

August 2023

Regional parliamentary workshop on low fertility and ageing

On 10 July, in partnership with UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO), the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the Secretariat of JPPFP, organized “ICPD30: Regional parliamentary workshop on emerging population trends in the Asia-Pacific region” in Bangkok, Thailand. Hon. Prof. Takemi Keizo, MP Japan (Chair of AFPPD and Executive Director of JPPFP), delivered an opening address, in which he emphasized that it is imperative to promote women’s empowerment and participation in order to address the changes brought about by an ageing population, and wished the workshop a successful outcome.



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Toward JPPFP’s 50th Anniversary #3

Leading parliamentarians’ conferences on population and development

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD or Cairo Conference) was the first international population conference that had the word “development” in its title, while the parliamentarians’ meetings on population issues held under Japanese leadership included “development” in its title back in 1978.

After the 1978 Tokyo Planning Meeting of International Conference of Parliamentarians Concerned with Population and Development (Photo) and subsequent planning meetings, the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development was held in August 1979 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, co-sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA, later renamed United Nations Population Fund), and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). By that time, more than 25 countries had formed parliamentary groups on population issues in response to calls made by JPPFP^[1]. Also, based on the Colombo Declaration adopted at this conference, it was decided to hold an Asian Parliamentarians Conference on Population and Development.

Hon. Sato Takashi, former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, referred to these events in his book [2]

"In 1974, former Prime Minister H.E. Kishi Nobusuke formed the first parliamentary group on population issues in the world, namely JPFP, with him as its Chair. Since then, we have been calling on countries to form similar parliamentary groups. As a result, the first Planning Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Development was held in Tokyo in March 1978."

"The Beijing Conference (1981 Asian Parliamentarians Conference on Population and Development) was of great significance to me because it led to the creation of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Asian Population and Development Association (APDA). This happened because a strong demand arose among the Asian parliamentarians attending the Beijing Conference to form an Asian parliamentarians' group on population and development".

"It was with the recognition and determination that population and development issues cannot be addressed without Asia; rather, it must be Asia that leads the world in dealing with population and development issues. Then, in forming the forum, we decided not to make it a social gathering, but to make it a policy action group. In order to do so, we would need a parent organization to support their activities. APDA was born out of a proposal to create such a body in Japan".

In 1982, Hon. Sato Takashi, the then JPFP Representative Director, became the first Chair of AFPPD and Vice Chair of APDA, and JPFP continued to spearhead parliamentarians' conferences on population and development (please see the Population Conferences Chronology below).

[1] 20th Anniversary Book, APDA, 2002.

The Nippon Foundation Library. http://nippon.zaidan.info/seikabutsu/2002/00356/contents/012.htm#012_01

[2] Sato Takashi, "[Thoughts on Population, Development and Food Issues](#)", pp.12-14 (Japanese)



© Population Conferences Chronology (1954 - 1994)

*Parliamentarians' conferences are in bold

1954 The 1st World Population Conference, Rome, Italy

1965 The 2nd World Population Conference, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

1974 The 3rd World Population Conference, Bucharest, Romania

1978 The Tokyo Planning Meeting of International Conference of Parliamentarians Concerned with Population and Development (The 1st Planning Meeting), Tokyo, Japan

1978 The 2nd Planning Meeting, Tunis, Tunisia

1979 The 3rd Planning Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

1979 The International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1981 Asian Parliamentarians Conference on Population and Development, Beijing, China

1984 International Conference on Population, Mexico City, Mexico

1984 The International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Mexico City, Mexico

1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo, Egypt

1994 International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt

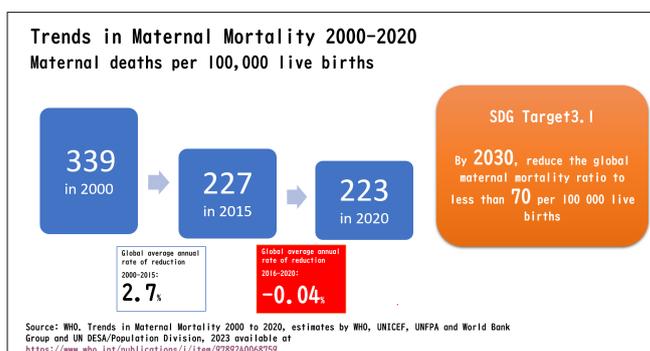
More support is needed for UNFPA and IPPF for the achievement of SDG3

In the [Global Health Strategy](#) released by the Japanese government last year, the issues of population and sexual and reproductive health/rights (SRHR) are addressed as cross-sectoral issues, and UNFPA and IPPF are positioned as main actors in this area. In 2022, UNFPA and IPPF prevented a total of 24.6 million unintended pregnancies (13.3 million and 11.3 million, respectively) and 53,440 maternal deaths (30,800 and 22,640, respectively) in 2022[3]. This is only 20.3% of the 121 million unintended pregnancies and 10.7% of the 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide[4].

In many countries, maternal mortality is worsening, despite the fact that most maternal deaths are preventable. At this rate, it will be difficult to achieve Target 3.1 of SDG3 Good health and well-being: “By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births”. Despite the urgency, efforts to address these challenges are significantly underfunded. Last month, the two organizations submitted a request to JPPF for the increase in Japan’s contributions in the population field for the next fiscal year.

[3] [UNFPA Annual Report 2022](#), [IPPF Annual Performance Report 2022](#), “[State of World Population Report 2022](#)”(UNFPA, March 2023), “[Trends in Maternal Mortality 2000 to 2020](#)”(WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UN DESA Population Division, February 2023)

[4] Ibid.



Prepared by IPPF and JOICFP

JPPF

APDA

Established in 1974, JPFP has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPFP, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

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

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