

Established in 1974, JPPF is the world's first supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development.

In an age when global solidarity is needed to address various challenges, JPPF is expected to play an increasingly important role as a parliamentary caucus with a long history and tradition of leading Japan's diplomacy in the international community.

In every issue of JPPF Newsletter, we will carry "JPPF Column" and "News" on activities and initiatives related to population and development issues.

News:

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[Editorial responsibility: JPPF secretariat]

News

African and Asian Parliamentarians' Hybrid Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments

On 17-18 August, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the secretariat of JPPF, organized the *African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments*. The meeting was hosted by the Uganda Parliamentarians Forum on Food Security, Population and Development (UPFFSP&D), with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and with the cooperation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

In 2019, the Nairobi Summit celebrated the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), or Cairo Conference. To complete the unfinished business of ICPD, the Nairobi Summit adopted the ICPD25 commitments, including achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as a part of universal health coverage (UHC), drawing on demographic diversity and eliminating gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices.

This meeting was held to review participating countries' implementation of the ICPD25 commitments as well as to provide concrete recommendations on the activities of respective governments towards next year's Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have less than a decade before their deadline of 2030.

The meeting hall in Kampala, Uganda, was connected with online participants from various countries. A cumulative total of some 100 persons¹ participated, including parliamentarians, officers of national committees on population and development, representatives from United Nations organizations and civil society organizations, and experts.

During the Opening Session, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA, delivered an address on behalf of the organizer and expressed appreciation to those who cooperated in the organization of the meeting. He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the world, exposed enormous challenges faced by African and Asian countries, and reminded us once again the importance of global partnership. As for climate change that is likely to leave a serious impact, he said that we need to respond to the swift pace of global change and that we are at a juncture where we need to start thinking seriously about a new world and society we want to have ushered in by these changes.



¹ Gathered in the conference hall in Kampala were representatives from Djibouti, Bahrain, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Pakistan, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In addition, representatives from the Asian countries of Japan, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia participated online, bringing the total number of countries to 20.

Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

Established 1 April, 1974

Chair: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa
(7th Chair)

Membership: 85
(As of 14 September 2021)

Secretariat: Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

TEL: +81-3-5405-8844

FAX: +81-3-5405-8845

E-mail: apda@apda.jp

Website: <http://www.apda.jp>

Back numbers are available from this link

<https://www.apda.jp/en/topics.html>

He emphasized, moreover, that if we can fulfill the ICPD commitment to “the universal access to reproductive health for all”, it would contribute to many positive outcomes in both Asia and Africa, including stabilizing population, providing the foundation for economic and social development, ensuring water and food security, and protecting our environment and resources.

He also touched on “Health as a Development Issue”, which will be a central theme at TICAD8, and on “human security”, which is a pillar of Japan’s foreign policy. In concluding his address, he expressed hope that the outcomes of the discussions at the meeting would shape the recommendations for TICAD8, stimulate further efforts in achieving the SDGs, and provide opportunities for thinking about how we attain a sustainable society in the Asia and Africa regions beyond 2030.

Addresses were then delivered by Ms. Beatrice Mutali, Deputy Regional Director of UNFPA ESARO, Hon. Marie Rose Nguini Effa, President of African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), Hon. Akol Anthony, Acting Chair of UPPFSP&D, and Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister for ICT and National Guidance of Uganda and the former President of FPA. A moment of silence was observed for the late Hon. Mathias Kasamba from Uganda, who passed away suddenly this year. Hon. Kasamba participated in APDA’s projects for many years and strove to address the issues of population and development in Uganda.

Emblematic of the efforts made in Uganda for gender equality, Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and Rt Hon. Rukia Nakadama Isanga, Deputy Prime Minister, both of whom are women, delivered the opening statement and the closing address, respectively, on behalf of the Ugandan parliament and government. They seized the opportunity to get the message out – at home and abroad – that the Ugandan parliament and government are deeply committed to fulfilling the ICPD25 commitments and addressing population issues.

The outcomes of the deliberations of the two-day meeting were compiled in the Declaration. It was reconfirmed that fulfilling the ICPD25 commitments is essential for achieving the SDGs and addressing global issues, including COVID-19. In implementing the ICPD25 commitments, it was pointed out that parliamentarians should fulfill their roles, particularly in enacting laws and policies and allocating budgets with a particular focus on women and young people. The parliamentarians expressed their resolve to make concrete recommendations on efforts made by respective governments.

Among the online participants were Hon. Noriko Horiuchi (State Minister of the Environment and State Minister of Cabinet Office of Japan), Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko (Vice-Chair of JPFP) and Hon. Karen Makishima (Vice-Chair of JPFP Gender Issues Committee).

On the following day on 19 August, the participants went on a study visit to Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), a Member Association of IPPF, and Nakawa Vocational Training



College, which is funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), both located in the capital Kampala. The visits were conducted under strict infection control guidelines.

At RHU, Mr. Jackson Chekweko, Executive Director, briefed the delegates on the organization’s activities for improving SRH during the COVID-19 pandemic. Young presenters then spoke about SRH services, dissemination of SRH information, and peer educator training. Adopting approaches that accommodate young people’s needs helped to increase young people’s knowledge about SRH options and HIV prevention. It has also reduced social stigma and discrimination related to HIV.

At Nakawa Vocational Training College, Mr. Takayuki Uchiyama, Chief Representative of JICA Uganda, briefed the participants on the assistance provided to the vocational college by JICA, starting in 1968, four years after Tokyo hosted its first Olympic Games. Even though the assistance had to be suspended for about 20 years due to a civil war, the partnership has lasted more than half a century. With assistance in infrastructure development and dispatch of Japanese experts, the institution has been well regarded as one of the best centers for skills training. The school's contribution in skills development extends beyond Uganda to surrounding countries. It was explained that vocational diploma courses providing junior-college-level education were established in 2018 to respond to the growing needs of the industry resulting from Uganda's economic development.

Then, a student made a presentation about her experience at the vocational college. She said, "Although I am worried if I can continue to pay my tuition, I hope to somehow complete my studies and put to practice what I learned here". In response, Hon. Frederick Outa, MP Kenya, promised to support payment of her tuition through his foundation, to which she thanked him in tears.

On the tour, a parliamentarian representing the capital Kampala was so impressed with the undertakings by parliamentarians to address population and development issues that he said he will join UPFFSP&D. Participants praised JICA for their achievements and expressed hope to conduct similar projects in their own countries to promote skills development, youth empowerment and economic development.

【Meting and study visit digest video】

<https://youtu.be/wGAdHCg1yQc>

【Media coverage】

Deputy Speaker Anita Among asks African, Asian MPs to promote gender equality:

<https://www.watchdoguganda.com/news/20210817/119457/deputy-speaker-anita-among-asks-african-asian-mps-to-promote-gender-equality.html>

Parliamentarians Determined to Reach ICPD 25 Goals:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/08/parliamentarians-determined-reach-icpd-25-goals/>

Consultative Meeting organized by the National Committee of Tajikistan

On 27 August, the National Committee on Population and Development of the Republic of Tajikistan, which is a member of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), held the first consultative meeting, aiming to revive and to discuss the strategy of the Committee. Along with the consultation, the Committee discussed one of the alarming topics in the society – breast cancer issues, so as to attract the attention of the government, parliament and civil society organizations to population- and health-related topics.



The event was attended by about 50 participants, representing the government and ministries, parliament (upper and lower houses), Embassies and international partners, civil society organizations and academia, as well as various political parties. The Embassy of Japan and JICA were also among the participants. The attendees expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for continuously supporting various programmes and projects to improve health and social sectors of Tajikistan.

The Chair of the Committee also extended his gratitude to AFPPD and its Chair Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi for working to address three extremely important agenda in the Asia-Pacific region: namely, youth, gender and ageing. He also referred to the fact that the global attention these days is focused on combating COVID-19, while the Committee hopes that the international community does not leave behind other important issues, which AFPPD and the National Committees have been tackling.



JPPF Secretariat
TEL: +81-3-5405-8844
FAX: +81-3-5405-8845
E-mail: apda@apda.jp



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