



JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

October 2025

Asian Parliamentarians' Conference on Education for Life, Safety, and Human Dignity

On 7 October, 2025, the “Asian Parliamentarians’ Conference on Education for Life, Safety, and Human Dignity” was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), co-hosted by Plan International Japan, and in cooperation with the Project Team on Life Safety Education (LSE) of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Approximately 60 participants, including parliamentarians, experts, government officials, and civil society representatives from over 10 countries and regions in Asia, joined the conference both in person and online. The event provided a valuable platform to share information on legal frameworks and education programs in LSE and similar initiatives in each country.

The opening session, chaired by Hon. Horiuchi Noriko, MP Japan and Acting Chair of the JPFP Project Team on LSE, featured welcoming remarks from Hon. Prof. Takemi Keizo, Chair of APDA, followed by a keynote speech from Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of JPFP. She explained why she proposed the term and concept of “Life Safety Education” as a more socially acceptable framework and emphasized the importance of strengthening legal systems, helping children understand their rights, and empowering them to protect themselves. Session 1: *Special Lecture—Japan’s Current Situation and Key Challenges* was chaired by Hon. Terata Shizuka, MP Japan and Director of JPFP. Dr. Song Mihyon, Chair and Doctor of Marunouchi no Mori Ladies Clinic, delivered a special lecture, followed by comments from Hon. Miyaji Takuma, MP Japan (State Minister for Foreign Affairs). Session 2: *Case Studies—Part I: Educational Approaches in East and Southeast Asia* introduced experiences from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and others. An expert from the IPPF East & Southeast Asia and Oceania Region provided an overview of the regional situation and presented five key recommendations for advancing comprehensive sexuality education. Session 3: *Case Reports – Part II: Legislative and Policy Practices* featured the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, and Indonesia. Representing Japan, Hon. Dr. Makishima Karen, MP Japan and Vice Chair of JPFP, discussed digital risks among young people and Japan’s policy response. Session 4: *Next Steps; Strategies for Institutional Design, Public Understanding and International Cooperation*, chaired by Hon. Makihara Hideki, former Minister of Justice, explored initiatives in New Zealand, Cambodia, Australia, and Japan. At the closing session, Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, Chair of the JPFP Project Team on LSE (Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science

and Technology), delivered closing remarks and expressed her hope that the outcomes of the conference would be carried forward into concrete next steps.

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Progress in Legal and Policy Development in the Arab Region: Algeria

Since 2017, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) has been continuously working to strengthen collaboration among Arab and Asian parliamentarians and promote legal and policy development related to population and development issues. Significant progress has been confirmed in key laws, policy formulation, and institutional reforms in this field, according to surveys conducted by the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) among parliamentarians in several Arab countries. These achievements have been realized based on recommendations adopted at the Arab-Asia parliamentarians' meetings organized by APDA and FAPPD, through the dedicated efforts of participating parliamentarians and FAPPD's close coordination. The support provided by the Government of Japan underpinning these activities has been highly appreciated and acknowledged by the Arab countries.

Key Recent Legal Reforms in Algeria

1. Amendment of the Family Code

The Family Code was amended, introducing pivotal reforms, including: adoption of the principle of self-initiated divorce, allowing women to request divorce without the

husband's consent; abolition of the "obedience" requirement in marital relations (Article 39); strengthening custody rights for mothers after divorce; and raising the minimum legal marriage age to 19 for both genders. However, some discriminatory provisions remain, such as mothers losing custody upon remarriage (Article 66), whereas this restriction does not apply to fathers.

2. Enhancement of Women's Political Rights

A constitutional amendment (Article 31-bis) explicitly strengthened women's political representation, increasing their opportunities to access elected positions.

3. Crime, Sexual Violence, and Harassment

Sexual harassment was criminalized under the Penal Code. Law No. 15-19 criminalized domestic violence but contains a "forgiveness loophole", allowing judicial proceedings to be halted if the victim forgives the perpetrator.

4. National Family Strategy and Family Support Institutions

The Algerian government adopted a National Family Strategy to ensure child and widow support in cases of nonpayment by the father or former husband. National institutions such as the National Council for the Family were also established to strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups.

Japan's Key Contributions to Population and Development in Algeria

1. Collaboration in Traditional Fisheries Management

In February 2024, JICA launched the second phase of a technical cooperation project for managing traditional fisheries in collaboration with Algeria's Ministry of Fisheries, aiming to enhance the sustainability of fishery resources through a participatory and sustainable approach.

2. Enhancement of Technical and Planning Capacities through JICA training programs

- Management of small-scale fisheries within the Blue Economy framework
- Climate-smart agricultural technologies to improve farming in semi-arid regions
- Renewable energy (particularly solar) and industrial productivity improvement through "Kaizen" methodologies.

3. Infrastructure Support for Transport and Seismic Resilience

Japan dispatched experts to Algeria's Seismic Engineering Center to establish safety standards for building design and infrastructure, providing ongoing technical support for natural disaster preparedness.

4. Educational Programs and Knowledge Exchange

Under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), joint programs were organized between Algeria and Tunisia in December 2022, providing Algerian youth with opportunities to study in Japan and receive practical guidance from Japanese companies, enhancing leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

5. Humanitarian Aid and Community Projects

Japan supported small-scale community projects in health and education, including equipping health centers for people with special needs, and provided humanitarian assistance to refugees and vulnerable populations in collaboration with UNHCR in 2023.

6. Strategic Cooperation in Energy and Mining

Recent discussions between Algerian officials and the Japanese ambassador highlighted growing interest in involving Japanese companies in renewable energy projects (high-efficiency, solar power, green hydrogen) and in exploring rare minerals

to support Algeria's technological economic transformation.



In cooperation with Hon. Khaled Bourenane, MP Algeria, and Dr. Mohammed Al-Smadi, Secretary General of FAPPD

Appointment of New Executive Director at UNFPA and Director-General at IPPF

On 29 August, Ms. Diene Keita (Left) was appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) also announced the appointment of Ms. Maria Antonieta Alcalde Castro (Right) as its new Director-General, effective March 2026.



JPPF

Established in 1974, JPPF has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPPF, 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 JPPF.

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Supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



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