



Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
AFPPD Activities Report
January to December 2008

The year 2008 for AFPPD began with the assessment of its achievements and obstacles. AFPPD aspired to know if its approach with parliamentarians were effectively producing tangible results. A process of informal consultations was initiated, resulting in UNFPA Indonesia agreeing to host a Technical Meeting for parliamentarians in Bali, 26 – 28 March, with the assistance of IFPPD. This meeting enabled parliament committee staff to review the “Advocacy techniques of working with parliamentarians”.

In the last 26 years, several methodologies have been used to target and strengthen the mechanisms used to motivate parliamentarians to act on population and development issues. However, whether these approaches have been successful is a topic of great discussion.

In response to this, the Regional Workshop to Review Advocacy Techniques for Working with Parliamentarians was organized in cooperation with UNFPA Indonesia and IFPPD in Bali. The workshop was momentous as AFPPD brought together advocates and recipients of advocacy messages to find out in a synergy were created between the two parties.

The Technical workshop was attended by 22 parliamentarians and parliament staff from 10 Asian countries. The workshop reviewed advocacy methodologies such as conferences, workshops, focus groups, study visits, field visits, person to person advocacy methodologies, meetings between parliamentarians and other stakeholders and small meetings. Participation in ‘other events’ was found to be an effective means by which to motivate parliamentarians and enhance capacity building for the staff of national committees. Participants commented on the style of arranged events, their organization and effectiveness. The workshop also encourages brainstorming on alternative methods for engaging parliamentarians in the future. AFPPD future programmes will be designed as per the recommendations of this workshop.

AFPPD in the cooperation with National Parliamentary Committees have met with some success in the areas of HIV/AIDS related legislations and have reviewed existing population laws and legislation on violence against women. Some committees are also working on the issues of Tobacco, Malaria and T.B.

New Elections and New People

The year 2008 began with a series of new elections or preparations for them. Pakistan and Malaysia, for example, held elections. Some AFPPD contacts lost while others were successfully re-elected into parliament. Notably, Dr. Donya Aziz, Member of Parliament, and Ms. Kashmala Tariq from Pakistan were elected. Mr. Abhulla Ahmad Badawi, AFPPD alumni, currently serves as the Prime Minister of Malaysia. Amongst others, Mr. Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Chief Minister of Malacca was also re-elected.

Iran, Korea and Nepal also held elections. Several AFPPD alumni were elected. Most significant is the election of Dr. Sang Guowei, Vice Chair of AFPPD, Vice Chair of the National People's Congress (NPC) and who was the Chair of the Population and Health Committee of the NPC.

HIV, Drug Use

Several agencies working on the issues pertaining to Drugs and AIDS have approached the AFPPD to help them reach parliamentarians. National Committees' have also shown a genuine interest in these areas. The AFPPD Executive Committee also approved the idea. As a result, AFPPD in cooperation with the Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN-a Chiang Mai based NGO), UNFPA and the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF), organized a regional workshop on the promotion of HIV/AIDS-Drugs Prevention and Harm Reduction for National Committees' and Parliament Staff on the, 14-15 December 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand. This was followed by the AFPPD Parliamentarians' Workshop held at the First Asian Consultation on the Prevention of HIV Related Drug Use in Goa, India, 28 – 31 January 2008. AFPPD with the help of UNAIDS and the Dutch government were able to mobilize parliamentarians from 10 countries to attend the Goa Consultation.

UNFPA and the New System

UNFPA is adopting a new approach to its regional and international programmes for its 2008 – 2011 cycles. Guidelines have been prepared to ensure this. UNFPA has increased AFPPD allocation by one hundred thousand dollars but would like to make an assessment of parliamentarians' action inside and outside parliament.

The 2008 has been a very busy as well as very useful for AFPPD.

Our chairman Mr. Yasou Fukuda became a Prime Minister of Japan; Dr. Guowei Sang became the Deputy Speaker of NPC of China; Ms. Steve Chadwick was appointed as the Minister for Women's Affairs; Ms. Gandhi, Minister of Social Affairs, Mongolia; Mr. Lamba, Minister of Health, Mongolia. AFPPD opened its connection with Central Asian Women Parliamentarians through a conference held at Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

This was also the year of reorganization of UNFPA. Although AFPPD receive its 2009 grant only in September of 2009 and most programme had to be completed in last quarter. Even then AFPPD kept its momentum of parliamentarians' involvement with support from other agencies and reserved funds.

International Consultation on Drugs and AIDS, Goa, 28 – 31 January

Asian Forum accepted the invitation of the organizers for the Asian Constitution on prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and poverty which was held in Goa, India on 28 – 31 January and organized a workshop of parliamentarians which was attended by 10 parliamentarians from Central Asia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines and Sri Lanka apart from UK and Netherlands.

AFPPD at UN Open Forum, 16 January

UN Information Center organized a panel on MDGs and human rights chaired by Mr. Kio Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary General for Communication and Public Information.

Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD was invited to be on the panel to talk about political commitment for MDG and human rights.

- **Review Of Advocacy Techniques, Bali, 26–28 March**

On March 26–28, AFPPD, in collaboration with UNFPA, Indonesia and the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD), organized a workshop in Bali, Indonesia to review which of these techniques are effective in motivating parliamentarians and how their role can be enhanced. 22 parliamentarians and national committee staff from 10 Asia-Pacific countries attended the workshop to find out what are the most effective techniques to work with parliamentarians.

- **APDA/AFPPD Annual Seminar On Kuala Lumpur, 26–27 April**

The world population has increased from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 6.8 billion in 2007. Evidence highlights that human activity and conduct is producing significant global climate change, with serious implications on public health. To educate and inform on population growth, climate change and its impact, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and AFPPD Malaysia organized the 24th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in cooperation with on 26–27 April in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by 70 parliamentarians and policymakers from Asia-Pacific.

- **AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting, 27 April, Kuala Lumpur**

AFPPD's Executive Committee meeting, under the chairmanship of Ms. Wakoko Hironaka, MP (Japan) – representing Prime Minister Yasou Fukuda of Japan, Chair of AFPPD – decided to mobilize parliamentarians for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) + 15 in 2009. a working group of parliamentarians will be setup to draft a programme for ICPD + 15 in 2009.

One of the important decisions was to survey the performance of parliamentarians on ICPD issues. Australia, Philippines, India and Indonesia already conducted such a survey. The meeting reviewed the AFPPD's report on advocacy techniques in working with parliamentarians. Mr. Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatou, Speaker of Samoa and Chair of the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) was elected as the Vice-Chair of AFPPD.

- **Population Highlighted at TICAD, Yokohama, 27–31 May**

Hon. Yasou Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of AFPPD, reminded Africa that population is an issue. At Tokyo International Conference on African Development IV. He said that Africa also has a population issue. We consider this issue as one of the key themes of development. I have for some time chaired the dialogue among Asian and African national assembly members that share a common awareness of this issue and have continued my efforts to promote exchanges among these members.

- **UNGASS – UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS, New York, 10–11 June**

The UN General Assembly convened a high-level meeting in New York on 10–11 June to review the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration. Several parliamentarians and Ms. Joanna Spratt of New Zealand Parliamentarians Group and Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD attended the UNGASS in New York.

- **APDA–AFPPD G-8 Parliamentary Conference, Tokyo**

Approximately 100 parliamentarians, NGOs and other organizations assembled in Tokyo on 1-3 July to discuss the G8 Conference agenda and how to highlight population and reproduction issues at the conference. The G8 Parliamentarians' Conference was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) Tokyo, hosted by Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and supported by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Japan (MOFA) and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (AFPPD).

Mr. Kukuda also spoke at G-8 Heads of State conference about reproductive health issues.

- **Asia Pacific Division and AFPPD Review, Bangkok, 15 May**

Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD met with officials of Asia-Pacific Divisions of UNFPA to discuss the 2007–20011 parliamentarians' advocacy and AFPPD activities. The division was informed about impact of AFPPD activities on population and development related programme in the region with focus on country level, including its efforts in resource mobilization.

It was also mentioned that AFPPD chair, Mr. Yasou Fukuda became a Prime Minister of Japan; Dr. Nirmal Desilva, Health Minister of Sri Lanka; Hon. Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiatau, Speaker of Samoa; and Dr. Guowei Sang, Deputy Speaker of China are the current office bearers of AFPPD.

- **AFPPD Standing Committee on Women, Wellington, 21-22 August**

Wellington – AFPPD's Standing Committee on Women reviews and guides the gender-related activities of AFPPD. The Committee is currently chaired by the Honorable Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP and Minister of Women's Affairs of New Zealand. Minister Chadwick chaired the 13-member Committee meeting on 20-21 August at the Parliament of New Zealand.

The Committee reviewed the report of the gender-related activities of AFPPD which highlighted its support for national parliamentary committees' population and health initiatives, such as legislation on the elimination of domestic violence and efforts to promote participation of women parliamentarians at the national, regional and international level.

- **Steering Committee Meeting for APCRSH, Shanghai, China, 27-28 August**

Preparation for the 5th Asia-Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APCSRHR) has started with the convening of the 22-member International Steering Committee on 27-28 August in Taicang, China.

Chaired by Dr. Baige Zhao, Vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, and co-chaired by Dr. Gill Greer, Director-General

of International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Steering Committee includes prominent NGOs and youth representatives.

The 5th APCSRHR will be held in Beijing on 18-20 October 2009. The 4th APCSRHR in Hyderabad, India, brought together 1,300 NGOs, United Nations agencies, government representatives, parliamentarians, and donors. It was the largest gathering of population and Sexual Reproductive Health-related NGOs and agencies.

- **Central Asian Women Parliamentarians Conference, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 3-4 September**

The AFPPD organized the Central Asian Women Parliamentarians Conference was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 3-4 September, and was attended by members of parliaments and government representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Also in attendance were academics, journalists and representatives from the UN and NGOs. The theme of the conference was “Role and Input of Women Parliamentarians into Development of Society.”

The opening ceremony was addressed by Dr. Tutkushev Beksultan Serikbayevich, Deputy Secretary-General of AFPPD and Senator from Kazakhstan, and Mr. Khaled Philby, UNFPA Representative in Uzbekistan and UNFPA Regional Director for Central Asia. A videotaped greeting of Mrs. Thea Fierens, Director, UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, was also shown. This was supported by JTF and UNFPA EECA Division.

- **Asian Women Parliamentarians Conference on Gender MDGs, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 23-24 September**

Ulaanbaatar - Close to 100 women parliamentarians and ministers, as well as experts and representatives from NGOs and international agencies, gathered in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 23-24 September for the 6th Asian Women Parliamentarians’ and Ministers’ Conference on “Financing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a focus on Health and Gender.”

The Conference was hosted by the State Great Hural of Mongolia (parliament) and UNFPA Mongolia and organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Mongolia, with support from the Government of Japan.

President Nambar Enkhbayar of Mongolia opened the conference and said that in the years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in

2000, Mongolia has developed its country-specific MDGs and implemented over 60 percent of its MDG targets. The latest MDG-based Long Term National Development Strategy was adopted by the Parliament earlier this year.

Hon. Ambassador of Japan in Mongolia, Ms. Safiye Cagar of UNFPA addressed the conference. Ms. Delia Barcelona, UNFPA Representative in Mongolia provided excellent support to make the conference a memorable event.

- **Medical Abortion Meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal, 23-24 October**

AFPPD was invited to chair a session at the South Asian Conference on Medical Abortion in Kathmandu, organized by an international NGO INGUNITY.

AFPPD Participation

- **Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development, Seoul, Korea, 31 October – 2 November**

The CPE of Korean parliament, a member of AFPPD organized its annual conference on Climate Change and Early Warning System in Seoul. Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD was invited as the speaker.

- **Global Video Conference, WHO, DSW on AID Effectiveness and Reproductive Health, 29 October**

DSW a German NGO invited AFPPD to be a part of the Global Tele and Video Conferencing on New AID and AID Effectiveness. AFPPD mobilized parliamentarians, civil society and UN Representative to take part.

- **IPCI Steering Committee, Tunis, 14-15 November**

Tunis was the venue for the Steering Committee for next IPCI (International Parliamentarians' Conference on ICPD). Last IPCI took place in Bangkok in 2006 and the IPCI conference will be held in Cairo on October 2009.

Ms. Safiye Cagar chaired the Steering Committee. Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya, Secretary General and Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director attended.

- **AFPPD Panel at World Bank Parliamentarians' Conference, Paris, 20-21 November**

AFPPD has been cooperating with Parliamentary Network of World Bank since its inception. This time AFPPD was asked to organize a

parliamentarians' session on the 'Impact of Population on Climate Change'. 42 parliamentarians attended this session.

- **AFPPD Regional Staff Training on Communication and Media, Chiangmai, Thailand, 23-26 November**

Each year AFPPD organizes a training course for parliament staff for their capacity development. This year the course was devoted to 'Communication and Media' which is vital for the success of our programme. UNFPA provided the services of Ms. Katja Iversen a media specialist of UNFPA.

It was a very effective training in media relations. Press kit development and interview techniques were provided a visit to a TV center in Chiangmai was also organized by PPAT and AHRN, staff of Parliament of Thailand and Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya provided an excellent support when the international airport of Thailand was closed and participants were stranded in Chiangmai and Bangkok.

New Parliamentarian Groups

Papua New Guinea (PNG) formed a National Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development with the initiative of UNFPA PNG and a delegation is now attending the 9th General Assembly.

Similarly, Maldives also decided to seek membership of AFPPD and a membership application will be placed before you.

Afghanistan is working towards this goal. All information has been provided and UNFPA Afghanistan is provided support to create a parliamentarians group.

Pacific Parliament Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) has decided to be a member of AFPPD and now all of our Pacific activities will be channeled through PPAPD.