

Advocacy Activities  
for  
Japanese Parliamentarians on Population and Development



**ODA  
QUARTERLY  
2004  
on  
Population and Development**



Issued  
by

**Asian Population and Development Association**

in cooperation

with

**JOICFP and UNFPA Tokyo Office**



# ODA Quarterly2004

Issued by

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

In cooperation with:

Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tokyo Office

The purpose of this pamphlet is to inform the readers about the contributions and achievements that are being made by Japan in the field of global population problem by way of ODA offered to international organizations such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on a quarterly basis to promote their understanding about the importance of ODA activities.

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## V. ICPD+10

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. This year's ODA Quarterly will be issued on the theme of "Population and Development". The scheduled themes for future issues include: "Population, Sustainable Development and Environment" for the summer issue; "Population, Sustainable Development and Poverty" for the autumn issue; and "Population, Sustainable Development and MDGs-Future Strategies of Population and Development" for the winter issue.

ICPD was held as a UN-sponsored intergovernmental conference following the Bucharest Conference in 1974 and the Mexico City Conference in 1984. The conference was largely characterized by placing a very micro perspective that sought to lower and stabilize birthrate through improvement of living conditions of individual women at the center of global population problem, which is a macro problem.

As a result, improvement in areas such as "reproductive health" (which is health for giving birth to the next generation and raising them in a healthy manner), "reproductive rights" (which secures the choice that is needed to implement it) and "empowerment of women" (which signifies improvement of women's health and their social status) became the main focus of population problem after ICPD.



International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)  
UN : Photo

While these terms cannot be readily translated into Japanese and therefore are difficult to use, their concepts are as described above. For instance, reproductive health is translated as "health concerning sexuality and reproduction" in some cases and as "health concerning reproduction of population" in others. At any rate, an epoch-making turnaround has been realized by relying on voluntary control through improvement of environment instead of population control carried out by holding each country responsible to meet the population control target allotted to it. Such approach has succeeded in avoiding various criticisms against the population problem, realizing a universal understanding about the need to address the population problem when its Programme of Action was adopted through consensus of more than 180 countries of the world.

In this manner, ICPD was able to solve many problems including human rights by approaching the population problem from a very micro viewpoint of improving the environment of each and every woman on a grassroots level. Also epoch-making was its naming “International Conference on Population and Development”, as it incorporated the word “development” alongside “population” in an effort to position it in the context of sustainable development.

## 1. Population and sustainable development

Having large population once meant national strength and countries with such notion still exist today if small in number. However, population size does not automatically translate to national strength under the present economic climate. For instance, difference among countries with more or less the same population size such as Japan, Bangladesh and Pakistan is obvious. A comparison of international influence between Denmark, a country of only 5 million, and Bangladesh and Pakistan, both having a population approximately 30 times larger, is as plain as day.

Population increase even undermines national strength in some cases. In Japan, it is predicted that social security including the pension system will experience severe difficulty in the future owing to serious dwindling of birthrate and aging of population. However, the only way to cope with such situation would be to improve the environment for those wanting to have children to do so. We need to reconsider the true meaning of



Lake bottom that has dried up  
UN : Photo



Woman carrying firewood in barren land  
UN : Photo

“abundance” and “good society” and think about how they can be realized.

What was the significance of positioning the population problem in the context of sustainable development at ICPD?

Sustainable development is a concept at the opposite end of the notion asserting that population increase leads to greater national strength. The concept of sustainable development was defined in the report by the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled

“Our Common Future” as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable development is the goal in solving the population problem because population itself is not



the problem; the problem lies in the fact that population cannot continue to live in the earth's environment. The concept of sustainable development is therefore closely linked with other issues such as environment and food security. We will discuss the relationship between population and sustainable development/environment in the next issue of ODA Quarterly. Parliamentarians got a head start on incorporating this concept of sustainable development and using it in the titles of their conferences.

## 2. Parliamentarian activities and sustainable development

When an international population conference sponsored by the UN was held in Mexico City, Mexico in 1984, Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD) and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) played a leading role in gathering parliamentarians from around the world and held the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD). In 1994, AFPPD played another central role by holding the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) during the ICPD in Cairo.



ICPPD Opening Ceremony  
Photo by Osamu Kusumoto

Indeed, it was the parliamentarians that took the initiative in this area.

ICPPD in 1984 was attended by former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and Chairman Takashi Sato of AFPPD from Japan who played a central role in convening of the conference. At the ICPPD in 1994, the then Chairman Shin Sakurai of AFPPD and Mustafa Kamal Helmy, President of Shoura Council (Senate of Egypt) served as the conference secretary general and chairman, respectively.



ICPPD participants  
Photo by Osamu Kusumoto

AFPPD played the central role in continued expansion of international parliamentarian activities thereafter, holding parliamentarian conferences on population and sustainable development at the same timing as the World Summit for Social

Development (WSSD) at Copenhagen, Denmark, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing, China in 1995, and the World Food Summit (WFS) at Rome, Italy in 1996. The vigorous activities of AFPPD continued as it held the International Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFP) at the Hague, Netherlands in 1999 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of ICPD.

These parliamentarian conferences are currently being convened under the name of International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI). Chairman Yoshio Yatsu of AFPPD continues to work vigorously by calling on the steering committee of the conference at the first IPCI to prepare for the conference and adopting the Ottawa Declaration as the chairman of the drafting committee. Moreover, Chairman Yatsu served as the chairman of the drafting committee at the second IPCI in October of this year at Strasbourg, France.

## VI. Population, Sustainable Development and Environment

The theme selected for this issue is “Population, Sustainable Development and Environment”. Concern over global warming and other phenomena has led to increased interest in the environmental issue particularly among the intellectuals. In contrast, debate over the population increase has become dwindled considerably as Japan faces a serious problem of social security including the pension system that originates from her aging population and low birthrate. However, few people seem to realize the fact that this aging population and low birthrate would not have occurred had it not been for the rapid population increase in the past. Population increase and aging population/low birthrate are different aspects of the same population problem.



A view of an island at Funafuti Atoll in Tuvalu. Tuvalu is starting to experience damages such as not being able to grow taro pit (which is a staple food) due to sea water entering the potato field. Being self-sufficient, Tuvaluans are worried that people would not be able to live on the island because they will run out of food before the island sinks.  
(June 20, 2002, Shunichi Endou; Tuvalu Overview)

While the environment is attracting much attention today, a question remains as to whether the discussion over the positioning of the issue in our society is undertaken clearly. Moreover, relationship between environment and population is seldom recognized. For this reason, we will take a look at “Population, Sustainable Development and Environment” from the viewpoint of what is needed to make a responsible choice.

Held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, ICPD was an epoch-making conference in two ways. One was an approach that sought to improve reproductive health by improving status and skills of women and by promoting informed choice instead of setting the goal of population policy on quantitative indicators such as control of population growth rate, thereby reducing the population growth rate and stabilizing the size of population. Another was the inclusion of the term “development” alongside “population” in the conference title. Although it had been indicated since the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, Rumania that solution of population problem and socioeconomic development are inseparable, the term “development” was not included in UN-sponsored intergovernmental conferences on population until the next conference



An island in Tuvalu. Only 9 palm trees are left on the island. Roots of palm trees prevent erosion of sand by waves but can no longer do so when they become this small. This island is said to go under water.  
(June 20, 2002, Shunichi Endou; Tuvalu Overview)

which was held in Mexico City in 1984.

However, fertility shift will not advance without social development including improvement of female literacy. Moreover, people in poverty cannot even have access to equal opportunity, and high fertility will continue as people are unable to make any choices as a result. In reality, it is not possible to take any measures for solving the population problem as

equipment for implementing family planning cannot even be distributed without economic base. It was at such backdrop that the need for socio-economic development increased gradually. In addition, the concept of “sustainable development” which was discussed in Rio de Janeiro was strongly incorporated because the Cairo Conference was the first major international conference sponsored by the UN after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (commonly known as the Earth Summit), which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Do “environment” and “development” contradict or complement each other?

## 1. Environmental problem and nature

Global warming caused by greenhouse gas may be the first environmental problem that comes to people’s mind. Kyoto Conference on the Prevention of Global Warming was held by reflecting the increasing awareness of environmental issues and Japan is continuing to make efforts toward the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. There are many island nations in the Pacific that may lose its land to rising sea level by the end of this century. Country like Tuvalu has already asked New Zealand to accept her people in the event her land is lost.

As is well known, there are countries that continue to oppose the enforcement of the protocol by saying that it lacks sufficient basis.

I visited the National Science Museum over the holidays and were



Third Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP II)

amazed by the severe climatic changes in global climate that will become clear when one looks at the situation from a macroscopic point of view.

Significant changes have occurred over a very short period of time in terms of geology. Only 10,000 to 20,000 years ago, sea level was nearly 100 meters lower than it is today and much of Tokyo Bay was land. In contrast, sea level was 70 meters higher than the present level and the Kanto Plain was mostly under the sea (Figure 1).

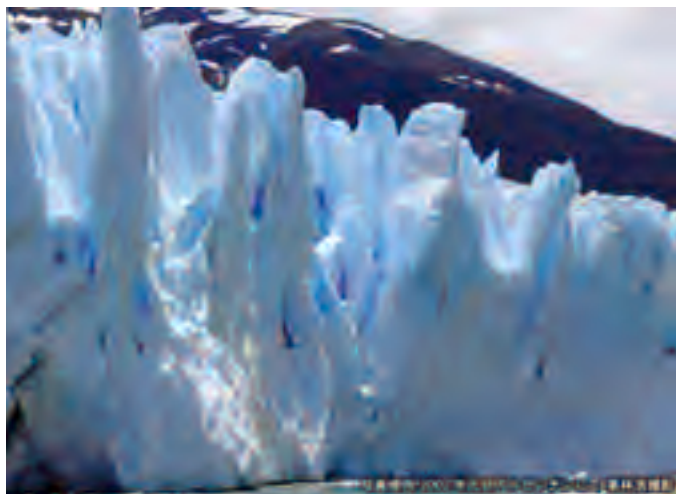
Majority of large cities in the world as well as the plains of the world that are producing most of our food would be under the sea if this sea level is applied to today's world map. Is today's global warming and the accompanying rise in sea level a part of such natural cycle? Humanity would not be responsible for environmental problems if that were the case.

The horrendous fact is that present changes are said to be taking place at a rate tens of thousands of times faster than natural changes. In this sense, it is almost clear that today's environmental problem is the result of human activities. In other words, environmental problems we are facing can be defined as environmental load that is being created by interaction between population and energy consumption (right and wrong of affluence and technology). This has been expressed by the equation  $I = PAT$  (Impact to Environment = Population Size  $\times$  Affluence per Person  $\times$  Technology) by Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University who wrote the book "*Population Bomb*". It shows that the problem would not emerge had it not been for population growth, and for rapid industrial development and economic system with high energy consumption.

Figure 1



Tokyo Bay during formation period of Shimosueyoshimen  
Source: Kawasaki City Science Museum for Youth



Glacier breaking off from Andes  
Photo by Hiroshi Kuribayashi, 1st January 2002

It is difficult to forecast environmental problems accurately. It is not easy to draw necessary conclusion even with the use of a supercomputer called *Earth Simulator*. Weather forecast that we see everyday is the most familiar example of environmental forecast. Despite the efforts by the researchers including weather-persons at the Japan Meteorological Agency — to improve its accuracy, we know from our day to day experience

that it is not 100% accurate.

This results in probabilistic causal calculus forecast in the sense that principle of causation cannot be identified owing to complexity of elements, i.e. one cannot say with certainty that “Cause A” would lead to a clear “Result B”.

In this sense, one can criticize that the phenomenon is “not scientifically proven”. When you look at the big picture, however, it is a fact that global warming is occurring at a rate that is tens of thousands of times faster than the rate of natural changes. It also goes without saying that not being able to prove it with certainty does not negate the principle of causation.

In contrast, population growth, which is the other environmental coefficient, its solutions and measures are clearly stated in the Programme of Action of the Cairo Conference. Breaking the momentum of population growth and realizing population stability are most certainly effective measures against environmental problems that we know today.

From an ecological viewpoint, the maximum human population that can survive on the Earth without destroying the environment is estimated at only 20 million. Since about 6.3 billion people currently live on this planet today, the planet is clearly overpopulated from ecological viewpoint. Then what should we do?

Can we negate the existence of people that already exist to maintain the environment? We know that the answer to that question is “no”.

We believe that all of those working as parliamentarians all over the world share the goal of “enabling people that are alive today to live with dignity in a humane way” and “enabling children that are born to lead a happy life”. “What we should do to enable people to lead a human life?” We must keep this issue in mind as our mission regardless of faction and ideology.

## **2. Environment and sustainable development**

The concept of sustainable development exists in the context of such awareness. It refers to a kind of development that allows us to live on this planet in a sustainable way. While some environmental extremists argue that threat to people’s lives does not matter as long as the environment is protected, such theory negating human existence is meaningless. If that were the case, mere “environmental protection” or “economic development” would be insufficient. Despite mounting criticisms against increasing food production through genetically modified food, it is said that we would not be able to support the increasing population in the future unless we increase our food production through such means. We have no solution to the problems of health, food and environment so long as population continues to increase. Measures against environmental problems alone are clearly insufficient under such circumstances. We

must fully understand our environment and think how humanity should live on the Earth and how to make the population that appears to have exceeded the carrying capacity of the planet harmonious with the global environment through the wisdom of humanity. This approach is the very concept of “sustainable development”. In other words, population is not a problem in itself but requires measures in the process of realizing a sustainable society.

In this sense, the goal of measures against population problem does not lie in reducing population. It is an effort to create an environment in which people that are alive today can live in a humanly way and the children that are born can lead healthy and happy lives.

Hence the inclusion of the word “development” in the ICPD Cairo Conference was an epoch-making event as it was the result of a major international consensus to look at population from the context of sustainable development. This idea was incorporated into the Preamble and Principles of the ICPD Programme of Action. Moreover, Japan’s ODA is playing an important role in maintaining these activities in the field of population.

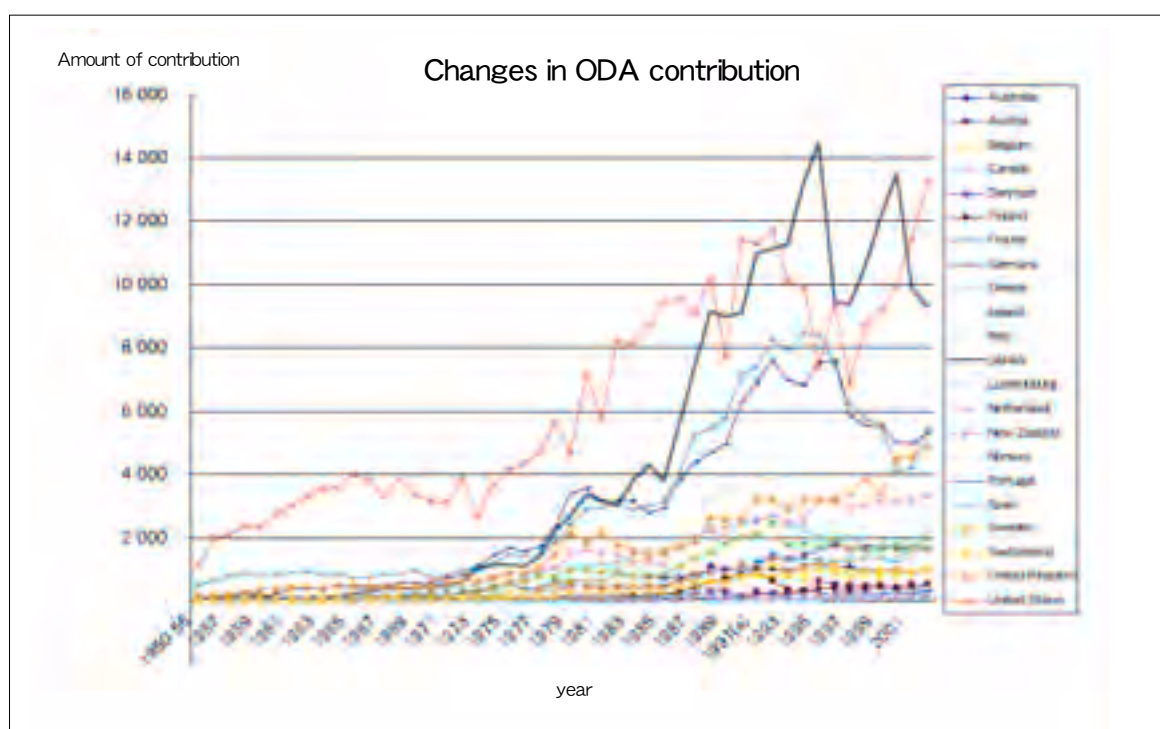
# VII. Population, Sustainable Development, Poverty and ODA

The theme we selected for this issue is “Population, Sustainable Development and Poverty”. An understanding that poverty is really the key to solving a wide range of problems related to social development is being shared in the international community. For instance, the main theme at the UN Millennium Summit, which was held in 2000 at the UN Headquarters in New York and was attended by the leaders from around the world to commemorate the new millennium, was “poverty”. While an international trend to cope with poverty is in progress, it is necessary to think once again about the relationship between population and poverty.

We discussed the relationship between “population and environment” in the last issue and analysed that stabilization of population is actually a top priority from the viewpoint of limit in the Earth’s carrying capacity and soundness of our environment. In this issue, we will focus on how we could go about solving the poverty problem and population problem at the same time within the framework of global environment. We also must think about the role of ODAs offered by the developed countries in eradicating poverty.

## 1. ODA and Japan

Unfortunately, Japan is the only country among the world’s developed countries that is reducing her ODA across the board. The reason for this, of course, is the tight fiscal



Source: OECD



situation. It may also be natural for ODA, which is used to assist other countries, to be placed under scrutiny when the people at home are experiencing much difficulty with problems that are directly related to their day to day life including the pension problem. Nevertheless, ODA has a particularly important meaning for Japan.

Simply put, the purpose of international cooperation lies in “contributing to stabilization and orderly development of international community”. This can be paraphrased as “establishment of international security”. Not only economy but also politics and even culture are placed under the influence of the international community. The walls of national boundaries have virtually been removed in the field of telecommunications such as the Internet.

One can plainly see that a single country cannot defend itself single-handedly. In this sense, not only developing countries but developed countries also benefit from ODA that they extend. Even an argument that developed countries are true beneficiaries can be justified when you consider the benefit of stability in the international community. In particular, Japan, a resource-poor country from world standards, maintains her affluence through trade with other countries and is reaping her greatest benefit from stable international order.

International cooperation for protecting and maintaining such interest consists of areas that Japan excels at and areas that Japan cannot easily offer because of her historical background. Japan is currently sending her Self-Defence Force to Iraq to perform work related to water supply in Samawah. However, Japan has been putting certain brakes on the military roles of Self-Defence Force after abandoning the use of military power as means of resolving international dispute in the Constitution after World War II.

What is sought from Japan in the area of international cooperation is to make friendly countries by helping developing countries with improvement of living environment and economic environment to secure the country's security rather than offering military contribution as is done by the U.S.

## **2. Poverty and Terrorism**

The most shocking event that occurred after entering the 21st Century was the 9/11 in which commercial planes were hijacked in the U.S. and crashed into the World Trade Centre building, which literally was the symbol of capitalist economy, with their crew and passengers. The building collapsed and many people were killed. U.S. dramatically shifted its course since this incident and Al-Qaeda led by Islam fundamentalist Osama bin Laden was named as its mastermind. Suicide bombing attacks including 9/11 cannot be justified under any circumstances. However, the fact that these attacks are being launched in exchange for people's lives requires some deep thought.

Emphasis on afterlife instead of pursuing mundane profit and the existence of religious



9.11 World Trade Center

fundamentalists seeking religious justice are seen to exist at the backdrop of these terrorist acts. Some refer to this as “religious fanaticism”, but that does not explain the whole picture.

It is unreasonable to look for cause in religion alone considering the fact that religion has existed all along. In addition, such religious fundamentalists and extremists cannot engage in their activities without winning some sympathy and support from the people. Why is terrorism — an act that cannot possibly be justified — attracting such sympathy and support? And why do people that are actually alive decide to take their own lives and cause collateral damage to others?

Their essential motive is a reflection of poverty and desperation of the people in developing countries and one cannot understand the background of these terrorist acts without understanding them. People would not take their own lives if they have hope for the future. If you are leading a happy life, you would not abandon your present life and resort to suicide bombing. One cannot help but imagine that hopeless despair and grave predicament with nothing to lose exist behind these series of suicide attacks. It is also true that such act is arousing wide social sympathy in reality. Realization of inevitable connection between poverty and terrorism is the very reason the Bush Administration-which drove Iraq’s Hussein out of power-increased the amount of ODA by 50%.

While Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11, is known to come from a rich Saudi Arabian family, his activities are supported by a large number of people that are struggling in poverty and have no hope for the future. One-sixth of the world population is said to be living on 1 dollar or less a day. We cannot turn a blind eye to the existence of people that have surrendered themselves to despair because they feel that justice is not being done in the world.

### 3. Poverty and Population — A Chicken-or-Egg Question

Many aspects are being cited as causes of poverty which has become a social destabilizing factor worldwide. However, several things are clear in connection with population. For one, assuming that the carrying capacity of the Earth remains constant, the amount of energy and freshwater available to a person decreases for each person added to the population. And, empirically speaking, population will continue to increase amidst poverty unless population control is forced by famine.

In the past, population was discussed from a Malthusian viewpoint which argued that food production would not catch up with population increase and famine would

eventually control the population. Although similar situation is being experienced in reality by some least developed countries, negative impact of population growth can be found in other areas as well.

The experience of many developing countries tells us that fertility rate does not go down in societies where social development including female literacy has not advanced due to poverty. In other words, a serious paradox of population increasing in poorer communities occurs. In this sense, attainment of affluence is the key to not only departure from poverty but also solution of the population problem. In other words, the relationship between poverty and population problem is literally that of chicken-or-egg question.



Indian Women in Uttar Pradesh  
Photo by Michio Ozaki

Attention must be given to the word “affluence” in this case. The Earth cannot possibly maintain its environment if all developing countries were to realize the same level of affluence the developed countries are enjoying today. Also, becoming affluent does not solve all the problems. For instance, demographic transition from high fertility to low fertility has not occurred to any significant degree in resource-rich countries, particularly countries whose economy is dependent on oil, even though their GDP per capita is high. In contrast, demographic transition is advancing dramatically in CIS countries that once belonged to the former Soviet Union in spite of their low GDP. What this fact indicates is that “affluence” mentioned here does not carry much weight unless it is strongly connected to social development that leads to improvement of women’s status through improvement of literacy rate and educational level in addition to mere economic affluence. It is important to improve the situation in which high fertility persists as a result of being tied down to traditional convention amidst poverty. In other words, it is necessary to realize a kind of affluence that would provide equal opportunity while making the effort to stabilize population.

#### 4. What ODA Can Achieve

Japan has adopted the concept of “human security” which is an effort to enable people to lead a human life-as the principle of her ODA strategy. It includes “not allowing people’s lives from being threatened by conflict and being able to obtain food needed for subsistence”. It would naturally require escaping from extreme poverty as well.

Then what kind of assistance is needed to attain this goal? Continuing the conventional assistance centred on large-scale civil engineering and delivery of equipment must be placed under scrutiny considering the impact of large scale development on the global environment.

Needless to say, ODA is implemented by using the tax collected from people in developed countries. In this sense, it must be cost-effective and lead to improvement of people's lives while demonstrating effectiveness over a long period of time. That is why the grassroots assistance based on sufficient preliminary survey of social structure and culture that the developing countries can accept such as improvement of literacy rate and livelihood of poor peasants becomes all the more important. Japan once developed the New Livelihood Movement after World War II and achieved significant results by combining family planning with income generating programs for rural women.

Realization of the fund procurement target set by the ICPD Programme of Action which was adopted at Cairo has become doubtful owing to low attainment rate of the developed countries including Japan. Japanese ODA is important for realizing empowerment of women and reproductive health/rights that were discussed at the Cairo Conference as well as for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and solving the population problem with emphasis on poverty reduction that were agreed at the Millennium Summit.

## VIII. Millennium Development Goals and Population

International development and support activities are being carried out according to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were adopted at the UN Millennium Summit held in 2000 at the UN Headquarters in New York. While indices on population and related matters are included in the MDGs, the viewpoint of the population problem that exists at the basis of attaining these goals is not clearly reflected.

As 10 years have passed since the Cairo Conference, this year marks the halfway point between the conference and the year designated for attaining the ICPD PoA in 2015. Although the portion of the funds to be covered by the developing countries themselves are sufficient, attainment rate of the portion promised by the developed countries has unfortunately remained around 50% and has become the greatest obstacle to solution of the problem. Numerous events have also been held as part of parliamentary activities. This issue will focus on the relationship between MDGs, which rest at the core of today's development aid, and population.



Participants at International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of ICPD PoA (ICPI) at the Parliament Hall of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

### 1. The Ninth MDG ?

International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of ICPD PoA (ICPI) was held on Oct. 18 and 19 at the Parliament Hall of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The conference was held by assembling parliamentarians from around the world to promote implementation of Programme of Action that was adopted in Cairo, Egypt in 1994



Adoption of declaration at the parliamentary conference in Strasbourg  
Mr. Yoshio Yatsu (centre), chairman of the drafting committee  
Photo by Michio Ozaki

and is a follow-up to the conference held in Ottawa, Canada in 2002. Worthy of special mention about this conference is the inclusion of a sentence “based on the ICPD Programme of Action, to make sexual and reproductive health accessible to all by 2015” as the ninth goal to add to the existing eight goals adopted at the Millennium Summit. Why was it necessary to make such statement as a consensus of parliamentarians? We must take a fresh look at MDGs and put some thought into this matter.

## 2. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Millennium Development Goals consist of eight basic goals (goals), a total of 18 concrete targets that are set within these goals (targets) and quantitative indicators that are incorporated into each target.

It represents perspectives and methods that are largely different from the Cairo PoA which advocated an effort to solve the population problem through improvement of reproductive health for individuals and did not establish any numerical targets other than financial targets. Goals and targets of MDGs are as follows.

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- (1) Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- (2) Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

- (3) Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

- (4) Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

- (5) Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

- (6) Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- (7) Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Indicators
- (8) Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- (9) Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- (10) Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- (11) By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

- (12) Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally
- (13) Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff and quota-free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction
- (14) Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)
- (15) Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- (16) In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- (17) In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- (18) In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

### **3. Reproductive Health Holds the Key to Solution of Population Problem**

Among the Millennium Development Goals, “2. Achieve universal primary education”, “3. Promote gender equality and empower women”, “4. Reduce child mortality”, “5. Improve maternal health”, and “6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases” overlap with the Programme of Action. Realistically speaking, population will continue to increase if reproductive health including family planning is not fully utilized and make the attainment of these goals set in MDGs an impossible task. In other words, reproductive health including family planning is extremely important. This fact is gradually being recognized. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated, “The Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved if questions of population and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. And that means stronger efforts to promote women’s rights, and greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning”.

#### 4. What ODA is Capable of Accomplishing

Under these views, the ninth MDG goal of “making reproductive health accessible to all” was adopted as the declaration of parliamentarians attending the Strasbourg Conference as a way to offer concrete means to MDGs. At this conference, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) Chairman Yoshio Yatsu MP of Japan served as the chairman of drafting committee for preparing and adopting the declaration statement. The field of population and development, parliamentary activities in particular, is one of the few areas that Japan has a strong voice in the international community. However, Japan is the only country among the developed countries that has been reducing ODA across the board in contrast to other developed countries that are increasing their ODA contribution since 9/11. Needless to say, ODA is precious funds collected from taxpayers. Interest in population growth in developing countries is waning in Japan as the country is currently experiencing a serious problem of declining birthrate and aging population which is an opposite problem of population growth. Japan has ceded her position as the greatest contributor to population problems that she had held throughout the 1990s to Netherlands with other countries closing in from behind.

However, ODA has special significance for Japan. It goes without saying that ODA is a diplomatic tool in broad sense of the term and that it is being provided for the purpose of contributing to Japan’s security by stabilizing international order. In this sense, Japan’s ODA expenditure and the influence Japan would have in the international arena as a result of such expenditure are of great significance. Allocating limited ODA funds amidst difficult fiscal situation is a very difficult task.

ODA funds offered in the past have also been placed under scrutiny in terms of their necessity. However, we must bring to our mind the fact that ODA is the greatest diplomatic “means” for Japan which basically does not make military contributions with the exception of peacekeeping and humanitarian activities and that increasing Japan’s presence in the international community through its contribution and securing long-term security is closely connected to Japan’s national interest.

Strengthening Japan’s contribution in the area of population in view of long-term national interest is a measure that not only renders service to global problems and contributes to peace and stability in the world but maintains and strengthens Japan’s limited presence in the international community. There is an increasing need to strengthen Japan’s ODA in the population sector so that Japan can effectively play her role as a member of the international community and protect her national interest.



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# APDA

(Asian Population and Development Association)

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## 1. APDA and parliamentary activities

APDA has been actively supporting AFPPD chairpersons at these parliamentary conferences. In particular, APDA has been offering substantial support by joining the drafting committee for the conference declaration at all conferences from 1994 ICPD onward. Details of these activities have been issued as reports of respective conferences.



Particularly noteworthy among them is the Hague Declaration which is the declaration at IFP held in 1999 and was reflected in the resolution at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Population.

*19. We call upon parliamentarians and Governments to examine international agreements, including those of the World Trade Organization, and see how such agreements affect agricultural production and environmental quality in their countries. Attention should also be given to trade and non-trade barriers and the effect that they have on developing countries. The rules of international trade must be fully consistent with the long-term perspective of food security.*

Moreover, its spirit was reflected in Paragraphs 16 and 19 of the Addendum to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Population in 1999 (A/S-21/5/Add.1) and resulted in the following expression.

*“Governments, in cooperation with the international community, should reaffirm their commitment to promoting an enabling environment to achieve sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development and to eradicating poverty, with a special emphasis on gender …… Population-related goals and policies outlined in the Programme of Action need to be reflected, as appropriate, in international agreements in such areas as environment and trade”. (Paragraph 16)*

It is a strong affirmation of the need to realize consistency of international treaties and agreements that are being approached from their respective viewpoints (including WTO). At the same time, it emphasizes that “solving the population problem” is the most fundamental approach to achieving such sustainable development.

## **2. Role of the APDA in Cairo**

International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) (Cairo Parliamentarian Conference) played a large role in incorporating the concept of sustainable development into Preamble and Principles of the ICPD Programme of Action.

APDA supported the activities of the then Chairman Shin Sakurai of AFPPD who served as the Secretary General and Chairman of the Steering Committee at ICPPD and played the role of partner in including the concept of sustainable development into declaration of this parliamentarian conference. Moreover, APDA played a role in incorporating the content of this parliamentarian conference’s declaration into the Programme of Action with cooperation from the then Deputy Executive Director Dr. Hirofumi Ando and the then Chief of Programme Coordination/Support Unit Dr. Rao of UNFPA. APDA was also involved in ICPD+5 Conference and played a role in reflecting this concept in the UN General Assembly resolution.

APDA has been working by positioning the population problem in the context of sustainable development since its founding. APDA still places the correlated area between population and development and continues its activities under the conviction that parliamentarian activities are indispensable in solving the population problem and attaining sustainable development.

## **3. Research Activities of APDA**

APDA offers support to parliamentarians in the area of population and development in addition to conducting research activities under consignment from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

Research activities are conducted as a part of ODA and has continued for more than 20

years since the founding of the association and have served the role of database on population and development in the Asian countries. These activities are carried out based on primary source through hearing survey and other methods by sending researchers to rural areas and urban slums with cooperation from the network of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) consisting of members from the Asian countries. World-class academic members also support these research activities.

The research results are not only reported to related government ministries and agencies but also play an effective role in supporting parliamentary activities as expert knowledge.

#### **4. APDA supports the AFPPD activities as chairman's office.**

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) offers support to parliamentarians in the area of population and development in addition to conducting research activities under consignment from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

APDA supported AFPPD Chairman Yoshio Yatsu who served as the chairman of drafting committee at the recent International Parliamentarians' Conference in Strasbourg.

Having become the first non-Western country to attain demographic transition from high fertility/infant mortality to low fertility/infant mortality, Japan has also been taking leadership in the global population problem in the area of parliamentary activities including establishment of Japanese Parliamentarians' Federation for Population (JPFP), world's first cross-party parliamentary organization on the issue of population and development.

From the activities of JPFP emerged Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) which was followed by formation of parliamentary forums on population and development in Africa/Middle East and Europe in response to call from Japanese parliamentarians at International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) which was held in conjunction with ICPD in Cairo. Parliamentary forums were formed in all regions of the world as a result of these activities and resulted in expansion of parliamentary activities all over the world. APDA not only supports the Asian parliamentary activities by serving as AFPPD's Tokyo office but also contributes to activation of international parliamentary activities by assisting the AFPPD chairman.

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# JOICFP

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## 1. JOICFP in Africa

### 1) Fighting HIV/AIDS from the viewpoint of community

The impact of HIV/AIDS is reaching the villages of Africa and causing serious problems for all the countries in the region. JOICFP has been working with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and its member associations in Tanzania, Zambia and Ghana for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) integrated with maternal and child health, parasite control, and nutrition education. Amidst the worsening of the scourge of HIV/AIDS in Africa, JOICFP also launched a new activity in 2000 to strengthen the HIV/AIDS education by utilizing the network of community health volunteers that we have established over the years.

### 2) Learning from the Japanese experience through picture drama “The Endless Goodbye”

JOICFP conducted situation analyses on the availability of HIV/AIDS-related education materials in five countries with support from UNFPA. As a result, we found that there were very few materials in local languages and suitable for use by community health volunteers in their day-to-day activities. In addition, the materials that were available did not appeal to people’s emotion and therefore did not lead to change in their behavior. For this reason, JOICFP decide to develop a material that is appropriate for rural settings in close collaboration with the Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI). Community people in Tanzania fully participated in the development of the material. The format of the media we chose was picture drama known as Kamishibai, which was originated in Japan long ago. Touching stories were put together from AIDS-related

essays that were actually collected from the local people. Each picture was drawn by the villagers themselves using colors, paints and natural materials that were locally available.



People attentively watching the picture drama show (Ghana)

© Masako Imaoka

The picture drama consisting of 33 pictures entitled “The Endless Goodbye” is an accurate portrayal of events that occurred to a girl in a village in Tanzania. Community health volunteers talk to the people through the picture drama and urge them to take collective action for prevention and against stigma and discrimination attached with HIV/AIDS. The material translated in local languages was pretested not only in Tanzania but also in Ghana. It is currently being utilized at the community level in both countries.

Integration of SRH and HIV/AIDS interventions is indispensable to scale up the response to HIV/AIDS. Education and communication activities such as our picture drama show should have substantial linkage with voluntary HIV counseling and testing services and care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Coordination and collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, international organizations and ODA is strongly required in order to bring out synergy among the interventions and meet the needs of the people.

## 2. JOICFP activities in Zambia

### 1) Poverty in Zambia and maternal and child health

#### **Zambia with the world’s shortest average life expectancy of 33 years**

Zambia won independence from the British colonial rule in 1964. The country has an area twice as large as Japan. English is the official language because the 73 tribes living in the country cannot communicate with each other in their tribal tongue. The country has a population of 10.41 million which is increasing at the rate of 2.1% a year. GNP per capita is US\$320 and employment rate is a mere 30% (i.e. unemployment rate is high as 70%). Mining of copper and cobalt, which together



Children in Zambia

account for 60% of export value, has been suspended owing to sharp fall in international market and failed privatisation of the state enterprise Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines. Zambia is also financially bankrupt as a country and cannot offer basic healthcare service to her people. The country’s average life expectancy has now fallen from 44 years recorded 10 years ago to 33 years to make her the country with the shortest average life expectancy in the world. Extreme poverty is undermining the lives of the people and is resulting in spread of diseases and infections. HIV infection rate has reached 20% with 500 people becoming infected and 200 people losing their lives to HIV/AIDS everyday. In addition, the number of AIDS orphans has reached half million and is predicted to reach 1 million by 2010. Half of children aged 15 and under have lost their parents and three-fourths of families in the country are raising orphans in poverty.

## **2) Connection between JOICFP and Zambia**

JOICFP received a request from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF: a London-based organization with membership of 182 countries) in 1983 to offer support to Zambia in the field of family planning based on the prediction that population problem will become very serious in Africa in the future and started offering support in 1985 with the cooperation of IPPF Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. However, the response from many of the African countries was that family planning would “reduce the number of workers in the family” and “destroy the tribe”. Some were of the opinion that vast land and mineral resources are available in Africa and population problem does not exist. However, the very picture of “poor men breed” reality served as the silent persuasion.

## **3) Support activities offered to Zambia by JOICFP**

JOICFP has been offering grassroots movement for improvement of living conditions by integrating family planning, maternal and child health, safe motherhood, parasite control, nutrition improvement, environmental sanitation and income generating activities with the aim of protecting the health and lives of the people in Zambia since 1985. Many of the project districts were doctorless and the activities covered a total of 229,000 persons. Villagers in Zambia lose their lives for simplest reasons that are way too simple such as not being able to see a doctor because the village has no doctor and not having access to medical service because the clinic is 10 km away from where they live. Medicine at some of these clinics is often expired and the residents fear infections at clinics because their equipment is out of order. As people are poor and have to take loans to buy their clothes, JOICFP sent 100,000 clothes to Zambia as relief items with cooperation from the Japan Relief Clothing Centre. In the past, babies were dying from diarrhoea after being infected with bacteria and virus that attached to mothers’ dirty clothes and entered their mouths through breastfeeding. Relief clothing made enabled mothers to keep their clothes clean and the lives of newborn babies are being saved through prevention of infectious diseases. A towel can be used to wipe the baby’s body after bathing and to wrap the baby to prevent flu. Babies were dying in the past from flu that developed into pneumonia. Such first-hand support is lowering the infant prevalence rate and infant mortality rate.

## **3. Holding of the World Population Day Symposium 2004**

### **Ten years from Cairo Conference—Population Problem and ODA—**

Special Symposium for World Population Day 2004 was hosted jointly July 8 by JOICFP, Council on Population Education and Japan Family Planning Association with cooperation from UNFPA, IPPF, APDA and NPO2050. Under the theme “Ten Years from Cairo Conference-Reviewing the Population Problem and ODA”, the Symposium evaluated whether humanity had truly played its responsibility in attaining reproductive health/rights since ICPD in 1994 and discussed humanity’s challenges for the future and Japan’s role in them. The Symposium was also meaningful in the sense that it reviewed the role of Japanese ODA played this year which is also the 50th anniversary year of



Panel discussion at the symposium



Report by UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador  
Yuko Arimori on her mission of India

international cooperation.

Programme of Action (PoA) centered on reproductive health/rights was adopted at ICPD by government and NGO representatives from 179 countries around the world that attended the conference in Cairo, Egypt. Ten years have already passed since then, and the year 2004 was designated as ICPD+10, i.e. an important year to review the outcome of efforts made by respective countries in enabling all people around the world to enjoy reproductive health/rights.

### **World of 6.4 billion**

The world's population problem continues to face numerous challenges. Absolute number of world population is nearing 6.4 billion and is predicted to reach 8.9 billion by 2050 even according to medium estimation. Humanity has been facing many concerns

of war and HIV/AIDS since the beginning of this century. On a global scale, challenges faced from the individual viewpoint of humanity are also mounting.

### **Realities of Japanese ODA**

In the program, a report by UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori on her mission tour of India and a presentation ceremony of the Shidzue Kato Award were followed by a panel discussion on the aforementioned theme. Each panelist was asked to analyze population from a long-term demographic viewpoint, attitude and behaviour of Japanese women that exist at the backdrop of total fertility rate of 1.29 in 2003 and changes that have occurred in connection with ODA in the past 10 years. Japan's reluctant attitude towards ODA has become conspicuous in the international community after Japan cut her ODA by over 30% since 1997.

### **Remaining challenges**

Following the panel discussion, topics such as: 1) Whether we are going to deal with population (macro) problem or human rights (micro) problem, and how are we going to find common ground for these viewpoints? 2) Japan may be busy coping with her dwindling birthrate and aging population, and losing sight of her leadership role in the global population problem; 3) There appears to be a need for a "new population theory" suitable for population problem in the 21st Century; and 4) the need to restructure the ODA strategy to hold a respected position in the international community were discussed as future tasks.

\*World population day is approved by the UN General Assembly in 1990 in commemoration of the world population reaching 5 billion on July 11, 1987.

## 4. 25 Year's Cooperation for Family Health and Life Improvement in China

### 1) Japanese Experience and Integrated Project (IP)

JOICFP built a cooperative relationship with the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFPC) and the China Family Planning Association (CFPA) from 1980 to promote exchange and cooperation in the field of population and family planning (FP) between Japan and China. From that, JOICFP introduced Japanese experiences in FP and maternal and child health (MCH) in an effort to promote human-centred FP activities that would be welcomed by the people in China.



Training Seminar on the IP in Taicang

Starting in 1984, JOICFP launched the integrated FP, MCH and parasite control (PC) project (IP) in China with financial assistance from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The project has been implemented as the integrated reproductive health (RH) and FP project (IP) with health education and services after the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. Up to now, model project areas have been established in one or two counties of each province throughout the country with diffusion starting through self-help efforts in many counties of Jiangsu and Gansu Provinces in particular. JOICFP has conducted lots of training activities for Chinese IP personnel in collaboration with governmental organizations in each level from national to village such as Fukushima and Iwate prefectures as well as NGOs including Japan Association of Parasite Control, Japan Association of Health Service and Japan Family Planning Association.



A Family in Sandu, Guizhou

### 2) JICA Poverty Alleviation Project and IP

Experiences of IP have been incorporated into the poverty alleviation project executed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in China. Entrusted by JICA, CFPA has been implementing the Poverty Alleviation Model Project in Sandu County, Guizhou Province, a less-developed area in China with the cooperation of JOICFP since 2002. Integrated with improvement of living conditions, family healthcare and promoting eco-farming, the project will be expected to create a comprehensive poverty alleviation model by promoting family health through PC and MCH, by supporting the village people to



acquire agricultural production skills and to generate their income as well as by combining the effort with environmental conservation.

### **3) Grant Aid from Japanese Government and China Reproductive Health/Family Health Training Centre**

To spread the IP all over the country, NPFPC has envisioned the construction of a national reproductive health/family health training centre in Taicang City, Jiangsu Province where accumulated rich experiences in IP. With the cooperation of the municipal government of Taicang which was expected to provide the site and the building, NPFPC applied for grant aid to Japanese Government requesting support for the facilities and equipments of the training centre. As it was in line with the infectious disease prevention and support in the health field for the poor in the midwestern region that Japanese Government had designated as one of the priority areas of assistance for China, Japanese and Chinese governments exchanged an official document on the “the Project for Improvement of Equipments for Reproductive Health/Family Health Training Centre” in July 2004. The centre will be completed in mid-2005 and is expected to further promote various kinds of training activities which Japan could make more contribution in providing experiences and technical cooperation in its related fields.

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# UNFPA Tokyo Office

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## 1. Towards ICPD+10 (Part I)

This year marks the turning point of the 10th year since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994. Many ICPD+10-related events are scheduled around the world, including the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in October to commemorate ICPD+10. In addition, State of the World Population 2004, scheduled for publication by UNFPA in September, will focus on the progress in attaining the goals set for 2015.

Numerous events including Population Association of Japan Symposium and the World Population Day Special Symposium will be held in Japan this year. Meanwhile, UNFPA Tokyo Office will work towards evoking interest in population problem and ICPD+10 among the Japanese public through publication of a book by UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori (entitled “*Guide Book of Population Problem*”) and co-hosting of Okinawa HIV/AIDS Symposium with Okinawa Prefecture. In addition, UNFPA’s partner NGO named 2050 has launched the Campaign of Life to protect the lives of women and children in the developing countries.

The campaign was triggered by the blockage of UNFPA funding by the Bush Administration two years ago. The donation collected by the surge in civic movement will be donated to UNFPA.



Mr. Kofi Anan, Secretary General of UN and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori (in NY)

## 2. Towards ICPD+10 (Part II)

This year marks the turning point of the 10th year since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. UNFPA is planning to publish a book of dialogue between UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori and Director of UNFPA Tokyo Office Kiyoko Ikegami entitled “*Guidebook on Population Problem with Yuko Arimori: Exploring the World and Body*” by the World Population Day on July 11 to re-acknowledge ICPD. The two authors talk frankly about the difficulties of marriage, bearing and raising children and international cooperation based on their experience, ideas and uncertainties. The book, which contains message from founder of the Worldwatch Institute and authority on environmental issues Lester Brown and UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Obaid, serves as a good introductory book to the population

problem for a broad range of readers.

UNFPA Tokyo Office will continue to work with its wide variety of partners with the aim of making the global population problem more familiar and readily understandable as the problem involving each and every one of us.



UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori in Cambodia, 2 - 7, February 2004

### 3. Towards ICPD+10 (Part III)

A 20-year plan called ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) was adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. UNFPA conducted a global survey to review the progress of this PoA over the 10-year period and examine its tasks and outlook. A report from this review entitled “Investing in People” was announced on June 21 (<http://www.unfpa.org/publications/index.cfm?ID=179>).



Inspection tour of India by UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori, June 2004

In this report based on response from 167 countries, considerable progress towards the realization of ICPD PoA has been reported even though problems such as fund shortage do exist.

ICPD PoA is serving as a guideline in areas such as population, gender, HIV/AIDS and adolescents and reproductive health/rights in many countries and is being reflected in actual policies and laws. In particular, issues that are directly related to lives of women and girls such as reproductive health/rights and safe motherhood are being taken up as major issue in many countries.

UNFPA will continue to strive towards the realization of ICPD PoA.

### 4. Towards ICPD+10 (Part IV)

UNFPA issued State of the World Population 2004 on September 15. Being the 10th year from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 and the turning point for its 20 year plan called ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), this year's *State of the World Population* is entitled “The Cairo Consensus at Ten: Population, Reproductive Health and the Global Effort to End Poverty”. It affirms the



State of the World Population 2004

progress made over the past 10 years and takes a hard look at the challenges to be encountered over the next 10 years. Both English and Japanese versions of this publication can be viewed at UNFPA Tokyo Office website (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp/>).

*State of the World Population 2004* reports that steady progress has been made in many countries in terms of indices such as population, gender, HIV/AIDS and adolescents and reproductive health/rights. On the other hand, it states that facilitation of fund procurement, effective allocation of funds to priority items, qualitative improvement of program and fostering of good partnership with civil society following the implementation of program still remain as

important tasks for the international community.

Ten years have elapsed from ICPD. UNFPA will continue to strive towards realization of ICPD PoA.

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## About ODA Quarterly

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Contained in this publication is only a fraction of programs that have been implemented under the support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). We will report the summary of our activities on a quarterly basis. We welcome your input about information you would like to see on this publication and ideas you may have regarding our activities.

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