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FORUM **N**EWSL**E**TT**E**R

Publication of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Advancing Political Commitment for Gender Equality and Equity

2nd Asian Pacific Women Parliamentarians' and Ministers' Conference in Canberra;

80 women parliamentarians and ministers from Asia and the Pacific gathered at the 2nd Asian Women Parliamentarians' and Ministers' Conference, held in Canberra on the 29-30th June 2004. The meeting was organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the Australian All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APPGPD), in cooperation with UNFPA and the Australian Parliament, the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA) and the Government of Japan.

The conference participants were welcomed by Ms Kelly Hoare, MP Australia and Chairwoman of the AFPPD Standing Committee on the Status of Women, and opened by the Honourable Kay Patterson, Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women in Australia. Mr Yoshio Yatsu, MP Japan, and Chair of the AFPPD and guest of honour Ms Imelda Henkin, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA also addressed participants at the opening.

Parliamentarians from over 26 Asian and Pacific Island countries, officials and representatives from a multitude of NGO's and UN agencies attended.

Senator Kay Patterson

Senator Kay Patterson opened by expressing the importance of this 10th anniversary of the ICPD for the population and development agenda and the progression



L - R: Ms. Kelly Hoare, MP - Senator Kay Patterson - Ms. Imelda Henkin, UNFPA - Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, AFPPD

of women's rights. Among the key areas for discussion were the elimination of violence against women, equality and equity and the empowerment of women, reproductive health and control of fertility, and population ageing and health.

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu

In his speech Mr Yatsu, MP (Japan) and Chairman, AFPPD



Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, MP

noted that "the greatest outcome of the ICPD Programme of Action was the successful adoption of a major paradigm shift – namely, that the population issue must be approached in a qualitative rather than a quantitative manner".

There is a situation of serious population growth in developing countries and there is a need for further implementation of the Programme of Action centring on reproductive health improvements. At the same time the empowerment of women is essential through concrete measures such as improving literacy and income creation opportunities.

Ms. Imelda Henkin

Ms Imelda Henkin, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA delivered a passionate message to the conference; she expressed that all participants at regional review meetings that have led up to this conference have shown unequivocal commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and each meeting has had positive outcomes. The consensus agreement reached at ICPD by 179 governments and reinforced at its 5 year review in 1999 represents a balanced and pragmatic approach to population and development issues, an approach to human rights, women's empowerment and sustainable development. All meetings to date have had positive outcomes and the overall goal now is to re-ignite the vision and spirit of the Cairo agenda and the political will to do more. She said that we will not be able to reduce poverty, hunger and disease, and especially HIV/AIDS unless greater

"We can feel proud to belong to the first generation that dared to imagine a world where all people enjoy their human rights and to take action to help make it happen"



Ms. Imelda Henkin, UNFPA

efforts are made for women's rights and to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services. We must also address the issue of unsafe abortion as a matter of public health and in line with the ICPD Programme of Action. Ms Henkin expressed the need to forge stronger partnerships across all sectors to facilitate this continued forward movement.

the epidemic that PNG is facing. Whilst infections are increasing at an alarming rate and women are often inaccurately blamed, commitment from the highest levels of politics and leadership must be combined with a systematic and community based response that takes ownership of the problem so that people can understand that the spread of this disease can be a matter of choice. Essentially the matter of the basic human right to informed choice still remains to be dealt with and until these underlying issues of gender equity and reproductive and sexual health rights are addressed PNG is in danger of losing the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Elimination of Violence Against Women

This session focused on gender-based violence and trafficking of women in Asia, with Ms. Urmila Singh, Assistant representative at UNFPA, Fiji raising the urgent need for the culture of silence and denial to be broken at every level of society. She expressed that there is much to be done to reduce the gender based violence from our societies and all local, national, regional and international organisations, including governments, NGOs, civil societies, academic and research organisations must be involved.

From a different perspective H.E. Dr. Sirikorn Maneerin, Deputy Minister for Public Health of Thailand was able to speak about successes to date as well as the need to improve Thailand's prevention efforts. "Some of the key strategies will be to maintain the strong national STD prevention and control program by using rapid diagnosis and treatment together with condom promotion. The second issue is to strengthen the prevention program against injecting drug users." "The third area that we try to promote is research, that will provide valuable information on the factors influencing the epidemic and its effective countermeasures."

Trafficking

On 'Trafficking of Women in Asia' Dr Sallie Yea, Senior Research fellow with the International Development Program of RIMT University, Australia, made a further call for governmental and non-governmental research, collaboration and cooperation. "Trafficking remains only vaguely understood with the vast majority of research relying on anecdotal evidence. It is therefore vital that for programmes to be effective and targeted, and for states to meet their obligations and responsibilities set out in the UN Trafficking Protocol, that more effective, in-depth research is conducted."



L. - R: Lady Carol Kidu - H.E. Dr. Sirikorn Maneerin - Prof. John C. Caldwell AO

Reproductive Health Rights and Gender Equality

Dr Raj Karim, Regional Director for IPPF for East and South East Asia explained that despite significant progress in the Asia-Pacific people continue to live in poverty and ill health, and women in particular face unnecessary and preventable deaths from pregnancy, delivery and abortion complications. Young people are at high risk of HIV/AIDS infection, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion and hence acceptable services that can drastically improve this situation are an urgent priority. To deal with the enormity of the challenge the IPPF are formulating a new strategic direction - the five A's for reproductive and sexual health, relating to adolescence, the prevention of unsafe abortions and HIV/AIDS – with advocacy and access to services as cross cutting issues – and gender and other rights mainstreaming.

Women's Participation and Leadership for Change

Dr. Chandrakala Pandey MP (India) discussed the challenges that women face in society. "Women often represent the poorest, most exploited and marginalized sector of society. Equalising societal inequity includes empowering women to take an active role at all levels." She also said that this empowerment must be threefold – it must be political, economic and social. MP for East Timor, Ms Maria Teresa Lay made a cry for help during her speech; poverty is rife in Timor Leste, 50% of the population in live on less than \$1 day and it is women that feel most of the burden. She stressed that enthusiasm from the international community has been strong but that the participation from Timor Leste is hindered by 4 major factors; poor education, poor health and immunisation services, lack of family planning and lack of exposure to good practice.



Ms. Maria Teresa Lay, MP East Timor

Women and HIV/AIDS

Among speakers on this topic the Minister for Social Welfare of PNG, Lady Carol Kidu expressed concerns about



Chairing the discussion on **Resource Mobilisation for the ICPD and Gender Issues** Ms. Talino-Santos, Philippines, and Deputy Director-General of the Policy and Multilateral Branch of AusAID, Ms O’Keeffe provided an overview of Australia’s contribution, reviewed the goals and objectives and discussed the aims of Australia’s aid program - \$290 million for education (13% of the overall budget) and \$242 million towards health assistance. The second speaker, Senior Economist at the Futures Group International, Dr. Gayle Martin addressed issues specifically related to HIV/



Dr. Gayle Martin

AIDS and aired some facts and figures and some important points; globally, between 4.2 million and 5.8 million people were infected with HIV in 2003. She said that “There is no one thing that could intervene and magically explain everything. Experience globally has shown that some of the key prevention interventions that are essential are, firstly, the deferred initiation of sexual activity; secondly, partner reduction; thirdly, condom use and STI management; and, lastly, harm reduction for intravenous drug users”.

Ms. Julie Munday, Chief Executive and the Asia-Pacific Regional Representative of Marie Stopes International, Australia, said “Our global partnership of NGOs operates in 43 countries, including 17 in the Asia-Pacific region.” She also said that with regards to funding and donation, **G o v e r n m e n t s**, consumers and the Private Sector each have a key role to play, and that in particular the latter could be exploited far more in some countries.

The discussion following aired some interesting points about antiretroviral drugs and their associated cost. There is a need for the Government to deal both with the initial issue of inconsistent drug use due to both high and

“The bottom line is that resource requirements can be met, but it is important that the community environments within which these interventions are taking place are also not stigmatised”

varying costs, by playing a role in negotiating with pharmaceutical companies and using their power to have an impact on what households have to spend their money on.

Populations, Ageing and Health

Key speakers included Mr Jerry Huguet, Chief of Population and Social Integration Section for UNESCAP, Ms. Yukiko Kawahashi, MP (Japan), Ms. Orzechowska-Fischer from ANU’s Demography and Sociology program and Mr Dehne Taylor, Manager of the Labour Market Unit, Australian Treasury. Ms. Kawahashi used Japan’s experience of an ageing society to express the key issue; “An ageing population puts the maintenance of the social security system, including pensions, medical care and senior care, at risk, because the growing imbalance between the currently supporting generation and the dependent population inverts the population pyramid. It is estimated that by the year 2050 every 2 taxpayers will have to support 1 retired person.”



Ms. Yukiko Kawahashi, MP Japan

Ms. Orzechowska-Fischer gave an interesting insight on the ageing populations and the impact on women in a cross-country comparison of Australia and Japan. She said that the major determinant and the driving force of the population ageing that both countries are experiencing is the decline in fertility. Different socio-economic characteristics that different age groups possess have a number of economic implications and the issues that are emerging from this structural change need to be addressed.



L - R: Mr. Ozaki (APDA) - Mr. Shiv Khare (AFPPD) - Ms. Dianne Proctor (outgoing Executive Director ARHA) - Ms. Kelly Hoare (MP Australia) - Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit (AFPPD) - Ms. Imelda Henkin (UNFPA)

(Above: Farewell for Ms. Dianne Proctor who retired after 10 years of service with the ARHA)

A concluding statement from Mr Taylor summed up; “providing greater choice for women through such things as education and training, and equality of access is not only good for women but good for an economy facing the challenges of an ageing population.”

The conference was concluded with the unanimous adoption of the declaration by the women parliamentarians on their commitment to population, development and reproductive health issues.



Bangkok Celebrates World Population Day with an International Flavour

World Population Day coincided with the first day of the International AIDS Conference at the Impact Arena in Bangkok on 11th July 2004. Several NGOs, Population and AIDS activists and many international personalities were present, including Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director UNFPA, Dr. Steven Sinding, Director General of IPPF, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. The Deputy Minister of Public Health, H.E. Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul was the chief guest. The event was organised by UNFPA, Bangkok.



L. - R: Dr. Nafis Sadik - Dr. Steven Sinding - Mr. Shiv Khare - Dr. Thoraya Obaid

Mr G. Giridhar, Director of UNFPA/CST and Representative for Thailand welcomed participants; International NGOs such as the IPPF, Population Action International, Family Planning Assistance, International Asia Pacific Alliance, UNFPA headquarters staff and UNFPA officials from around the world, as well as university professors and the media.



Mr. G. Giridhar

Dr Thoraya Obaid narrated the achievements of ICPD in the last 10 years and pointed out the challenges ahead. She specifically mentioned the financial and human resources needed to fulfil the commitments of ICPD.

Dr. Steven Sinding outlined the work of the IPPF, the oldest and largest NGO providing population and reproductive health services. He focused on the challenge from Conservative quarters that are bent upon negating the population and RH programme and want to put a stop to the wheel of progress; they wish to take away the people's right to make their own informed decisions.

Dr Nafis Sadik, former Executive Director of UNFPA, and currently the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on HIV and AIDS, highlighted the relationship of RH and HIV/AIDS. According to Dr. Sadik this is now one of the most pressing issues, which is affecting many countries and their economies. Ms. Barbara Lee, Congresswoman from USA expressed her disappointment at U.S. administration for its shortsighted policies on population and RH issues. Ms. Amy Cohen, President of PAI, expressed the commitment of American NGOs to continuously work with American congress for improved allocation of resources and policy change. Mr Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD was the moderator.

Population and RH Issues at AIDS Conference

The proactive UNFPA and IPPF and several other population NGOs successfully brought population, RH and contraception issues to centre stage at the AIDS conference.

A large number of activities and exhibitions were also organised. Priorities were **'Women and HIV/AIDS; its not as simple as ABC'** – a satellite session addressed by Dr. Thoraya Obaid of UNFPA and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer of UNIFEM on 12th July; the Youth Question Leaders session on 13th July and the Skills Building Workshop; Building Effective Peer Education Outreach Programmes for High Risk Behaviour Groups. On the 11th July, Dr. Thoraya Obaid spoke at the planning session on 'Addressing Inequalities; Making Prevention Work', while Dr Nafis Sadik chaired a session on 'Reproductive Health; Vital for an Effective Response' and Mark Van Landingham and Usa Khiewrord spoke on 'Older People and HIV/AIDS'. Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Noeleen Heyzer and Ms Kathleen Cravero of UNAIDS released a book on 'Women and AIDS' during a press conference on the 14th and on the 15th a special satellite session on 'HIV Prevention Promoting dual Protection in Family Planning Services' was also organised.

IPPF High Profile Efforts

The IPPF and Family Planning Associations also made a high profile contribution to highlight population, family planning, RH and HIV/AIDS issues at the AIDS Conference.

Dr. Steven Sinding spoke at a session on 'Access = Life: To Integrate or Not To Integrate' to discuss the role of integrating sexual and RH programs and HIV/AIDS. Several other sessions also had speakers representing the Family Planning Association and IPPF.

Population Services International (PSI), Family Health International (contraception in the era of HIV/AIDS), IOM and UNDP (HIV/AIDS and population mobility), Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, policy project – (Male Sexual Health in Asia – Pacific, A Way Forward) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) also organised a session to inform participants about the situation of AIDS vaccine development.

Leadership

The Asia Pacific Leadership Forum were involved in organising some of a number of sessions devoted to leadership. The conference focused specifically on political leadership and several elected representatives actively participated.



Global and Regional Roundtables Reignite the Vision and Spirit of ICPD

FPAs, Civil Society and Parliamentarians Pledge Renewed Strength and Vigour for Implementation

Hundreds of NGOs, The Family Planning Association, Parliamentarians and Population Activists gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London to review the progress of the population and RH programme, 10 years after the adoption of the Programme of Action at The International Population Conference at Cairo, known as ICPD.

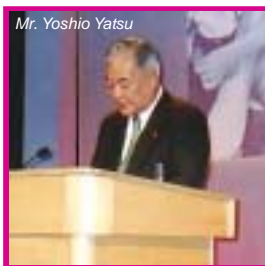


L. - R: Mr. Fred Sai - Ms. Rana Abu Gazaleh - Mr. Yoshio Yatsu - Ms. Sonia Correa - Ms. Lieve Fransen - Ms. Nina Puri

Since 1994 Population and Reproductive Health has made tremendous gains and several countries around the world have started seeing lower birth rates, enhanced status for women and improved reproductive rights for more and more people. Despite this the global birth rate remains high at 2.9% and many countries still need to continue in their struggle to fight for their rights and improve conditions for everyone.

The London Roundtable was organised by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) with Population Action International (PAI) and Family Care International (FCI). On 31st August the 3 day conference was opened by Mr Steven Sinding, Director General of IPPF, chairing the session on 'Hope and Health, Rights and Responsibilities: Achieving the ICPD Agenda'. Speakers included Ms. Lieve Fransen, Head of Human and Social Development in the European Commission, Ms. Nina Puri, President IPPF, Sonia Correa of DAWN, Rana Abu Gazaleh, Youth Activist for Palestine, Fred Sai from Ghana, Mona Zulficar from Egypt and Mr Yoshio Yatsu, MP Japan and Chairman of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

In his address Mr. Yatsu complimented the IPPF for their work and assured that he will continue to make efforts for the mobilization of resources from Japan. He talked about



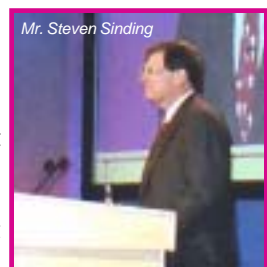
Mr. Yoshio Yatsu

the support that Japan has provided and gave a background of parliamentary movement for population issues.

The first plenary session (*photograph bottom left*), 'A Different World; the ways in which the world has changed since Cairo and the political, social and economic challenges of the future' was organised in a conversational style and moderated by a BBC commentator. Among the participants were Ruth Genner, MP Switzerland and President of the Inter European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, Jorge Nuno, MP Portugal, Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, Jeffrey Sachs, Quetelet Professor at Columbia University and Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA.

Parliamentarian Sessions

Parliamentarians from Regional Groups also actively participated in the Roundtable; Philippine Senator Rodolfo Biazon spoke on 'War and Peace: understanding and overcoming the opposition to sexual and RH rights'. Ghana Parliamentarian Al-Haji Abdullah Salifu, also President of the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development, spoke about 'Achieving the MDGs: do population and reproductive health matter?'. Ms. Billie Miller of the IAPG spoke in a special interactive session between parliamentarians and the NGOs and Ms. Ulla Sandbaek, Member of the European Parliament, was the Parliamentary Liaison for the session 'The Will to Win: Overcoming the challenges to the ICPD'.



Mr. Steven Sinding



L. - R: Margaret Casey-Carlson - Ruth Genner - Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi - Jorge Nuno - Dr. Thoraya Obaid - Gita Sen - Jenni Murray

AFPPD Parliamentarian Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP India, moderated the Asian NGO session participated by Mr. Rodolfo Biazon of the Philippines, Senator Dr. Chit Charoenprasert of Thailand and Dr. Surya Chandra Surapathy, MP from Indonesia. **Continued over page..**



South Asian Roundtable Formulates Strategies to Face Challenges Ahead



Parliamentarians Highlight Population and Reproductive Health Issues

FPAAs, NGOs and Parliamentarians from South Asia attended the ICPD at 10 Regional Roundtable meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal between the 4th and 6th August 2004.

The focus of the meeting was to review the performance of ICPD beyond the traditional health system approach. It began with a welcome from Ms. Nina Puri, President IPPF, key statements from Ms. Madhu Bala Nath, Regional Director for South Asia IPPF and Mr. Wasim Zaman, Director UNFPA/CST, SAWA, and an inaugural address by the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bharat Mohan Adikari.

On the subject of *'ICPD in the New Millennium'*, chaired by Tahira Asif, MP Pakistan, the meeting heard from Prof. Gita Sen, IIM Bangalore on the ICPD performance to date and the challenges that lay ahead. Mr. Richard Leete, UNDP Malaysia, discussed the centrality of ICPD goals in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD, chaired the session on the topic of *'Advocacy for ICPD Goals'* with Mr. Abu Sufian, President FPAB Bangladesh. The discussion was led by Jayabhen Thakkar, MP India on the issue of Mobilising Support for ICPD goals through both the Media and Parliamentarians, with a panel of both media representatives and parliamentarians to provide a variety of perspectives.

A further interesting topic that was discussed during the meeting was *'Violence as a Multisectoral Issue'*. This session was chaired by Ms. Meenakshi Datta Ghosh, Add. Secretary Government of India, NACO project, and was followed by Mr. L.M. Singh Karki, Secretary for Health and Family Welfare for Nepal, chairing *'Mobilizing Resources for Achieving ICPD Goals'*. The latter session involved an overview of population policies and their context in India ten years on from ICPD, and then a series of panel presentations on the subject of *'Investing in Current Reproductive Health and MDG Challenges'*.



L. - R: Ms. Nina Puri - Ms. Madhu Bala Nath and Mr. Wasim Zaman

Global Roundtable Continued..

Many Asian NGOs discussed methods for promoting close relationships between Parliamentarians and the NGOs. Similar interactions were also organised by other regional parliamentarian groups.

Other parliamentarians who spoke at the Roundtable were Ms. Sylvia N. Ssinabulya, MP Uganda, Ms. Khira Lagha, MP Tunisia, Senator Piedad Córdoba, MP Colombia, Senator Ms. Rose Marie Losier-Cool, MP Canada, Ms. Carina Hägg, MP Sweden, Ms. Sonia Fertuzinhos, MP Portugal, Ms. Irina Krohn, MP Finland, Mr. George Tseretelli, MP Republic of Georgia, Mr. Malahat Hasanova, MP Azerbaijan, Viscount Janric Craigavon, MP UK, Ms. Ulla Sandbaek, MP Denmark, Ms. Anne Van Lancker, MEP, Jeltsje Kemerink, MP The Netherlands and Jehki Harkonen, MP Finland.

The Roundtable provided a forum for many interesting topics with prominent speakers including Tom Merrick, World Bank Institute, Professor Dr. Gita Sen, Indian Institution of Management, Ms. Amy Coen, President, PAI, and Sally Ethelston, Vice President PAI. Ms. Poonam Muttreja of the MacArthur Foundation, India, Steve Kraus, UNFPA, Dr. Raj Karim and Dr. Madhu Bala Nath of IPPF, Terri Bartlett, PAI, Summie Ishi of JOICFP Japan, Susan Rich from the Wallace

Global Fund, Safiye Cagar, UNFPA and Jill Sheffield of FCI. The global Roundtable was also addressed by Mr. Timothy E. Wirth, President of the UN Foundation, Dr. Nafis Sadik, Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific, Erika Brockman, MP Bolivia, Mary Robinson, Director of the Ethical Globalisation Initiative. Some of the speakers for the final day included Dr. Zhao Baige, Vice Minister of China, Poul Nielson, European Commissioner, and Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for UK Development for International Development.

Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP Japan and President of the JPFP and APDA spoke at the dinner reception.

Reproductive Health Supply Meeting in UK Parliament

The Inter European Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IEFPPD) and the UN Foundation organised a specific meeting on reproductive health supplies. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Steven Sinding, Ms Thoraya Obaid, Mr Timothy E. Wirth of the UN Foundation, Mr. Lakshman Singh of the AFPPD, Mr. Tony Worthington, MP UK, and Ms. Billie Miller of the IAPG, as well as parliamentarians from Africa.



South East Asia Roundtable Provides New Direction

Parliamentarians Moving Ahead to Advocate Further Achievements on ICPD Goals

Marking the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in East and South East Asia Region, more than 200 representatives from the government, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the Parliamentarian and Family Planning Association attended the Regional Roundtable on ICPD at 10, which took place on 20th – 23rd July in Kuala Lumpur and was organised by the IPPF South East Asia office, the AFPPD and the APA. The chosen theme for this Roundtable was **“Countdown 2015 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights For All”**. The Roundtable was opened by The Honorary Lee Kah Choon, Parliamentary Secretary from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. Opening speeches were given by Datuk Dr. Raj Karim, the Regional Director of IPPF ESEAOR, Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, AFPPD Chair and MP Japan, Dr. Sea Baick Lee, Regional Chairperson of IPPF ESEAOR and APA, Ms. Valerie DeFillipo, Director of External Affairs, IPPF and Mr. Bill Musoke, Deputy Director UNFPA Asia Pacific Division. The first session ‘Setting the Scene for Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ was chaired by Ms. Valerie DeFillipo and addressed by Mechai Viravaidya, Chairman of the PDA Thailand on population, poverty and sustainable development.



The Roundtable acted as a benchmark for the achievements and progress made towards fulfilling the ICPD Programme of Action since the Cairo Conference in 1994. Key among the discussions was the role of Parliamentarians on Population and Reproductive Health with a session dedicated and led by the Parliamentarians themselves.

RH as Hallmark

Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker for the Parliament of Fiji noted RH as the hallmark of Pacific Parliamentarians support and the impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic as a development issue. He also expressed the need to solicit political support from national leaders and development of regional strategy in national policies through the AFPPD and the Pacific Parliamentarian network.

He was not in favour of the heavy reliance on international funding and encouraged countries to do what it can first and then look to the UNFPA and not the reverse. In similar vein, he said “it is important to attend the world conferences but it is far more significant to attend the regional conference first...” “The advocacy to achieve this end has to be one that is visible, constant, courageous and not withdrawn to trivialities.”



L - R: Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau - Ms. Steve Chadwick - Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit - Dr. Sang Guowei - Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta

Ms. Steve Chadwick

There has been a 13% increase in HIV/AIDS cases in comparison to previous years since the detection of the

first case in 1994 in New Zealand, said Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP New Zealand. She advocated the need for higher priority to be given to reproductive health as nations throughout the world awoken to the reality of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She stresses the importance to realize as a consequence of the global migration of the population, to not only look after our own country, Australia and the Pacific but to extend to Asia. She contends that the perceptions among politicians on Cairo and ICPD goals remain limited, which is deeply disturbing and it remains a great challenge to educate politicians about what they are doing as well as the evaluation of achievements against those goals. She noted that as parliamentarians, they are interested however have busy schedules and loose focus easily, hence needing prompting by NGOs and civil society to keep parliamentarians enthusiastic, committed and accountable on the various issues.

Dr. Sang Guowei

China is a developing country, with an excessive population, low level of per capital resources and enormous regional parities in social and economic development. It faces several challenges from the huge population size of 1.2 billion and the 13 million annual increase which places great pressure on socio-economic development as well as emerging problems of floating populations and the market economy. Since 1994, China has keenly responded and fulfilled its commitment to ICPD PoA explained Dr. Sang Guowei, Parliamentarian from China, however China still has a long way to go to fulfil the objectives set forth in ICPD PoA and continued efforts should be made.



The list of challenges China faces should not underscore the achievements made by China at ICPD at 10. The Standing Committee of National People's Congress passed the bill on Population and Family Planning, which introduced the concept of RH into the law while keeping low birth rates on a stable basis. The government's agenda is to integrate RH and family planning, universal access to compulsory education, empowerment of women, social security and public health.



L. - R: Mr. Giridhar - Mr. G. Haberkorn - Ms. J. Melgar - Ms. T. Bartlett - Ms. A. Iijima

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta

Policy-making is essentially about being able to engage actively, democratically and earnestly with the involvement of various sectors such as the academia, NGOs, civil society, grassroots and churches. Dr. JR Nereus Acosta argued that policymaking surrounding RH is inherently political and presupposes contestation, competition and conflict. He eloquently noted the 5 D's of conflict and contestation; definitions, discourses, dialogue, discussion and directions and concluded by asking the following question: "what do we work with now and how do we build upon the modest gains we've had?". In order for countries to defend against the Bush administration and the backlash of conservatism, it requires sound research and analysis that garner greater yield beyond UNFPA surveys of government. It must go beyond asking governments what they have done, rather it has to seek deeper into what is happening at the grassroots and the perceptions of people. It is only with widening and deepening can we see a change of ideologies and sensible policy-making. Inevitably, it is one that requires courageous and competent leadership with a long-term view beyond the political life in governments and various leaders.

A number of concurrent sessions ran over the 4 days, including 'Population, Poverty and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of the Region', 'Diversity of Cultures, Laws, Practices and Implications on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Issues' and 'Advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights'.

These sessions discussed related issues encompassed by these topics from a number of speakers including Mr. Bill Musoke, Deputy Director of the Asia Pacific Division, UNFPA New York and Ms. Summie Ishi, Executive Director of JOICFP, Japan. Among the moderators for these sessions were Ms. Terri Bartlett, Vice President of PAI, USA, Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP India and Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit M.D, Secretary General, AFPPD Thailand. A plenary session was devoted to 'The Way Forward: ICPD

PoA and the MDGs' by Richard Leete, Resident Coordinator for UNDP Malaysia and was chaired by Datuk Dr. Raj Karim. Parallel tracks also discussed important issues: 'Emerging Regional Issues in Population and Development' was addressed by Dr. G. Giridhar, Director UNFPA/CST Bangkok and Mr. Gerald Haberkorn of the South Pacific Commissioners Demography Program spoke on 'Population and Environment: The Pacific Challenge and the Implementation of the MDGs in the Pacific'. This session was chaired by Ms. Terri Bartlett, Vice President of PAI, USA. Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP New Zealand spoke on 'Partnership, Collaboration and Networking' and Mr. Philip Guest of the Population Council, Bangkok dealt with 'Population and Social Policy; Analyses of Population Policies, Demographic Behaviour, and the Interrelationships between population and Socio Economic Change'.

Dr. Kamarruzaman Ali, Chair of the Family Planning Association, Malaysia chaired a session on 'Safe Motherhood and New Born Health with Emphasis on access to Poor and the Marginalized' and Ms. Nicole Gray of the Hewlett Foundation, USA, chaired a session with Ms. Summie Ishi, Executive Director of JOICFP, who spoke on 'Advocacy for Resource Mobilization' and Dr. Gill Greer, Executive Director of New Zealand Family Planning Association, speaking on 'Partnership, Collaboration and Networking'. Ms. Rashidah Abdullah of ARROW, Malaysia, spoke on 'Regional Monitoring and Research on ICPD Implementation; Knowledge Management for Advocacy'.

Mr. Kevin Osborne of IPPF, London, talked about 'HIV/AIDS: Stigma and Discrimination' and Ms. Josephine Moyo of Partners in Population and Development spoke on the 'Challenges of ICPD PoA; Responsibilities of Partners in Development and the Issue of Governance'. Prof. Jay Satia of ICOMP discussed 'Capacity Building: Management, Organizational Effectiveness, Program, Development and Implementation, Policy Dialogue, Sustainability and Experience Sharing'



L. - R: Ms S. Ishi (JOICFP) - Dr. G. Greer (FPA) - Mr. J. Vijayan Vasavan (PPA) - Ms. N. Gray (Hewlett Foundation)

The Regional Roundtable reflected the hopes, convictions and renewed strength and commitment having evaluated the multitude of complexities and dynamics faced at varying degrees in fulfilling the ICPD PoA. The meeting also reflected the continued commitment of integrating population factors into developmental strategy towards fulfilling the goal of universal primary education, reduction of infant and child mortality, reduction of maternal mortality and access to Sexual and RH services.



Monitoring and Evaluation Training for Parliament Staff

2nd Regional Management Training

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) organised the 2nd Regional Management Training with a special focus on Management, Monitoring and Evaluation for the staff of the National Committee and Parliament in conjunction with UNFPA County Technical Service Team for East and South East Asia.

The training was a 5 day course held in Bangkok and was the second in the series of skills and capacity building sessions for National Committees (NC) of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.



National Committee Staff are responsible for advocacy with parliamentarians and the running of National Committees so in order to implement and improve advocacy with parliamentarians and other elected representatives at a national level, they must be equipped with certain skills.

The 2004 training focused on the monitoring and evaluation of advocacy based projects, proposal writing and management. The main objective of the course was: 'To enhance the skills and capacity of participants to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate advocacy projects using logical framework analysis and results based management (RBM) tools and techniques.' Mr. Peter Chen, UNFPA/CST Advisor on Adolescent Reproductive Health, was the chief facilitator of the training workshop. Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Secretary General, AFPPD and Mr. G. Giridhar, Director UNFPA/CST made the keynote opening address.

The first session on '*Advocacy with Parliamentarians in the context of ICPD plus 10*' began with an overview of ICDP+10 and ICPD PoA and the roles of the UNFPA, AFPPD and the National Committees by Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director AFPPD and Mr. G. Giridhar, Director UNFPA/CST. The day's training also included a review of Population Policies and Development Strategies from Mr. Ghazy Mujahid, PPDS Advisor, UNFPA/CST and Ms. Pia Laine, Programme Specialist, BCC/Advocacy UNFPA/CST. Participants also heard from Dr. Chaiyos Kuananusont, HIV/AIDS/STI Advisor, UNFPA/CST and Dr. Josephine Sauvarin, RH Advisor, UNFPA/CST.

Among subjects for discussion in session 2 – '*Positioning Advocacy Interventions in the larger Development Agenda of a Country*', presented by Mr. Peter Chen and Ms. Pia Laine, were 'Differentiating between Advocacy, Behaviour Change Communication Interventions and Information, Education and Communication' and 'Positioning Advocacy Interventions in the Larger Development Agenda in the country'.

'Planning, Implementation and Management of Advocacy Projects'

The training was structured to review the different aspects of project planning, implementation and management by considering selected National Committees' activities in these areas, then reviewing of some of the tools and techniques applied to the planning and management of projects. Mr. Alifereti D. Bulivou, Fiji National Parliamentary Committee, moderated the sessions while participants gave presentations of their experiences of the planning and management of advocacy projects in India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Mr. Ghazy Mujahid, PPDS Advisor, UNFPA/CST, conducted a session introducing the group to Problem Tree Analysis and the Results Chain Tool, and then used a case study on HIV/AIDS to develop these skills.



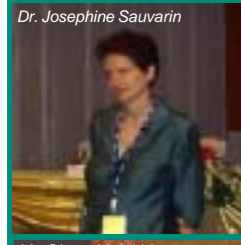
'An Introduction to Programme Monitoring and Evaluation'

'An Introduction to Programme Monitoring and Evaluation'

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary IAPPD, India, moderated presentations and discussions from National Committees of Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam on their country's experience of monitoring and evaluation. Mr. G Giridhar, Director of UNFPA/CST and Mr. Jayanti Tulashar, Advisor on RH/FP MIS & Logistics, UNFPA/CST then gave presentations and held discussions on an overview of basic monitoring and evaluation, the tools required, and the indicators to measure goals, outcomes and outputs.

The final day, covering the theme '*Accountability: Financial Management and Accountability and the ICT Network developed by UNDP for parliamentarians*' included a presentation and demonstration from guest speaker Mr. Shahid Akhtar, Programme coordinator for UNDP/APDIP, Malaysia.

The participants' evaluation provided some interesting and valuable information about all aspects of the training course. Some requested a follow up workshop and further training and many appreciated the opportunity to network and exchange knowledge. One participant commented that "The overall training was stimulating and acted as a catalyst to improve respective projects. It provided a framework to make critical ideas into a structural form that can enhance optimum effectiveness."





Environmental Problems are Related to Population Issues

Small Islands Need Special Protection

AFPPD Chair, Mr Yatsu addresses Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Conference on Environment and Development at Fiji

More than 75 members of parliament for Asia-Pacific countries assembled at the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Conference on Environment and Development, organised by the Parliament of Fiji and the APPCED.

Ms. Meyong Sookham, MP (Korea), Chair of APPCED and Chair of CPE Korea (a member of AFPPD) asked that parliamentarians be aware that their environment is becoming degraded to the extent that it will be difficult to repair if immediate steps are not taken. She narrated several examples to prove her point.

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, MP (Japan) and Chairman of AFPPD, in his address at the opening ceremony, mentioned relationships with the APPCED and Parliament of Fiji and the programme of AFPPD in environmental areas; "The agenda of this assembly is 'Vulnerable Small Islands: Addressing Barriers to Sustainable Development and the venue is very suitably, Fiji. Here we can witness first hand the reality that is confronting us. Those countries that are falling victims to global warming are the island countries in the Pacific Ocean. Some of these countries will have most of their land below the surface of the Pacific sea. If the sea level rose by just one meter, therefore making it apparent why global warming has become the most serious problem affecting the very existence of these countries. The second issue is that the gases that are causing the 'Greenhouse Effect', or global warming, are not produced by the Pacific countries; nor are these countries responsible for the problem. In this respect, these suffering countries are forced to pay the price on the industrialisation of the world simply because their environment is vulnerable."

"Most of the island countries in the Pacific are on coral reefs and their land area is far from spacious. As the report says, a huge amount of garbage is brought into these cramped islands because of tourism, imported food, and other factors, resulting in a serious environmental problem. Food problems are seen, and reported in the region; the disappearance of traditional eating habits due to Westernisation and the loss of self-reliance in food. There are at the same accompanying serious health hazards that are attributable to an unbalanced diet of fatty food."



Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, MP

On another front, a large number of poor women are giving birth to unwanted babies, often at the cost of their own lives. Those who suffer most are in the conflict-



L. - R: Ms. Meyong Sookham - Prime Minister HE Laisenia Qarase - Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau - Mr. Keneti Faulalo, UNEP

ridden areas such as Kosovo, Afghanistan, Sudan and Iraq where women and children are the most affected. They suffer directly from such environmental degradation as unsafe drinking water and crop failure.

Japan is holding the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi next year. On that occasion Japanese Parliamentarians are planning to hold an international meeting in the vicinity of the World Expo site in the month of June. In this meeting the parliamentarians of countries of the Asia Pacific region will discuss environmental issues and reusable energy resources. Invitations to the Speakers and Presidents of national parliaments will be sent out soon.

Advanced countries are suspending their aid on the grounds that "activities related to population problems are infringing on human rights." Other countries are questioning the scientific foundation for global warming because it goes against their own comfortable way of life.

The Hon. Prime Minister of Fiji, HE Laisenia Qarase, spoke of the need to preserve the environment of the island if they are to survive, however he also said that some of the low

level island is dependant on developed nations reducing global warming. Mr. Keneti Faulalo, Assistant Regional Coordinator for the Pacific for UNEP also addressed the opening session, which was chaired by Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, speaker of Fiji Parliament.

The Conference discussed issues such as 'Sustaining Land Ecosystems', 'Small Islands and Tourism; finding a balance' and 'Trade and Environment' in various groups and adopted a declaration which urged for the safe guard of the environment of small islands and coral reefs.

The UNFPA and the AFPPD are working with the Fijian Parliament to organise a Pacific Parliamentary Workshop on HIV/AIDS on the 11th, 12th and 13th October 2004.



Parliamentarians Workshop on National Advocacy and Communication in India

A one-day workshop on 'National Advocacy and Communication – Involvement of Elected Representatives for Advocacy on Population, Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Women's Empowerment' was organised by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOH&FW) and the UNFPA on 22nd July 2004 in New Delhi.

Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, inaugurated the workshop and Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha (Lower House) presided. Mr. R. Velu, Union Minister of State for Railways was the Guest of Honour and Mr. P.K. Hota, Secretary (MOH&FW) delivered the concluding remarks. Dr. S.S. Sisodia, Chairman of IAPPD and Dr. Vallabhkhair Kathiria, MP and Ex Union Minister, Dr. Urmilaben Patel, Former Union Minister, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Former Union Minister and Vice Chairman of AFPPD, Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP (BJP) and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD all addressed the Parliamentarians.



40 Parliamentarians including Mr. Rakesh Pandey, Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Punjab and 2 MLAs of Delhi and a number of academics, experts and dignitaries attended.

The presentations were based around 3 themes: 'Is Population Growth in India affecting Development activities', 'Women Empowerment and Gender Equity' and 'Family Welfare Programme in India Goals and Challenges'. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, MP (BJD), Dr. Chandrakala Pandey, MP (CPI(M)), Ms. Jayaben Thakkar, MP (BJP), Dr. R. Santhu (PMK), Ms. Krishana Tirath, MP (Cong.) and Dr. K. Dhanraju, MP (PMK) were among other prominent Parliamentarians who actively participated in the discussions.

Preparatory Meeting for Strasbourg Conference

A preparatory meeting for the 2004 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action to be held in Strasbourg, France from 18-19 October



Ms. Safiye Cagar & Ms. Harumi Kadoma

2004, was held between UNFPA and Regional/Global Parliamentary Groups on 16 August 2004 in New York City. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director, Information, Executive Board and Resource Mobilisation Division, (IERD). Representatives from UNFPA Geographical Division also attended.

The agenda included discussion on the outline and purpose of the IPCA/IPCD Strasbourg Conference and a review of programme for the conference. Ms. Harumi Kadoma of UNFPA and Mr Neil Datta, IFPPD Secretary gave an update of logistical arrangements and preparations of the conference, including information about the parliamentarians' participation, was presented by regional parliamentary groups including the European Forum, the Inter American Forum, the African Forum and the Asian Forum.

After the meeting regional parliamentary groups met with their respective geographical division representative to discuss final arrangements for the conference.

Parliament Clerks Met in Fiji

Parliamentary Clerks of Pacific Parliaments met in Fiji on 23rd – 24th August 2004 to brief them on population and development issues as well as the Programme of Action of ICPD, and the role that they can play in promoting Pacific parliamentary involvement in the Pacific Parliamentarians Assembly.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Senior Deputy Director General of South Pacific Commission (SPC), Ms. Urmila Singh, Assistant Representative UNFPA Fiji, Mr Shiv Khare, Executive Director AFPPD and Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Honourable speaker of Fiji addressed the meeting. **'Population and Development in the Pacific'** was the topic discussed by Mr. Geoff Hayes, UNFPA/CST adviser, and **'ICPD at 10'**

by Dr Annette Sachs Robertson, CST adviser. AFPPD Executive Director explained the **'Role of Parliamentarians and Clerks in Population Programme'**. Other topics discussed included the Population Advocacy Project of UNFPA, intervention strategies and a draft work plan, resource mobilisation for achieving goals and MDGs. The meeting of clerks agreed to work towards the creation of a parliamentary committee on population health and will also act as gatekeeper of population, development and MDG related issues.



Hon. Speaker of Fiji Ratu Epeli Nailatikau & Mr. Jimmie Rodgers (SPC)



Calendar of Events September to December 2004

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Updated AFPPD Events in 2004</i>
22 - 24 Sept	<i>Inter-country Parliamentarians Consultation on HIV/AIDS for Youth, Bangkok, Thailand</i>
11 - 13 Oct	<i>Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on HIV/AIDS, Suva, Fiji</i>
28 - 29 Oct	<i>APDA - AFPPD Parliamentarians Seminar, Kazakhstan</i>
Postponed	<i>South East Asian Meeting of Professional Parliamentarians on ICPD+10, Bangkok, Thailand</i>
13 - 14 Dec	<i>Asian Medical Parliamentarians Conference on Poverty, MDGs and Health, Kuala Lumpur</i>
Jan - Dec	<i>Advocacy Programme at the National Level, Asia Pacific & CIS Countries</i>
Ongoing	<i>Hewlett Foundation-Funded Person-to-Person Advocacy Programme, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia & the Philippines</i>
<i>AFPPD Participation in Other Events in 2004</i>	
7 - 10 Sept	<i>International Forum on ICPD and MDGs - organised by Partners in Development and the Government of China, Yichang City, China</i>
13 - 15 Sept	<i>High Level Policy Symposium - organised by Population 2050, Tokyo, Japan</i>
18 - 19 Oct	<i>International Parliamentarians Conference on ICPD - 2004 - follow up to Ottawa, Strasbourg, France</i>

Global Health Fund Stakeholders Meet

The Global Health Fund, based in Geneva and a major source of funds for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, organised a stakeholders meeting at the UN Centre, Bangkok on the 7th – 9th July. The meeting brought together HIV/AIDS prevention and care organisations, other NGOs and parliamentary groups to review the current situation of civil society involvement, impact of their work and what could be done to further promote their work. Asian and other regional parliamentary forums working on population and development issues were also invited. AFPPD representative, Mr. Shiv Khare, stressed the need to support the enhancement of political will for HIV/AIDS.

APA Making Progress

The Asia Pacific Alliance (APA) had their steering committee meeting in Bangkok on the 15th and 16th July and reviewed the work of APA and made important decisions for future work. The APA also organised a meeting with Face to Face International in Auckland, New Zealand on 13th and 14th August and discussed plans on some specific programmes and projects including resource mobilisation.

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