



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWSLETTER

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The JPPF General Assembly: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa becomes the New JPPF Chair

The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF) held its General Assembly on 4 December and elected Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, former Justice Minister, as the new Chair.



Moderated by Hon. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPPF, the General Assembly was opened by the remarks of Hon. Ichiro Aisawa, Acting Chair of JPPF. In his speech, Hon. Aisawa emphasized the importance of taking a long-term view in tackling population challenges, which he described as multidimensional. For example, Africa, where the current growing population of 1.3 billion, is projected to reach 2.5 billion in 2050 and surpass 4 billion in 2100, while countries like Japan face the issues of an ageing population and declining birthrate. Touching on the Global Nutrition Summit scheduled to be held in Japan for the first time next year, Hon. Aisawa also stated that JPPF intends to incorporate the Summit's themes into its agenda as it strengthens its activities so that Japan takes the initiative in addressing the many population issues.

Following Hon. Aisawa's address, Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, Vice-Chair of JPPF, Hon. Hitoshi Kikawada, and Ms. Mariko Sato, Director of the UNFPA Tokyo Office, reported on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 that they attended in Kenya in November. They shared their experiences and views with the participating members and presented proposals to enhance Japan's presence at international conferences and other occasions in the future. Then Hon. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPPF and Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), announced that the Asian Population



Development Association (APDA), which serves as the JPPF secretariat, will concurrently be undertaking a role as the temporary secretariat of AFPPD.

Proceeding to the next agenda item, matters for resolution, Hon. Kamikawa was elected as Chair of JPPF. In her remarks, Hon. Kamikawa expressed her aspirations to diligently fulfill her new role as JPPF's Chair and address population challenges with the guidance and cooperation of JPPF colleagues. The General Assembly also elected Hon. Keizo Takemi as Executive Director and Hon. Hitoshi Kikawada as Secretary-General. JPPF members expressed sincere gratitude to the Acting Chair, Hon. Ichiro Aisawa, for guiding JPPF following the retirement of Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, former Chair of JPPF.



JPPF was established in 1974 as the world's first all-party group of parliamentarians to address population and development issues at the proposal of Hon. Nobusuke Kishi, former Prime Minister and first Chair, and other prominent parliamentarians. Subsequently, the role of the Chair has been assumed by Hon. Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister and second Chair, Hon. Shintaro Abe, former Foreign Minister and third Chair, Hon. Taro Nakayama, former Foreign Minister and fourth Chair, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister and fifth Chair, and Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, former Justice Minister and sixth Chair. Hon. Kamikawa became the first female Chair since the founding of JPPF, which marks a new chapter in its history.

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