wise in the world—Metro

Manila. We have to look at it in an integrated holistic whole, and I believe that agencies like the World Trade Organisation, because they have representation from all of our countries, must have more and more of this kinds of discussions. And as far as I can tell, I think there are indications, but it's not yet enough, it's not made much of an inroad as yet.

**PAKISTAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had a very comprehensive paper read by a young family man coming from the Philippines, and very enlightening issues were raised here.

One of the issues here that require a little more information is on the morality side, which he has emphasised through his replies again and again. I would like to provide some information to our honourable delegates that in Pakistan we had the same issue and that the religion Islam worked exactly on the principles of Catholicism. But fortunately we have overcome this problem by sheer education. And I believe this is not as big issue towards the control of population as the education is. If we are able to educate our masses through different means, then probably for their health's sake, for food's sake, for environment's sake, there are so many factors that one family may be influenced through religion, another may be influenced through food scarcity, and so on. And we have reduced our population, or checked it by 1.5%. Now we are in the bracket of less than 2% growth rate in Pakistan, so I wanted to tell you that there is a way for that. The thing which I am concerned, regarding Pakistan, I can comment, is that the middle class, the rich class, takes education in a more comprehensive way, in lesser time than the poor class. It is more in all our Asian countries; I'm not talking about Japan, or Korea. In Pakistan, they are closer to the poverty line, and they listen less and less. One has to convince them more and more and provide all the reproductive health care and everything, and yet one has to dig in.

The major concern is WTO and food. We hear that the majority of the Asian countries have the trend that they accept that they are going to be the agricultural countries, and sustain their food requirements. But I personally believe that the agriculture, as you mention, even after more production, will not be able to sustain the fast growth of Asian population as mentioned earlier, so the WTO concern should equally be taken.

**SINGAPORE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Allow me to have this chance to contribute. This is a very interesting topic in my view.

First of all, the honorary speaker has brought up an important issue of reproductive right. And then emphasised that that reproductive right is a human right. In other words, there should be no barrier for any individual view if they would like to reproduce. And we all know that reproduction is concerned, maybe people are only talking about reproduction in terms of family control, reducing family sizes. And reproduction right can also mean that there is a view of the individual family so that they can continuously reproduce themselves, so therefore can either go into a positive or negative direction.

And we know that actually the populations and development, or the growth or the so-called reductions has significant impact in terms of nations' development. So in effect we are talking about the overproduction. In other words, we agree to dilute the system so that everyone will

become lower in quality and also everybody will become diluted in terms of enjoying all the services they have, even their share of the economic pie.

And coming to another extent, when the population is under-producing, so as a result of which it will deter a lot of development programs that a nation would like to provide—say for example that we are talking about providing a better service for the elderly, and if the society is under-producing, so that's why at one stage we'll face the situation that there will be a lack of people, a lack of volunteers in order to serve the needs of the society.

And the honorary speaker also talked about the issues of reproductive health. I believe, underlying the reproductive health issue, we try to bring a point that for the controls of the populations. So as far as I personally see it, the reproductive right and the nation's development are a very importantly intertwined issue. So that issue is very delicate and is dependent on the situation of a country. So sometimes we would like it to be under-producing, and sometimes we would like it to be over-producing. So if that should be the case, it would then be with the basic assumptions of the reproductive right that is a human right. So I would like to come over here to share the experience of the Philippines, in what way, what are the actual physical policy or even legislation, which is able to reconcile the reproductive right as a human right and the right of a nation for development.

**DR. ACOSTA:**

Thank you very much. You have actually touched upon perhaps the very core of the debate that is now going on in the country. In so far as the specific policy initiative, what we are doing now in the Congress, in the Parliament in the Philippines is that we are going to be drafting, and we are in the process of technical working committees, to draft a bill, a legislation that will address both, as you say, a reconciling of what we may call structural transformations, the addressing of national development goals, the political, social, and economic realities, poverty, etc. vis-à-vis, alongside what we are speaking about now, reproductive health, reproductive rights, because this is going to be the first of its kind in the country.

Existing laws on population during the time previously, have all during the time of martial law, during Ferdinand Marcos's time, they all were basically about fertility reduction. Just bring down fertility, so that supposedly that was the equation, you would have a greater economic development. The shift has come lately, in the last decade, in the last ten years or so, where in the Philippines, especially with the proliferation of NGOs, and the restoration of a democratic infrastructure, when Marcos was kicked out and Corazon Aquino came in and we restored the Congress and the institutions of democratic government. That is also where issues of reproductive health and reproductive rights came in, because the Philippines is very strong in terms of, as you may well know, human rights issues.

So what we're trying to do is look at both and say, yes we need to address poverty at the structural level, we need to address all of the realities of urban migration, the lowlands to the uplands migratory shifts. You know, people are cleaning out the last remaining forests, all the environmental stresses because of so many people now. But you also have to think in terms of how do you empower, how do you give Filipino women also the right to be able to decide for themselves as well. Concerns related to their health to their sexuality to their reproductions, with relation as well to their husbands, and the whole family. So that is what we're trying to do now. And the first salvo was about two weeks ago, and even before we could sit down, the Catholic Church already said that

what we were doing was the work of the devil, because we were just trying to talk about reconciling these issues you were talking about.

So I recognise that there still things we could do, like our colleague from Pakistan said. Yes, we are trying to see what could be done in terms of not fighting any religious sector, or leadership, but making them see that we're in it for the long haul and for the sustaining of our environment and all our development goals. But I know it's going to be a long battle, it's not going to be easy. We'll keep you updated.

**JAPAN:**

Thank you, Chairperson. I am Akiko Yamanaka, MP of Japan.

Thank you very much for your very precise and informative presentation, Dr. Acosta. I agree with your basic ideas, especially those regarding education of sexual issue and violence against women. These are not issues limited to individual households; they are one of the most important issues for the entire world. To discuss these issues from such aspect, I think they are issues that require sharing of experience with medium- and long-term vision. I hope we will be able to discuss many subjects including what materials are already exist, what materials should be made available, and what teaching materials need to be prepared through schools, video and TV programs.

At a conference last week in Boston, we discussed about the problem of TV programs, magazines and other mass media constantly exposing children to violence and exerting serious impact on the issue of children's sexuality.

I know that Japan is one of the largest producers of such video. We are responsible in this sense. Even then, I agree with Dr. Acosta's proposal, particularly about the proposal he made at the end about sharing information. I think we should set up some kind of networking through computer, email or fax among Asian countries—a network of information about what was successful and what was not, a database of such information that can be accessed by all the countries.

In order to do that, we need to discuss who is going to offer the finance and what kind of technology we will use. I think that Japan can contribute very much in this area. So I hope that we can set up some kind of working group by next year to discuss about this, so that we can propose an action plan for the next annual meeting. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON:**

It's time for us to break for lunch, and I bow to that ruling. That only leaves me to thank Dr. Acosta for a very, very interesting and a very informative talk. I can assure you honourable members that our meeting is in for a very good success, listening to the tone of the first speaker this morning.

## **Session II**

### **Environment, Food Security and Population Issues**

[14:00 – 15:00]

[15:20 – 16:30]

# **"Characteristics of International Rice Market, Expected Huge Cereals Shortage in the early 21st Century and the Need for a New Equitable and Sustainable Rule for International Trade of Rice and Food"**

**Chairperson: Hon. Datuk Iblahim Ali**  
**Deputy Secretary General, AFPPD (Malaysia)**

**Resource Person: Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii, Ph.D.**  
**Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University (Japan)**

## **1. Introduction**

I am honoured to be able to present my idea on equitable and sustainable international trade rule for rice and agricultural products for Asian countries which is an alternative to the free trade rule or the theory of comparative advantage, at this 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Representative Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development (ARPPMD). The free trade rule has strongly influenced the recent international trade negotiations of agricultural products such as those at Uruguay Round, APEC and ASEAN, World Bank, IMF and FAO. They all seem to believe that the free trade rule will improve food security situation in developing and developed countries. I believe the free trade rule must be modified from the viewpoints of equity, sustainability and externality, especially in the case of rice and other staple cereals in Asia. In this paper I would like to present the reasons for the need to modify the free trade rule.

Population explosion will continue until year 2020, and resource and technology constraints on food supply will become severer, food shortage problem will probably worsen and the 800 million that are starving in the world today will be concentrated in Asia in the 21st Century. Global enforcement of the free trade rule will increase the level of world cereal prices because developed countries like United States will decrease her cereal production to maximise profit. This will result in overall decline as the decrease in production will be greater than the increase in the production by the developing countries. Cereals are the staple food for the people in the developing countries, and these people including the huge starved population will suffer the most from the price hike.

If free trade rule is enforced in the world rice market under strong constraints in natural resources and technology, natural resources will be exhausted and environment will be destroyed.

For the huge 500million Asian starved and about 2 billion Asians, rice is the staple food. Rice provides for 80 to 25 percent of calorie intake of Asian people. Rice, wheat and maize are three most important cereals for human beings on the globe. Among them, the world rice trade market has very special characteristics of being thin, unstable and unreliable. These characteristics influence strongly the rice policies of Asian countries and they have pursued rice self-sufficiency policy in order to attain such policy objective as stability of rice price and supply, i. e. food security. Rice policy of Asian countries seeks stability most and I think this is one element of externality. I would like to show in this paper how the international rice market are different from the markets of the other cereals like wheat and maize, and how these differences cause the need for the modification of the free trade rule.

If the free trade rule is pursued in the international rice market, Rice sectors in East Asian countries and Asian archipelago countries like Indonesia and the Philippines will disappear since rice production cost there is inherently very high for topographical reasons. Large externalities supplied by the sector to the nations in these countries will be lost.

## **2. Special Characteristics of the World Rice Market**

### **2.1 Concentration of Rice Production and Consumption in Asia and Self-Sufficiency**

Rice production and consumption are strongly concentrated in Asia in comparison with other major cereals such as wheat and maize. Figure 1-1 shows that about 90% of the world production and consumption of rice is concentrated in Asia while production and consumption of wheat and maize are globally distributed. Another important characteristics in the world rice market is the self-sufficiency in rice, i. e. the most of rice produced in Asia is consumed there as Fig 1-1 shows. As will be explained later, this characteristic holds not only at the level of Asian continent, but also at the levels of each Asian farm, village and country.

This property of self-sufficiency does not hold in the case of wheat and maize. As Fig 1-2 and 1-3 show, these two globally important cereals are produced much more than necessary in high income continents, i. e. North and Central America and Europe, and the surpluses have been exported from these continents to low income agricultural continents such as Asia, Africa and South America. Important point to make is that these surpluses are produced by high agricultural protection in America and Europe, and thus they must be exported with heavy export subsidies, resulting in unfair depression of cereal prices and farm income of low-income countries.

### **2.2 Thin, Unstable and Unreliable International Rice Trade Market**

The international rice trade market is very thin. In other words, while 12-29 percent of the world's output of wheat, coarse grains and soybean are exported; the percentage for rice has been only 3-4 percent as Fig 2 shows. This is because more than 90 percent of the world rice production is concentrated in Asia, and most Asian countries, in view of the importance of rice as the staple food, necessary goods, wage goods and political goods,<sup>7</sup> have tried hard to reach self-sufficiency in rice and many had succeeded it and then maintained it by many policy measures. Consequently there has been no strong mechanism in the world whereby international rice transactions can achieve sustained growth, while there were such mechanisms for wheat and maize.<sup>8</sup>

The world rice trade price has been extraordinarily more unstable after the World War II compared with the wheat price as shown in Figure 3. The failures of monsoon (1965, 1966, 1973 and 1987) and East Asian cool weather (1980 and 1993) which have occurred almost every seven years caused severe Asia-wide droughts and East Asian cold damages, and these droughts and cold damages are reflected by peaks of the international price of rice in the Figure. Why world rice trade market is so unstable? Firstly, because it is very thin as described just above. Secondly, because of the importance of rice to Asian people the Asian countries have separated domestic and international

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<sup>7</sup> By political goods I mean that increased instability in the price or supply of the goods causes severe political instability in the country concerned.

<sup>8</sup> Ammar Siamwalla and D. Haykin, (1985): Structure, Performance and Conducts in the International Rice Market, Research Report No., International Food Policy Research Institute.

rice markets by trade policy interventions, and they have tried hard to stabilise domestic rice price using the very thin international rice trade market as the source of rice imports when their domestic rice production decreases, and as the destination of rice export when their rice are in bumper crop. Consequently, the more domestic rice price becomes stabilised, the more the international rice price becomes destabilised.

### **2.3 Self-Sufficiency as the Important Market Principle and Policy Goal**

As mentioned above, self-sufficiency is the basic market and policy principle not only in Asian continent but also in Asian rice importing countries, provinces, villages and farms in them. Japanese farmers as well as Thai and other Asian farmers produce their rice for themselves and their relatives to eat. Thai farmers in the Northeastern Region have tried to provide their increasing family members with rice by expanding their paddy fields into the forest, migrating to new branch villages to reclaim new paddy fields from forest or slowly increase the application of expensive chemical fertilisers to their degrading sandy paddy fields. My investigation of rice policies of Asian rice importing countries during the post World War II years has regularly shown that the attainment of rice self-sufficiency and maintaining it after reaching it is the important policy objective of these countries.

Most American rice growers told me in my field surveys that they do not eat the rice they produce and they do not know the taste of it. They produce their rice not for them to eat but to sell. I judge from my investigation of American rice policy that the United States produce her rice for the inherent purpose of increasing her rice export.

### **2.4 The Important National Policy Objective of Domestic Rice Price and Supply Stabilisation**

If retail rice price soars in Asian countries political disorder, change of government or coup d'etat results. Thus rice is called the political goods in Asia. Examples are skyrocketing of rice price in Djakarta in the middle of the Sixties and in Saigon in 1974. The author personally experienced rice crisis with disappearance of rice from the shelves of retail shops in Bangkok in 1973, followed by riots and a coup. Severe cold damage led to severe shortage of japonica rice and rice panic in early 1994 in Japan and in Korea in 1981. The most Asian countries have set stabilisation of domestic rice price and supply as one of the most important policy goals. The international rice trade market is very thin, unstable and unreliable as described above, Asian countries cannot depend on it as the major source of their rice supply in order to achieve the stabilisation objective. Instead, they used the rice self-sufficiency policy. Even Thailand, the largest rice exporting country, had tried very hard to stabilise her domestic rice price against the extremely volatile international rice price by utilising rice export tax (so called rice premium) policy until early Eighties.

### **2.5 Mutually Enforcing Relationship between Rice Self-sufficiency Policy and Thin International Rice Trade Market**

In the Asian rice economy thin international rice trade market and self-sufficiency policy enforce each other. Since the international rice trade market is thin, unstable and unreliable, Asian countries cannot depend on the international rice market for the purpose of stabilising domestic rice price and supply and resort to the self-sufficiency policy. In turn, the international rice market cannot have a major endogenous mechanism to increase its volume of trade. Thus thinness and unreliability of the world rice trade market will continue in the future.

### **3. The Need for a New Equitable and Sustainable Rule for International Trade of Rice and Food in Place of the Rule of the Benefit of Free Trade in the Case of the Asian Rice Market**

#### **3-1 The Simplification Assumptions for the Paradigm of the Benefit of Free Trade**

The paradigm of the benefit of free trade has become one of the dominant economic ideas during the post world war II years. The paradigm has been the dominant guiding principle in agricultural and other trade negotiations under the GATT and the WTO. This paradigm bases itself on very strong simplifying assumptions that mostly do not hold in the real world economy, especially in the world rice market. Since the basic assumptions do not hold, the paradigm does not hold and the cost from free trade may be greater than the benefit of free trade, and thus the paradigm must be modified. Some standard books on the international trade theory state the severe limitation in the applicability of the theory of the benefit of free trade.<sup>9</sup>

The important assumptions are

- (1) Existence of the relatively stable market in question,
- (2) Perfect competition,
- (3) No biased income distribution or non-existence of the huge poor and the hungry,
- (4) Non-existence of risk and risk aversion,
- (5) No externalities.

#### **3-2 Non-existence of the Reliable and Relatively Stable International Rice Trade Market**

In order for the paradigm of the benefit of free trade to be meaningful, the international trade market must continue to exist with considerable stability. But in the case of rice this condition does not hold. As shown above, the international rice trade market is very thin, unstable and unreliable. When periodical drought in tropical Asia or cold damage in East Asia occurs, large amount of rice import is sought by some of the countries attacked by these natural calamities and international rice trade price skyrockets. Then many of the poor Asian countries face severe difficulty in importing rice. When bumper rice crop occurs the international rice price plummets, and rice exporters faces severe difficulty to export rice. The continuous existence of the international rice trade market is dubious. In that thin market, japonica rice trade market has been extraordinary thin covering only about 10%(1.5 million tons) of all the rice traded. East Asian countries such as Japan and Korea that specialise in production and consumption of japonica rice imported very large amount of japonica rice after they had experienced severe cold damage. Japan imported 2.5 million tons in 1994, and Korea 2.6 million tons in 1981. These are amounts that just cannot be accommodated by the extremely thin international japonica rice trade market, and the international trade price of japonica rice more than doubled in 4 months in late 1994. In this case, we can say that the international japonica trade market disappeared for some time period.

Since continuous existence of the considerably stable international rice trade market cannot be assured in the real world, the paradigm of the benefit of free trade is baseless.

#### **3-3 The Oligopolistic International Rice Trade Market**

The paradigm of the benefit of free trade holds based on the assumption of perfect competition. But the international rice trade market is in a state of oligopoly as the rice exports by the three to six

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<sup>9</sup> For example, Mitiades Chacholiades, (1978): International Trade Theory and Policy, New York: McGraw-Hill

major rice exporting countries (Thailand, U.S.A., Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan and China) have dominated about 80% of the world total rice trade since late 19th Century. The international trade theory tells us that not free trade but the optimum tariff is the first-best policy for oligopolists.<sup>10</sup> Probably because of this and in reality anyway these oligopolistic rice exporters tend to pursue not free trade policy but some oligopolistic rice trade policies that benefit them most. The famous rice export tax (Rice Premium) policy of Thailand may be a good example.<sup>11</sup> Consequently, the paradigm of the benefit of free trade must be modified.

It is appropriate to note here that the severe instability in the international rice trade price relative to the wheat price presented above occurs even in the oligopolistic rice trade market where price tends to be sticky.

### **3-4 The Crisis to the Huge Asian Poor and Hungry Caused by the Liberalisation of Rice Trade**

According to the agricultural trade agreement of Uruguay Round, Japan has to import minimum access of about 400 thousand tons of milled rice in 1995 and increase it to about 800 thousand tons in 2000, and after then may have to import more if she accepts tariffication. Korea also accepted minimum access import of rice in the agreement. The effects of these imports to the world rice market can be estimated if we look at the effects of Japan's large emergency rice import in 1994 and Korea's in 1980 following the very severe cold damages in 1993 in Japan and in 1980 in Korea.

Japan started her emergency rice import of 2.5 million tons in October 1993 and suddenly became the largest rice importer in the thin international rice trade market. Then the export and wholesale prices of Thai rice doubled within four months from October 1993 as Figure 4 shows. Thailand has been the largest rice exporter during last 14 years, and her export price is the representative price in the international rice trade market. The export prices of japonica and indica rice of the United States which has been one of the largest exporters behaved similarly to the Thai export price.

Japan tried to import japonica rice but its supply in the international trade market was not enough. So she had to import large amount of Thai indica rice. The cold damage in 1980 in Korea reduced her rice production by 40%, and Korea imported 0.9 million tons and 2.6 million tons of rice in 1980 and 1981, respectively. Then Japan had about 7 million tons of surplus japonica rice and loaned a part of it to Korea, but the international rice trade price increased by 45% from 1979 to 1981. These sharp increases in the international rice trade prices reflect the extreme thinness of the international rice trade market.

The farm gate and retail prices of Thai rice increased 33% and 7.1%, respectively, from August 1993 to February 1994. These price rises were much less than the rises of export and wholesale prices, but these are the prices which the rural and urban poor must pay, and they will suffer from these price rises that still remain in Thailand.

The retail prices of the low and medium quality rice in Indonesia started to increase sharply also from October 1993 as shown in Figure 5. The low and medium quality rice are the staple food and major energy source of the poor in Indonesia. There are huge number of the poor in the country as

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<sup>10</sup> Direct income transfer is usually impossible

<sup>11</sup> Hiroshi Tsujii, (June 1977): "An Economic and Institutional Analysis of the Rice Export Policy of Thailand: With Special Reference to the Rice Premium Policy," *The Developing Economies*, 15-2, pp.202-220.

reflected by the fact that the average Engel's coefficient to all the Indonesian consumers was about 70% in 1991.<sup>12</sup> The sharp rise of the retail rice prices caused by the Japan's emergency import must have created the great hardship to the huge Indonesian poor.

I estimated the effects of the Japan's emergency import and minimum access import to the international rice trade price by the autoregression method from 1993 to 2000. This estimation bases itself on the effects of past sudden large rice import by Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia to the international rice trade price and the past cyclical changes in the price. The impacts of Japan's large rice import to the future international rice price is estimated to change as shown in Figure 6, and tends to double on the average compared with 1993 price level during the estimation period.

Liberalisation of national and international rice markets—that is the target of the Uruguay Round agricultural trade agreement and of the WTO system—will result in large amount of rice import by high production cost and high income countries such as Japan, Korea and probably by the United States. These large and increasing amount of rice import by Japan and Korea through minimum access and tariffication will raise greatly the international rice trade price and to a lesser extent the domestic rice prices in Asian developing countries. Although the rise of the domestic rice price is less, rice is the staple food and necessity providing for the major part of energy intake of the huge poor and hungry concentrated in Asia; this rise will cause severe hardship to them. The paradigm of the benefit of free trade asserts that free trade makes all the people on the globe better off. This paradigm hold based on an assumption that there is no biased income distribution or no poor and hungry people on the globe. As described in the case of rice above, it is the huge Asian poor and hungry that will be put into crisis because of free trade of rice.

Advocates of free trade may say that after redistribution of the benefit of free trade even the Asian poor will be better off. But some of the Asian poor may die before the redistribution because of the liberalisation of rice trade. The redistribution is also very difficult.

Here I would like to note that the economic benefit from the Uruguay Round trade liberalisation agreement is biased severely toward the United States and Europe. In 1994 the GATT secretariat estimated the distribution for year 2005 to be 65% and 23% of the total benefit of 510 billion US dollars in the case of all commodities between the US and Europe on one side and the developing countries and former socialistic countries on the other, and in the case of agricultural commodities 54% and 27% of the total benefit of 53 billion US dollars. The GATT and the WTO are the systems that bring about much more benefit to high income countries than to low income countries, and under the present world system it is impossible to redistribute appropriate amount of the total economic benefit accruing to the high income countries from the Uruguay Round agreement.

### **3-5 Liberalisation of Rice Trade Increases Instability in the International Rice Trade Market and in Asian National Markets Which Reduces the Welfare of the Asian People**

As described above, stabilisation of domestic rice prices and rice supply is very important policy objective for Asian countries as rice is the staple food for Asian people and the political goods there. Thus in order to attain this stabilisation objective, most Asian rice importers had taken the rice self-sufficiency policy. Most Asian rice exporters too had made the stabilisation of domestic rice

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<sup>12</sup> Bureau Pusat Statistic, (1993): Household Expenditure Survey 1991, Jakarta.

price as one of the most important policy objectives. If stability of domestic rice price and supply is not assured, not only political stability is lost but also welfare of Asian people is greatly reduced.

If rice trade is liberalised, the Asian people will have to face thin and more unstable and unreliable international rice trade market than before. After liberalisation, the high-income countries such as Japan and Korea will import large amount of rice from thin international rice trade market. The thinness of the market will be maintained because of the mutually enforcing relation between Asian rice self-sufficiency policy and thin, unstable and unreliable international rice trade market as described above. Thus international rice price will rise considerably as discussed above. The price will fall drastically too when cyclical bumper crop will occur in Asia since thinness of the international rice trade market will be maintained.

The price elasticity of rice import demand of high-income countries such as Japan and Korea tend to be very low. They tend to secure the quantity of rice to be imported with less regard to its price because rice is the political goods in their countries. This characteristic was clearly shown by the Japan's recent emergency import behaviour.<sup>13</sup> Since the import demand by Japan and Korea are very large relative to the size of the thin international rice trade market, the price elasticity of the world total import demand for rice will decrease considerably. Consequently, the instability of the international rice trade price and to a less extent domestic rice price in Asian countries will be increased considerably.

The paradigm of the benefit of free trade does not take into account the important aspect of risk and risk aversion. If instability in the international rice trade price and domestic rice price is considerably increased by the rice trade liberalisation, the welfare of the Asian people and Asian countries will be reduced greatly. Consequently, the paradigm does not necessarily hold in the case of Asian rice, and probably in the case of other staple food in low-income countries. Thus the paradigm of the benefit of free trade must be revised taking due account of the risk aspect.

### **3-6 Rice Trade Liberalisation Reduces the Value of Externalities to the Asian People**

Rice is the most important crop in all Asian monsoon countries. Approximately 2 billion people in Asia produce rice and eat rice as their staple food and are engaged in marketing and other activities related to rice. In rural Asia, activities related to rice production and consumption occupy dominant part of the life of rural people, and thus rice is called the grain of life. To both rural and urban people in Asia, rice is the necessity and the political goods, and in low-income countries in Asia it is the wage goods. Thus all the activities related to rice in Asian countries have great external benefits to the Asian people such as the value of their own existence in rural scenery, rural culture and appropriate industrial structure and spatial distribution of agriculture and industry, appropriate utilisation of natural resources such as soil and water, maintenance of rural environment based on the sustainable technology of rice production, flood control and water conservation. Producing most of rice that the people of each rice importing Asian country consume, domestic rice price and supply stabilisation and thus political stability is secured as described above. All the Asian rice importing countries pursued rice self-sufficiency policy in order to maintain the value of these rice externalities. Asian rice exporting countries sought domestic rice price stabilisation policy in order

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<sup>13</sup> The author obtained this information by a personal interview with the vice president of the largest rice exporting company in California and the secretary general of the Thai Rice Exporters' Association in 1994.

to maintain domestic political stability as described above.

The paradigm of the benefit of free trade does not take into account the externalities, and when it is applied to rice, this important value of externalities is neglected. If rice trade liberalisation is pursued, rice production of many Asian countries will be reduced considerably and the rice externalities will be lost. The paradigm must be revised from the viewpoint of the externalities.

#### **4. Expected Severe Future World Cereal Deficit and the Needed Transformation of Agricultural System of Japan to a Sustainable and Equitable One**

##### **4-1 Expected Severe Deficit of Cereals in Year 2020**

Peak of population explosion will last until year 2020 and about 100 million people per year will be added to the world population until that year. According to the UN estimates, the world population of 5.30 billion in 1990 will increase to 8.05 billion in the year 2020. Most of this population explosion will occur in the developing countries, and their population will increase from 4.08 to 6.66 billion during the same period. This will drastically increase the need for cereals as staple food in the developing countries.

The world economy will continue to grow from now to the year 2020. According to the World Bank statistics, per capita income of South and East Asia with the total population of 2.9 billion in 1990 have grown at much faster annual rates of 3.0% and 6.4%, respectively, than other areas on the globe during 1980-93. In Asia, per capita income of China with 1.2 billion people in 1990 has grown at an extremely fast rate of 8.2% during the same period, and the speed has been at explosive rates of about 10% during 1992-95. Fast Chinese and Asian per capita income growth will probably continue into the early 21st Century, and the income of the other parts of the world will grow though at slower rates. If per capita income will grow in the world with Asia as a growth center, peoples' food consumption pattern will shift from cereals to animal protein, and the consequent need for feed grains will increase very rapidly. Chinese demand for feed grains will explode if no adjustments in China will be made, and it will raise international cereal prices considerably.<sup>14</sup>

The expected rapid future increase in the need for cereals must coincide with rapid increase of income of the people in the developing countries, as the people must purchase the increased cereals need. As the developing countries depend heavily on their agricultural sectors, these countries must increase their agricultural and thus cereal production in order to increase income of their people who are mostly farmers. Thus the natural resources and technological constraints on the supply of cereals in each developing country must be evaluated. FAO estimated the potentially cultivable area in the developing countries (excluding China) with acceptable rain-fed crop yield as 1.8 billion ha in 1995.<sup>15</sup> This area is quite large compared with the current world cereal harvested area of about 0.8 billion ha. But 92% of this area is located in South America and Sub-Sahara Africa. Consequently, the apparently abundant potentially cultivable area on the globe is not of much help for the needed growth in cereal production, and concomitant agricultural income and demand for cereals in Asia, New East and North Africa. In the same report, FAO estimated the needed and possible expansion in crops cultivated area in the world from now to the year 2010 was only 90 million ha.

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<sup>14</sup> USDA, ERS, (Nov. 1995): Rice, Situation and Outlook Yearbook, p.13; Hiroshi Tsujii, (November 1996): "Asian Food Demand and Supply in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (in Japanese), "Sekai, Iwanami Publishing Co."

<sup>15</sup> Nikos Alexandratos, ed., (1995): Agriculture: Towards 2010, An FAO Study, Rome: FAO

These constraints in the developing countries and the world have been worsening.<sup>16</sup> The world total harvested area of cereals has peaked at about 760 million ha in 1977 and has since declined to about 690 million ha in 1992 according to the FAO data. This decline is partly caused by the cereal production reduction policy adopted by the developed countries since the middle of the 80's. But the Chinese cereals harvested area had increased to a peak of 98 million ha in 1976 then continued to decline to 91 million ha in 1992, and in India the same area peaked at 107 million ha in 1993 and then declined to 100 million ha in 1992, according to the USDA data. The world per capita harvested area of cereals also decreased from 0.24ha in 1950 to 0.12ha in 1994. Annual growth rate of arable area in the world has declined as 0.33%, 0.28% and 0.18% for 60's, 70's and 80's, respectively. Good agricultural land has been converted to non-agricultural uses very rapidly, and this has been very severe in China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Korea and other Asian countries where economic growth has been very fast.<sup>17</sup> The author has long witnessed the fast conversion of good paddy field in the Central Plain of Thailand.

The annual growth rates of world average cereal yield per unit area has declined considerably from about 3 percent during the Sixties to about 2 percent during the 1970-85 period and then down to about 1 percent during the 1985-96 period as Table 1 shows. Cereal yield should increase about 3 percent per annum in order to provide enough food for the exploding world population. The reasons for this decline are as follows: First, the yield ceiling of high yielding varieties of cereals that have been released during the past few decades from international and national agricultural research institutions has been observed in the experimental and farmers' fields. The yield ceiling is considered to be caused by exhaustion of the past accumulated agricultural technological knowledge resulting from the stagnation in agricultural research investment in the world after the Eighties, by ceiling in the performance of rice and wheat plants,<sup>18</sup> by emphasis on better quality in plant breeding. Secondly, 1.2 billion ha of land in the world is estimated to be under soil degradation, 450 million ha of which is in Asia.<sup>19</sup> In two field surveys by the author in semiarid Northeast Thailand in 1993 and 1994, all the farmers interviewed reported decline of rice and cassava yield during the past 20 years and shortage of organic fertiliser and soil degradation as its reasons. Thirdly, the annual growth rate of the irrigated area in the world had declined from little above 2% during the 60's and 70's to a little above 1% during the 80's.<sup>20</sup> Per capita irrigated area in the world peaked in 1978, and then has declined by 6% until 1991. These are caused by

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<sup>16</sup> Hiroshi Tsujii, (June 1996): "Uncertainties in the Food Demand and Supply in Asia (in Japanese)", "Nogyo to Keizai, 61-9, pp.52-62; Lester Brown, (1994): Full House, New York: Norton; and The World Resources Institute, (1994): World Resources 1994-95, New York: Oxford University Press.

<sup>17</sup> Lester Brown, op. cit.

<sup>18</sup> Personal discussion with Professor T. Horie (agronomy) at Kyoto University; R. Evenson and C. David, (1990): Adjustment and Technology: The Case of Rice, Paris: OECD, pp.57-84; and IRRI, 1993-95 IRRI Rice Almanac, Manila: IRRI, 1993, p.8.

<sup>19</sup> Nikos Alexandratos, ed., (1995): Agriculture: Towards 2010, An FAO Study, Rome: FAO

<sup>20</sup> World Bank and UNDP, (1990): Irrigation and Drainage Research: A Proposal, Washington, D.C.: World Bank; P.A. Oram and Behjat Hojjati, (1995): "The Growth Potential of Existing Agricultural Technology, " Chapter 7 of Nural Uslam, ed., Population and Food in the Early Twenty-First Century: Meeting Future food Demand of an Increasing Population, Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute, pp. 167-189.

economic, managerial and ecological reasons.<sup>21</sup> As FAO estimates, more than half of food production growth from mid-Sixties to mid-Eighties is due to increase in irrigated area. Stagnation in the world irrigated area expansion therefore is a serious problem for needed increase of food supply. Fourthly, increasing constraints on the world water resource, two third of which is used by agriculture. These constraints include fast increase in the industrial and households water demand as the developing economies grow rapidly, depletion of underground water caused by its over use for agricultural production in, e. g., USA, northern China and India, and the recent stagnation in the expansion of irrigated area. Fifthly, the law of diminishing returns is working as the world average chemical fertiliser input per ha of cultivated land had increased from 24kg in 1950 to the peak of 211kg in 1989.<sup>22</sup>

These factors will continue to depress growth in cereal yield into the 21st Century. Chemical fertiliser and agricultural chemical inputs will be constrained because of environmental and soil degradation concerns. Hybrid seeds now are not considered as a breakthrough technology. Hybrid wheat has not been successful after 25 years of effort, and hybrid rice is used widely only in China with only 20% yield increase.<sup>23</sup> In the past 20 years, biotechnology has been expected to increase cereals yield decades before effective farm level application. Now it is considered not a breakthrough technology but a technology for incremental yield growth.<sup>24</sup> The Super Rice said to be developed at IRRI using biotechnology with new plant type with 30% yield increase does not perform as planned in experimental fields.<sup>25</sup>

Taking into account most of the factors affecting demand and supply of cereals mentioned just above a projection of the demand and supply for the world, by groups of countries by income levels<sup>26</sup> and by some countries for year 2020 and presented in Table 2. The assumptions for the projection are given on the right hand side of the table, and assumed annual growth rates during 1993 to 2020 basically similar to the recent rates but adjusted slightly where necessary according to the latest available information. On the demand side, demand explosion for feed grains is given special attention. The conversion ratios from feed grains to animal and chicken meat and eggs are based on the FAO's food balance sheets information and adjusted for future probable shift from grazing to grain feeding following economic growth and soil degradation. For population, the UN's medium projection is used. These conversion ratios, income elasticities of demand and assumed growth rates for population, animal protein demand and GDP bring about the feed grain demand in year 2020. For supply of cereals, the projection reflects recent decline in the growth rates of cereals yield and production.

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<sup>21</sup> Pierre Crosson, (1995): "Future Supplies of Land and Water for World Agriculture," Chapter 6 in Nurul Islam, ed., *Population and Food in the Early Twenty-First Century: Meeting Future Food Demand of an Increasing Population*, Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute, pp. 154-156.

<sup>22</sup> Personal discussion with Professor T Horie.

<sup>23</sup> Donald Duvick, (1995): "Plant Breeding and Biotechnology for Meeting future Food Needs," Chapter 9 in *Population and Food in the Early Twenty-First Century: Meeting Future Food Demand of an Increasing Population*, Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute, p.223; IRRI, (1995): *1993-95 IRRI Rice Almanac*, p.110.

<sup>24</sup> Donald Duvick, *op. cit.*, p. 110.

<sup>25</sup> IRRI, *op. cit.*, and a personal discussion with Professor T. Horie.

<sup>26</sup> This grouping follows the World Banks classification.

The result of projection is shown in the columns of estimated cereals demand, production and deficits in year 2020 in the table. The estimated deficit for the world is 417 million tons, and this is very large compared to the world total cereals trade of 230 million tons in 1993. The deficit for the low- and medium-income countries is 590 million tons and a part of this will be supplied by 172 million tons of cereals export by the high income countries such as the United States and the EU, although this export will not be sufficient at all for the large deficit for the developing countries. Developing countries in Asia will face 320 million tons of deficits in which China will face 167 million tons and India 15 million tons of deficits. Japan's self-sufficiency ratio of cereals is currently very low and in fact at the lowest level of 29% among the high income countries in 1993, and this has raised concern among many of the Japanese people. If the recent trend (the assumptions) will continue, the self-sufficiency ratio will further decline to an extremely low level of 21% in year 2020.

Based on the assumptions, severe cereal deficit in the world, in low- and medium-income countries, in Asia and in Japan is projected for year 2020. Considerable price rise of cereals must follow in the year 2020, and the huge poor and hungry population that are concentrated especially in Asia will suffer.

#### **4-2 The Need for New Sustainable and Equitable Japanese Agricultural System**

During the postwar period Japanese government emphasised increases in the production and export of industrial sector following the paradigm of the benefit of free trade and liberalised agricultural import. Thus agricultural import of Japan increased very rapidly together with import of fishery and forestry products. The import of these three products by Japan increased from 2.3 billion dollars in 1961 to 70.6 billion dollars in 1993, and made Japan the largest importer of these products among the developed countries. The share of Japanese import in the world total value of the trade of these three products has increased from 5.6% to 9.4% during the same period, while the share has declined for UK and has been about the same for France and Germany.

This extremely fast increase of agricultural, forestry and fishery products import by Japan has caused environmental and equity problems in Japan and in the world. As described in the previous section, the sudden increase in 1994 and continuous increase of Japan's rice import following the severe cold damage in Japan in 1993 and the Uruguay Round Agreement has increased and will increase domestic rice price in Asian countries and will cause hardship to the huge Asian rice-eating poor. Large and increasing amount of Japan's cereals and soybean import must have aggravated soil degradation in America, China and other countries. Large amount of Japan's shrimp import has caused severe coastal environmental destruction, and Japan's tropical timber import has lead to severe tropical forest destruction.

Domestically the fast increase of agricultural product import by Japan has decreased food and cereal self-sufficiency level as shown in Fig 7. Korea has been following a similar path. The rate of cereal self-sufficiency for Japan has long been at the lowest level among the developed countries in the world and is aggravating the anxiety of Japanese people about their food security.

Maximisation behaviour of short-run economic income by small farmers has reduced the use of costly organic fertilisers and organic materials but increased the uses of cheap chemical fertilisers, insecticides, machines that depend on fossil fuels. The increase of modern chemical inputs has disintegrated the traditional cyclical and sustainable agricultural production system and in the long

run has lead to soil degradation, environmental destruction and water pollution.

In order to mitigate these problems caused by the expected long run world cereals shortage and by the behaviour of current agricultural, forestry and fishery system of Japan, the current system should be transformed to a new one under which huge import of agricultural, forestry and fishery products by Japan is restrained, and self-sufficiency in these products is increased with higher supply sustainability and environment conservation. The important characteristics of the new agricultural system will be self-sufficiency in rice, more wheat production in winter, no chemical fertiliser inputs, less inputs of pesticides and insecticides, more organic fertiliser inputs (but less than past nutrients inputs level per unit area) and no paddy field conversion, and larger farm sizes with some decoupled subsidy to farms especially in disadvantageous area. We should and can construct a system to produce the organic fertiliser needed for the new agricultural system from the wastes of Japanese households and of animal husbandry production of some reduced scale than the past. Under the new system, cereal self-sufficiency ratio will be restored to more than 50%. I believe there is a need of national agreement for the new agricultural system with less pollution, more food security, more benefit from beautiful rural area and scenery, higher food cost between consumers and farmers in Japan, and an international agreement for the new system with equity, stability, sustainability and short-run loss in economic utility of consumers and in profit of exporters and producers.

## **5. Conclusion**

Rice is the crop in Asia. About 2 billion people in Asia produce and eat rice as their staple food, and are engaged in rice marketing. About 90% of the world production and consumption of rice is concentrated in Asia, while production and consumption of other important upland cereals such as wheat and maize are scattered all over the globe. Rice is the necessity, the wage goods and the grain of life in the developing Asian countries. It is the political goods in Asia, as political stability is lost when stability of domestic price and supply of rice cannot be maintained as many past cases show. Thus in order to maintain stabilisation of domestic price and supply of rice, most Asian countries have pursued the policy to attain rice self-sufficiency and to maintain it after its attainment. Because of this self-sufficiency policy, there has been no strong endogenous mechanism to increase the size of the international trade of rice in Asia and the world. Thus the international trade market of rice has been very thin; i. e. the trades share to production is very small in comparison with other major upland cereals such as wheat and maize.

Because the international rice trade market is very thin, it is unstable and unreliable compared with other major cereals. Thus Asian countries cannot depend on it as the major source of supply for rice, and pursued their self-sufficiency policy. The thinness, instability and unreliability of the market and self-sufficiency policy of the Asian countries enforce each other, and thus the thinness, instability and unreliability of the international rice trade market will be maintained into the 21st Century.

Cyclical wide spread droughts and cold damages have occurred in Asia, and then some Asian countries tried to import large amount of rice from the thin international rice trade market in order to stabilise their domestic rice markets. This large amount of rice import increased the international trade price of rice. Past sudden large import of japonica rice by Korea and Japan when they were hit by severe cold damage wiped out japonica trade on the globe. The international price of rice plummets when bumper rice production in Asia is harvested. Thus continuous existence of the

relatively stable international rice trade market is dubious, and the market sometimes disappears.

The Uruguay Round agricultural trade agreement under the GATT and the WTO based on the paradigm of the benefit of free trade, will force the world rice market to liberalise and will increase rice import by high production cost and mostly high income countries such as Japan and Korea into the 21st Century. But the thinness of the international rice trade market will be maintained as mentioned above, and the international trade price of rice will increase tremendously. Then the domestic rice prices in Asian countries will also increase considerably. This will cause severe hardship to the huge rice eating poor and hungry concentrated in Asia.

Price elasticity of Import demand by high-income countries such as Japan and Korea is very small. The quantity of this import under the GATT agreement is very big against very thin international market, and this quantity will increase. This will decrease price elasticity of the world rice import demand and will increase instability of the international rice trade price and of domestic rice prices in Asian countries. Stability of rice price is more important than its levels to the people in Asian countries as explained above, and the expected increase in instability will deduct large welfare from Asian people. This risk aspect is neglected in the paradigm of the benefit of free trade.

Rice economy and rice policy in Asia have great external benefits to the Asian people such as the value of the existence itself such as rural scenery, rural culture and appropriate industrial structure and spatial distribution of agriculture and industry, appropriate utilisation of natural resources such as soil and water, maintenance of rural environment based on the sustainable technology of rice production, flood control and water conservation. Rice self-sufficiency policy that have been pursued by many Asian countries has contributed to the domestic rice price and supply stability which is an important external benefit to the Asian people. These externalities are not taken into account in the paradigm of the benefit of free trade.

The severe cereal shortage in the year 2020 is projected based on the assumptions on severe long run constraints in natural resources, on agricultural technological knowledge and on biological potential of cereals plants, on the population explosion and on the shift of peoples' consumption pattern from carbohydrates to animal protein foods and fast increase in the demand for feed. The paradigm of the benefit of free trade is the short-run hypothesis of neoclassical economics category that does not take into account those long-run constraints and factors and probable maintenance of the huge poor and hungry on the globe. Thus the paradigm must be changed to a paradigm of sustainable and equitable trade in the long run.

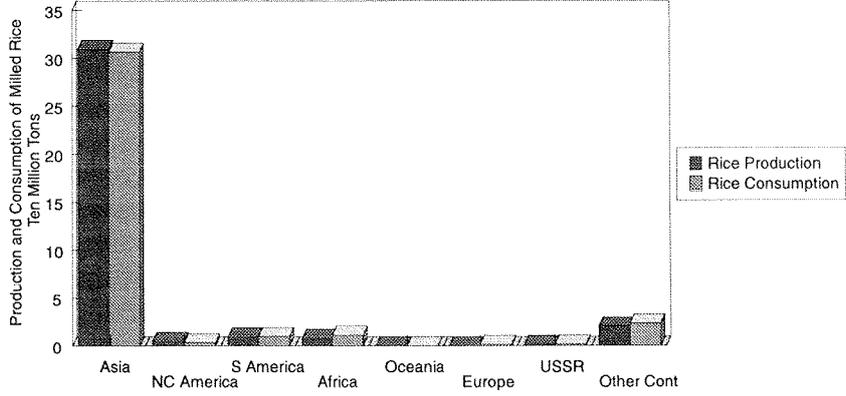
If the past socio-economic trend continues, Japanese self-sufficiency ratio for cereals will decline from already low 29% in 1993 to 21% in year 2020. Pursuing the short-run profit and welfare maximisation which is consistent with the paradigm of benefit of free trade, Japan has increased imports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products at much faster speed than the European countries, became the largest importer of these products in the world and decreased her self-sufficiency levels for these products to the lowest level when compared to the European countries. Simultaneously, Japanese agricultural technology has changed from a sustainable one depending more on organic fertilisers to the modern technology depending more on chemical fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides and agricultural machinery. This change increased agricultural production in the short-run, but degraded soil, polluted soil and water and destroyed environment in the long-run. The modern technology depends on fossil fuel and therefore is not sustainable. The fast increase of Japan's import of these products caused severe equity and environmental problems in foreign

countries, such as rice price rise, coastal environmental destruction and tropical forest destruction. In order to mitigate these problems, Japan should restrain excessive import of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, increase self-sufficiency ratios for these products and shift to sustainable agricultural technology which is consistent with the new paradigm of sustainable and equitable trade.

The paradigm of the benefit of free trade holds only in the short-run based on such assumptions as existence and maintenance of the market in question, perfect competition, no biased income distribution or non-existence of the huge poor and the hungry, non-existence of risk and risk aversion, and no externalities. But these assumptions do not hold especially in the world rice market as expressed in this paper. For example, the thin, unstable and unreliable international rice trade market will be maintained in the 21st Century because the thinness and self-sufficient policy of Asian countries will be mutually enforcing between them, and thus the continuation of relatively stable international rice market cannot be assured. When rice trade is liberalised, the world rice prices will rise considerably and the huge poor and hungry concentrated in Asia will suffer very much, the instability of international and domestic prices of rice will be increased. This will reduce the welfare of risk averse Asian people, and the externalities of rice economy and rice policy in Asian countries will be lost. In the long run, it is projected that severe constraints in natural resources and rice technology, population explosion and economic growth will bring about a large shortage of rice and other cereals in the year 2020. Consequently, the paradigm of the benefit of free trade does not hold in the case of rice and therefore must be modified to a paradigm of stability oriented, equitable and sustainable trade that is consistent with the rice self-sufficiency policy. For the instability in the international rice trade market, an institution such as an international buffer stock scheme must be instituted.

**Fig 1-1 Concentration and Self-Sufficiency of Rice in Asia**

Continental Production & Consumption of Rice, Maize & Wheat: Annual Average for 89/91

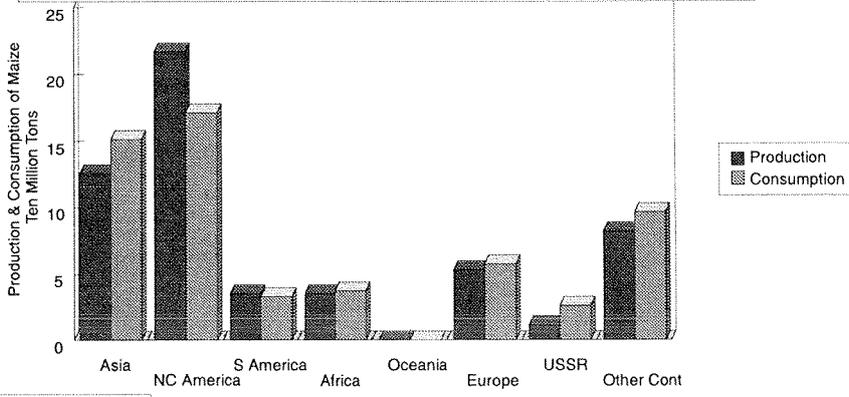


Data: FAO Yearbooks.

Names of Continents & Regions

**Fig 1-2 Maize Production & Consumption by continent**

Annual Average for 89/91

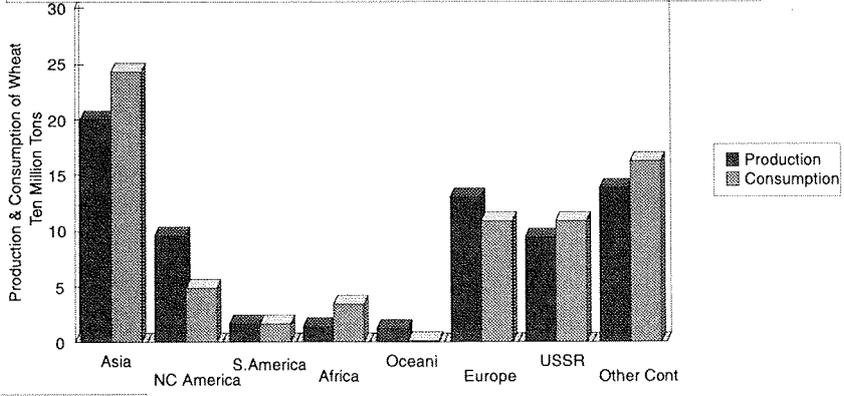


Data: FAO Yearbooks.

Names of Continents

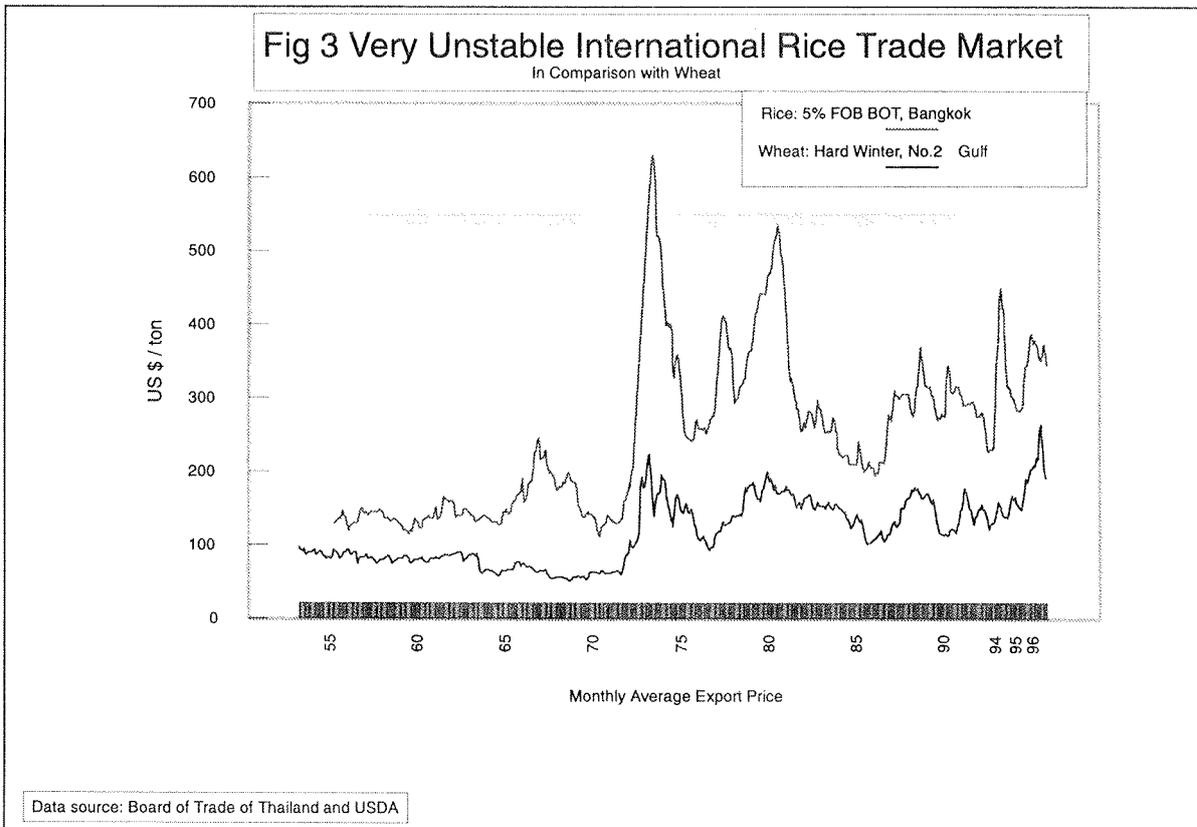
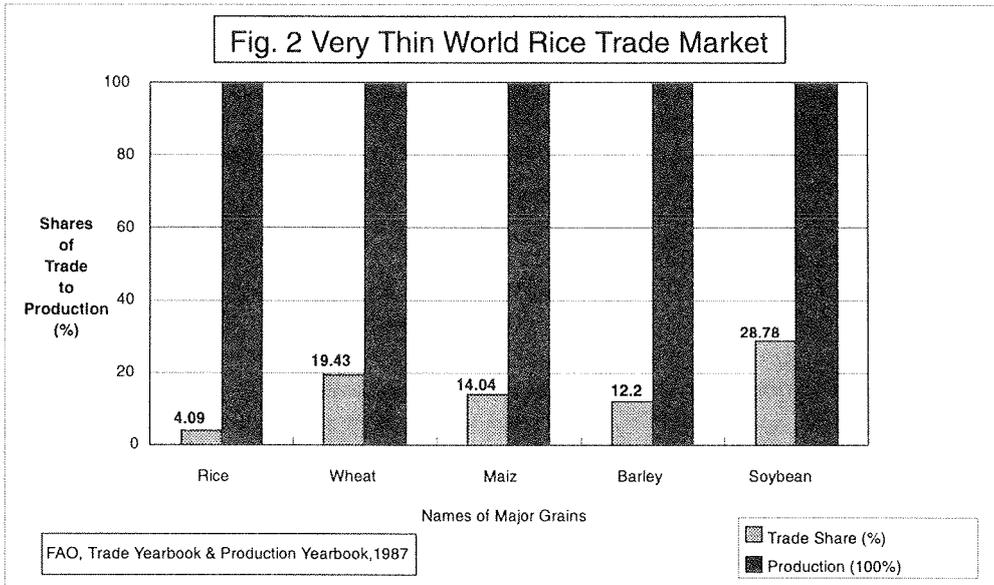
**Fig 1-3 Wheat Production & Consumption by Continent**

Annual Average for 89/91

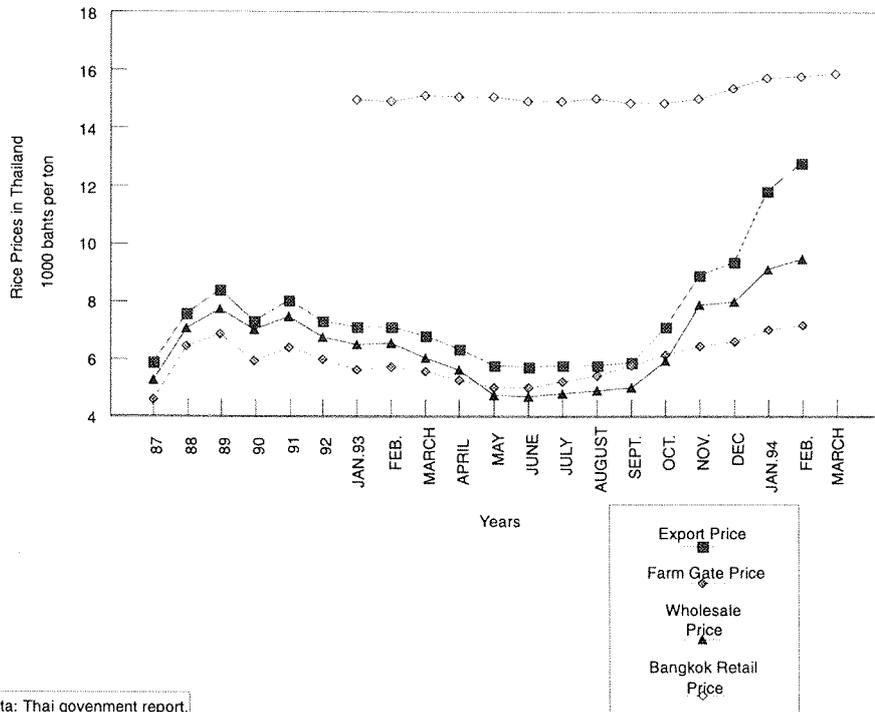


Data: FAO Yearbooks.

Names of Continents

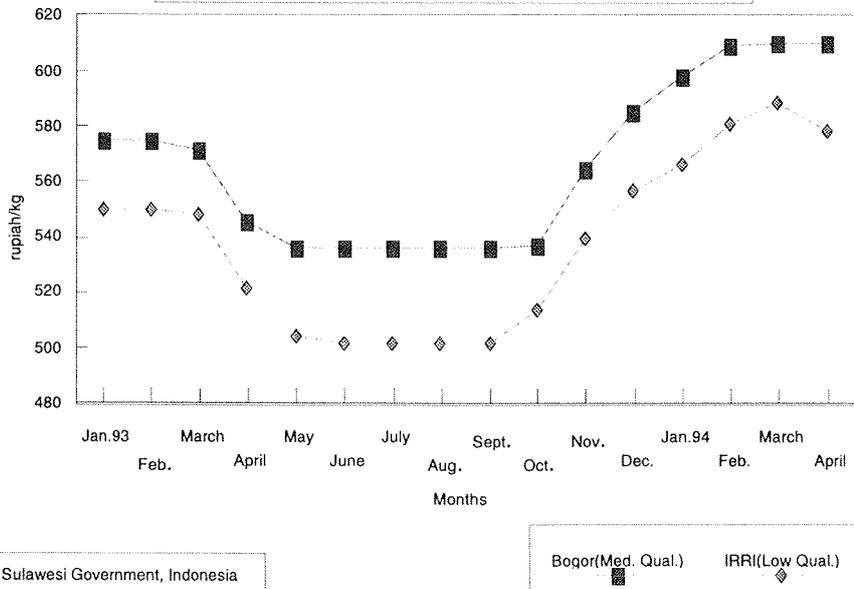


**Fig 4 The Sharp Rise in the Thai Export Price & Other Prices of 5% Rice Caused by the Large Japanese Emergency Import of Rice**



Data: Thai government report.

**Fig 5 Sharp Rise in the Retail Price of Rice**  
Low & Med. Quality Rice in Ujung Pandang, Sulawesi, Indonesia

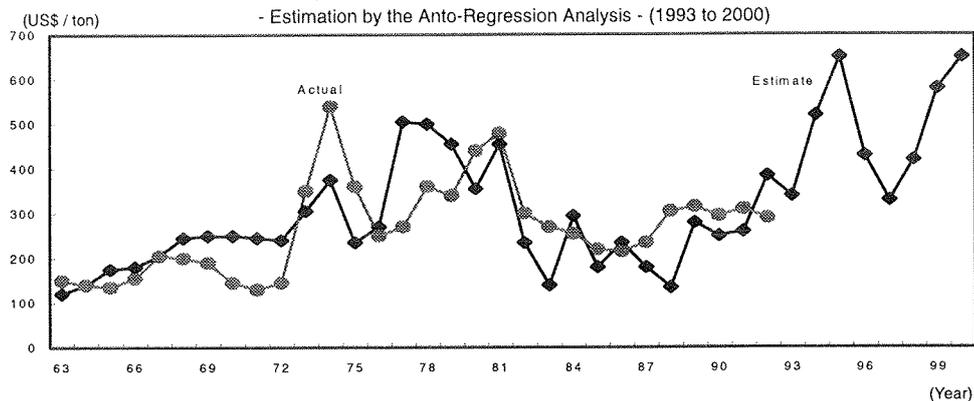


Data: Sulawesi Government, Indonesia

**Fig.6 The Effects of Japan's Emergency Import and Minimum Access**

Import of Rice to the International Trade Price of Rice

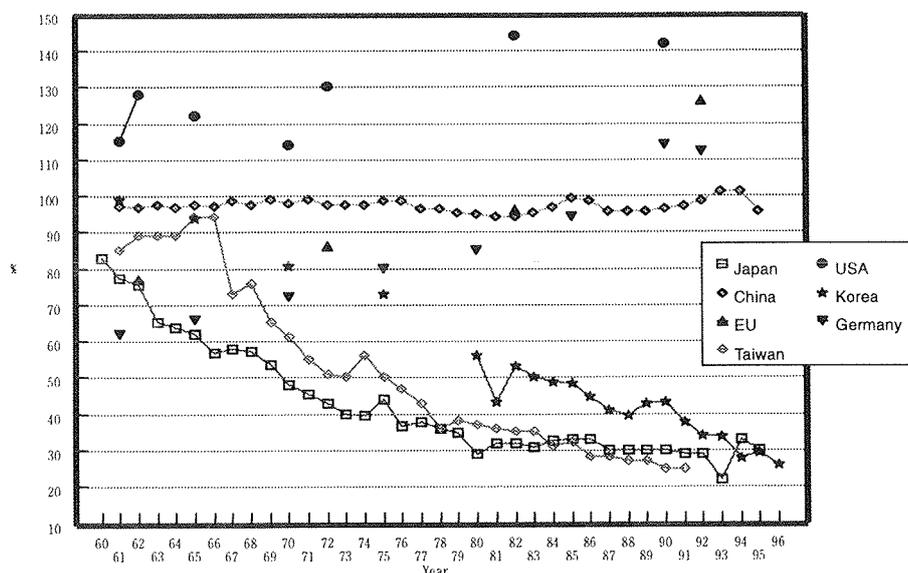
- Estimation by the Auto-Regression Analysis - (1993 to 2000)



**Note:** Japan's rice import is assumed to be two billion tons in 1999, one million tons in 1995 and minimum access imports for the years after 1995.  
**Data:** Actual trade price is the Thais Board of Trade quotation price for 5% Thai long grain FPB export price.

**Fig 7 Differences in the Changes of Cereals Self-Sufficiency Level**

Among East Asian Countries, US and European Countries



Data Sources: FAO, Japanese and Korean Governments

**Table 1 Long run decline in the annual growth rate in the world average yields of major cereals**

Unit: %

	All Cereals	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Barley
61/70	3.02	2.72	3.61	2.17	3.46
70/85	2.41	2.13	2.50	3.12	1.26
85/96	1.20	1.22	1.44	0.90	0.63

Data Source: FAO Production Yearbooks via FTP.

**Table 2 Projections of World Demand and Supply of Cereals for Year 2020**

Demand Projection	1993			2020	
	Population	Per Capita Demand for Animal & Chicken Meat & Eggs	Total Demand for Cereals	Per Capita Demand for Animal & Chicken Meat & Eggs	Total Demand for Cereals
	millions	kg	million tons	kg	million tons
World	5522	39.500	1830	58.400	3269
Low & Med. Income Country	4289	23.900	1072	58.400	2342
Asian Developing Country	3058	20.700	730	54.100	1473
China	1185	34.500	366	91.300	777
India	885	3.960	173	6.390	298
High Income Country (a)	1228	93.100	767	100.000	927
Japan	124	47.800	40	52.800	42

Assumption for Demand Projection	1993 - 2020				
	Growth Rate of Population	Growth Rate in Per Capita Demand for Animal & Chicken Meat & Eggs	Growth Rate of GDP	Income Elasticity of Demand for Animal & Chicken Meat & Eggs	Feed Grains / Animal & Chicken Meat & Eggs
	Average Increasing Rate per year				(FAO Food Balance)
World	0.014	0.015	0.034	0.680	3.000
Low & Med. Income Country	0.016	0.034	0.060	0.700	2.400
Asian Developing Country	0.015	0.036	0.060	0.350	1.800
China	0.009	0.037	0.070	0.600	3.000
India	0.015	0.018	0.060	0.400	2.000
High Income Country (a)	0.005	0.003	0.022	0.150	5.880
Japan	0.001	0.004	0.020	0.200	3.300

Supply Projection	1993	2020	
	Production	Production	Estimated Deficits
	millions tons	million tons	million tons
World	1804	2851.793	417
Low & Med. Income Country	930	1752.001	590
Asian Developing Country	675	1152.828	320
China	340	609.666	167
India	167	283.000	15
High Income Country (a)	870	1100.000	-172
Japan	11	9.000	33

1993-2020
Annual Growth Rate of Cereals Production
0.017
0.024
0.020
0.015
0.012
0.009
-0.008

Note: (a) includes US, former USSR, East 6 West Europe, Japan and Oceania

## **Environment, Food Security and Population Issues**

**Resource Person: Hon. Dr. Ui-Wha Chung, M.D.  
Member of Parliament (Republic of Korea)**

Mr. Chairman, Dear parliamentarians, Distinguished guests,  
I extend my heartfelt welcome and thanks to you for attending the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Seoul.

I am glad to see familiar faces that I met at the Hague Forum last February. The forum offered an opportunity to assess the progress each country has made since the Cairo Conference in 1994. At the conference, participants adopted the Declaration that we assess the impact of international agreements and organisations, including those by the WTO, on agricultural production and the environment and establish the World Food Bank to render more support to countries in need, and agreed on action plans to address population, food and environmental issues.

As you may know, one of the most urgent issues prior to the Cairo conference was to arrest population growth. There was a growing concern over population growth both at home and abroad and people came to realise the fact that explosive growth may pose a threat to the very survival of human beings. Against this backdrop, a great number of countries launched programs, including family planning, to reduce population growth rates. Korea was not an exception. In fact, it was the third country that adopted family planning, which turned out to be a huge success.

What we have learned in implementing population control programs is that it is an issue that warrants continuous attention and efforts. It is an issue that we see, feel and live with. Not surprisingly, the moment we resolve a series of issues, we find new ones await us. The imbalance in sexes, decrease in labour force, rapidly increasing number of senior citizens, insufficient food, unbalanced population distribution due to urbanisation and pollution are some of new threats posed before us. Such issues were addressed at the 1994 Cairo Conference after which the population policy was shifted from simply reducing birth rates to enhancing welfare of family as well as society.

### ***1. Population and the environment***

The patterns of consumption and production have a great impact on the environment. The increase in population leads to rapid consumption of food, which, in turn, stimulated food production activities. This is one of the causes for the deteriorating environment. To meet the growing demand for food, countries have stretched themselves to develop lands, which wreaked havoc on the earth. Development activities resulted in ozone layer destruction, rain forests and increasingly fewer plant species. For the last few centuries, the earth has witnessed a fifth of the agricultural areas, a fifth of rain forests and millions of species disappearing.

Under the economic development plans implemented since the early 1960's, Korea has carried out a series of urbanisation and industrialisation projects at a fast pace. However, due to the industrialisation drive, Korea reaped a huge economic success at its own peril. Like other developing countries, Korea put environmental protection on the back burner and its economic development took precedence over environmental concerns. As a result, Korea fostered industries

that consume massive amount of energy and resources, polluting the environment.

Industrialisation and urbanisation have caused not only environmental hazards but also social ills such as concentration of population in urban areas, security, deteriorating living conditions and crimes. It is time for us to look back and think of ways to revive the earth and to study the impact of human activities and population growth on the environment. The end products from such studies should be shared by all of us and put to use for the sake of all human beings.

Unlike developed countries, developing countries are not in a position to implement any measure to address environmental issues. Even though they recognise the need for such a measure, they cannot put it into action due to resource constraints. It is relatively easy for developed countries to set aside a part of GNP to developing environmentally-friendly energy or cleaning up rivers. However, for countries whose GNP is a tenth of that of developed countries, it is very hard to raise required capital and accumulate expertise.

The root cause of environmental destruction lies in explosive growth of population, exhaust from industrial facilities and development. The best way to restrain destructive forces is to put an end to population growth. It is not very tenable to stop population growth in Asia, Africa or Latin America in the near future. It is necessary to reverse the industrialisation drive to reduce exhausts from industrial facilities and prevent environmental destruction. Developing countries, on the other hand, see industrialisation as the only option to pull the country out of poverty.

To resolve this dilemma, developed countries need to play a crucial role because the impact of population growth on the environment and food production is not only confined to a single country but to all of us. The earth is a closed system, i.e. nothing goes out or comes in except the heat emitted from the sun. It is one of the examples that an environmental issue in a country is not confined to a country but affects the entire world.

Controlling the emission of carbon dioxide and protecting rain forests will not resolve every environment issue facing us if not accompanied by concerted efforts. Rather, we need to make joint efforts and policies based on the mutual understanding of differences in GNP.

Rain forests will gradually disappear and deforestation in African steppe will continue if developed countries are reluctant to transfer technology and make contribution to the efforts to protect the environment in Latin America and Southeast Asian countries. UN has made a tremendous effort to preserve the environment via Forestry Convention, Biodiversity Convention, and Climate Change Convention. However, such international conventions have not served their purpose due to the economic constraints of developing countries. Such international conventions are important but we need more fundamental measures to address root causes.

Population and environmental issues in developing countries stem from the necessity for economic development and industrialisation. Under these circumstances, if developed countries keep imposing obligations under the name of the Green Round, the cause for environmental protection will be increasingly untenable. Instead, developed countries recognised the need to share advanced technology rather than exporting it to ensure coexistence of human beings.

It is also a prerequisite for developed countries to raise fund to preserve the environment and render international support to raise awareness of population issues as it has done to set up the UN peace

keeping operation forces to preserve peace.

With concerted international efforts driven by international conventions, we need to reduce energy consumption and make investment in developing environmentally-friendly technology.

## ***2. Population and food security***

The international food production from 1950 to 1984 increased 2.6 times, exceeding the pace of population growth of the world. Despite the increase in food production, 800 million people are malnourished and about 200 million children under five lack calories and protein in their diet. Food security is determined by production and allocation of resources and income to purchase food.

### *1) Limitations of arable lands*

Food production is decided by the size of arable lands and agricultural productivity. At present, only 11% of the entire lands or 13 billion hectares are used for food production. Therefore, we need to develop land to meet the growing need for food. In fact, 82% of arable lands in Asia are used for food production. Latin America has vast lands that can be used for agriculture but most of them have limited capacity to produce or are located in rain forests. Expanding arable lands has many constraints. It also requires vast investment to turn them into arable lands and may destroy the environment and ecosystem. Efforts to expand arable lands such as reclamation, irrigation and logging may backfire as they may cause deforestation, desertification and conversion to industrial facilities.

### *2) Enhancing productivity*

Therefore, food security for the next century depends on improving productivity. For instance, per capita productivity of an African farmer is 600 kg per year whereas that of a North American farmer is 80,000 kg. Given more arable lands, better climate conditions, better infrastructure, more investment, modern equipment and high quality seeds, it is inevitable that North American farmers stand better chance and it is hard to compare the two.

The implication we can draw from this is that improved training, distribution channels, seed treatment, improvement in harvest, fertiliser, agricultural equipment, genetic engineering and environmentally sound agricultural technology are factors to improve productivity. The caveat is that such efforts may cause other problems if not accompanied by environment preservation efforts.

### *3) Allocation*

Allocation of resources has become as important as food production due to disproportionate population growth rates and resource distribution. In Africa where people are in dire need of food, excessive pasturing and deterioration of land quality led to a decrease in arable lands. Worse yet, scarce precipitation makes it hard to grow plants. Those with high productivity in agriculture are located in North America and Europe. Development countries are concerned about excessive production whereas developing countries are worried about lack of it. The bottom line is that hunger stems not from the absolute amount of food but from the distribution of resources and income allocation.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, we can draw a conclusion that food security is linked with population, food productivity, and environmentally-friendly development and trade issues.

### **1. Arresting population growth**

Demand for food is decided by population and income. The root cause lies in the fact that demand exceeds supply. As demand for food is driven by population growth, the first priority should be given to arresting population growth. To this end, countries with high population growth rate need to make population policy and make conscious efforts to continue to implement them. Such effort needs to be monitored and complemented with reproductive rights and health approaches.

#### *1) Self-sufficiency*

On the supply side, countries need to be self-sufficient. To this end, governments need to render technological support and subsidise to a certain extent, which is also agreed under the WTO system. The reality is that advanced countries impose a ban on developing countries to subsidise their farmers in an attempt to export their agricultural products. As a result, agriculture that fits the attributes of a country has given way to a handful countries whose agricultural production accounts for much of the international supply.

It implies that if any natural disaster such as flood and drought hamper production, it will effect the international supply of food. If agricultural products are highly priced, they will wreak havoc on the international trade balance of developing countries. Excessive supply of food may discourage food-exporting countries to produce food, leading to destruction of the international food production system. To this end, we need to ensure self-sufficiency in line with environmental protection effort. It is also required for us to share technology to improve agricultural productivity, conduct joint R&D studies and exchange ideas and research outcomes.

#### *2) International Assistance*

In addition, we need to allocate food resources by taking into consideration climate and other variables. On top of this, we need to render international support to countries whose people live in abject poverty.

There are a number of countries that suffer from lack of food. There is a country that is capable of feeding its people but make them starve on purpose. It is North Korea. A number of international aid organisations have made attempts to assess the food situation in the North. World Vision, an international aid organisation, estimated that there are over 1 million people died from hunger in the North. According to an estimate by the delegation from the U.S. House to the North, the number of people who are starved to death is estimated to be from 300,000 up to 800,000.

Out of humanitarian concerns, the international community rendered significant support to the North. The Korean government and NGOs have made contribution worth US\$320 million (2 million tons of corn) that accounts for 31% of the entire international support for the North since 1995 and transferred agricultural technology.

While receiving international aid, the North has not stopped its attempt to build inter-continental missiles and underground facilities that are suspected to house nuclear weapons. If the North

allocates US\$150 million, 3% of its military budget, it can purchase 1 million tons of corn.

There is a saying, "Heaven helps those who help themselves." The North needs to make an effort to set people free from the throes of starvation. The international community will render support commensurate with the effort by the North. The North should take initiative to alleviate its food shortage. With international food aid and agricultural technology assistance, the shortage will be alleviated.

The Hague Declaration urged countries to set up the World Food Bank to address food shortage problems. In order to put the idea into action, we need to make specific action plans.

It has become clear that population growth, food shortage and environmental destruction are inter-related. Today, food security and environmental protection need to be put on the front burner. Food and environment issues are not easy to resolve but we cannot afford to look away from them any more. To this end, we need to make concerted efforts, involving both developed and developing countries.

Just as we need peacekeeping forces to prevent war and conflicts, we need to make continuous efforts to raise funds, transfer technology and share outcomes of R&D to address population, food and environmental issues. Change is made because people act to bring about change. It is time for us to be the voice of conscience and be more proactive to address issues facing us. Thank you for your attention.

## Discussion

### **CHAIRPERSON :**

I believe both resource persons have presented very interesting papers. And, as you know, on my left-hand side is an academician, a professor of a university, and on my right-hand side, a medical doctor by profession, but a politician. And I hope that our discussion is going to be very interesting. Now I would like to call on the first question from Pakistan.

### **PAKISTAN:**

I want to express my gratitude for the very nice theory Professor Hiroshi Tsujii has expanded, on checking the free-trade policy, and have some reservations for individual countries. I want to add to his theory, that if this policy could be extended to the Asian country block, rather than to individual countries, because every country in Asia has different policy on rice grains. Some are self-sufficient, and some are not self-sufficient.

The professor said that we should have self-sufficiency in rice in Asia again. My one apprehension is that the growth of population is so fast as compared to the growth of productivity of rice increase per hectare, that we may not remain self-sufficient any longer.

And then he talked about controlling the free trade policies. I want to explain to the professor that there are countries like Pakistan that have not sufficient industrial base for agricultural inputs such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers, etc., and if we put barriers on free trade, the cost may go up on imports, and this will have an effect on the rice cultivation. If the price of imports goes up and the farmers don't cite the proper rate, the production may decrease instead of increase. One question that I wanted to ask him is whether he has covered that aspect.

The second thing is that like most of the countries in Asia, Pakistan does not give any subsidies to the farmers, whereas in Europe, subsidies are allowed, though, in certain cases much against the wishes of the government. Does he think that the governments in Asia should think about subsidising food in their respective countries, as he has expounded some policy?

My other question to Dr. Chung is, it is a wonderful idea he has carried forward about the World Food Bank. I want to know if there is any specific action plan, has it been established, and if it is established, what are the workings in detail. We are interested to find out. Thank you.

### **VIETNAM:**

May I suggest the problem of water, because the water resource is very important for industrial production, what about water pollution and floods? Thank you.

### **NEW ZEALAND:**

I'm a Member of Parliament from New Zealand, a country that has pursued very extreme free trade policies and devastated its people. It demonstrates, I believe, the failure of those policies.

My point I want to make is that I accept the criticisms you make of the assumptions behind this theory, but I want to add two others.

One is that in the market the future has no voice because it doesn't represent money. So there is no one speaking for the future in market theory, because things which aren't about money have no value in that theory. And this seems to me to relate to what our other speaker said. But furthermore, in market theories of social relations, women and reproduction and children have no voice, and work which hasn't done for wages is invisible, so that you can increase the amount of food you produce for cash for the market. And you don't see that you may reduce the amount of food that women are producing for their families in subsistence agriculture, low-cost agriculture because it was never part of the model that you could see. You couldn't see it because it wasn't waged work. So it seems to me that that model is flawed for development because it can't see the work that women do in reproducing and feeding their families. And so it can do a great deal of harm because it ignores the real way that most of the world actually knows.

**PROF. TSUJII:**

Thank you very much for many comments and questions. As for Mr. Malhi from Pakistan, we have already discussed matters during coffee break, but he has added some more.

I think the first question was related to the population explosion and its implication to rice balance or how long we can maintain self-sufficiency. My response is yes; in fact Indonesia and the Philippines have already been affected by population explosion, and, at the same time the acceptance of free trade rules and World Bank or IMF conditionalities as Dr. Acosta mentioned in his presentation. Indonesia and the Philippines have reached self-sufficiency fifteen years ago, but my understanding is that they are now facing a very serious rice shortage and I expect they will face more severe rice shortage and food shortage in the near future if they continue to follow WTO free trade rules. And so I agree with Mr. Malhi that if we follow the free trade rules then many Asian countries will face severe rice shortages in the future.

But even if we follow the modified rule which I tried to propose in this paper and other places, we have to develop new technologies which may depend heavily on traditional technologies, not modern technologies, because from my understanding modern technologies have increased rice and wheat production in the short run, but somehow I think it may not have sustainability in the long-run in increasing food production in Asia or in other countries. So we somehow have to implement new technologies which combine modern factors and traditional factors. But this is another point.

Mr. Malhi also said about the shortage of inputs and its impact on the increase of food production. I surveyed Myanmar a few months ago, and Myanmar also has been facing very serious fertiliser shortage or agricultural chemical shortage. And that was the most serious limitation for Myanmar's increase in rice production.

So Pakistan may have similar problems. But you could liberalise the import of fertiliser inputs, and you may be able to have a modified policy for rice trade or something like that. That could be an answer to your question.

The representative of the Vietnamese delegation has kindly mentioned about water shortage. I visited India and China in the last few months. I found very, very severe water shortage in northern China. The stoppage of the Yellow River has been worsening every year. And last year length of the stoppage from the mouth of the Yellow River was about three hundred kilometres. And the number

of days was about 250 days. This is a representation of the water shortage in northern China.

In India I have also seen many cases of water shortage. One severe example is the very fast decline of the underground water level in Punjab and Haryana. So I feel that the water shortage, as the Vietnamese representative said, is the most serious constraint for future food production.

Mrs. Bunkle (New Zealand), I hope I will have some time to come to see personally how free trade rules have devastated the agriculture and New Zealanders' life in your country. I have never been there, but I hope I would like to visit your country. And your point that the future does not have any voice in the assumption for free trade impressed me very much. Thank you very much.

**DR. CHUNG:**

Thank you for your question about the World Food Bank. As you know, about a year ago Madam Patel from India introduced me to the World Food Bank issue. I heard this for the first time at the New Delhi meeting, which was held early last year. That was the beginning. I always realised the allocation of resources was very important. So I was very impressed. So I think that we just now start talking about the World Food Bank at International Meeting and Forum. So I think we have to think together about the action plans in more detail at every meeting. This is just the beginning. Thank you.

**JAPAN (MR. MATSUOKA):**

First of all, I do agree a hundred percent to what both resource persons have said. From the Uruguay Round to today, we have actually clarified many of the issues. In other words, this comparative advantage principle actually was clarified in the Uruguay Round; and since then we had many problems. And the largest of them is what the FAO Secretary General has mentioned, that if we could increase competition there would be more production. However, the result was the reverse. More competition actually resulted in less production. This has become more clear in recent days. In other words, where productivity is strong, they will survive, but those countries, which are weak in term of productivity, will actually disappear, causing a total decrease in production.

In other words, to save this situation we must actually increase the production of the whole globe. And this is very important. It is said that liberalisation is what EU and others have really stressed upon, and many of the regions cannot survive with this because their agricultural land will be totally destroyed.

So at the first summit in Rome, we actually looked back on these issues and learned from our past experiences. And as Dr. Tsujii mentioned, the externalities must actually be very much considered and focused upon. And I feel that this is one of the issues on our shoulders.

And the next point is the increase in food production on a total basis. This is very critical and very important. And I feel that this next agreement of the WTO must actually focus on these perspectives, and really go into very careful negotiation. This is the position that Japan holds. From that point of view, I do agree to both of the resource persons.

And we agree with the point on the World Food Bank mentioned by Dr. Chung. We have the same concept, and we are really ready to put in our efforts and initiatives into this. We must not actually

produce food just for the benefit of one country. We do not have liberalisation just for one country. We must actually look at the people living on this Earth as a whole. And the regions that have surplus must actually contribute to this global world food bank, and we will actually store surplus food in each of the countries who will contribute financially to this, and that the lacking countries shall benefit from this sort of world food bank. And therefore I also agree to what Dr. Chung has mentioned.

Now this is another proposal, and I would like to ask Mr. Chairman to actually look at this between today and tomorrow. But there is The Hague Declaration, which is a very important declaration from the Population Conference. And at the General of the United Nations Assembly on Population, what was adopted in The Hague Declaration should be reported to the United Nations General Assembly, and this is mandatory in the handling of The Hague Declaration.

And therefore today, at this APDA Conference, I would just like to mention this as a very important issue for us, and we would like to have this as a resolution on this issue. Population, environment and food are all inter-related. WTO should not be the only organisation that makes important issues by representing the export countries. Rather, environment, population and food summits and conferences must all contribute to the future of our Mother Earth as well as to mankind. So it must be all linked together so that all these issues will actually be benefiting the whole world and I would like to ask the Chair today to take this as my proposal and my comment. Thank you very much.

**SINGAPORE:**

When we are concerned about the environment, we need to include more environmental cost in the cost of the production. But that doesn't mean that developing countries have the license to pollute the world environment. If you try to look at the developed nations and developing nations, they are all equally important elements in terms of contribution to world destruction, either in the Greenhouse Effect or in the depletion of the ozone layer. So developing countries have the responsibility to restrict also their pollution of the environment.

I would like to bring to you another issue, which is attracting quite a lot of attention in the region where we are, in Singapore. We are facing enormous problems as a result of haze. Very large amount of particles are being flown in from the neighbouring countries and causing very difficult health conditions for everybody. Part of the haze that is being generated are related to agricultural activities. So I would like to suggest that we are not just producing rice but are also contributing to the trans-boundary pollution problem at the same time.

So perhaps the developed countries, especially countries like Japan, who have a lot of experience in this matter, can teach us, our regions, on how to prevent pollution resulting from rice production. And I think that this will benefit many countries around the region surrounding Singapore.

**DR. CHUNG:**

Thank you very much. I would like to speak in Korean because of the language problem. Firstly, regarding the agricultural sector, you have raised the question of whether agricultural issues should be taken up within the framework of WTO alone. I agree with you entirely.

I think that a more comprehensive approach is needed in the agricultural sector. I don't think that

the one-or-zero approach is proper. And I think it was Mr. Low that proposed that population increase does not necessarily lead to increase in agricultural production. Although it is said that agricultural production will increase as a result of increase in population, population increase also brings about a phenomenon of urbanization and may undermine the quality of life by lowering the standard of living. The greenhouse effect may also increase as a result of increase in human activities. I referred to this subject earlier because I felt that we should not place too many burdens on the developing countries. While it is all right to place restrictions and limits under the Green Round, I think it is necessary to think about support for the developing countries at the same time. For instance, the developed countries are responsible for air pollution. It was the developed countries that deteriorated the environment through their development. And as we have seen, these developed countries are transferring the industries that deteriorate the environment to the developing countries. Under these circumstances, the developed countries should not simply push burdens and tasks onto the developing countries. I think that the developed countries should support the developing countries in a wide range of areas including R&D and transfer of environmentally-friendly technology.

**PROF. TSUJII:**

Responding to the delegate from India. He asked who is responsible for food security. I think this question is very difficult to answer. But following my statement, naturally it leads both to individual farmers as well as central government. We cannot leave food security to individual farmers. But as I surveyed, many farmers in Thailand, China, Indonesia and the Philippines have all tried very hard to produce as much as possible, to feed their family members and relatives. I think we also have to consider the central government or local governments, as well as farmers, as the entities who can increase food security for people in each country.

But of course, I believe also that the market function must be utilised as much as possible in each country, because the government cannot control everything, as many cases in the past have shown. I'm not denying the benefits of market function, which I think we should utilise as much as possible. But at the same time, I think the empowerment of farmers is necessary. The role of the central government is also important.

**CHINA:**

First of all, we agree with the professor from Japan that the population growth in the world has some contradiction with the food supply and food security. And in many cases the outcome of these contradictions is the degradation of the environment. And we understand that in many countries, and in order to increase the food production to satisfy the demands and a lot of fresh water resources are utilised, and a lot of fertilisers are utilised, which have worsened the environment. Therefore in China the government has decided to promote an enhanced ecological agriculture to protect the environment.

At the same time, people are also urged to form a healthy diet and eating habits. Which is to say not to follow blindly the food patterns in the West and the developed countries, which are primarily based on meat. And that food pattern not only wastes a lot of food and rice, but also adds a very heavy pressure to the land, arable land in particular, and also worsens the environment. It also causes many diseases, such as heart disease. And we think that in Asian countries we should introduce a food pattern based on wheat, cereals, vegetables and milk, in addition to some meat.

And as one parliamentarian from China understands, a survey by nutritional scientists at the Cornell University of the U.S. has found that the eating habits in China is very efficient and very healthy. They concluded by saying that the Americans should learn from the eating habits of the East, the oriental people, because they believe that it is much healthier for the people around the world. Thank you.

**JAPAN (MS. HIRONAKA):**

We have been talking about introducing food perspectives into the WTO rules of trade. I think we should also add environmental perspectives to the WTO rules. Take an example of forests. Japan is the largest importer of lumber from tropical forests, contributing to the depletion and cutting down of tropical forests. We are guilty of that. But today Japan imports a great deal of lumber from the United States of America and Canada. And Canadians and Americans pressure Japan to purchase their lumber.

Why do we buy lumber products when seventy percent of the national land is forestland in Japan?, We buy foreign lumber in spite of that because it is much cheaper than our domestically produced lumber products. So do we call this the replacement value? I think this has to be incorporated into the price of lumber, or cost of production of lumber.

I think we've discussed this, but not enough. I think this perspective has to be incorporated into WTO or trade rules. I think that a certain percentage of surcharges should be added to the cost and price of lumber. We should pool that as a fund and use it to preserve the environment. Unless we do that, we will not be able to preserve the forest resources of humankind. Forestry plays a important role in water resources and biodiversity and in food production, and we must maintain its important role.

There is another point that I want to mention. That has to do with the developing countries. The developing countries feel that the developed countries have deteriorated the environment and are exporting the environment-depraving industries to the developing countries. I think certain aspects of this argument are true. We can be responsible for the guilt of the past, but you can not make that an excuse that the developing countries will not give enough attention to their developmental policies. If you are careful in the beginning, you will avoid a large cost to be paid later. In the medium term, the long term, damage to the environment will cost you a great deal, and sometimes you cannot calculate that in advance. But a little care in the beginning can save you a lot down the road.

And that is the Japanese experience, it is exactly what we have experienced. We have polluted the air, we have damaged the health of the Japanese people, and we know how much money—3% of our gross domestic product—is spent afterwards to preserve the environment because we did not invest early. We have not cleaned up all the environmental problems. We still have lots of them. So initial investment to take care of the environment, initial care for the environment, the developing countries cannot just blame everything about the environment on the developed countries. We take over the guilt, we take the responsibility, but I think the developing countries must be proactive in protecting their environment.

**PROF. TSUJII:**

The Chinese delegation has talked about the relation between food supply, population explosion and environmental destruction. I personally have seen a very severe pollution at a branch river of the Yellow River in Shanxi Province. Their name is the Fen River and the Yi River, big tributaries of the Yellow River. I have seen it a few months ago. The water was extremely dirty and polluted. I also have seen very badly polluted rivers near big cities on the Dekan Plateau in the central part of India.

So as food production increases and population increases, it leads to very severe pollution of rivers and shortage of water. I think we have to solve this problem. And I understand that the Chinese government has tried very hard in implementing a policy to save water for agricultural and other purposes. I hope it will be successful.

At the same time, the supply side constraints have become very severe. I forgot to show one table to you, that is the Table 1 on my paper, this shows the growth rate of the yield of many kinds of cereals on the globe. During the Sixties, yield of cereals, particularly wheat, maize, and barley has increased on the average of 3% per year. But this growth rate has declined continuously down to about 1% during the period from 1985 to 1996. Scientists have said that in order to cope with population growth or explosions, we need to increase the yield of those cereals annually at about 3% per year. But in the last ten years or so, the yield has declined to 1%. So I think that now we are facing very serious supply-side constraints.

At the same time, international stocks of cereals have declined to lower than 17% and stock-use ratio has dropped from 1993 to the present year. The FAO has said that a 17% stock-use ratio is a ratio under which the food supply-demand condition is very risky. But the actual number has been below that 17%. They are eating enough, but in fact the food shortage and constraints for supply increases is very serious.

Member of Parliament Ms. Hironaka has mentioned the need for inclusion of environmental factors into World Trade Organisation's trade rules. I completely agree with this. Japanese have planted trees for the last forty years or maybe for a hundred years. And now Japan has big trees in its forests. Japan is a country covered about 80% by forest area, the highest forest area ratio. And we have big trees in all of the mountains in Japan. But it is very sad that the cutting trees in the mountains in Japan and transporting it to the market to sell gives the foresters negative profits. It is because too much wood is being imported by Japan. I feel very sad because forestry in Japan has been and is now going down into the valleys, because we cannot cut trees in the mountains in Japan.

And at the same time, as Ms. Hironaka mentioned, we are importing too much timber from Indonesia or from Canada or Russia to build houses at lower price. We are doing it for the sake of free trade. But I think this is severely wrong and we have to modify this free trade rule. We should not destroy tropical forests. At the same time, Japanese should pay more for the costs of building a house, which maybe politically very difficult. But as a professor, I would like to ask the politicians such as Ms. Hironaka, Mr. Matsuoka and Mr. Shin to persuade the parliament and the Japanese Diet to form a modified policy to restore Japanese forestry and at the same time reduce the tropical forest destruction.

**DR. CHUNG:**

As the representative from China mentioned, I think it would be good if Chinese diet becomes the mainstream of diet all over the world. I am personally very fond of Chinese food. We should learn from the Chinese diet because it has sufficient quantity in addition to being high in protein and having sufficient fat. I would like to popularize it in my country if I could learn how to prepare it.

Also, as the representative from Japan mentioned, I think lumber prices are extremely important in protecting the forest and the environment. We must think not only about using lumber but about the growth of trees. For instance, we are consuming paper products and we must think about used paper and about recycling used paper, as well as about prices of such paper.

It has been pointed out that the developing countries are in the process of industrialization and that their socioeconomic elements would have to be taken into consideration. I agree. In this sense, I think Japan and the U.S. should offer more economic and technical assistance to the developing countries. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON :**

Thank you very much. I would like to take a note from Japan when he asked a question that the developing nations should be more proactive. Both our resource persons are from the developed countries. But I'm a chairman from a developing country. I'd just like to make a very small remark, particularly with the current situation.

Most of Asian developing countries are facing economic crisis due to what we call in Malaysia an attack by the currency speculators. At the same time I do agree with your noble point of view, but I think issues like the economic entry issue should not be connected with human rights, democracies, and all kind of issues that are being put on to the Asian countries. Because being young countries and poor countries yet to be developed, there are a lot of constraints. I think this is a very important point to be noted. Anyway it's just a small remark.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates from Pakistan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore and China for participating in this very delightful discussion. And we would like to congratulate both our resource persons for their very interesting presentation.

**Session III**

**Gender and Population Issues**

[9:30 – 10:50]

## **Population and Gender: Challenges for Asia**

**Chairperson: Hon. Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn  
Secretary General, AFPPD (Thailand)**

**Resource Person: Hon. Ms. Akiko Dohmoto  
Member of the House of Councillors  
Vice Chairman, JFPF (Japan)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The population and development challenge, which we face here in Asia, is very complex. The most obvious challenge is the high population growth in our region.

Fifty out of the eighty million people born each year are born in Asia. This high growth rate has a major impact on our health and educational systems, and on our countries' natural environments. We also have countries where very low growth is resulting in a new set of challenges; two countries, which come to mind here, are Japan and Kazakhstan. In addition, we are faced with the changing dynamics within some of our populations due to such things as migration and the rapidly increasing numbers of elderly people.

How do we face these challenges? At the International Conference on Population in Mexico in 1984, demographic issues were still the focus of discussion. Some delegations brought up the importance of women's roles and status, but this was not a central issue.

It was at Cairo in 1994 that population was first discussed from a gender and lifelong reproductive health and rights perspective. For the first time, the individual needs of women and men took the centre stage.

Reflecting this change in emphasis, the Cairo Programme of Action devoted an entire section to gender equality, equity and empowerment of women. It also noted that reproductive health and rights are only possible in a context of gender equality and improved decision-making capacity for women.

The International Forum of Parliamentarians, which took place in The Hague in February of this year, again emphasised the importance of gender and reproductive health and rights. In The Hague Declaration of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review, we emphasised that "we are committed to removing legal, social and cultural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in society, including policy-making". As parliamentarians, we also committed ourselves "to promote reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, and reproductive rights".

Our task now is to implement Cairo, and take concrete action to fulfil the promises we made in The Hague. The challenge is very difficult. We all know how much there is left to be done before gender equality and reproductive health for all is achieved. For example, the UNFPA reports that 2 million girls between ages 5 to 15 are put on the commercial sex market every year. It also reports that about 200,000 mothers die each year because of the lack, or failure, of contraceptive services. In addition, female representation in positions of economic and political power remains limited in

most countries. In Japan, for instance, less than nine per cent of Diet members are women.

In most Asian countries, including my own, this inequality has been reinforced by rapid industrialisation and economic modernisation. Most full-time, skilled jobs in modern industries are still held by men. Women are either expected to be at home or to perform low paid, unskilled, and part-time work.

The goal of gender equality is still so distant! While it is important to remember how far we have to go, it is also important to share with each other the things we have achieved in our various countries to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In The Hague, we heard many countries report on the progress they have made to implement Cairo. Allow me to mention just a few examples of the progress that has been made here in Asia.

Cambodia has developed and adopted a number of laws in response to Cairo. These include a law against domestic violence and a National Policy on STDs and AIDS. Nepal established a Ministry of Population and Environment and a Ministry of Women and Social Welfare. In South Korea, medical law was revised in 1996 to prevent foetal sex screening. In addition, two laws on domestic violence came into effect last year: the Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act and the Special Act on Punishment of Domestic Violence. Since 1994, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health has been expanding reproductive care to include adolescent health and male responsibility.

I would also like to share some of the developments that have taken place recently in Japan to implement the Cairo Programme of Action. First, I am pleased to tell you that the Basic Law for Gender Equality was submitted to the Japanese Diet last week. The objective of the law is to create a society where men and women are able to participate equally, not based on pre-assigned roles, but on their abilities and interests. When you think about it, the objective of the law is really a 'gender revolution'!

And we need a gender revolution! Japan is an 'advanced' country in economic terms, but it lags far behind many other countries in the area of gender equality. Male-female roles in the home and the workplace are still quite strictly divided. The place of women is seen to be in the home, while that of men is in the company. Though this division of labour contributed to Japan's economic miracle, it had many social and environmental costs. It has also prevented us from being flexible. Our rigid, industrial society has not been able respond to the many changes in individual needs and in the global economy. As a result, Japan is in a deep economic recession.

What we need are the ideas and outlooks of women and men in our corporations, our bureaucracy, and our local and national assemblies. The Basic Law for Gender Equality is designed to break apart our rigid social structures and bring new life to them. I hope that this law will help us to shift our society from an obsession with economic growth and consumption to one that achieves a balance between human needs and the environment's capacity to fulfil them.

There is one other new piece of legislation that I would like to share with you. At the end of last month, a bill on child prostitution and child pornography was submitted to the Japanese Diet. Its purpose is to toughen laws against the sexual exploitation of minors both inside and outside Japan. Our young people have the right, which we must protect, to freedom from sexual violence and to reproductive self-determination.

While I am proud of these legislative developments, Japan has much work left to do before it can claim to have a gender equal society. In terms of reproductive health, an important remaining problem is women's lack of contraceptive choice. Japanese women still do not have access to the low dose contraceptive pill. Women have the right to decide what is best for them. Of course, with this freedom of choice comes a burden of responsibility, but that responsibility is to be taken by women and their partners, not by others on their behalf.

Contraceptive choice and access to good reproductive health services for both women and men remain challenges in all Asian countries. We must continue to work to make family planning and sexual health, information and services accessible through the primary health-care system. Ensuring women's right to determine the spacing and number of children they have is of particular importance. We have much to share with each other, and much to learn from each other's experiences.

In conclusion, allow me to quote from the Cairo Programme of Action. Section 4.4 states that "Countries should act to empower women and should take steps to eliminate inequalities between men and women..." Each country will have different priorities and different methods by which to respond to this challenge, but taking action is not optional. Our duty is to create the kind of societies where women and men can realise their full potential.

## Discussion

### CHINA:

Thank you for your interest in this part. I have a few questions. I'm very delighted to hear that Japan has taken effective measures after the Cairo Program of Action in terms of agenda in equality. Could you further elaborate whether there is still gender equality in Japan in terms of education, employment, income salaries and participation in politics, that is, matters of gender inequalities?

The second question is about the women's participation in politics. I wonder if you can tell me the percentage of women in the civil service, and the percentage of women in minister-level official positions, and also the percentage of women parliamentarians in the Japanese Diet in terms of the percentage rate. Thank you.

### INDIA:

A very interesting question has been raised on the participation of the women and the representation in the different layers of the legislatures, Parliament and other local bodies. I do like to know two things. One, do you have any constitutional guarantees, I should say that the reservation for the women, as in India. In India, 33% has been reserved for the women in the local body elections and Parliament is going to pass a bill for reservation for the women in state legislatures as well as in Parliament. I would like to know if you have any such proposal in the country of Japan.

Number two, after the Cairo Declaration on Population and the initiative of the women, I would like to be enlightened by the honourable resource person to what extent women of Japan could achieve this and to what extent the government and the NGOs encourage women to go in line with the Cairo Declaration. Thank you.

### MS. DOHMOTO:

Thank you very much, China and India. I think Japan, as I mentioned in my speech that, in terms of economics, Japan is considered as a developed or industrialised country. So there is a misunderstanding that the status of women is also very high. But there is a very big gap between the economic status or level, and the women's status.

And first I want to answer the question from China. You ask how we are participating in politics or jobs or education. And in the Constitution, women and men have equal rights. That is decided in the Constitution and we are proud of that. But in reality, especially in these days of recession, in the colleges and universities the educated female students have a very hard time getting jobs. So there is discrimination between men and women in getting jobs. As for the payment, it is said that women's salary is 50% lower than that of men. So we have an equal right in terms of the system, but in reality it is very different from what is decided in the Constitution.

And also in the Parliament, women account for only nine percent in both houses, the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. In the House of Councillors we have more, about thirteen percent, but in the Lower House, which is the House of Representatives, we have only six percent, which is very small. So what we really want to emphasise is that I think the male parliamentarians have a different perspective.

But from our view, from the women's' side, we think that because of the very rapid economic growth, the men have really been working very hard. The Japanese men were considered economic animals or soldiers for economic companies or something of that sort, which means that they were really full-time workers and they worked very hard. And at the same time, women were at home and sometime working as part-timers. We were also contributing as labourers, but the salaries were very low. But some specialists in the field of medicine, such as medical doctors or nurses, are women, not to mention teachers and professors. However, their percentage is still very low.. I don't have the numbers right here with me, but the UNDP made a research work, and Japan was ranked very low from the gender perspective.

And that is why we are trying to make the change. And also it is very important, not just looking to the economic growth, but for the 21st Century. We have to change the social system not only on consumption, but more on recycling and more on a different way of living. I think there is a paradigm shift at this time, so we have to change. And women and men working together would make a difference in the way of thinking, that is at the base of what I said this morning.

And I'm very glad to know that you (India) have 33% of women in your local parliaments. In Japan we have only 4.7% in the local councils or assemblies, and 65% of the local assemblies did not have any women. The election is going on as we speak. This is the first time in this half of the century that a large number of women ran for the election and their number is increasing. The last election would take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. And I want to tell you that we may be able to double the percentage. But this is a part of the paradigm shift that women are now trying to participate in politics. And also in very high positions like the central bureaucrats, we see very few women as directors, and there is only one minister. As for Deputy Minister, there is no woman in that position.

So if you ask me whether women are taking initiative, I would say it is very hard to get the position from our side. I was working as a journalist, but there was discrimination if you wanted to get a good status in the company. But now I think we have an equal right in education, and there are many very talented women. When I was involved in preparing exams for TV company applicants, the top thirty applicants were women. But companies do not like to hire women because many of them resign from the company for childbirth or marriage. I heard that very talented women also apply for jobs at newspapers. And last year, we also passed the law for equal status in labour. So I think a big change will take place starting this year. It means that we're half a century late in what we are doing.

#### **VIETNAM:**

May you give some idea or share some experience on how to translate this discrepancy, and which of the items mentioned in your lecture is in practice. I know the most important way is by legislation or by law.

#### **INDONESIA:**

Thank you very much. We have heard that, since Cairo and The Hague, and also today, that how important the empowerment of women is for the strategy for population and development. The remark I want to share is about the education of the girl child and young women, and I missed this topic in our meeting today. We know that the most important way to empower women is by

education. And we urge the government to allocate more budget for education in formal schooling, and also in formal education, especially in the villages. That is the first point.

The second point, in Indonesia we have general election coming this June, and Indonesia is taking the district method for the election. That means that the nominations for the candidates are coming from the districts. Compared with the last time, candidacy came from the party. The number of women parliamentarians has dropped to less than eleven persons nowadays. I want to know how is it in your country for the way of nomination, to get more women in the Parliament.

#### **SINGAPORE:**

About gender equality, I totally support the gender equality that has been implanted into the Constitution of Japan. In Singapore we also emphasise the gender equality, equal opportunity for jobs, equal pay for their jobs. We came to a situation where we had to realise that, in the real world, certain things are suitable for women and certain things are suitable for men. I think that this is due to certain degree of the nature of mankind.

Say, for example, in jobs such as accountancy areas we find that women dominate quite substantially the opportunities offered by in this particular area. Whereas in engineering, the situation is basically a male-dominated. And this is reflected in Singapore, and I believe this also happens in other parts of the world.

And I think that many of the people over here would be very concerned about equal participation of the women politicians in politics. In Singapore, we have quite a delicate situation. And it is not that we really do not want to have women participants in politics. It is precisely because of the nature of the political hazard that everyone has to endure when they enter into politics. So that is why as a result of this there is a certain degree of shying away from the political world. So in Singapore we all are trying our best. Every now and then we try to scout out talents. And we find that every time we go through this process we have less than ten women that will be eligible. So this is one of the natures of the political world.

On the other hand I do not like the idea of pursuing equal participation in every area. As far as Singapore is concerned, promotion is made according to the meritocratic system regardless of whether the person is a woman or a man. He or she still has an opportunity to climb all the way up to the top of the executive hierarchy, and the measure of which is not by gender. It is by ability. So the meritocratic way of deciding who should be in the top position is not decided by gender, but is decided by capability. So if somehow, things don't fall into the equal balance of the genders for some reason, it is considered quite unfortunate. I think we will try our best to make things equal. But to a certain extent it is not really up to our own wish.

#### **KOREA:**

Thanks for the really nice presentation. In terms of gender equality I think that Japan and Korea are probably in a very similar situation and we are not very proud of gender equality. Many people say that education is the key. But the paradox here in Korea is that in terms of education there is no problem. There are many female students at the college level, even at graduate school levels. But there is a tremendous shortage of females in the areas of high-level public service, politics and business. So particularly in public service we recently took measures to make it mandatory to

higher, at least 20% female, at the recruitment stage. And I wonder whether you are considering measures of that sort.

Many people talked about politics. We also have female politicians. The ratio is very low, a little over 5%, I think, and most of them are on the proportion basis, not elected. And some of the problem has been that it is difficult for a female to get elected. A party nominates candidates on the basis of chances of being elected, because somehow female voters don't vote for female candidates. So I wonder whether you have that sort of problem in Japan or not, and how we can overcome it. I mean, female voters not voting for female candidates. But in some other profession like teachers, artists, there are too many females. We have a problem in elementary schools and secondary level schools. There are too many female teachers. So it is very rare to find a male teacher. It is causing some problems from the education point of view.

For example, in terms of artists, there are too many female candidates. For example, in Seoul National University, if they select the students on the basis of merit, it would be 90% female. So they have a sort of a sex quota, 50% male and 50% female. So in certain areas we have too many females, and in certain areas we have too few. This is a result of the fact that females prefer certain professions, and they don't want to get into some areas like the civil servants, business and politics. They regard those areas as being reserved for males. So how we can break that sort of thinking on the part of females is another issue. And also one very important issue in Korea is sex imbalance at birth. At birth we have more male babies, by percentage it is something like 15%. And this is a very serious problem, and we are really trying to figure out now what we should do, and I wonder whether you have a similar problem in Japan. Thank you.

#### **AUSTRALIA:**

Thank very much, and thank you for the paper this morning. Surely the main problem is, and so often it resides with us as males, that there must be no barrier for any person, especially women, to reach their full potential. I have great respect for my colleague from Singapore, but I'm afraid the argument that he put is a very typical male argument that is so often put.

In Australia, our record is not good with women participation. We hope it is improving. In my party, the party I belong to, we have set a quota that there must be 35% of women members of parliament by the year 2001. And what the party has said, if the party officials will not select women candidates for winnable constituencies, we males must then resign so that women can take our place so that we can get the 35% of women members of parliament. There is a lot of debate about this in Australia.

The Conservative Party says that women should be just selected on their merit, and if they have the merit, and if they have the merit they will achieve it. But what we argue, because there is an in-built discrimination against women reaching that position. The other point is that we have to also look at the institution of Parliament and other such institution. At the last election in Australia, many younger women entered the Parliament. At least ten or twelve women entered the Parliament under thirty years of age. So they then would want to also to have a family, and in the Parliament, we must make provisions for that.

The other point that we have to look at is that in a true partnership it's not always the woman that has to sacrifice her career for the man's career. If we have a true partnership, both partners should

share the responsibility of raising children, and both partners should be homemakers. It's not always necessarily always the woman that has to be the homemaker. Or it's not necessarily always the woman that should bring up the children. It must be a shared responsibility. And in this new age, we have to appreciate that. And we as males have to appreciate as well that it's not – we just can't say, oh we're married, the wife will then sacrifice her career, and if we want a family she will bring the children up. Surely today that we have to share that responsibility and in a partnership make the decision about who is going to bring the children up, and share the responsibility. So I do think that we have a long way to go. That is, Australia has not got a proud record in this area, but we are working to improve it.

**Ms. DOHMOTO:**

Thank you so much for many questions. I feel very at home here because what we heard from Singapore or from Korea or from China, I think many of the Japanese colleagues here have the same kind of opinion or thoughts because I think we have the same kind of history. Maybe Australia is a little different from the Asian countries of China or Korea or Japan, because we are sharing the history, regional tendency or maybe tradition, which we shared for years and years—I mean for a long, long time—w hich is very different from the Western culture.

And so what I emphasised this morning is really from the women's perspective, and if I ask some of my Japanese male colleagues, maybe they will say something different. But first I want to answer the question from Singapore because you mentioned that the ability is important. But what we are saying and what we are experiencing is the fact that the companies sometimes choose men over women even if they have the same ability, or more ability. And this is what we want to avoid.

I think that Dr. Nakayama is a medical doctor... Women doctors and lawyers are increasing in Japan, because there is no discrimination in the examination for the status. So what I want to emphasise is that we want to have the chance, the same opportunity; to get a chance to work or participate in the social activities. That is what I want to say, and I don't know whether this is an answer or not, but I think so.

The Basic Gender Equality Law is trying to really emphasise the percentage of women in every sector. However, it hasn't mentioned the number or percentage itself. It is just saying that the participation of women is very important. And the concept of this Basic Gender Equality Law is that in the coming 21<sup>st</sup> Century men and women both have to change, because, especially in Japan, men working in companies were considered economic animals. But in the coming century, men should also participate in the community and also in the family and also in their work. And in the same way, to do so, women also have to participate in the community in addition to their work and family. So this is the concept of the Basic Gender Equality Law that has been submitted, and I really wish that it would pass the Diet in this session.

And so we are starting to change, but we don't have the so-called percentage of women decided in any party. They say so, but if we look at the candidates, there are not so many women candidates. And especially in the local elections only the women are now trying to run for the elections by themselves. And some want and some not. And we have 48 prefectures, and ten prefectures did not have any women in their parliament. But in this coming election, ten women members in eight prefectures were elected and three was not elected. So altogether we have forty-five in the

prefectural assemblies. But still we don't have many members; it's just one or two out of fifty members or something like that.

And also I want to say thank you for your question from Indonesia. And it is also very hard in Japan for women to really run for elections. And you say there are so many barriers for women and I think we have the same situation, and because especially for the local elections, sometimes it is possible. So in the local elections women are increasing, but on the national level it is very hard. And I really hope that we will try hard to overcome these barriers, but it is still very hard in our country.

From Vietnam, you were asking the gap between what is written in the Constitution and the reality. And this is what we have been facing for the last five decades, for half a century. But now when I talk about my own country, after the war we tried to recover our economic status, and that was the top priority. But now the issues of elderly, welfare, children, gender and the environment, issues that women have more interest, are becoming very important in our country. And I think that it is very important that we have more women parliamentarians not only in the Parliament, but everywhere, in the bureaucracy, and also in the companies. And in the field of education, we feel that we need more women. We are expecting that the Basic Gender Equality Law will pass the Diet. I think that this is the starting point, and I am really thankful to the Cairo Program for Action, which was really the base to start in Japan, and to China for holding the Conference in 1994.

**NEW ZEALAND:**

Yes, I belong to the only party, I think in the world, that has more women in parliament than men. And I think the reason is that we have internal rules in the party about gender equality. Because my experience in New Zealand is that the voters don't discriminate. The Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition are both women. But parties discriminate. It is only when we changed the rules within the party, to make sure they were always a man and a woman.

We had internal equality, that we got really good candidates and we got women with the confidence, who began to occupy the positions, so our constitution of our party has gender equality at every level, including the leadership. And when that happened, slowly then we got more women than men in the Parliament itself. And the women, as they became more equal, perhaps there ceased to be a woman's block.

But it's also true that we changed the behaviour of the men in the party because they got used to always having to have a woman beside them. So they needed to find a woman candidate. And it's amazing how many good woman candidates you can find when you have to find one. So I think we developed internally, and I think that's really important. It's the culture of parties, which has a lot to do as to who gets to be a Member of Parliament in the end.

**MS. DOHMOTO:**

Thank you so much, I hope that we can have the same kind of party in Japan, with the co-operation of the male parliamentarians here. But we can't do this on our own—we really need their co-operation. And also, I think there was a question about how the women voters would vote for women. I don't think Japanese women vote for only male parliamentarians, but I don't think that women should only support women, either. If the female candidate really has a good policy, she should be supported by women. But if she doesn't, the Japanese ordinary people are very clever,

and they look at the candidates very carefully whether she or he has a policy. And the only problem is, it is very hard to let people know what kind of a policy they have. And that is the problem. But looking at the local elections this year, many Japanese women were elected.

So I think women are now changing, and knowing that is important especially in the field of gender and population because gender and population is not only a women's issue—a very large part of reproductive health and rights are part of the women's issues. So we know that especially in the field of gender and population, we need more female members in the Parliament.

### **Fiji:**

Thank you very much for the very informative and searching comments. I would like to congratulate her for her contribution. And indeed, I would just want to refer to one statement made by her, and that is “the goal of gender equality is still so distant.”

We live in the real world, and certainly from the part of the world where I come from, because of our strong culture, it will take a long time. I'm not talking about politics now, because politics is still a very high hurdle as far as women are concerned. Coming to it now, but I'm talking about women who are serving the homes in everyday life, in the 250 islands of Fiji—those that are trying to look after themselves. We have in the past ten years relied very much on our primary health care. That is where we start as a base, and then we move up the ladder.

I belong to the conservative party and have conservative way of thinking. It is just because of my age and the way I was brought up. If I go with my wife to my village, she knows which door she should enter from and I know which door I should enter from. That is not because she's lower or subservient to me—it's the way of our culture. I'll never see in the near foreseeable future that the same door, from which both my wife and I can enter, and she'd stop there and I will be sitting down.

So it is our culture, in one breath, we want to preserve. And with the modern thinking which is coming now, and I think the weapon for it is education. We send our girls—quite a lot of young people—we send them from the islands to go to school in the main centres that are in the urban areas. And from there they can join in and go into the civil service. But for a politician, we have our new constitution and we are going into our new election in two week's time. We are seeing for the first time that we have more than twenty women who put their name up.

The basic issue I want to stress concerns those women, the good majority, who are the silent members of the community. They are more interested in their domestic affairs, looking after their homes. This was best illustrated by sailing up the Nile River, to attend the very same meeting, which you attended in Cairo. On our way up I saw a lot of women coming to the bank of the river to fetch water. And then, when we went into the centre for the meeting, there was a lot of talk about those, a lot of high-powered topics about the women, their status, the gender, the family planning, and all this.

So I talked to one of my colleagues, one of the Egyptian Members of Parliament, “This afternoon, when we sail back, I want you to come with me.” He said, “Why?” “Because I want you to see a lot of women walking the distance to come to fetch water. And I tell you, if you tell those ladies all about the family planning, and all the politics, they're not interested. They are interested in if the

water could be made more easily available to them through piping. So it is a different level, what we are talking about women's participation and things. But that is not to say that I don't agree with the women's status being upgraded. Speaking for Fiji and for the South Pacific, I want to re-emphasise your statement here, "the goal for gender equality is still so distant." But we are trying.

**Ms. DOHMOTO:**

Thank you for the opportunity that was given to me this morning. I also think that we need harmony in our culture, especially in the Asian culture, which we can reflect in the gender perspective and the decision-making process as well.

I am not just emphasise that women are very important, but I think that just like what our Chairman mentioned, that love in the family, both men and women—if I can use the word socialise—then love between man and woman in the community or in the region or in the country, is now very important. Because in the coming century, we will be faced with the very big issue on population and environment, and maybe food too. I think we discussed yesterday about food security. It will be very different from the issues we had in the century we lived, especially with regard to military balance and economic growth.

We will have more different issues that are very important, such as those related to population, and I would like to say that gender balance and reproductive health and rights are not only the issues for women but are the issues for both men and women. I think that the term we were trying to use in Beijing was not only reproductive health—we also wanted to use the term sexual health for both sexes, men and women. And I think that for the coming century it is very important that both sexes, men and women, to participate in the decision-making—and not only in the decision-making, but everywhere, in the field of education, or companies, or bureaucracy, or wherever—not only in politics. It is very important that both women and men participate in decision-making in every field.

And thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak this morning, Mr. Chairman. And I really appreciated talk with you all this morning, and I'm so glad that I didn't have any jet lag. Japan is so close to Seoul and I feel very comfortable. Thank you again.

**Session IV**

**Adolescents, Youth, the Elderly and Persons in Disability**

[11:10 – 12:30]

# Addressing the Challenges of an Ageing Population

**Chairperson: Hon. Mr. Colin Hollis, MP**  
**Vice Chairman, AFPPD (Australia)**

**Resource Person: Hon. Dr. Low Seow Chay**  
**Member of Parliament (Singapore)**

## **1. Introduction :**

Singapore population is ageing rapidly due to the increase in life expectancy and decline in birth rate. By year 2030 the proportion of people above 65 years old will increase from the present 7% to 18%.

## **2. Philosophy and approach:**

- The elderly should remain in the mainstream of the society as independent and contributing members.
- The elderly should remain physically, mentally and socially active for as long as possible.
- Care for the elderly should be everyone's concern – government, community, the elderly persons and their families – A “Many Helping Hands” approach.
- Preserve the family cohesiveness so that each family provides a physically and emotionally well being environment for the family's elder members.

## **3. Legislation :**

- Retirement Age Act – Extend retirement age and prevent dismissal on the ground of age for employees before retirement age.
- Central Provident Fund Act – Compulsory saving for old age.
- Maintenance of Parents Act – Enable aged parents seeking maintenance from their children.
- Homes for the Aged Act and Private Hospital & Medical Clinics Act – To maintain the standard of residential care through licensing.
- Building Controls Regulations and the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility in Buildings – Provide barrier free facilities for the elderly and the physically handicapped.

## **4. Policy Driving Mechanism :**

- An inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Ageing Population formed in 1998. It is chaired by the Minister for Communications, with the Minister for Community Development and the Minister for Health as its Deputy Chairpersons. The Elderly Development Division of the Ministry of Community Development (MCD) served as the secretariat of the IMC.
- The IMC will continue to identify the challenges posed by the Singapore's rapidly ageing population, develop policy direction, and lead the inter-ministry thrusts to address the challenges.

## **5. The Policies :**

*a. Employment –*

- Encourage older workers to continue contributing to the economy as long as possible.
- Extend retirement age from 55 to 62 and eventually to 67.
- Remove disincentives to employ older workers, lower barriers to flexible time and part-time employment, re-train older workers and change employers' mindsets.

*b. Financial Security –*

- Compulsory saving into a Central Provident Fund (CPF) for old age use. Retired persons will depend on CPF for living and fund medical cost. The CPF could also be used to pay for medical insurance plan built on the basis of co-payment to prevent insurance claim misuses.
- The Maintenance of Parents Act provides a legal channel for aged parents to seek either periodical or one time lump sum maintenance fee from their children.

*c. Social Care -*

- The MCD develops and promotes social care programmes and services for the elderly. The MCD funded 90% of capital cost and 50% of operating cost for organisations providing community based elderly services to meet the social needs and maintenance rehabilitation needs of the elderly.
- Services include 1. Social day centres 2. Senior activity centre 3. Meal service 4. Befriender service 5. Senior citizen club.
- Homes for the aged are provided by both MCD and the community service groups.

*d. Health Care –*

- The strategy is to promote healthy lifestyle to prevent or delay the onset of chronic diseases for as long as possible; provide effective treatment and rehabilitation; develop community-based health services to support family care-givers; provide residential care for those who cannot live on their own.
- Services are: 1. Day rehabilitation centre 2. Home nursing and medical care service 3. Nursing homes by community or commercial organisations.
- The Ministry of Health oversees all the services to ensure minimum standards are met under the Private Hospital & Medical Clinics Act.
- Medisave, Medishield & Medifund cater for the cost of health treatments.
- Part of the roles for the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) mentioned before is to look into of the health care need of the elderly for the next 5-10 years and to ensure that the elderly health care remained affordable.

*e. Housing -*

- Ninety percent of elderly live with their children or relatives. The strategy is to encourage the elderly live close or live with their family. Incentives, financial, taxes or allocation priority, are given for children and parents living together or living close to each other.
- Senior citizen studio apartment specially designed and built for the elderly for them to live close to their children. Community social service groups would help to offer their

services to the residents of such studio apartment.

- Conversion of apartments with high percentage of elderly residents into apartment dedicated to the elderly. It is installed with elderly friendly equipment and emergency alarm system for the low-income tenants. Senior Activity Centres are set up in such apartment by the community to provide necessary elderly support services.

## **6. Future Directions :**

The Government's policy is to help the elderly age gracefully and see ageing as a time for further development, not as cul-de-sac. The elderly are a resource pool of experience and skills and they should be encouraged to continue contributing to society.

### *a. Positive Attitudes Toward Ageing and the Elderly –*

Public education programme, since 1987, aims to promote positive attitudes towards ageing and aged persons. It also emphasises the importance of pre-retirement planning and preparation. Public awareness is raised through campaigns such as the senior citizen week, and all possible media, publications, and forums.

Through its on-going public education programme, Singapore hopes to inculcate positive attitudes and mindsets towards the elderly in the young generation and among the elderly themselves. With positive attitudes and closer inter-generational interactions, the young will be able to better understand, appreciate and love the elderly members of their families. It is also important for the elderly themselves, with their experiences and wisdom, continue to contribute to society after their formal retirement. As the number of elderly persons in our society increases, they will become an even more significant pool of valuable resource.

### *b. Elderly Volunteerism –*

Gainful employment is an active avenue to contribute to society, older Singaporeans who do not wish to remain in the work force are encouraged to take up voluntary work. Volunteerism is a good way for the elderly to be active and contribute to the community and spend their retirement years in a meaningful way. Elderly volunteerism will be a part of the Singapore Vision of the next millennium.

## **7. Conclusion :**

The rapid ageing of Singapore's population poses a wide-ranging challenges for our society in the next millennium. The concerted efforts of various Government and non-Government organisations are necessary to develop strategies and programmes to address these challenges in a holistic, comprehensive and co-ordinated manner. The newly-formed Inter-Ministerial Committee on Ageing Population will continue to lead in steering national policies and directions to meet the needs of the ageing population for the benefit of the elderly and the society. Along with other countries in this region and the world, Singapore will evolve as a society for all ages.

## **A Brief Introduction of Adolescents, Youth, the Elderly and Persons in Disability in China**

**Resource Person: Hon. Mr. Zhu Xiangyuan, MP**  
**Member of the Standing Committee, National People's Congress**  
**Member of Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee (China)**

Dear Honourable Chairman and Vice-Chairpersons:

Distinguished parliamentarians:

On behalf of Mr. Zhang Huaixi, Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and Vice Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the National People's Congress of China, I'm delighted to attend this meeting.

I think it is necessary for the Asian Population and Development Association to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Seoul, Korea, after the International Forum of Parliamentarians in The Hague. I should thank the Chairman and fellow parliamentarians for giving me this opportunity to brief you some information about China. As a matter of fact, China is the most populous developing nation in the world. The large population has a poor foundation to start with, and the economic and social development is imbalanced in different regions. The Chinese Government has attached great importance to the issue of population and development on account of the country's basic national conditions. I want to take this opportunity to express my opinions on the issue of adolescents, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities published in the Hague Declaration.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to adolescents, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Special organs and institutions were set up to co-ordinate the work in this regard, including the Co-ordination Committee on Women and Children under the State Council, the Youth League, the China National Committee on Ageing and China Disabled Persons' Federation. Full-time staffs are employed and special funds are allocated to ensure these institutions and departments effectively carry out their work. In the process of ruling the country by law, the central government has drafted and promulgated laws to protect these people's lawful rights and interests. The National People's Congress deliberated and adopted the Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons on November 28, 1990, the Law on Protection of Minors on September 4, 1991, and the Education Law on March 18, 1995. In 1994, the Chinese Government worked out a Plan for Action on the elderly (1994-2000). The implementation of these laws and regulations have standardised the management and provided a better protection of rights and interests. Now I would like to introduce the work that China has done in each of the specific areas.

### **Adolescents**

To help promote adolescents in China sound in body and mind, the Law on Protection of Minors and the Education Law have called for the concerted efforts from families, schools, non-governmental and governmental departments in organising various social activities that are beneficial to the healthy development of children and youngsters. Efforts are made in establishing and improving the facilities needed for their cultural and recreational demands. Media activities and

publications conducive to the healthy development of children and youngsters are also encouraged and supported. In order to promote the awareness and capability of parents in protecting their children, the establishment of Parent School has not only allowed parents to grasp knowledge on scientific nurturing, health and nutrition of their children, but also of laws and regulations, and family teaching.

According to the Law on Protection of Minors, compulsory education is a must for children in school age. It is an important component of family protection not to allow children to drop out of school. In 1996, 98.8 percent of the children in school age entered school. The rate for the disabled children increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 60 percent at present.

The education cause in China has made unprecedented progress in the past two decades since China's reform and opening up began in the late 1970s. The historical achievements have greatly contributed to China's reform, opening up and modernisation drive.

Investment in education is the key to its development, and also reflects the status of its strategic importance. In the last twenty years, the expenditures in education allocated by the Central Government from state budget has steadily increased, from 8.124 billion yuan in 1978 to 186.254 billion yuan in 1997. Meanwhile, the funding system has gradually been improved, which has been transformed from a single channel—solely funded by the government—to a multi-channel system. In 1997, of the 253.173 billion yuan of education funds, 26.4 percent came from non-state expenditures. To further implement the state policy of revitalising the nation through science and education, the Chinese Government has decided to largely increase investment in education from 1999.

To transform the heavy burden of population in China into human resources, and to improve the overall quality of the Chinese nation, the Central Government has mapped out an ambitious goal of basically realising the 9-year compulsory education system, and eliminating illiteracy among young and adults by the end of the century. At present, the 9-year compulsory education is universal among 65 percent of the Chinese population. The overall quality and education standards of the Chinese nation have improved remarkably, with the rate of illiteracy among young and adults decreasing from 18.5 percent in 1978 to 6 percent.

## **Youth**

China is a country with a large number of youth—460 million people are aged between 14 and 35, accounting for 38 percent of the country's total population. The Chinese Government has attached great importance to the work of youth and drawn up state policies and plans in this regard. The China 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agenda drafted by the Central Government put special emphasis on the fostering, education and participation of youth. Various channels are created to help them solve the problems in education and employment. Efforts are called for to improve their living conditions, protect their lawful rights and interests, and enable them to play an active role in politics, economy and society. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agenda also appeals to implement the strategies with the development of education a priority, to gradually increase investment in education, create favourable conditions for their education and employment, and enrich their culture and sports activities.

There are 38,000 schools in China that offer secondary education, which include senior secondary school, technical secondary school, vocational secondary school, skilled workers' school, adult

junior secondary school and adult senior secondary school. The number of students in 1996 was 20.8931 million.

The institutions of higher learning have developed steadily in China, which have brought up a large number of high-profile professionals under the pattern of various forms and multi-tier development. The number of college graduates increased from 891,600 in 1978 to 5.9 million in 1997. In the past twenty years, China has trained more than 18 million undergraduates and graduates, of which 36,000 with doctorate and 394,600 with master degrees.

For drug-taking problem among teenagers, China has carried out an all-round education on drug prohibition in various perspectives. The publicity on drug prohibition has helped teenagers gain insight in the harm of drugs, and led them to get away from drugs and enhance the ability of resisting drugs. The state has intensified the crackdown on drug smuggling and trafficking, which creates a sound environment for the development of teenagers.

### **The Elderly**

The theme of this year's World Health Day is "Active and Healthy Ageing." The issue of the elderly has gained the general attention of the international community. China has a long history of respecting and loving the elderly. The Communist Party and the government have always paid attention to the health care of the elderly, and maintain that Medicare of the elderly is part of the social development in this ageing society.

As the world's most populous nation, China is also home to the world's largest aged population. At present, China has more than 120 million people over 60 years of age, of which 9 million are 80 years old or more. It is expected that by the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the number of elderly Chinese will reach 400 million. It is essential to create a harmonious society if China's increasing aged population is to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

The elderly are a unique component of the Chinese society. They have made contributions to China's social and economic development, and therefore been taken good care of. However, with the fast growing aged population, China has found it more difficult to meet the needs of the elderly due to its economic strength, medical services and health education. Therefore, initiating "active ageing" is very significant to China. To help the elderly enjoy a healthier lifestyle, the state and society have taken measures to provide the elderly with fair and equal living opportunities, and ensure the aged receive affordable and fair medical services.

The government and society are taking good care of the elderly and protecting their rights and interests, so as to ensure them a happy ending. The elderly should be given greater economic support and better medical treatment and health services. After years of construction, China has set up a number of research institutes on health care of the elderly. Many studies of significance have been launched. As the elderly are more likely to suffer from chronic illness and disability, China has proposed to establish a Medicare system of Chinese characteristics. In addition, medical insurance system for the elderly should be set up and improved to develop various health care services for the seniors. Community health facilities should be constructed to provide convenient, economical and practical services. The community service network should be promoted, with the establishment of hospitals, rehabilitation centres and clinics for the elderly. The seniors are also persuaded to give up their unhealthy living habits, and encouraged to maintain a good health on their own, prevent illness

and improve their living standards. It is also important to create a traditional, family-type environment.

### **Persons in Disability**

Based on the Law on the Protection of the Disabled Persons and the legal framework to guarantee equal rights for the disabled, China has mapped out and implemented an outline of the Ninth Five-Year Plan for the Disabled. Remarkable achievements have been made in the past four years, with significant improvement in the status of the disabled.

The compulsory education for the disabled children has developed rapidly. Until 1997, there are 1,400 schools for the disabled children, including 27 schools for the blind, 845 for deaf-mutes, 143 for the blind and the deaf and 425 for mentally retarded. The rate of compulsory education for the disabled children increased from 20 percent in 1994 to 69.5 percent in 1998.

There are 879 institutes in China specially providing vocational training for the disabled. 2,821 vocational schools are also providing training courses for the disabled. A network of vocational training for the disabled has been formed, with the regular vocational training taking the dominant role. 1.66 million disabled persons have received training in the last four years. In rural areas, the training is based on the township level, providing skills in planting and aquaculture with 2.04 million disabled farmers being trained in the last four years.

The disabled persons can receive college education if they qualify in the national entrance exam. Senior high school and special education institutes were established in some cities for the disabled. A rehabilitation system with the government playing a leading role has been established, with the focus on community and families. Rehabilitation services have been provided extensively, which enable the disabled receive treatment in their doorsteps. At the same time, a number of key rehabilitation projects, such as cataract, polio, deaf and iodine deficiency have been launched. More than 2.54 million disabled persons have recovered to some extent, and 3.35 million accessories in 168 categories were provided for the disabled for their convenience.

To satisfy the demands in cultural activities, special services and facilities are provided for the disabled by public cultural departments. Disabled persons are encouraged to take part in cultural activities.

The prevention system for the disabled is improved. The awareness of prevention is enhanced. To avoid factors that are likely to cause disabilities, health care in pregnancy is gradually promoted. Efforts are also made to reduce the death rate caused by medicines and to eliminate iodine deficiency.

Roads and pedestrians that are easy to use by the disabled have been built in China's large and medium-sized cities. In 1998, the design of non-barrier facility has been included in the approval procedure of China's building projects, which will further improve the construction of non-barrier facilities across the country.

Since 1994, the poverty alleviation for the disabled has been included in China's poverty alleviation program. Local government officials, women's federations, youth leagues and disabled persons' federations are encouraged to help support poor disabled persons. Thanks to the efforts, 672,000

disabled people have shrugged off poverty in the last four years.

Fellow parliamentarians, China has done quite a lot of work in the above-mentioned areas. However, arduous tasks still lie ahead for us and many other Asian nations in adolescents, youth, the elderly and persons in disability. China will as always make its due contribution. The National People's Congress of China is willing to exchange and co-operate with parliaments of all nations to join in their efforts.

## Discussion

### **CHAIRPERSON :**

Thank you very much. We've had two very excellent presentations and very wide-ranging topics, with China having dealt with many topics, as was indicated on the program where Singapore gave us an excellent introduction as to the provision of aged care in Singapore. I must say, sir, that one would want to grow old gracefully in Singapore with such wonderful facilities that you have there. And we now have forty minutes of questions and discussions, and I recognise the Philippines first.

### **PHILIPPINES:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just like to make a comment and then I would like to leave the resource persons at liberty to respond to these comments. But first of all, in the Far Eastern Economic Review some weeks ago, they had a special feature on the Asian family. And this discussion on the family was made in light of the impact of the economic crisis on the Asian family. The Asian family, as we know, has largely been seen as a de-facto or quasi-welfare system, where the extended family and kinship structure is able to take care of elderly and youth. It is able to function in terms of being able to cushion much of the needs of the youth and the elderly within that extended family structure. And it was noted that with this Asian economic crisis the family has been severely affected in the sense that this quasi-welfare structure is crumbling.

And that leads to far-reaching implications and consequences for the Asian family structure. And that is something that we must seriously address. And I think that it is laudable that in Singapore you do have amenities and facilities for the elderly. But that cannot be said of other countries, especially those that are poorer and less developed in the economic sense.

This has to do, for instance, in the same article they mentioned that in Bangkok, Thailand alone, the shifting, because of the rising unemployment many have left the city and gone back to the provinces. And many who were stuck without jobs, and the numbers are rising, have no more families to really speak of to be able to really cushion these kinds of hardships that they are facing regarding health, regarding pooling resources, struggling on a day-to-day basis, etc. So I would like to know whether there is really that kind of a perspective on national policy-making level as well as in other sectors of society that really seeks to address, what we may call for lack of a better term, a disintegration of this entire set-up or structure, which has taken decades and cultures to strengthen, and now suddenly is under threat. Thank you.

### **CHAIRPERSON :**

I thank the delegate from the Philippines, and before passing it over to the panel, I'm sure you've opened an issue of discussion, because I think many delegates from various parts of Asia will have a different perspective on it. But having said that, we would like to have the delegate from Singapore.

### **SINGAPORE:**

It is quite true that the article I pointed out, the Asian family structure, which is quite different from the Western one. The Western norm is that children above 21 years old, they are independent, they should leave their family, whereas the Asian concept works on the multi-tier family scheme, where

past three generations or two generations will be living together. And in Singapore, as the survey shows, 90% of the aged population are living either with their children or with their relatives. I think this is one of the very significant numbers. Because if you try to think about that, if 90% of all these people will be living independently and then the kind of social facility to be taxed will be quite high, especially for the accommodations, finance, plus any other services.

So in Singapore, we have a very traditional Asian society, and the multi-tier family has been common. And following the so-called ethno-development of the society, privacy and independence came to develop in the minds of the younger people, and we have the potential of this traditional multi-tier family structure facing the challenges of possible collapse. And we are not only addressing the issue of the elderly, but we are also looking into other social facilities such as child-care service, which is also part and parcel of the family structure.

So we are trying all our best to encourage and maintain the structure for as long as we can. And we have quite a different scheme in order to encourage people. Of course, the major scheme is the monetary scheme. Anybody who wants to leave their parents, if they buy an old flat, the government will give them \$50,000. If they don't want to live near their parents, we give them a smaller grant. So therefore this is one incentive, whether you want it or you don't, you have to live near your parents.

And then, if you want to apply for public housing accommodation, usually you have to wait for about four or five years. Let's say you have decided to form a multi-tier family. The multi-tier in our definition is three tiers, grandparents, parents and children. So then we will give you priority. And then the part is to be given, so that you can get your flat very quickly, so that you don't need to wait.

And in the past we gave more incentive but it is subjected to misuse, so that is why we cut back. Say, for example, after you buy a flat, then in two years time you can sell it and make money and buy a bigger flat if you wish. But if there is a high degree of misuse we will cut that one back. And then we give quite a high incentive to their children who lead and support their family in the same address.

**CHAIRPERSON :**

I'm tempted to ask what if the parent does not want to live near the child? The delegate from Pakistan?

**PAKISTAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable speaker has raised so many intriguing points by supporting old parents in Pakistan due to socio-economic conditions. The majority of old people live with their children through emotional relationships. There is not compulsion by the state that if the children do not contribute towards their old parents to live with them, there is no such law that they will be punished.

But I was intrigued to ask you what are those laws and what are the punishments you give to the youth that if they don't support their parents? And some parents are single and have never married. What do they do? Are they the state's responsibility? The third thing is that you are enhancing

retirement age to 68. Do you have enough job opportunities being created gradually that the state can provide?

And the last question, I mean these are more of information that I desire out of you, that what are the laws of inheritance that an old person can transfer his property before his death to his children or to give it to anybody, and if he disposes of his property, even then the children look after him or not? Thank you.

**INDIA:**

Honourable chairperson, resource persons, parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to say something about the adolescents and youth. Youth in the Asian countries, as in my own country, have started living a glamorous life. As the new millennium dawns, the Asian youth is caught in crossfire between two worlds, one a world of his forefathers, steeped in tradition and morality and the old culture. And the other world is that the modern influence, which is not entirely bad, but has bred ills in the life, in this society, which if not encountered flaws, it had in the entire social and cultural ethos in the life.

Drugs, sex, parties, such words that still a few years ago were not included in the Asian youth dictionary. Now they are almost synonymous with the lifestyle of the youth. Is this the result of the modern influence, which has pervaded our lives by way of cable TV, liberalisation of the economy? What is the deeper reason for that? And if this demoralisation has occurred among the youth, then what are its remedies? Questions which we need to address seriously at this stage or there might come a point from which there is no return. A few years back the education curriculum was revised in schools.

Sex education was introduced as a subject to be taught to adolescents. And with this the influence of cable TV, the MTV culture, invaded us. The problem is not with exposure, but the age at which this exposure occurs. When a child is at an immature age, he is unable to distinguish and accurately judge the contents of what he or she is being exposed to. In Asia, female reproductivity starts at an early age when she herself is immature and unable to the rigors involved with the childbearing and development. This has a direct influence on the child. Such problems and issues used to be addressed immediately, and they cannot be solved without a full understanding between the youth and the elders. True, we cannot ban cable TV, but I would like to know what the resource person has to say in this connection.

**CHAIRPERSON:**

The Indian delegate is asking about the morality in youth and how that applies to modern society.

**INDIA:**

The problem is such, which concern the future of the nations in the Asian countries. So I had to relate all the subjects in detail. The other point that I have to refer to is about the elderly people.

Declining fertility and mortality levels has produced fundamental changes in the age structure of the population in most societies notably a high increase in the proportion and number of elderly persons. The steady increase of old-age groups in national population, both in absolute numbers and percentage in relation to the working age population, has significant implications for the majority of

countries. The economic and social impact of the ageing of the population has brought an opportunity and a challenge to all societies.

For an increasing number of the ageing population, the system of health care and system of economic and social security are required to be developed, paying special attention to the needs of the women in particular. In the Asian society the system of joint family is breaking and the nuclear family system is taking its place. As we know, the joint family system used to take care of old people, but it is not so under the nuclear family system. Nuclear family means, self, wife and the children. As such, the persons having nuclear families don't feel responsibility towards their elders. Then, moreover, the fast-changing social system of present day fills the generation gap between them and their elders.

Hence the elder people who supported their elder people formerly under the joint family system feel frustrated when they find themselves not adjusting because of their habits which have been commanding with the youngest generation, that is, sons and grandsons.

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Thank you. I think before we go to our next question, we will deal with the present. I might say that I wouldn't make any comment on the morality, but on the latter part of your paper, rather statement, it was very much in line with what the delegate from the Philippines has said. And for those of us who have not read that article, I think it would be worthwhile getting a copy of it and reading it, because I think it was very much in line with what the delegate from India was saying, which were exactly the point that the delegates from the Philippines said. Now, Panel, would you care to respond to what the delegate from India said and also the questions raised by the delegate from Pakistan?

**DR. LOW SEOW CHAY:**

So in response to the question by the delegate from Pakistan, so we ask the question you know, what happens that if the person is not married, they have no children? So as far as we are concerned, the whole philosophy of elderly care, one of which is on saving for the old age. So in regard of a person, whether he is married or not, so long as he is an actively working individual, he will contribute toward his own retirement fund. So therefore his retirement fund and the other safety net precautions built by the nation will be able to see him to his old age.

And also at the same time in Singapore, we do not emphasise only the government looking after the elderly problems. We have a lot of NGOs providing services. And many of these NGOs actually have a lot of big businessmen who are about to contribute and finance many of the organisations. So for a person, whether he is married or not married, whether he has children or not, there is a facility out there. But of course every responsible citizen has to build up his own savings through the compulsory CPF Savings Fund. As long as he is gainfully employed, the fund will build up gradually.

Regarding the law, what happens if children do not want to pay for their so-called maintenance? So the law will be exercised just like any law of the court and the parents will take action against their children in court. So long as the court has made the judgement, the children will have to implement and carry out the judgement. If they don't, it will be dealt with the normal procedure, the procedure

taken when you default a payment. When law decides it, you will be charged for other offences.

Let's say, for example, if you bring someone to the court and if you refuse to attend, they can issue a warrant of arrest. So therefore they can put up information in all the possible avenues so you will be very embarrassed and eventually you will have to settle everything. It is just like the law of divorce under the Women's Charter. So once the court has decided a payment, the whosoever party involved will have to carry out the judgement. There is no other way.

And the other question talks about the inheritance law. We have an inheritance law in Singapore, and there is also an Estate Duty. But the Estate Duty has been reduced to a very minimum sum; it was a very socialist nature of redistribution of wealth. But I think this particular—so-called the margin is very high—I think if you owned many houses, at least one of the houses worth more than ten million dollars will be paid on tax. So that is why the Estate Duty has been reduced to a minimum.

So coming to inheritance, a person can will all his wealth to any person he wishes to. If he wants to will to his children he can do so; if he wants to will his assets to the so-called research organisations, cancer research or nuclear research or whatever, he can always will his amount to that. And a will, so long that is properly done by a legal office, it would be fully carried out. If a person does not will his estate, then it will be done in a normal norm in our way. The wife will get 50% and the children will get 50%. If there are ten children, each will have one-tenth of the 50%. And then there will be a so-called committee of management in order to administer all the so-called assets of an individual when he should pass away.

#### **JAPAN (MS. HIRONAKA) :**

We have been talking about the Asian model, the word has appeared again and again. When we talk about the Asian model, we just really respect the value of the family. I think this is the core, the essence of this Asian model. But is it really just so unique in Asia? And we have to really ask ourselves if it's unique in Asia.

Let's look at our Western partners; the value of the family, did that not exist? They have existed; and they will keep existing. And they have really focused on this. When there was no social security in America, there was the interdependence system, which was mandatory for survival. And that existed in every society on this Earth, whether it was in Japan, whether it was in Europe, whether it was in the United States of America, and also in other Asian countries. This existed everywhere; social security existed for survival. And that created one type of morale. And this was what existed in the past.

But with the economic development, more freedom, more independence was possible. What did mankind expect then? A lot of young people, adolescents chose independence. Individualism, independence, was what they chose. As the economic pie grew and as we became more affluent, this became more possible.

Let's focus our attention on Japan. Japan is one of the Asian countries. And as an Asian country, Japan also respected the value of the family. But now in the modern age, we have various problems that arose. We had a very dramatic economic development after World War II, which is wonderful in itself, but with that came very advanced organisation, and the result of that is that the bond of the

family became weaker and weaker. The Government decided to mediate, and there were more and more social security systems created.

Now we depend on the Government—we don't depend on our children as we grow older. We want the Government to do something. We don't want the children to really protect us in our old age. We want the Government to do something for it. Now when we look at such a phenomenon, how much can the Government really take responsibility, and how much can they perform their role? Governments have been able to make different systems in the past because it was not such an extended and wide sphere.

But let's look at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with more and more growing ageing population. I was very interested in the example of Singapore from that point of view. There's a limit to what the social security system can do, and the regional government will have to take that up. We have 120 million people in Japan, which is approximately 20 times that of Singapore. This is possible in Singapore. And I feel that if we split up our population clusters, we can also implement such a system. So we can actually have volunteer elements, we can have family elements, and the government will collect taxes, and when we can also leave it up to the efforts of the individual. We can actually mix all sorts of policy measures and this will be very wonderful. This would be a very good reference and a model to us if you could create that in Singapore.

Now, of course, China is on the other extreme. China has ten times the population of Japan. And how is China going to go into the future, and how are they going into it with their new economic development, and also the mobility of population? When we look at all the measures that China will have to take, I think the model of Singapore might be of much value to China as well. And that is why I looked at the model of Singapore as a social security system, including in that the regional community and the family, all-inclusive, plus volunteers. I think the development of social security from this point of view is very interesting and we would like to see how Singapore would progress in the future.

**FIJI:**

I fully agree with the comment by the Japanese delegate about the uniqueness of the Singapore model. But that is really, Mr. Chairman, the example of living in the better of two worlds. While they are maintaining their traditional link of keeping their elderly within the family system, and it is because of their good government and thoughtful government, and of course the standard of the economy, that they were able to move forward from there in the way of paying extras if the old people so decided. I was also in China some twelve years ago. The same systems apply when the elderly are kept within the family.

Mr. Chairman, I have only one question to ask. Who pays for the burial expenses for the elderly?

**NEW ZEALAND:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make two points about adolescents. One is that I think that it's not just the presence of services for adolescents that determine the rate of teenage pregnancy and teenage childbearing.

I come from the country with the second highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world. The first is

the United States. This isn't largely because of lack of services, although they could be better for young people. My observation is that young people, who have many opportunities, are empowered to make choices and to access services. It's the young people who feel disempowered who are most likely to experience a teenage pregnancy. So it depends on the total climate of opportunity and empowerment. And this contraception or the access to abortion is seen as a positive choice to a young person who uses those services. But if is taking something away, if childbearing may be the only way of having values, then they won't access them. So a lot has to do with the general economic and social opportunities available to young people, not just to the presence of services.

And I remember a delegate from Japan mentioning the role of the media in this regard. I'd like to just mention that, because in New Zealand we have the highest rate of abortion among young people of the Pacific Islands' people. Eight percent of New Zealanders are immigrants from the Pacific Islands, and they stand between two worlds, and they have this very high rate.

But I'd like to raise another issue of major concern to all of us about maternal health and child welfare. Internationally, we all know that the tobacco companies are focusing on young women, getting young women to take up smoking. This is associated in our country. The highest rates of people taking up smoking are young Maori women, minority women. They are being targeted. It's associated with their children having asthma, cough fits, respiratory illnesses. And in a recent American study, the children of a mother who smoked more than one packet a day of cigarettes was twice as likely to be convicted of a violent crime as the children of non-smoking mothers. So it's a major issue.

And when Thailand tried to stop the big tobacco companies coming into Thailand, the World Trade Organisation prevented them. They wouldn't allow them to exclude the tobacco companies with all their promotion aimed at young women. I believe that this is one of the world's biggest public health issues, and I just want to draw the delegates' attention to what's happening to young women, the speed with which they are taking up this practice, and the extent to which they are targeted. And the consequences are not only for their own health, but also for the health of their young offspring. And that we now have a situation that the Maori, the twelve percent indigenous people in New Zealand have extremely high rates of smoking amongst young women, and one in two of Maoris will die of smoking or their related consequences.

So I want to put that into the discussion of adolescent health, and the choices that young people are making and the long-term consequences in the context of international trade. And whether we should have limits on trade, whether countries like Thailand can exclude big companies, whether advertising and the media are changing lifestyle options, I believe it's all part of the lifestyle issues amongst young people. Thank you.

**VIETNAM:**

First of all, we admire the policy and the practice of care of youth, disability and ageing persons in China and Singapore. But I think that we have to emphasise the role of family be along the role of government and community, because living in families is the best advantage of Asian countries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ZHU XIANGYUAN:**

Responding to the question raised by the gentleman from Fiji about the health care of the elderly, in China our approach is twofold. First is for those who have income and salaries, there is the social security system for them so that they can pay for their living after retirement.

And the other still in operation is the family-oriented system. Especially in China's rural areas, the countryside, most of the elderly are still dependent on their children. And we want to make it clear that in China, in rural areas it is illegal that the children will not support their parents, which provides a better protection for their elderly. So these two ways are in operation in China. At the same time now, we are trying to figure out a new way as the new millennium approaches. Thank you.

**FIJI:**

In China, for the disabled children and elderly persons there is a good system. My question is, after finishing their educational training, have you any separate educational institution provided mainly for them, and are the parents of mentally disturbed persons or children, and is it honourable to maintain them in their house? Have you any home or hostel for them to stay permanently or temporarily? Thank you.

**MR. ZHU XIANGYUAN:**

In China there are 50 million disabled persons. And many rely on their family and the society to take care of them. And there are 1400 schools for disabled persons and children. And for disabled adults, they will find jobs with the help of the communities, and in China we call them neighbourhood committees, to help them find jobs. But primarily people live on self-reliance and the government will provide some help in financial support and also in other support. And if you go to Beijing you can see that we have built up many barrier-free pedestrian helps for the blind and other disabled persons. So all in all, in China the government and the society are trying to find the best solutions for the disabled persons.

**CHAIRPERSON :**

I'd like to thank both presenters very much for the presentation here this morning. And I'd like to thank the audience very much and now stand adjourned until this afternoon session.

**Session V**

**Economic Crisis and Population Issues**

[13:50 – 15:10]

## **Economic Crisis and Population**

**Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Sung-Gon Kim, MP  
Member of Parliament (Republic of Korea)**

**Resource Person: Hon. Mr. Vayalar Ravi, MP  
Member of Parliament (India)**

I have great pleasure in addressing the august gathering of functionaries and activists in the socio-political arena and to deliberate and interact on the issue of most topical nature. As onlookers, we have to adopt futuristic programs that are groomed in the hard realities of the day and the legacy of at least recent past.

At the outset, I would present the trends in population in the world at large. There is asymmetric distribution of world population, both from geographical perspective and from economic perspective.

The low-income countries have a population of 35.13% and land area of 23.19% of the world. In global GNP they bag only 2.4%. For the middle income countries, their share in world population is 48.98% and that in world GNP is 18.05%.

The glaring imbalances result into the perilous challenges of perennial nature. They are reflected in inequalities in consumption and other indicators of human development. Globally, the 20% of the world's people in the highest income countries account for 86% of total private consumption expenditures—the poorest 20%, a minuscule 1.3%. More specifically, the richest fifth:

- Consume 45% of all meat and fish, the poorest fifth 5%
- Consume 58% of the total energy, the poorest fifth less than 4%
- Have 74% of all telephone lines, the poorest fifth 1.5%
- Consume 84% of all paper, the poorest fifth 1.1%
- Own 87% of the world's vehicle fleet, the poorest fifth less than 1%

Ever expanding consumption puts strains on the environment—emissions and wastes that pollute the earth and destroy ecosystems, and growing depletion and degradation of renewable resources that undermine livelihoods.

Poor people and poor countries bear many costs of unequal consumption. Globalisation is creating new inequalities and new challenges for poor economies. From this analysis, we can deduce that over a billion poor people need raising of their consumption levels. Increase in consumption needs maintaining the links with human development.

For all developing countries, the life expectancy index is 0.62, adult literacy index is 0.66, GDP index is 0.48 and human development index is 0.586. The data is drawn from Human Development Report 1998. There is a large and unhealthy imbalance between public and private good across the countries.

A domestic economic order needs sustained growth rate for the richer segments of the world economy. They have to guard themselves against recessionary forces getting aggravated and culminating into a most blemish depression. On the one hand, they have ever expanding horizons of technological development and ever mounting levels of productivity and production. To market them on lucrative terms is a matter of focal concern for them. Having an oligarchic leadership hold, they forge and practice strategies and programs for their implementation to thwart and revert those ailing trends. Clearly I have in mind the move for intellectual property rights and patents rights getting over swaying thrust from the cited segments. This is a very serious facet of economic crisis in which the unevenly distributed human profile of the world economy is a significant contributory variable with all of the consequential indicators. To illustrate one of it is the paradoxical scenario of the rampant incidence of hunger and starvation, in the countries of the so-called third world that attempt to accelerate their rate of economic development.

The developing and relatively poor economies of the world face a serious problem of stagflation, which is a situation that does not lend itself to containing theoretical explanations easily and comfortably. The productive resources, which are meagre as compared with their requirements, get diverted to the lucrative but least productive avenues. The expanding volume of high-powered money and bulging amount of total supply with the public due to higher money multiplier, the index of inflation is soaring. The governments suffer from the evils of enlarging fiscal deficits. At the back of this scene is the rapid rate of population growth in those countries, superimposed on the already sizeable number of population.

In the midst of this crisis is the two types of segments of the world economy, is the jolt exercise by Southeast Asian crisis that has hit hard the five nations viz., Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea and Indonesia. They have scored very attractive rates of growth in the earlier two decades when the trouble initiated with the devaluation of Thai Baht. It very rapidly got translated into flight of capital and serious financial crisis. The relatively higher rates of population growth yielded a buoyant market for consumption goods and tertiary sector. Thus, stronger bargaining position of the foreign investors has dictated pattern of investment in those countries with a very thin equity base. The corporate sector dwindled abruptly in financial terms due to capital flight. Domiciles and respective governments have paid little heed for perspective commitment of the resources that poured in through inflow of investable funds.

The adverse consequences are on the poor nations and on the vulnerable part of their demographic profile. On the one hand, the pressing terms of richer blocks with an oligarchic leadership hinder the growth of agriculture in the poor agrarian nations, accentuating the impact of hunger and starvation.

According to the authentic data released in the World Development Report 1998-99, almost 40% of the population in the developing countries are below the poverty line, specified with respect to the local factors consideration, under nutrition, malnutrition, hunger and starvation are the lot of many of those poor people.

The industries suffer due to sharpening decrease of raw material and the dampening of rural markets for their products. All these augment the unemployment and hinder in generating more new employment opportunities. The incumbents in labour markets escalate the figure of backlog of unemployment and underemployment and disguised unemployment. Household budgets get perturbed due to squeezing of credit side and bulging of debit side as a result of the upward trend in cost of living index. They are victimised by the serious problems like obligatory child labour, school dropouts, degrading standards of health and hygiene, housing and sanitation facilities, rising

number of slum dwellers, and hutments. They necessarily erode the moral-ethical bases of society. Due to glaring inequality in distribution of income and assets, the penned up class conflict piles up, threatening the socio-political tranquillity and menace for the world order as a whole.

On continental comparison, the Asian stock has the relatively more severe blow of those facets of crisis. Japan with her mettle of technocrats and committed workforce has been able to prove countervailing force against the triumphant oligarchic leadership dictates of the centrifugal power. Having the glance over the recent historical trends, it goes without saying that there is high time for giving sane and sincere thought to promoting of co-operation among the constituents of this block, both to reap the benefits of mutual help and sustaining the genuine status amidst the explicit and implicit invading of the western strategies and programs of self centred nature.

In development process and over all amelioration of human beings in general, knowledge occupies a pivotal role. Through the inflow of information via networking, the developing countries are deprived of their originality in searching the higher horizons of knowledge, acquiring in the manner conducive for their regional upliftment, absorbing of knowledge, of generating perpetual benefits gets highly handicapped. Ecological balance is disturbed due to ill-conceived acquisition and absorbing of knowledge because the dovetailing the programs on those basis prove more harmful. Pollution of environment needs urgent attention because it is getting aggravated due to the unhygienic modes of energy utilisation under the impact of economic crises. I quote the use of high smoke emitting fuels in automobiles. It proves detrimental for public health and leads to very fatal and contagious type of disease. The resistance power of people against bacterial system is reduced. High rate of infant mortality, high maternal mortality rate and the relatively shorter span of life expectancy are found in many of the developing nations.

I put forth humble suggestions for efficacy of the Asian Confederation

1. Promote friendly ties among the constituents.
2. The visa process should be simplified and rapid to encourage the transnational movements of the people of these countries.
3. There should be fillip for integration through cultural, educational and social exchange among them spelt out on objective criteria and transparency.
4. To promote trade and commerce among them, the custom barriers should be reduced to the utmost extent.
5. To reduce the budgetary allocation for defence, no war pact should be entered into. That would help them in deploying the said spared resources in alleviation of poverty and improving the productivity in different sectors of the economy. Through development of infrastructure facilities, private sector can be encouraged to harness its resource potentials in very productive channels.
6. The Asian nations had a serious problem of water management. To iron out the difficulties, Asian water pool can be chalked out for intra-regional, inter regional and international phases of that task. It will help in enlarging irrigation facilities and assured and continuous provision of drinking water.

7. Through the Confederation, assistance for overcoming the hazards of unforeseen natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, and famines can be made available to the victims of those mishaps promptly.
8. On the pilot basis, world food bank project can be launched in Asian Confederation. The modus operandi of it would be to have the surplus food deposits from member nations on co-operative basis to build up a buffer stock for supplementing the food requirements and bridging the gaps in availability of food stuff in food shortage economies of the Confederation. The accounts and auditing system for this purpose can be evolved on the oracle software, which would serve the purpose of stewardship accounting vis-à-vis projecting the trends for demand and supply. It is necessary to ensure minimum consumption requirements for all as the explicit policy objective in all the countries.
9. To generate social-political instability and panic ridden situation, there is a very planned contriving by the asocial elements in promoting terrorism. The highest incidence is borne by the Asian countries. If the said confederation attempts at combating this evil, a lot of defence expenditure and armaments would be curtailed. The resources spared from those avenues can be used to promote welfare and alleviation of poverty. The economic crisis causing deprivation and frustration opens a very vast arena of vulnerable to those ill-meaning functionaries and organisations. The affluence will reduce the inequalities to a great extent.
10. People want peace and coexistence. There is a mismatch between expectations and real life situations, which results into frustration. The ill-based and fraudulent motives of pseudo-political powers supply arms to militants and encourage terrorism. To make easy money through legally and socially prohibited activities; the underworld powers take up on very massive scale to smuggling and drug trafficking. The money and muscle power gets concentrated in them. Such activities very stealthily eat into the integrating fibre of social and political tranquillity. The public exchequer is overburdened by the bulging allocation for defence, security and police forces. At the same time the entrepreneurial industrial grid gets a set back under those unhealthy and unstable scenario. If confederation can adopt a plan to curb these activities on a transnational basis, the wastage of resources can be reduced significantly. The quantum of resources released through that drive would enable the constituent nations to have long strides on the path of development. The plethora of information would be used in constructive manner. A golden era of prosperity with equity and social justice would dawn on the global village at large and particularly, in the much-neglected segment of the same.
11. With the swift advent of infotech and network systems, the global village is shrinking in size. Globalisation is creating new inequalities and new challenges for protecting the dignity of human right. The nuclear energy poses devastating consequences, if not, judiciously exploited for productive purposes. Even testing of nuclear power generates repercussions of very alarming nature, with a colossal amount of private and social costs. Chemical weapons and use of germs threaten the civilisation at large. The strides in war weapon and strategies are likely to bring forth a system of distant monitoring even of psychic plain, that may subdue the people of certain regions/nations and obsess to the extent of making them accept the ideas being floated by oligarchic leadership. It is the need of the day to generate awareness on such potential invasions from the other end. If we as the Asian Confederation constituents can emerge in the capacity of an environmental friendly and philanthropic ones, would go a long way in undoing

the said moves of the so called high powers in the globe.

I thank all of you for patient listening to my presentation. I am highly grateful to the organisers of the program for allowing me the opportunities of my views. I invite observations and queries, if required.

## Discussion

### NEW ZEALAND:

I wanted to take up the point, Mr. Ravi, that you made about biotechnology and patents, because I believe that these need to be discussed very seriously. And you've raised this issue and I thank you for doing that.

I think the awareness of the restructuring of our food resource through the ownership of biotechnology is very important. And it is that with biotechnology the major companies own the genetic material of the world outright. And with that ownership they are establishing new monopolies over food crops. And those food crops then become the absolute possession of the corporation that patents it. And what happens is that a new kind of rental, a new kind of property, a new kind of capital formation, and the rest of the world is increasingly having to pay rent for the use of that property.

I find the understanding of this quite low, and I'd like to perhaps give you an example so the delegates can think about it. And it's about the loss of bio-diversity and control in the food chain. Some indigenous New Zealand people wanted to use one of their trees, just like you've used the neem tree, and it was on their own land, it was their own tree, and they were prevented from using it because the tree had been patented by a French company. So in order to use their own tree on their own land, they had to pay essentially, a rent to the company that now owned that form of life. I believe that this is very serious, that we now have every form of cotton and cottonseed owned by just one company, we've got three major companies in the world bio-prospecting—and we call it bio-piracy.

One of the things I've discovered on my way here, I've led the parliamentary challenge to this in New Zealand for the labelling of genetically engineered food, because the people of the world don't want to eat it. And I discovered, when I got all the papers, the Cabinet Papers, that our government has given in through muscle from the Americans, and we have joined secretly with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States to put pressure, direct pressure on the Japanese against labelling, their labelling proposal, in order to make sure that the Americans who control nearly all of these patents, who own them, didn't actually get disadvantaged in the Japanese market. And what these papers showed—they were the Cabinet Papers that I got hold of, was just how crucial the Americans saw the Japanese assets in terms of biotechnology and the ownership of this stuff. And they had actually had a secret media war against the Japanese waged in Japan and in the United States to try and prevent them from taking action to label genetically engineered goods.

So I believe this is going to be a key in bio-diversity, food security and in the future of the world's food supply. And I think that we are not articulating it clearly enough and understanding it enough as a challenge. I know this is a bit of a lecture, but I believe it's a key issue.

There is a letter which was leaked from the Agribusiness to Clinton in the United States, and what it said quite clearly was that they saw the patent rights in bio-engineering as a way of countering the new free-trade environment. As they took subsidies away from American farmers, they could re-establish and maintain their monopoly of food crops through the ownership of the patents on those crops. So what we see is another way of establishing control over food supplies in the world. And I think we need to be very aware, and that it can be misused, and it can be used against bio-diversity

and against people's rights to food security. Thank you.

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

Precisely, I think my response is positive. And genetic engineering, yes, this is a problem, especially when new seeds, the breeders rights, the lot of legislation. But after this issue of optimised genetic engineering has created a problem in different developing countries, especially the terminator, the new seed, has come. You have rightly said that there is a lot of resistance in India and we, the Government of India, aren't allowed to come in, because of what we call terminator. So this is a matter of concern to every developed nation, and much depends on that point.

**JAPAN (MR. YATSU):**

Allow me to speak in Japanese. Japan was mentioned just now, and we are actually responsible for that very field. Currently, we have the Basic Agricultural Law, which is presented to our Diet's current session, and will probably be going through our Diet's current session. And in relation to the labelling of all agricultural products for the country, which is now what we are trying to do, and one of them is the genetics issue. And we have decided that we will label the products, and we are continuing now deliberation on this. The United States have a movement to prevent this, as we have heard, and we, of course, do not doubt that act. But we would like, of course, to see a good labelling, so that consumers freely select whatever products they want. So we want to give that opportunity of choice to our consumers.

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

I have to explain, because this is a point, this is an indicator of a new development in the area of trade where other resources come in. One of the issues is the agriculture that it is going to affect our very nation-state economy. India can withstand the economic crisis because of its inherent strength in agriculture, in self-sufficiency of food. And agricultural economy is the strength of a country like India, so it could withstand the pressure. Even though there is some problem of inflation and this and that, but we could withstand.

Likewise the Japanese problem is that their agriculture is highly subsidised, and also that the production is very low. Farmer are getting more subsidies. But the new regulations are that you must completely follow the obligations of the WTO. You already cut down a little, but it has to come down further. So it affected the food economy. So this genetic engineering is going to be another problem because of the monopoly of the seeds is going to take place. So this is a new problem that all of the countries have to debate in our own country and come to a conclusion. This is the point on which I had to make an observation.

**PAKISTAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our honourable speaker from India has raised innumerable points regarding poverty alleviation, peace, disarmament, WTO, Asian confederation, multiple principles, suggestions that may be excellent in certain fields.

He mentioned that fourteen percent of the population is below the poverty line. If it is fourteen percent, I congratulate... It is forty? Then it is a matter of very big concern that forty percent of our Asian population is below the poverty line. And in order to bring it above that line, it requires more

than eighty percent extra efforts.

And in order to introduce those efforts, WTO and agricultural producers defend, and their respective countries do not, in my opinion, really contribute to the cold war going on in a number of Asian countries. We economically do quote the European Union and the Latin American Union, and we have also founded an Asian-Pacific Union. And I regret to say that the majority of, if not, many Asian countries have been left out because of their geographical, regional placement from that union. If we are suggesting a new union, I would rather recommend, irrespective of the regions, all Asian countries should be asked if they have to join that economic union or not.

For example, India is left out, Pakistan is left out, and that Global region, which you are talking about, China, along with her large population, was left out. The largest population in Asia was left out of that association. So it's not very realistic. It was an association where the buying power lies, where the goods can be sold and bought. And you were suggesting, sir, that we have the majority population and we have the majority population buying capacity, which I beg to differ. The middle class and Europe have the maximum capacity for the purchase of world goods and then comes the American, and we may be the Asian-wise or the region-wise, we may come into third or fourth category.

I think we need to think about two basic matters. First, we must build a friendly relationship before introducing such alliance. A region cannot develop economically if its members continue to exert threat to each other. What is the meaning of the word "confederation" that the presenter had just mentioned? Is it different from economic alliance, regional federation or regional alliance?

Also, a wonderful idea has been presented with regard to genetically engineered products. We have also started our own R&D in India and already surpassed Pakistan. We are also conducting similar R&D.

We have also developed numerous seeds. Pakistan has developed some original seeds and have been working on the project for 4 years. We welcome any country that is interested in sharing our experience and learning from our experience. We would be happy to take you to such rural villages and farms. We would like to show you the results of our R&D. Thank you very much.

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

I'm not in disagreement with my colleague from Pakistan. Yes this is only a vague idea, and this is not a political confrontation between different nationalities. The conference in the sense of more understanding in the field of development. I should say in the beginning, the development.

Definitely we cannot go for an Euro currency, or an Asia currency. I never meant that. But the confrontation idea which meant that whether we can put our minds together for own better existence and better development, that is the whole idea. This is the beginning of this idea, nothing more than a political union, because there are many conflicts.

And I fully agree, and our people, like us, also feel the tendency of cold war in our area should be stopped. It is not good for the Asian countries. The political leadership is to find the solution, but we parliamentarians can definitely assert pressure to our own national governments to give up the tendency of arms race or cold war utterances. This is what we all agree on, because then we can

save a lot of money on the different expenditures.

Then there is the other question of the people living; China, India, Pakistan, to be specific. These three countries comprise more than half of the world population. The purchasing power of the middle class of the different states is an important factor in the trade. Here, the parliamentarians can try to improve the purchasing capacity of our rural population. Especially countries like India, China, Pakistan can work on these areas. Japan also has a rural population. Their purchasing power has to be improved. Mere industrialisation cannot solve the problem. The Asian crisis was one of the indicators, that a country cannot survive by mere industrialisation.

The Japanese problem, which I read in some magazine, is the surplus with the American economy, that is the increasing balance of payments surplus, that is difficult even for the American government to contain. And the Japanese economy is a more export-oriented or trade-oriented economy. Then you have a problem; especially the global integration in the economy creates a problem. So this needs to be integrated with the agricultural economy within the selected production. And it needs a new thinking, some of us are thinking in those terms. There comes the patent and the WTO restrictions. So they are all inter-linked. I just wanted to raise that point. Thank you.

#### **BANGLADESH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the resource person from India. There is one line for drinking water. But we promised to ensure food, water, and shelter security for the people of Asia. You know the arsenic problem in India is recently a very difficult one for drinking water. And in Bangladesh, also. All over the districts, arsenic water is a very serious problem in our country for drinking water. And we cannot ensure drinking water for the people because of the arsenic. Do you think or have you taken any steps to remove arsenic from the drinking water?

#### **INDIA:**

The problem of drinking water is a serious matter, especially potable water, with the new philosophy that has come into a country like India. And as far as water is concerned, for Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, we have the rivers. Indian rivers originate from Pakistan side, or goes to Bangladesh. So we politicians feel, we shall not quarrel on water, but share the water. For these three countries, we can share the water, and we had recently a very good agreement between the government of Bangladesh and government of India, where we share more water with Bangladesh.

So as far as the Indian subcontinent is concerned, drinking water is a problem and water for agriculture is a problem. Yesterday somebody rightly said, in the Punjab and Hariyana areas the underground water level is going down. The underground water is drying up in one part of India, which is considered one of the major agricultural sectors, Punjab. So we feel that these three countries must share water rather than quarrel over water. Thank you.

#### **JAPAN (MR. YATSU):**

Since we are discussing the question of water, let me say, we are talking about fresh water. Ninety seven percent of the water is seawater, and only three percent is fresh water. 2.3 percent of that is underground, and the water on the surface, including rivers, account for only 0.3 percent of the total water we have in the whole world, and that 0.3 percent has to be shared with agricultural and

industrial uses.

In the agricultural sector, there is erosion because of the use of underground water. And in India, too, there is the problem of increasing soil salinity. So we are talking about how to use freshwater resources. And it is something that we really need to discuss seriously. Because we have so little resources, we might make this a special topic. Where we put the line about discussing how we preserve and use the freshwater resources, we have not discussed it enough, but it is going to be a more and more serious problem.

**AUSTRALIA:**

I should like to support the Japanese delegate very much on his call for the proper management of water. So many people don't understand, with water they look at many parts of the world where they've got desert, and I think that if they only put water on that desert soil the desert would bloom. What countries like Australia, like parts of the United States, and indeed Israel are learning, where thirty to fifty years ago there were irrigation schemes towards the desert, now there is a problem with the salinity in the soil, as the delegate from Japan was saying, and with also the table of water itself. So what the delegate from Japan mentioned, is that we have to be able to manage water, and manage it in a sustainable way, not only industrially, also from an agricultural point of view. Because if you just go and put water on the desert, you will have the desert bloom for maybe ten years, but then you will have a total problem there with trees dying and the desert world revert back to what it was before.

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Yes, I think the suggestion from the honourable delegate from Japan was that the matter is to be discussed further. It can be a subject, I think our Australian, of course, is the leader of the movement, and he also suggests that it is a very important matter, which we all agree on this subject. Definitely, the secretariat can think whether the subject can be discussed in the next meeting.

**FIJI:**

The subject of the world food bank project was raised. I wonder if the honourable Mr. Ravi can prevail and update us as to what is the position about that suggestion about the World Food Bank project.

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

I can only confess, nothing much more.

**PAKISTAN:**

Honourable, he has just said, instead of World Food Bank, Asian Food Bank. What did he mean about that? How would he go about it?

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

We can launch it first in Asia. The suggestion was we could start an experiment in Asia. We can try it. Because you know, the food production in India is 198 million tons. And China, it goes about 319 million tons. Vietnam is also very much advanced in rice production, and I think it is a very

wonderful advance, even cash crops, also. So why can't we think? And actually, also there is a surplus production of wheat. And of course Pakistan will manage—I know that. And we export Basmati rice in a big way. So I think definitely the idea can be... Japan can take a lead in this matter especially. And China, Japan and India, all together can think of this. We can put our mind; ideas will be promoted visibly, that's all. And we can try to practice how much, to what extent we can practice to debate it further, or some kind of a movement has to come, especially on this side.

**PAKISTAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion towards this idea. The idea is excellent, it seems to be very good, and what is required is the working paper to put it into practice, the sooner the better. My suggestion is that if you form a sub-committee, or whatever committee we already have, if they can put it on an active agenda and work out the broad lines so it could be circulated and we reach somewhere near its format.

**INDIA:**

But it needs the actual support of the government, the national government.

**KOREA:**

Just for reference, in Korea we have a food bank. It is on a very small scale. Charity groups collect all the food from hotels or from bakeries, which remain. Then they deliver to another church group immediately. And a church group called Food Bank Centre can distribute this within a short time. So this is what we call food bank these days in Korea. This is just for reference.

**NEW ZEALAND:**

I feel a need to just mention another problem that touches most of our countries, and that is the issue that we share—the great resource of the Pacific Ocean. We haven't spoken of the problems of the Pacific Ocean and how close to collapse it is, because the fisheries of the southern ocean are being exploited so fast, there is no control, they ignore the regulations.

And at the moment, particularly the Japanese pirates are taking the Patagonian toothfish home, on which the whole ecology of the southern ocean depends, and we are only a few years away from a collapse of that resource. I saw yesterday the great beautiful piles of fresh fish, but the tuna is caught in net and they throw away everything else.

And when the Americans tried to ban the tuna caught in per se nets, the World Trade Organisation wouldn't allow them to impose that ban. They saw it as a barrier to trade. But it was ecologically essential to the survival of the fisheries of the Pacific. And it is another resource which, unless we manage it, and we do it equitably with all countries participating in the fair distribution for the long-term health of that resource, we allow one country to ignore all the regulations, none of us will have any fish resource in the future. Thank you.

**JAPAN (MR. YATSU):**

It's a very good point. That's a serious issue between Korea and Japan right now. I'm sorry, you taught me about the Japanese pirates, so I have to say something about this. Well, in fact, there is a question of maritime resources among the world food and agricultural organisations, and the

Japanese are great catchers of this particular type of fish in the South Pacific.. And we are reducing the number of fish boats, and telling the Japanese fishermen. The Japanese government has subsidised them, and we have reduced the number of fishing boats.

The problem is, there are people selling this fish to the Japanese, and it is not the Japanese fishing boats, but other countries' fishing boats that catch that particular tuna, and I'm not naming the countries, we know that. It's not a member of the South Pacific Forum that is catching this fish and selling to Japanese.

So what we are trying to do is to cultivate fish, including this particular type of tuna. So we are promoting fish culture, and quite a lot of fish consumed in Japan is now supplied by fish culture.

**CHAIRPERSON :**

Thank you very much. Really this ocean is maybe our last food resource. So we should pay attention to the issues that [the New Zealand delegate] pointed out. Thank you very much.

**KOREA:**

I would like to raise one broad issue of globalisation. The subject of this session is the impact of the economic crisis and the population issues. And in many countries the impact is quite severe. And we know that one of the main causes for the economic crisis this time is the globalisation.

Globalisation resulted in the instability in world financial markets, and that is one of the major reasons why so-called model countries like Thailand and Korea got into very serious trouble. Also globalisation has the impact of widening inequalities among nations, among industries, among homes, among individuals, and it is creating a lot of problems.

So these days many people are talking about globalisation with a human face. I think this is a very nice phrase. But if you look at the reality, it is very difficult to achieve, and it is not really happening. For example, "globalisation with a human face" is talked by the United Nations agencies, UNDP and so forth. But actually the economic policies of many of the countries are dictated by the IMF. And the IMF really does not have any concern for the human sufferings and whatever kind of subjects we are interested in. The World Bank has some concern, but it is really the IMF, which takes the lead.

So if you look at many of the programs in countries that agree with the IMF, it really lacks that aspect. So I think we really have to make an effort, both at the national and international level. And it is we, the politicians, who really should play the leading role, because if you leave it to the bureaucracies and economic ministries, they would be interested more in economic rationale. I'm afraid they may pay less attention to the human suffering and the human development.

So I do not have a solution to this thing, but I would just want to point out this is a very, very important subject and somehow this globalisation seems to be a megatrend. It is some trend that you cannot reverse, and it brings us many good things, but also it is creating some problems for us, and we politicians in a forum like this should really emphasise that point. And we should try to do whatever we can in our own countries as well as at the international level. Thank you.

**MR. VAYALAR RAVI:**

Yes, it is a concern of the developing nations, mainly. Because the globalisation has come to a point where the human face. Yes in my country also, we set the reforms and structural changes with a human face, wherein it is going very fast to other extremes, in which ultimately we are certain that the cost of living is going up very fast, and the income is reducing, and our numbers are increasing.

So this is a problem which developing nations face. And in a country like Korea, Thailand and all these countries, this has come up in a big way. But the market economy has played havoc because the money has been withdrawn. The foreign direct investment has become an instrument in the hands of certain money manipulators to control not only the economy, gradually they are eroding into the national sovereignty of the nation-state, dictating the terms, you do this, you do this, and do that, then only we will give you the money. So even the restrictions can never control the national sovereignty, and dictating terms after payment of some kind of help. And you have to go by their directions, whenever the money comes, there will be conditions. Conditions are there. These are also some of the impediments.

So, honourable members, this member is absolutely right. This is a matter of concern not only of the states, but of the people also in this part of the world, in which we must put our minds together. Yes, we must accept the assistance, the help, but under what conditions? Yes, you must help us. Definitely that is appropriate, but on what basis? It shall not be an encroachment or erosion into the national sovereignty and the dignity of the nations. This is my feeling.

**JAPAN (MS. DOHMOTO):**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really agree with what my colleague from Korea and the resource person said. I want to add one more perspective, because the WTO, especially, and globalisation, it is very hard to conserve biodiversity, from the genetic level and the species level. And you said that it is very hard to reverse the globalisation. Maybe it is very hard to reverse, and it is very hard to stop this stream, but on the other hand, I think that we need something like a world environment organisation. Otherwise we can't say anything from our side from a different perspective. Not only—our colleagues mentioned about humanity—but also from the biodiversity perspective, I really want to add that we have to think about the ecosystem, too.

**CHAIRPERSON :**

Thank you very much. It is already three-quarters, so we should conclude our last Session Five. Well, we talked a lot about the economic crisis and population, such as Asian federations, the age of the patents in agriculture, the water shortage problem, and globalisation, and protection of ocean resources, and so on.

As a chairman, I want to just add one more thing. This is specifically related to the issue of economic or Asian federations. Before you make a federation, we should build trust among Asian neighbourhoods. I think we're near the economic federation among Asian countries, like EU. But in the past in Asia this was hindered by the political ideology, for example, communism and capitalism and so on. But now China opens, and Vietnam opens, and maybe North Korea is the last country to open. But if we make an economic federation, I think that Japan is the first country to take the leadership. But because unfortunately it has, among Japan and other Asian countries, there is still a psychological suspicion against the Japanese leadership.

So before we make an economic federation, we still have to build up trust among Asian countries. That is the one thing that I want to comment.

**Slide Presentation:**  
**“A Warning from the Earth—the Future of Asia, Water and Food”**

**Mr. Tsuguo Hirose**  
**Executive Director / Secretary General**  
**The Asian Population and Development Association (Japan)**

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present APDA slides featuring “A Warning from the Earth—The Future of Asia, Water and Food”. The slides conclude our three-year series of production on “Population, Water and Food”.

The world population will reach six billion this October. A serious water and food crisis awaits Asian region, an area that accounts for sixty per cent of the world population.

There are today more than eight hundred million people in the world that suffer from hunger. We must face up to this sombre fact and urgently take action.

The shortage of water resources is also serious. In half a century, per capita water resource has decreased forty per cent. The water crisis presents itself as a major policy issue accompanying a dramatic increase in agricultural, industrial and household water requirements. We must work hard to improve water utilisation efficiency and prevent its pollution.

The slides have been presented to all participating delegations. We hope that you will use them to solicit greater understanding of the issue at stake by presenting it at relevant parliamentary committees, educational organisations and non-government organisations.

Thank you for your attention.

## **Closing Ceremony**

[16:00 – 17:00]

## **Closing Remarks**

**Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, MP**

**Chairman**

**Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE)**

Distinguished delegation and ladies and gentlemen.

I feel that we are just beginning to talk about some of the important issues with regard to population and development, but it's time to close the conference. On behalf of the Korean organizers, I would really like to thank everybody here for very wonderful presentations and for their very active participation in the discussion.

And once again, I would like to thank APDA for sponsoring the whole conference. It was a real pleasure for me and the Korean CPE to co-host this conference. There are many subjects we discussed in the last two days and I'm not going to go into details about what we have discussed, but I'm pretty sure many of the subjects we touched were very important.

What we need from now is we have to formulate more detailed follow-up action programmes. And also set up effective monitoring system to check whether we are implementing what we have promised to implement. And this 15th Asian Parliamentarian Meeting on Population and Development I hope will be a very important occasion to start that process.

We thought that it would be useful to have some statement left was a result of this 15th Conference. I wonder if you have a copy of the statement. I will read this statement for your information.

[**Statement**] We, the Parliamentarians of Asia concerned with population and development issues, met in Seoul. We discussed and reconfirmed The Hague Declaration adopted by Parliamentarians from all over the world in February 1999 in The Hague, Netherlands, and discussed further action for implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We, the participants of the 15th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, having the mandate of the people to make responsible judgements for the future, present the following statement.

1) We reaffirm to work for achieving the aims and goals of the ICPD Programme of Action. 2) We endorse and support fully the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review the Hague Declaration. 3) We reaffirm that without achieving an interrelationship between population, sustainable development and environment, we will not be able to solve population problems. 4) For achieving sustainable development, it is essential that long term perspectives in this direction have to be reflected in international conventions and agreements, inter-alia international trade agreements including WTO trade rules.

We, the Parliamentarians committed to population and development issues, urge that long-term perspectives of population issues have to be fully consistent with international agreements.

We, being the representatives of the people, urge the august gathering of the world at this UN Special Session to reflect our Hague Declaration in the Resolution of the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly containing proposals for key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at 30 June to 2 July. All participants of The 15th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

## INDIA

I, on behalf of the Indian Delegation, hereby request to second this Statement to be adopted.

## AUSTRALIA

Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the procedure but I feel that there is one or two issues that some of us could be uncomfortable with. In the past, we have always worked for consensus, and I think that it is important that we have a consensus here. I must say, I think it a great pity that many of us did not see this draft statement until very late today, and it would perhaps have been helpful if there had been a contribution towards the text, as is the usual procedure. Unfortunately, this statement goes much further than the Hague Declaration.

I refer specifically to Paragraph 4, where from memory—I do not have the exact text in front in me—but what was called for in the Hague was to examine all international conventions and agreements. Here, we are asking our work to reflect... Now, “reflect” is much further—“reflect” is an endorsement, whereas “examination” is to look at the procedure.

Personally, if I am to sign this document, I cannot sign it with the words including “WTO Trade Rules.” If we are here reflecting our government, and whether we happen to personally agree or disagree with the government—my government will not accept that—and I suspect quite a few other governments will not accept that either.

Having said that, I am relaxed and will accept all the details—Paragraph 1, Paragraph 2, Paragraph 3, all of Paragraph 4 up to “For achieving sustainable development, it is essential that long term perspectives in this direction have to be reflected in international conventions and agreements, inter alia international trade agreements” and stop after “agreements” and take out the words “including WTO trade rules.” The other two paragraphs, I am relaxed about those, but would ask, and this is why I think it is always important that we have had consensus in the past.

I would have to, though, insist that if the meeting endorsed this statement, I would ask that it be recorded that I, on behalf of Australia, dissented from the resolution, and Mr. Chairman, having been associated with various organizations for many years, I do not want to do that, but I stress that this much further than the Hague Declaration. In this declaration, we are saying that it has to “reflect,” whereas all we called for in the Hague Declaration was an examination of international rules, international conventions and agreements. We ask them to be examined. We didn’t ask, and we didn’t demand, that those international agreements and conventions reflect what we are doing. Now, I am prepared to leave that in there, “have to reflect,” but I could not agree with the final four words said including “WTO trade rules.” As I said before, if it stops at “agreements.”

## NEW ZEALAND

I wonder if the problem is that the meaning is not totally clear—now I’d like to say that it’s not totally clear to me, I do have problems with it as it reads—isn’t the intention of this clause to actually say that the needs of sustainable development need to be reflected in international conventions and agreements, because if that’s the meaning, it may be that the words are not clear. Is that the intention, that the goals of sustainable development need to be reflected in these conventions including the conventions and the rules of the WTO? Because as it reads, what it means is—it means the opposite, actually. Counsel, can you clarify, so that we know what we’re

talking about. Thank you.

**DR. SANG-MOK SUH (CHAIRPERSON)**

Are you proposing some changes here?

**NEW ZEALAND**

Let's see if what the intention is that the people can agree to is, that "sustainable development and the long-term perspective have to be reflected in conventions and agreements such as the WTO." Is it that we want those agreements and those rules to "reflect a long-term sustainable perspective." I think that's what we are meaning, and if it's said that, perhaps Collin wouldn't have the same problems.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am very sorry. The statement was prepared in a very short time, and I didn't have enough time to review it. But my feeling is that it has to be "reflected in international conventions and agreements." Because we have a next sentence that says, "that long-term perspectives on population issues have to be fully consistent with international agreements." So you need—because we have the next sentence—I think it's much better if Paragraph 4 read "it have to be reflected in international convention" which has entirely different meaning. Then there will be no problem from Australia.

**AUSTRALIA**

I'm sorry Mr. Chairman. There will be a problem from Australia. And this is the difficulty, as I have said before, where we usually have a drafting committee, and the problems that we're having here today, about language, and meaning, and emphasis, are ironed out in the drafting committee.

Now, it is not acceptable, if we are representing our countries and our governments here, to be put with a resolution in front of us, which we are expected to sign, which could have serious international repercussions and... Not all of us are from government parties—some of us are from minor parties in government, and we are asking to sign an agreement which is going to go to the United Nations, as reflective of our government.

Now, we can be reflective of individuals here, but I suggest, that it is a little difficult, and some of us could find ourselves in a spot of difficulties when we return our home. And this is brought out at the United Nations, that we have signed this.

Now, my problem is the WTO. I don't think that we as a group can interfere with another organization such as that. And as I've said before, I have compromised quite a lot... And I said that as long as there is a way to leave it as an agreement which was respected and the New Zealand delegate would cover the points that she has made about what is meant there. But what I cannot personally agree to is actually naming the WTO there. And I suspect that if few of the deputies had contacted their own embassies, they might find out that they might have slightly different views there as well.

**MR. SHIN SAKURAI**

Since this is not a meeting of AFPPD but a meeting of a foundation named APDA, the content of

its declaration should not require an adoption by forming a drafting committee. Since its objective lies in compiling the content of this meeting and reflecting its discussion effectively in international conventions and agreements, I think it would be best if we announce the declaration as it is by including the proposal just made by Hon. Mr. Colin Hollis of Australia.

I ask the Chairman to make arrangements along this line. I believe that the content is in conformity with the presentation made at Preparatory Committee of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session held in March in New York.

I trust that this declaration would be acceptable if could understand that its purpose was to appeal our efforts in this area to the international community.

#### **PAKISTAN**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a simple, reconcilable [suggestion]. What the honorable delegation from Australia means, we also carry the same feeling in our discussions, we talked about WTO, vis-à-vis food... The whole problem can be solved if we read like that “for achieving the sustainable development, it is essential that long term perspective and this direction have to reflect international conventions and agreements,” and instead of “inter-alia,” and “international trade agreements,” full stop. That covers everything without mentioning WTO, and that solves the problem. Even WTO is covered in international trade agreements. We cover everything, whatever we discussed we convey, and if we just change...

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

As delegation from Australia and Pakistan suggested, if we change the Paragraph 4, to “reflected in international conventions and agreements and international trade agreements.” Right?

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

I want to make an observation that I think that it weakens the statement very considerably, and doesn't really reflect as much of our discussion as continuing to include “WTO rules” does. I think that's stronger, and I think it reflects actually our discussion more accurately.

#### **VIETNAM**

I think we should include WTO trade rules in this declaration. Because WTO rules are one of the rules of world trade and we are facing three problems. The first is to reflect international convention and agreement. The second one, inter-alia international trade agreement. So including WTO trade rules as one of international trade agreements. There is no problem because my country is also trying to join the stream of WTO. We have advantage and disadvantage of our trade.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have different opinions, but to get the consensus of everyone, we make a minimum revision here and have it adopted, as I mentioned earlier. Original statement is no problem but we have persons, delegations who foresee some problems in the original statement, so slight modifications perhaps will weaken the statement, but we can get full consensus among the participants. So I propose we adopt this statement with that minimum qualification.

## **AUSTRALIA**

I'm happy with what the Pakistan delegation has said and I note what Chair Shin Sakurai said as well. The other point is that it does not necessarily weaken the statement—it makes it more realistic and achievable and perhaps we can use words that make us personally feel very good. But we want to achieve, and if we can use words that we can achieve—and that's what we're trying to—we're all working for the wanting to achieve it, and I think by leaving those four words out, we will achieve it. And I support very much what the Pakistan delegation said in the what Chair Shin Sakurai has also said.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

The revision is to eliminate the last four words, including WTO trade rules. And “inter-alia” becomes “and.”

## **FIJI**

Mr. Chairman. I suggest instead of “inter-alia,” we use “including”... “Including international trade agreements.”

## **CHAIRPERSON**

We make those changes and if there is no objection, can we have this one adopted? Thank you very much. I'm not going to make any further statement and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank particularly the Chairman of this conference, Dr. Taro Nakayama, the Chairman of AFPPD, Mr. Shin Sakurai, the Secretary General of AFPPD, Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Secretary General of IPPF, Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, and most of all, I would like to thank the secretary for organizing this wonderful conference, particularly Mr. Tsuguo Hirose, secretary general of APDA. I'd like to offer small present to them as a token of our appreciation on your behalf.

And for the other participants, I have small memento, we don't have time to give you individually so we'll pass it on to you. Thank you very much.

## **MR. TSUGUO HIROSE**

Dr. Suh, I sincerely appreciate your support and excellent preparation. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to this excellent meeting.

And I thank you all very much for your fruitful and stimulating discussion over the past two days. We will now hear a message of appreciation from Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of APDA.

**Address**  
**Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP**  
**Chairman**  
**The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)**  
**Chairman**  
**Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)**

Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman of the CPE, Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, Secretary General of IPPF, my very very good friend, Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, ladies and gentlemen. Due to earnest deliberation and cooperation, we've had a wonderful meeting at the 15th Asian Parliamentarian Meeting on Population and Development. I believe that AFPPD and APDA are two sides of a coin as we implement the parliamentarians activities of population and development in the Asian region. The history of AFPPD and the history of APDA coincide completely with one another.

On this memorable year, marking the 15th anniversary of our APDA, we took the opportunity to present the APDA Award. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the recipients and request their further cooperation in the future.

These activities of ours represent a movement based on love for humanity that do not lead to votes at the election or money, and I am convinced that your activities have been supported by was the noble sense of mission to contribute to people all over the world.

Let us become the driving force behind these activities and continue our work tirelessly with courage and solidarity. Thanks to the efforts of Hon. Chairman Shin Sakurai of AFPPD and his fellow Asian parliamentarians, the work of AFPPD has expanded to a global scale since 1994 and led to establishment of permanent parliamentarian forums on population and development in Africa and Middle East. Worldwide parliamentarian activities in connection with the population issue that originated from AFPPD are turning into a large current. I find this very exhilarating and gratifying.

We were able to renew our conviction at this meeting that the issue of reproductive health and rights is at the source of the population issue and that complete dissemination of reproductive health and rights is the path towards solving this issue.

At the same time, the challenge that will be confronting us in the future of how the humanity can survive under limited resources in the 21st Century was emphasized at the discussion on food security and the environment. Various problems we need to solve in terms of resources, food and water were presented in the slides we have just seen as a challenge confronting us all. We must continue our activities with our utmost effort amidst all this.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the parliamentarians that have participated in this meeting.

Although the Japanese parliamentarians that participated in this meeting could not attend the closing reception this evening because of the local election that is taking place in Japan. I would

like to ask for your forgiveness on their behalf from the standpoint of being a politician. I would like to conclude my speech by wishing you a pleasant journey home. Thank you very much.

Tsuguo Hirose

Thank you Chairman Dr. Nakayama. Now, we would like to hear from Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann, Secretary General of IPPF.

## **Address**

**Mrs. Ingar Brueggemann**  
**Director-General**  
**International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**

Your Excellency, the Honourable Jyun Kyu Park, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Your Excellency, the Honourable Mo-Im Kim, Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, Chairman, Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE), Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman, APDA, Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful that you invited the IPPF to your meeting and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to address you in the closing session. It is my intention to supplement the interesting information and discussion I was able to witness yesterday and today, by referring to the activities of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in response to the meeting in The Hague; IPPF is the world's largest non-governmental organisation in the field in implementing the program of action of the ICPD. We work with our 140 national associations as well as with our partners like UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS and many bilateral friends like governmental technical co-operation agencies, or JOICEFP and other types of NGOs

### **Our Response to “Cairo +5”**

5 years ago in Cairo, the international community recognised the centrality of population concerns to development efforts at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Programme of Action adopted at the ICPD highlights vital issues and objectives, and the actions required to achieve those objectives.

IPPF fully recognises that failure to meet the commitments made in Cairo will result in the denial of sexual and reproductive health and rights for many. Furthermore, IPPF argues that poverty alleviation, population growth in balance with resources permitting sustainable development, rights issues and global equality, are critical issues which must be resolved.

### **Failure to Meet ICPD commitments: Current Global Statistics on Sexual and Reproductive Health**

- Millions of women and men do not have access to safe and reliable family planning methods;
- Thousands of women continue to die in pregnancy and childbirth, and many others suffer pain, ill-health and permanent disability as a result of complications during pregnancy and following childbirth
- Up to 20 million unsafe abortions are performed on women of whom 70,000 die every year;
- Many young women and girls become undesirably pregnant and lose the chance of an education and employment. Pregnancy and childbirth are the major killers of young women aged 15 to 19 years;

- A significant proportion of young women contract a STD, and girls are infected with HIV/AIDS twenty times more than are boys;
- Seventy percent of the world's 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty are women. These women are at greatest risk during pregnancy. They are also the least likely to be able to protect themselves from violence and rape, STIs and HIV/AIDS, unsafe abortion and sexual exploitation.

Failure to meet the goals set at the ICPD will have far reaching consequences in terms of global stability, the health of our environment, and ensuring the well-being, rights and potential of all persons.

### **Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action**

IPPF is involved in many activities that address these challenges. IPPF also recognises the importance of the political will of governments, the role of parliamentarians, civil society, and increasing participation and a sense of ownership by local communities on these issues. The following may illustrate some of the areas for action by IPPF.

- **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS:**

The IPPF Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights increases the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights as fundamental human rights. The Charter promotes and protects sexual and reproductive rights as fundamental human rights. The Charter promotes and protects sexual and reproductive rights and argues that every individual has the right to self-determination with their sexual and reproductive lives.

- **SAFE MOTHERHOOD:**

Every woman is at risk during pregnancy and childbirth, although women in developing countries are at a much greater risk than are those in the developed world. IPPF is an active partner in the global 'Safe Motherhood Initiative', that aims to reduce maternal mortality rates by increasing access to high quality and affordable health care. In providing family planning, and other sexual and reproductive health services as well as information and education programmes, IPPF makes a significant contribution to the reduction of maternal mortality.

- **YOUTH:**

Sex, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health are important issues in the lives of young people. IPPF is committed to ensuring that young people can make informed choices and decisions about their lives and are able to act on these decisions. Working with young people is an increasingly priority area for IPPF, and a variety of programmes currently provide young people with sexual and reproductive health services, information, education, counselling and other life skills and life skills and training activities. In its new governance structure 20% of the members of the highest governing body will be under the age of 25.

- **SERVICE PROVISION:**

IPPF strives to make high quality family planning and sexual and reproductive health services available, accessible and affordable to everyone who needs them. IPPF believes in the right to choose whether or not to have children, when to have them, how many to have, and how

frequently to have them.

- **GENDER EQUITY:**

IPPF recognises that gender equity and empowerment of women is crucial to their survival and to a life free from disease, sexual coercion, violence and male domination. To this end, IPPF, in all its programmes concentrates on women's needs. Some IPPF programmes involve income-generation activities that aim to increase women's independence and status, and that can also alleviate their poverty.

- **MALE PARTICIPATION:**

Men also have sexual and reproductive health needs that have often been overlooked by traditional programmes. However, IPPF has become increasingly aware that the involvement of men is crucial for the well being of society and for the success of sexual and reproductive health programmes. IPPF advocates for men's active participation in all sexual and reproductive health matters, as well as providing services for their own needs.

- **MARGINALISED GROUPS:**

It is often in marginalised populations that have an increased need for sexual and reproductive health care, and an increased risk of ill-health and vulnerability to violence and exploitation. Minority groups include refugees, displaced populations, commercial sex workers and the poor, and are often denied the most basic sexual and reproductive health care. IPPF believes that these groups have the same rights as all others, and is implementing programmes to ensure that their needs are met. The present situation in Kosovo has given us an example of the special needs of refugees in this regard and jointly with UNFPA and other Organisations as to trying to help them – range of our limited means, local – family Association.

Dear Parliamentarians:

All the above needs your support, your impatience in moving governments towards better legislation, more resources, better service organisation and more frankness in a field where life and death are dangerously close to one another! Yet, if we want to we can safeguard life and help to make it worthwhile living.

## **Address**

**Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn**  
**Secretary General, AFPPD**  
**Chairman of Senate Committee on Public Health**

Hon. Chairman of CPE, Mr. Sang-Mok Suh; Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairman of JPFP; Ms. Ingar Brueggemann, IPPF Secretary General; Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director UNFPA; and fellow parliamentarians,

It gives me a great pleasure to be with you at the annual get-together of the APDA and AFPPD joint seminar on Population and Development. As you all know that AFPPD in co-operation with fellow parliamentarian groups, UNFPA and IPPF organised one of the most useful events of the year, i.e., International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review in The Hague. But what impressed me the most is the level of parliamentarians' participation which was indeed very high so as to the attendance. The Hague Forum called for the annual organisation of a global parliamentarian meeting on a small scale of AFPPD.

After The Hague Forum, Mr. Shin Sakurai presented a statement at the UN Forum. Last month, he also spoke at the preparatory committee for the special session of the UN General Assembly while I was going to speak at the gathering of the US policy makers at the Congress and Population Institute in Washington D.C. At the PrepCom, I am somewhat disappointed to realise that several members of the group of 77 especially from a country in our region, had changed their views toward ICPD accepted documents. And a few countries in our region also voiced their concerns over sex education and individual reproductive rights. These mean that we need to work more closely with our fellow parliamentarians in these countries so that the issue can be clarified at the national level. To be able to face new challenges, our national parliamentarians committees in these countries should be provided with full support.

We, in addition, should work more closely with NGOs especially with IPPF. We must not allow the gains from Cairo Declaration to be affected by the actions of those who wish to fulfil their personal agenda. We need to look after the interest of millions of those who need services.

The Asian Forum is now approaching its 18<sup>th</sup> year of service in the area of population issues through parliamentarians' movements. Therefore, the next General Assembly of AFPPD should be a historic event as it is the last AFPPD General Assembly in this century. We wish to organise the next General Assembly in September of this year in Niigata, Japan, Mr. Sakurai's hometown. The executive committee has already given the mandate to the Secretariat, and we will deliberate to make this upcoming General Assembly a new direction for the new millennium. We will try to strengthen or suggest reorganisation in any national committees whose work has become less active. We need to infuse new energy in some of our national committees. Others are doing a great job.

AFPPD must live up to the expectations of the other organisations, which rely on our leadership. AFPPD, if possible, should come up with a small fund by which we can support the national committees in other continents. This is what we have done in Canada and recently in Africa with the African Forum.

We look forward to having the co-operation of all of you in closing the century in a good and great spirit.

We, in Asia, have done a good work and will continue our best effort in the next century also. In closing-may I convey this message to you?

Do all the good you can; by all means you can,  
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,  
At all the time you can, to all people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

Thank you.

## Statement

**19 April 1999  
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

We, the Parliamentarians of Asia concerned with population and development issues, met in Seoul. We discussed and reconfirmed The Hague Declaration adopted by Parliamentarians from all over the world in February 1999 in The Hague, Netherlands, and discussed further action for implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

We, the participants of the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, having the mandate of the people to make responsible judgements for the future, present the following statement.

- 1) We reaffirm our commitment to work for achieving the aims and goals of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- 2) We endorse and fully support The Hague Declaration of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review.
- 3) We reaffirm that without achieving an interrelationship between population, sustainable development and environment, we will not be able to solve population problems.
- 4) For achieving sustainable development, it is essential that long term perspectives in this direction are reflected in international conventions and agreements, including international trade agreements.

We, the Parliamentarians committed to population and development issues, urge that international agreements be fully consistent with long-term perspectives on population issues.

We, being the representatives of the people, urge the august gathering of the world at this UN Special Session to reflect our Hague Declaration in the Resolution of the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly containing proposals for key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at 30 June to 2 July.

adopted by  
All Participants of  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

## List of Participants

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Mr. Pen Pannha, MP Vice Chairman, Committee of Economy Planning Investment Agriculture Rural Development and Environment  
Mr. Prom Virak Chief, Protocol and International Relation Office Secretariat, National Assembly

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Member, Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee  
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Dr. Sang-Mok Suh, MP	Chairman of Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE)
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## **EXPERT**

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