



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 "News" on activities and initiatives related to population and development issues.

## News:

○ *African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting Held in Ethiopia / African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development New Leadership Elected*

[Editorial responsibility: JPPF secretariat]

## News

### African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting Held in Ethiopia / African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development New Leadership Elected

On 21 June, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the secretariat of JPPF, organized the *African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments Part II* in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was hosted by the House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia, 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). A cumulative total of more than 110 persons participated, in-person or online, from 43 countries<sup>1</sup> (of which 34 were African countries).

During the Opening Session, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA and Honorary Chair of JPPF, made an address online, thanking all concerned for their cooperation and calling on participants to unite for a ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war and world peace and stability (Full text on p.3. <https://www.apda.jp/en/lib/09/a/movies.html> ).



Mr. Mabingué Ngom, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of UNFPA and Director of UNFPA Representation Office, congratulated on the organization of this meeting and hoped that all participants could learn from each other to address challenges that exist not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the preexisting conditions. Hon. Desalegn Wedaje, MP Ethiopia, spoke on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, welcomed the participants and congratulated APDA and AFPPD for celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment. He pointed out that the pandemic has affected women and girls more seriously, leading to deepening gender inequality in all spheres of life, which requires resources, leadership and political commitment to overcome it. Hon. Marie Rose Nguini Effa, President of African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), emphasized that no achievements would be accomplished without parliamentarians' efforts and advocated for their stronger role to advance the ICPD agenda and SDGs.

In Session 1: *Addressing ICPD25 commitments in Africa and Asia*, parliamentarians from Liberia and Tanzania, and a representative of the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) discussed the progress, challenges, and prospects of fulfilling the ICPD25 commitments in their respective countries. For further implementation, such factors as political leadership, clear policy initiatives, coordinated government agencies, and engagement of communities were identified.

In Session 2: *Global Food Security in Times of Crisis and in Attainment of the SDGs*, Mr. Katsuki Morihara, Chief Representative of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Ethiopia Office, presented their agricultural cooperation in the country and good practices that have increased agricultural production. He also referred to JICA's cooperation principles with emphasis on supporting partner countries' ownership, self-help and concrete actions on the ground.



Parliamentarians from Ghana and Uganda pointed out food security challenges that included world population growth, climate change, conflict, economic crisis, food price increase, agricultural plant species disappearance, and food losses and waste, and advocated for higher commitments to structural changes and more investment in rural development.

<sup>1</sup>Afghanistan, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Cambodia, CAR, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, India, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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

Established 1 April, 1974

Chair: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa (7th Chair)

Membership: 74 (As of 8 July 2022)

Secretariat: Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

TEL: +81-3-5405-8844

FAX: +81-3-5405-8845

E-mail: [apda@apda.jp](mailto:apda@apda.jp)

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

In the following discussion, Mr. Seiji Ikube, General Manager of Agricultural Policy Department, Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (JA-Zenchu), made a comment that in order to achieve SDG2, they work on training of farmers, promote resource-efficient production technologies and materials, and strengthen multifaceted functions of agriculture (natural disaster prevention, water resource recharge, biodiversity conservation, and transfers of traditional cultures) and so forth.

In Session 3, parliamentarians from the Philippines and Zambia, and UNFPA ESARO Regional Health System Advisor talked on the *Role of Legislators and Policymakers on Implementation of ICPD25 to Accelerate 2030 Agenda and UHC in line with TICAD8*, while in Session 4, UNFPA ESARO Programme Specialist and experts from SADC Parliamentarians Forum discussed *UN and Parliamentarians' role in ending child marriage*. Participants deliberated on the key issues raised in the four sessions and then unanimously adopted the recommendations in Session 5.

In the Closing Session, Mr. Antenane Korra Woldegebriel, Advisory Board Member for Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE), Member Association of IPPF, delivered a speech underlining the significance of inter-regional meetings like this one for south-south/ triangular cooperation and the important role of CSOs in a rapidly changing environment. In the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of FGAE has been crucial in filling in the gaps in health service delivery and strengthening the health system in cooperation with legislators and other stakeholders.

Hon. Kwaramba Goodlucky, MP Zimbabwe and Executive Member of FPA, thanked all collaborating partners - APDA, UNFPA, the Government of Japan, the Parliament of Ethiopia and IPPF - for organizing a very successful event. She stressed that COVID-19 recovery programmes should be intensified to lessen the feminization of the pandemic and increase the number of women in parliament. Lastly, Dr. Kiyoko Ikegami, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, assured APDA's support in working with parliamentarians and other stakeholders on all aspects related to population and development issues including food security, UHC and gender equality. In closing, she reiterated her thanks to the host, supporting organizations and participants for their invaluable contributions.

Among the online participants were: Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko (Vice-Chair of JFPF), parliamentarians and NCs from Afghanistan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, as well as Y-PEER affiliated youths.

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On the following day on 22 June, the participants had an opportunity to visit Kaizen Excellence Center and Horizon Addis Tyre S.C. (JICA project). The General Manager of the company briefed the delegates that in 2018 they started implementing Kaizen, which has helped the company improve quality and productivity. Dr. Katsuki Morihara, Chief Representative of JICA Ethiopia Office, explained that Kaizen is a Japanese word meaning a "change for the better" and that the goals of the Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI) are threefold, namely to accelerate industrialization, create employment, and develop innovative human resources. The participants then took a study tour to learn in person how the company is adopting Kaizen. Learning from this project, a number of members requested JICA to expand the Kaizen programme to other African countries.



Then the participants paid a courtesy call to the House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia. They were received by H.E. Tagesse Chafo, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia, who was unable to attend the meeting due to urgent parliamentary business, and were greeted by Ethiopian parliamentarians attending a parliament session. Finally, the delegates visited the Youth Employability Incubation Center that is run by the Government of Ethiopia and were briefed on its activities for youth capacity development.



Responding to African parliamentarians' request, APDA helped them hold FPA's General Assembly and Executive Committee Meeting on 23 June. Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, MP Ghana and Chair of Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD), was elected as new Chair of FPA, and Hon. Outa Fredrick, MP Kenya, as new Vice-Chair of FPA. Under the new leadership, new Executive Members committed to developing FPA's strategic plan and making gender-sensitive, cultural-sensitive amendment of its Constitution. They expressed their appreciation to Japan for extending their helping and working together for the development of faraway Africa.

## Address by the Organizer

**Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chair of APDA**

Thank you very much for participating today in the “African and Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments – Part II”. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the House of Peoples’ Representatives of Ethiopia, Africa Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, and UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) for the efforts you have made in organizing this conference.

The world today faces two major challenges. The first is the military invasion of Ukraine. It is unacceptable for human lives to be lost. Bombing cities is tantamount to destroying civilization. This invasion has also caused a global food crisis. In the face of this critical humanitarian situation, I propose that this conference should express a clear statement urging the earliest possible ceasefire.

The second challenge is that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense impact on people’s health, health care services as well as the society and economy over the last two and a half years. Recently we have also seen emerging threats such as monkeypox.

These two challenges are closely related to today’s meeting agenda. In the Part I meeting held in Uganda last year, there was a spate of reports indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the progress in implementing the ICPD25 commitments to stall or even regress, including an increase in gender-based violence. Measures are urgently needed to address these issues.

This Part II meeting aims to share experiences and lessons learned concerning the role of parliamentarians, United Nations findings, challenges of civil society, and other issues, thereby helping to translate them into legislation and policies of respective countries, so as to steadily meet the ICPD25 commitments.

In August TICAD8 will be held in Tunisia. I hope that discussions will take place towards preparing for TICAD8. In particular, promoting universal health coverage (UHC) will not only help prepare for future pandemics but also contribute to ensuring food security, enhancing environmental conservation, and achieving the SDGs.

I hope that after returning to each country, all of the participants will have dialogues, based on discussions held at this meeting, with the parliamentarians and the governments of their own countries as well as various actors that make up our society including businesses and civil society members, and work on population and development issues in collaboration with them.

It was parliamentarians from Japan who started parliamentary activities on population and development from the human rights perspective of creating a more peaceful and secure society where each individual can lead a fruitful life free of poverty and inequality. These initiatives have evolved into a global network, and we would like to continue to support these activities.

We all share this resolve. Let us all unite to call for a ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war, regain world peace, and recreate a world of solidarity as soon as possible.

Thank you.



JPPP Secretariat  
TEL: +81-3-5405-8844  
FAX: +81-3-5405-8845  
E-mail: [apda@apda.jp](mailto:apda@apda.jp)



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