

2003/4 UPDATE OF AFPPD ACTION



ENHANCING
POLITICAL COMMITMENT
FOR THE
PREVENTION, CARE
AND
TREATMENT
OF
HIV/AIDS



ENHANCING POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR HIV/AIDS AFPPD ACTION (2003/4 UPDATE)

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In 2003/4, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) was involved in the following HIV/AIDS- related programmes...

I. STUDY VISITS

In 2003, AFPPD, in cooperation with APDA (Japan) and the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), sent another group of Japanese parliamentarians to Southern Africa, which included Zambia, South Africa and Tanzania. Financial assistance was provided by UNFPA and the Japan Trust Fund for Parliamentarians.

The aim of the study visit was to give these parliamentarians an opportunity to witness development situations, including HIV/AIDS programmes, and how Japanese-funded ODA programmes are making a difference.

AFPPD sponsored Sen. Jon Ungphakorn of Thailand and Rep. Crisele Lagman-Luistro of the Philippines for a World Bank study visit on HIV/AIDS to Ethiopia for 10 days.

AFPPD will also be sending two members of parliament to Yemen in 2-6 April 2004.

II. SPECIFIC HIV/AIDS EVENTS

Tambon Leaders in Thailand

Now in the second year of the project, AFPPD continued to fund the Senate Committee on Public Health in 2003 to inform, educate and involve village level elected representatives (Tambon leaders) in Thailand.

International Parliamentarians Conference on HIV/AIDS in South Asia - New Delhi

This two-day conference was held on 1-2 August 2003 in New Delhi, India. More than fifty leaders from fifteen countries participated in this major initiative to facilitate an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through multi-sectoral partnerships, strong leadership and political commitment.

The conference was inaugurated by Shri Manohar Joshi, Speaker, Lower House of Parliament in India, who noted the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a global emergency with developing countries being hit the hardest. He also said that parliamentarians should fight against the stigma, discrimination and exclusion that is often associated with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu MP, Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized that political will is the crucial ingredient for fighting against stigma and discrimination.

Prominent dignitaries and speakers at the conference included Ms. Sonam Yanghehan Rana, UNDP; Ms. Emelia Timpo, Regional Representative, UNAIDS; Mr. Peter Heywood, World Bank; and Ms. Meenakshi Datta Ghosh, Project Director, National AIDS Control Organisation, among others.

The conference was organised by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD), AFPPD, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UNFPA and UNAIDS/ICT – South Asia, and attracted wide media coverage including CNN.

Political Support for Youth HIV/AIDS Programmes

UNFPA, with funds from UNAIDS, is supporting a 15-month project in Asia for three countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. This, in order to:

- ❖ Effectively mobilise regional political and public support, including top-level leaders, in response to HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Strengthen evidence-based advocacy of programmes and policies to assist governments addressing HIV prevention, particularly in the RH context focusing on young people and pregnant women with an emphasis on gender concerns and reduction of stigma related to HIV/AIDS in these three countries.

AFPPD is one of the three partners; the others are the Malaysian-based Asian Institute of Development Communication (AIDCOM) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF/ESEAOR). AFPPD will help promote political support for this initiative by organising a consultation of parliamentarians in Bali in September 2004. The level of political support demonstrated will also be monitored.

Support for Vaccine Development

The Asian Forum, in cooperation with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), organised an Inter-country Parliamentarian Workshop on HIV/AIDS with a focus on vaccines in Bangkok on 30-31 October 2003. It was attended by 40 parliamentarians from 12 countries that took part in briefings by institutions working on vaccine development and trials. The workshop concluded with a formal *Call to Action* and parliamentarians pledging to work for the support of vaccine development and trials. Dr. Jean Louis Excler, Scientific Director of IAVI

India, also presented vaccine information at the 5th International Medical Parliamentarians Conference, which took place in Bangkok in December 2003.

Asian Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference

On 2-3 October 2003, Manila was the venue for the “Asian Women Parliamentarians and Ministers’ Conference on Empowerment of Women.” The conference brought together 100 participants, which included 40 parliamentarians and 10 ministers from 17 countries. Women parliamentarians assembled to discuss issues related to women empowerment that included gender inequality, family planning and HIV/AIDS. The opening was addressed by Ms. Imelda Henkin, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, Dr. Zahidul A. Huque, UNFPA Representative, the Philippines, Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit (Thailand), Secretary General AFPPD, Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon (Philippines), Co-Chairperson PLCPD and Ms. Kelly Hoare, MP (Australia) Chairperson of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women.

5th International Medical Parliamentarians Conference on Family Health

In Bangkok, on 6-7 December 2003, the Asian Forum collaborated with the International Medical Parliamentarians Organisation (IMPO) in organising the 5th International Medical Parliamentarians Conference on Family Health, which was attended by 118 medical parliamentarians and others from over 50 countries.

The issue of communicable diseases was presented by Dr. Hiroyoshi Endo, Director, Department of Communicable Diseases Control, Prevention and Eradication, WHO-Geneva. Additionally, Dr. Jean-Louis Excler, Medical Director of IAVI India, also addressed issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS and provided an update on the development of an AIDS vaccine. Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, Development Policy Manager of the World Bank, also addressed the conference.

High Level Policy Symposium on HIV/AIDS - Tokyo

AFPPD has been collaborating with Population 2050 on the High Level Policy Makers Symposium on HIV/AIDS by sponsoring the participation of members of parliament. This year’s event was recently held at the UN Center in Tokyo on 3-5 September 2003.

The symposium was opened by Ms. Chieko Nohno, Member of the House of Councillors Japan. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Nafis Sadik, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Envoy of the Secretary General for HIV/AIDS in Asia, and by Mr. Kazuo Kodama, Deputy Director General, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

Presentations were also given by Amb. A. Chowdhury, UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative of the Secretary-General for LDCs; Ms. Aster Zaoude, Sr. Advisor, Gender and Development, Social Development Group,

Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP; Mr. Samuel Koo, UNICEF Representative, Japan; Dr. Giri Giridhar, Director, CST Asia, UNFPA; Mr. T. Kawakami, President, JICA; Mr. Yoshiko Kono, Senior Executive Director, Japan Bank for International Cooperation; Dr. Yoshiko Saito, Director for East & Southeast Asia and Pacific, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva; Mr. Charles Aanenson, Counsellor, USAID; Mr. Jyoti Singh, President of Population 2005; and Dr. Timothee Gandaho, Executive Director of Partners in Population and Development.

AFPPD was represented by the Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker of Fiji Parliament and Vice Chair of AFPPD, Dr. Prasan Mongkonsiri and Mr. Sanan Suthakun, MPs from Thailand, Hon. Abdolreza Heidarzadi, MP from Iran, Hon. Senator Datuk Dr. Haji Haris Bin Haji Salleh, Senator from Malaysia and Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD. High level officials from Uganda, Zimbabwe, China and several others participated in this important symposium.

World Bank – HIV/AIDS Committee

Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit and Mr. Shiv Khare attended the “5th World Bank Parliamentarian Network Conference” in Paris from 14th to 15th February 2004, as well as a special sub-committee of parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS. Parliamentarians from Laos, India, and Japan also attended the sub-committee meeting on HIV/AIDS.

International Women’s Day: Women and HIV/AIDS

On behalf of AFPPD, Senator Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit and Senator Jon Ungphakorn participated in the International Women’s Day celebration on 8th March at the UNCC and the Mekong Leaders Consultative Meeting on Women and AIDS. The Thematic Working Group on Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, of which AFPPD is a member, co-organised this event.

III. NATIONAL LEVEL ACTION

Person-to-Person Advocacy

AFPPD, in cooperation with the Hewlett Foundation, has continued Person-to-Person Advocacy with Parliamentarians for a second year whereby HIV/AIDS issues are discussed with each and every member of parliament in Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and now, in Lao PDR.

China

The Health and Population Committee of the National Peoples Congress of China, with UNDP support, has conducted three sub-regional seminars on HIV/AIDS for parliamentarians and officials.

Indonesia

The Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD) continues to work with the Family Health Organisation (FHI) – Indonesia for parliamentary advocacy on HIV/AIDS.

Malaysia

AFPPD Malaysia organised a one-day seminar on the impact of HIV/AIDS on socio-economic development in Kuala Lumpur on 12 Jan 2003.

India

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) organised a national legislative seminar in Rajkot on “Educational Development, Population Change and HIV/AIDS” from 13 – 16 February 2004. Ms. Emelia Timpo of UNAIDS – Delhi addressed HIV & AIDS issues in the opening ceremony. Representatives of NACO also participated in the conference whereby Mr. P.L. Joshi and Mrs. Meenakshi Datta Gosh provided a presentation and led a discussion on the “Extensive Scope of HIV/AIDS.”

IV. FUTURE PROGRAMMES

The AFPPD, with assistance from UNFPA, the Government of Japan, and the Hewlett Foundation will conduct the following activities in 2004:

Title	Date	Location
<i>Regional Training on Management, Monitoring and Evaluations of Advocacy Programme for National Committees</i>	3-7 May	Bangkok, Thailand
<i>Asian Medical Parliamentarians Conference</i>	19-21 June	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<i>Asian Women's Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference</i>	27-28 July	Canberra, Australia
<i>Meeting of the Standing Committee on Women</i>	27 July	Canberra, Australia
<i>Inter-country Parliamentarians Meeting on HIV/AIDS for Youth</i>	22-24 September	Bali, Indonesia
<i>South East Asian Meetings of Professional Parliamentarians on ICPD + 10 (with an academic background)</i>	16-17 November	Bangkok, Thailand
<i>APDA-AFPPD Parliamentarians Seminar</i>	To be decided	Kazakhstan
<i>Advocacy Programme at National Level</i>	January to December	Asia Pacific and CIS countries
<i>Hewlett Foundation Funded Person-to-Person Advocacy Programme</i>	On-going	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Lao PDR