



*Engaging Parliamentarians*

**Asian Forum of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development (AFPPD)**

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# Impact Assessment Report for the Asia-Pacific Region

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development  
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The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) is a coordinating body of 25 National Committees of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and Parliamentary Committees, dealing with population and development issues in the Asia-Pacific region and Central Asia and working to generate support and perpetuate cooperation among Asian parliamentarians in the area of population and development, ICPD issues, and related fields.

Hewlett Foundation funded the initiative.

- **Sector-wise Approach:** To further enhance the reach of parliamentarians in a country, a sector-wise approach was adopted to engage parliamentarians who:
  - have medical background (doctors and nurses);
  - have academic background (teachers and professors);
  - have legal background (lawyers and advocates);
  - are women (women parliamentarians);
  - are below 35 years old (young parliamentarians).

### Information Dissemination Programme

AFPPD has published various publications to disseminate information on the works of AFPPD members and parliamentarians on population and development issues in the region and to foster the spirit of network among its members, colleagues, and partner organizations. Apart from the reports for particular AFPPD events, the following are major AFPPD publications:

- AFPPD e-News Service (every month)
- AFPPD Newsletter (every two months)
- AFPPD Russian Newsletter (every four months)
- AFPPD Activities Report (every year)
- Reports of all regional events

Copies can be obtained upon request at [afppd@afppd.org](mailto:afppd@afppd.org)

### Conclusion

- All the above can be verified from UNFPA Country offices.
- AFPPD has become a major provider of parliamentarians to several international organizations, including the World Bank and other UN agencies.
- AFPPD and our committees are now involved in reviewing and initiating legislation along with advocacy.
- **UNFPA and AFPPD:** AFPPD's extensive advocacy programmes in the last ten years, with its "AFPPD Newsletter" in English and Russian and the monthly e-news to around 2,000 emails, have created an environment that enlists parliamentarians as important agents of change. UNDP, the World Bank, OECD, UNAIDS, IFAD, and other UN agencies are now working to involve parliamentarians. AFPPD is associated with most of these initiatives, except for that of UNDP.

## Vietnam

### *Vietnam Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (VAPPD)*

- Population ordinance to relax abortion situation and one child policy
- More than 10 full-time staff members
- UNDP and SIDA, Sweden, provided US\$ 1,300,000 for parliamentary advocacy for HIV/AIDS and MDGs for three years in three provinces.
- SIDA Sweden funding has been extended to HIV/AIDS.
- Results of VAPPD-conducted research to assess the Population Ordinance demonstrates that the ordinance does not have much effect on population change in the past five years. The government has now scaled down population budget allocation.
- With support from UNFPA, VAPPD has conducted a project on monitoring "spontaneous migration policy" in three big cities. The report will be presented at the Parliament to make recommendation for a policy change.
- With UNFPA's support, VAPPD assessed the five-year implementation of the Elderly Ordinance. It will be presented to parliament at the end of 2005.
- VAPPD is currently raising the issue for Policy on domestic violence. The bill on elimination of domestic Violence will be introduced to Parliament for consideration in October 2005. Hopefully, the bill will be passed by the end of next year (2006). This is the first time VAPPD will present a bill directly to Parliament.
- Received UNDP Funding of US\$ 70,000 for advocating the implementation of MDGs.

## Central Asia

AFPPD also covers five countries in Central Asia. Three, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, are members of AFPPD with assistance from JTF Conducted Advocacy and Participation Programme. This is a new programme.

## Two Innovative Initiatives

- **Person-to-Person Advocacy:** The Person-to-Person Advocacy with parliamentarians was an effort to reach a maximum number of members of parliament and to discuss ICPD issues on a one-to-one basis by trained staff with the help of questionnaire and tape recorder. Parliamentarians from India, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and the Philippines were covered.



## ***Impact Assessment Report for the Asia-Pacific Region***

The impacts, outcomes or results of the efforts of the Asian Forum have involved a large number of parliamentarians, some of whom have reached high positions while others who have now left parliament are still active opinion leaders in the society at large. Hence, investing in parliamentarians and other elected representatives is worthwhile and effective in the long term.

The following are the verifiable outcomes, most of which are related to legislative changes. Details can be provided, if needed.

## Asia-Pacific Region

In the Asia-Pacific region

- Twenty-five parliaments agreed to allow parliamentary committees on population and development to be members of AFPPD.
- Eleven of these committees have full-time staff mostly funded through other agencies and donors.
- Currently, there are 90 full-time staff members working on parliamentary advocacy at national level, specifically in issues dealing with population and development, RH, and HIV/AIDS (mostly funded by non-AFPPD resources).

## Australia

### *Australian All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APPGPD)*

General Advocacy

- Population and RH: ODA has been increased.
- HIV/AIDS: ODA is enhanced.
- Input in Australian Statement on MDGs at Summit
- Input in Australian white paper on AusAID
- Developing state-level legislative groups on population and Development.
- Legislation on the availability of abortion pill enacted

## Bangladesh

### *Association of Parliamentarians' on Population and Development (APPD)*

- Speaker of the Parliament as the APPD Chair
- Two sub-groups on a) Gender b) Youth
- Contributed in the formulation of National Population Policy
- General Advocacy, particularly involving the civil society.
- Participation in global and regional meetings on Population and development
- Study tours to India, Thailand, the Philippines
- Support for constituency-level advocacy funded by UNFPA Country Office

## Cambodia

### *Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)*

- HIV/AIDS legislation which had been proposed by CAPPD was approved.
- Legislation of ERAW was approved in September by the lower house and now will go to upper house.
- Under Person-to-Person Advocacy, 1000 Commune Committee's Members and 183 MPs were interviewed to assess their level of knowledge

## China

### *Education, Science, Culture & Public Health Committee, National People's Congress (NPC)*

- All population and health issues in China have been decided by this committee.
- UNDP support for Parliamentary Advocacy on HIV/AIDS
- Re-evaluation of one child policy at village level
- National parliamentarians' visits to the provinces in China

## Fiji

### *Fiji National Parliamentarians Committee*

- Speaker of the Parliament as the Committee Chair
- Formation of Pacific Parliamentarians Association on Population and Development (*PPAPD acts as the AFPPD's Pacific arm.*)
- UNFPA supports for sub-regional activities (full-time staff and office in Fiji Parliament)

- Manila by PLCPD and other NGOs during election
- Person-to-Person political mapping of legislators
- Commissioned Asia survey on Population and RH: Survey showed majority support FP.
- PLCPD's first presidential debate on RH and family planning
- In the 2004 election, all PLCPD members were elected, despite opposition from the Church.
- Special parliamentary committee on MDGs
- Two bills on population and RH are under consideration.
- PLCPD has been supported by Packard Foundation, USAID-funded agencies, UNFPA, and other agencies.
- The establishment of the PLCPD databank system allowing users to search legislators' profiles, senate and house bills and resolutions, including speeches, demographic, socio-economic and health data of selected regions, provinces and municipalities, and PLCPD publications and references housed in the Library.
- There are currently around 30 full-time staff in PLCPD office.

## Sri Lanka

### *Sri Lankan Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development*

- A participant at the IPCI in Ottawa is now the Health Minister.
- UNFPA supports for National Committee for advocacy with state legislators.
- HIV/AIDS legislation has been approved.

## Thailand

### *Senate Standing Committee on Public Health*

- Legislation on Elimination of Violence Against Women: AFPPD funded advocacy and the draft. The bill is still under consideration with the government.
- PPF America funded AFPPD committee to draft RH law, which is under preparation.
- Prevention of discrimination and stigma on HIV/AIDS legislation was proposed by AFPPD committee.
- AFPPD alumnus - Senator Jon Ungpakorn - was awarded the 2005 Magsaysay Award for his work on HIV/AIDS.
- The current parliament is appointed

- AFPPD Malaysia was formed after the Cairo conference and has been provided with office space and funds by parliament.
- Person-to-Person Advocacy Project: 148 parliamentarians were met and discussed population and development issues.
  - The majority do not favor increase in population.
- The current Prime Minister is an alumnus of AFPPD.

### Mongolia

#### *Parliament Committee on Population*

- The Committee has been supported by UNFPA.
- Several events organized were able to enhance the level of awareness

### New Zealand

#### *New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group (NZPPD)*

- A group of parliamentarians for population and development was formed after the Hague conference with the logistical support from NZFPA (New Zealand Family Planning Association).
- New Zealand government gave additional one million dollars to UNFPA in 2005.
- Close cooperation with NZAID
- Special interest in the Pacific, as the current Chair of Asia Pacific Alliance (APA)
- Played an important role for RH at the Millennium Summit, in New York.
- NZPPD Chair is also Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women.

### The Philippines

#### *Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)*

- Strong opposition by the Catholic Church
- Secretariat in the Senate
- Thirty-five full-time staff members
- Special HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination prevention bill was sponsored and approved.
- Elimination of Violence Against Women bill was sponsored and approved.
- First ever public demonstration in favor of population & RH in

- Pacific parliamentarians' clerks involvement initiated

### India

#### *Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)*

- With local support, a five-story IAPPD Center was constructed and is known as the parliamentarians' center on population and development.
- Three state Assemblies approved two-child policy for panchayat (local self-government) candidates.
- Reservation for women as chair in panchayats
- Population Commission was constituted.
- IAPPD played a role in New Population Policy.
- Prime Minister released the IAPPD publication at a function at the PM house.
- UNFPA provides supports for state and village-level advocacy for village level elected representatives.
- Under the Person to Person Advocacy, 250 parliamentarians were interviewed. The report was released by the Prime Minister.

### Indonesia

#### *Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD)*

- IFPPD was established after seven years of advocacy with the parliament to allow three commissions to form it.
- Person-to-Person Advocacy Project (PPAP):
  - From 1999 to 2004-Interviewed 260 out of 500 MPs and enrolled them as members of IFPPD.
  - From August 2004 to October 2005-Interviewed 527 out of 629 MPs, including lower house representatives.
- Amendment of Law No. 23/1992 on health approved by parliament, but not signed by previous president (funded by BKBN)
- Amendment of Law No. 10/1992 on Population approved by parliament, but not signed by previous president (funded by UNFPA-AFPPD)
- Domestic Violence Law approved and signed by previous president (2003-2004)
- Legal review on laws and regulation on HIV/AIDS prevention and care resulted in recommendation to amend four laws. (funded by FHI)

- Awareness campaign for National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care for provincial parliamentarians (funded by UNICEF)
- Advocacy for National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care for children and youth among provincial parliamentarians (funded by UNICEF)
- Advocacy for Life Skill Education to be used as an approach for delivering messages on HIV/AIDS from high-school students to members of the parliament (funded by UNICEF)
- Advocacy on Macroeconomics and Health (focusing on health budget) in three districts in South Sulawesi (funded by WHO)
- Preparation of tobacco control draft bill which has been submitted to be on national legislation plan in 2006. (funded by WHO)
- Advocacy for the Amendment of Law Number 10/1992 on Population and Amendment of Law Number 23/1992 on Health among current parliamentarians resulted in parliamentarians agreeing to revise the law and that it should be in line with the ICPD and MDGs.
- Advocacy of Law Number 23/2004 on Domestic Violence to national and state parliamentarians resulted in their commitment to see the law implemented.
- Fifteen people work full-time.

### Iran

#### *Iranian Parliamentarians Population & Development Committee*

- The Committee was established after seven years of advocacy with parliament through participating parliamentarians.
- AFPPD/IMPO alumni introduced liberalization of abortion bill which was passed, but later rejected by the Supreme Council.
- AFPPD/IMPO alumni spoke at the WHO Assembly on the need of liberalization of abortion in 2005 and 2006.
- The office area is provided in the Iranian Parliament

### Japan

#### *Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)*

- Works as AFPPD Tokyo office.
- Active since 1975 when it was formed as a result of the Beijing parliamentarians' conference.

- Intensive advocacy efforts with parliamentarians and the public for Japan ODA
- Japan was the biggest ODA donor to UNFPA until 2001.
- Establishment of the Japan Trust Fund of one million dollars each year for parliamentarians' global activities with UNFPA.
- Another Japan Trust Fund has been set up for IPPF with one million dollars annually.
- Most JPFP member parliamentarians won recent election.
- UNFPA supports for APDA
- Many former prime ministers, ministers, and high-profile parliamentarians are members of JPFP.
- Current Prime Minister attended AFPPD Conference in Copenhagen in 1995

### Korea

#### *The Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE)*

- Low population rates and population size create negative impact.
- Dedicated CPE parliamentarians
- First-time ODA on Population to IPPF and continued in 2006
- Two former Prime Ministers were Chair of CPE and AFPPD alumnus.
- Initiated a yearly international conference of parliamentarians on environment.

### Laos

#### *Laotian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD)*

- Ten years of advocacy finally resulted in LAPPD's formation.
- Parliamentarians who attended AFPPD meetings persuaded the government to allow the Social Affairs Committee to become AFPPD national committee, known as LAPPD.
- UNFPA loaned a staff to LAPPD.
- Person-to-Person Advocacy Project: 78 out of 108 parliamentarians were personally met and issues were discussed.

### Malaysia *AFPPD-Malaysia*

- Official policy to increase population
- No official parliamentary committee on population