



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
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(AFPPD)

December 2007

Parliamentarian Participation

To keep parliamentarians engaged with the national committee and AFPPD, a system of sponsoring parliamentarians to attend regional and global development-related events of UN agencies and others has proven useful (no cost to AFPPD). AFPPD has also organized parliamentarian events at international and regional conferences, with themes related to ICPD.

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 6,000 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.
- UNFPA-HIV/AIDS unit provided support for HIV/AIDS related initiatives in 2006 and 2007.



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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 Asia-Pacific and Central Asia regions, and working to generate support and perpetuate cooperation among parliamentarians in the areas of population and development, ICPD, and related fields.

with the assistance from JTF-conducted Advocacy and Participation Programme. This is a new programme. AFPPD issues Russian newsletters quarterly and e-news monthly.

Two Innovative Initiatives

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

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

Copies can be obtained upon request at afppd@afppd.org.

Staff Training

Parliament staff and staff of parliamentary committees play important roles in reaching and guiding parliamentarians at national level. Therefore, AFPPD provides training to them each year and welcomes them to accompany parliamentarians at AFPPD events. Donor country parliamentarians do not travel without staff support.

- HIV/AIDS legislation has been approved.
- UNFPA country office supported national level programmes.

Thailand

Senate Standing Committee on Public Health

- AFPPD funded advocacy and the draft of legislation on EAW. The bill was passed recently.
- 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 and approved.
- AFPPD alumnus, Senator Jon Ungpakorn, was awarded with the 2005 Magsaysay Award for his work on HIV/AIDS.

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 in total 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 demonstrate that the ordinance does not have much effect on population change in the past five years. The government has 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.
- The bill on elimination of domestic violence has been approved.
- 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



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

The following are the outcomes, most of which are related to legislative changes and can be verified from UNFPA country offices. Details can be provided, if needed.

Asia-Pacific Region

In Asia-Pacific region

- Twenty-one parliaments agreed to allow parliamentary committees on population and development to be members of AFPPD and to provide extra offices (*4 are outside the parliament*).
- Thirteen of these committees have full-time staff mostly funded through UNFPA, other agencies and donors.
- Currently, there are around 70 full-time staff members working on parliamentary advocacy at national level, specifically on issues dealing with population and development, Reproductive Health (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 despite opposition from the health minister.
- AFPPD alumnus, Mr. Brendan Nelson, leader of opposition.

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 a 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 and Philippines.
- Support for constituency-level advocacy funded by UNFPA country office.

(Parliament dissolved in 2006)

Cambodia

Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)

- HIV/AIDS legislation which had been proposed by CAPPD was approved.
- Legislation of Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) was approved in September by the lower house and now will go to the upper house.
- Under Person-to-Person Advocacy, 1000 commune committee Members and 183 parliamentarians 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 supports for parliamentary advocacy on HIV/AIDS.
- Re-evaluation of one child policy at village level.
- National parliamentarians visited the provinces in China.

- Special interest in the Pacific:
- Ms. Gill Greer of NZPPD became Director General of IPPF.
- Played an important role for RH at the Millennium Summit in New York.
- NZPPD Chair is also Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women and Minister of Women Affairs.

The Philippines

Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

- Strong opposition by the Catholic church.
- Secretariat in the senate.
- Special HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination prevention bill was sponsored and approved.
- EVAW bill was sponsored and approved.
- First ever public demonstration in favor of population and RH in Manila by PLCPD and other NGOs during election.
- Person-to-Person political mapping of legislators.
- Commissioned survey on Population and RH: survey showed majority support family planning.
- 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 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 IPCI in Ottawa is now the Health Minister.
- UNFPA supports for national committee for advocacy with state legislators.

- Parliamentarians who attended AFPPD meetings persuaded the government to allow the Social Affairs Committee to become AFPPD's 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 ICPD issues were discussed.
- UNFPA supported national programmes.

Malaysia *AFPPD-Malaysia*

- Official policy to increase population .
- No official parliamentary committee on population.
- 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.
- Malaysian parliamentarians' global participation were funded by the parliament.

Mongolia *Parliament Committee on Population*

- The Committee has been supported by UNFPA.
- Several events organized were able to enhance the level of awareness.
- Ms. Sanjaasurengin Oyun, an AFPPD alumna, is now Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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 onwards.
- Close cooperation with NZAID.

Fiji *Fiji National Parliamentarians Committee*

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

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 panchyats.
- Population commission was constituted.
- IAPPD played a role in the new population policy.
- President of India released IAPPD's report on sex selection at the President 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.
- Negative—4 state assemblies rejected sex education in present format

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 parliamentarians and enrolled them as members of IFPPD.
 - From August 2004 to October 2005—interviewed 527 out of 629 parliamentarians, including lower house

- Amendment of Law No. 23/1992 on health approved by the parliament, but not signed by the previous president.
(funded by BKBN)
- Amendment of Law No. 10/1992 on population approved by the parliament, but not signed by previous the president.
(funded by UNFPA-AFPPD)
- Domestic violence law approved and signed by the previous president (2003-2004).
- Legal review on laws and regulations on HIV/AIDS prevention and care resulted in the 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 parliamentarians.
(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 in the national legislation plan in 2006.
(funded by WHO)
- Advocacy for the amendment of Law No. 10/1992 on population and amendment of Law No. 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 No. 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 the 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 the 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 (JPPF)

- 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 for 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 JPPF member parliamentarians won the recent election.
- UNFPA supports APDA.
- Many former prime ministers, ministers, and high-profile parliamentarians are members of JPPF.
- Current Prime Minister is the Chair of AFPPD.

Korea

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

- Low population rates and population size create negative impact.
- Dedicated CPE parliamentarians on RH issues
- First-time ODA on population issues to IPPF and continued in 2007.
- Two former Prime Ministers were Chairs of CPE and AFPPD alumni.
- 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.