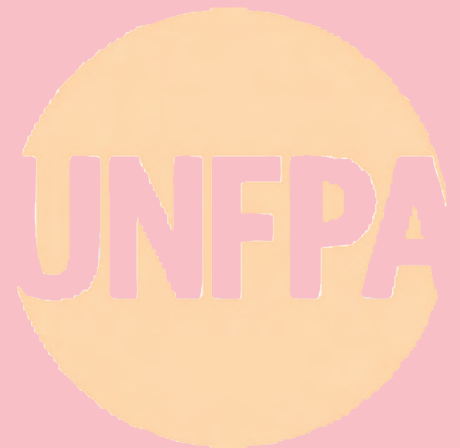
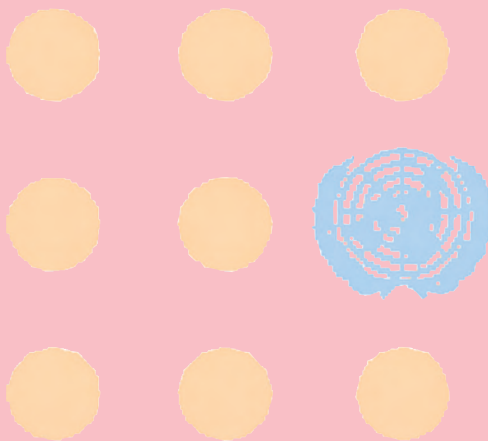


Advocacy Activities
for
Japanese Parliamentarians on Population and Development



**ODA
QUARTERLY
2008**

**on
Population and Development**



IPPF

Issued
by

Asian Population and Development Association

in cooperation

with

JOICFP, NPO2050 and UNFPA Tokyo Office

ODA Quarterly2008

Issued by
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

In cooperation with:
Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)
NPO2050
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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**Global Issues and Population 2:
Changes in the Social System**

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XXI. Environmental Issues and Population: Japan's Options 3

1. Water Resources and Population: Not Just for Humans!

This year (2008) marks an extremely important year for Japanese diplomacy. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) will be held in Yokohama in May 2008, followed by the G8 Hokkaido Tokayo Summit in July.

Climate change, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and African development will be the main items on the agenda at these meetings. This is an indication of the fact that the global environment which has been sustaining human activity up to now can no longer do so and that concrete measures are needed to combat climate change. The issue of water will be covered as one of main agenda items in a series of conferences. It is a crucial topic which is deeply connected to environmental issues, food production, and healthcare.

As previously mentioned, the issues of food, population, and water clearly illustrate the problems we are currently facing. The introduction of the Green Revolution in the 20th Century has enabled a dramatic increase in the production of food, giving rise to optimism that we can continue to increase food production through technological innovation. While room for further technological advancement definitely exists, food production is believed to prematurely reach its limit due to factors such as the depletion of water resources.



“Stop, It's Not Just for Humans!”

Winner of the 2003 Love Earth Picture Mail Grand Prix, sponsored by Tokyo Gas

Freshwater, which is circulated by solar heat through the process of precipitation and evapotranspiration, is the only water that can be utilized on a permanent basis. Such circulation of freshwater resources accounts for only 0.008% of Earth's entire water resource. Humankind cannot monopolize this limited freshwater resource as it is also needed by other animals and plants. For this reason, it is said that the percentage of freshwater resources available for humans is no more than 0.0009%. The existence of many animals and plants is already threatened by human habitation and expansion of economic activities. Furthermore, many countries in the Sub-Saharan region, where the population is rapidly growing, are experiencing a “water shortage” (volume of running

water per person at 1,700m³ or less) and “water deficiency” (volume of running water per person at 1,000m³ or less).

$$\text{Amount of water available per person} = \frac{\text{Circulation of freshwater resource requisite} - \text{Water for sustaining the ecosystem}}{\text{Population}}$$

Needless to say, the amount of freshwater resources that are circulating and the amount of water needed to sustain the ecosystem has not changed over the past 2000 years; what has changed is the increasing number of people using it because the population has increased.

2. I = PAT

In previous issues of ODA Quarterly, we discussed I = PAT, an equation showing the relationship between environment and population. In this equation, “I” (Environmental Impact) is the product of “P” (Population), “A” (Affluence) and “T” (Technology). We believe that the solution to environmental problems is synonymous with reducing the environmental burden through the advancement of technology which includes a shift from a carbon energy society to a hydrogen energy society.

However, the fact that the population continues to grow means that the environmental load will increase exponentially as the population becomes more affluent in the future. On the other hand, it would give rise to social unrest when other parts of the population remain in poverty. For this reason, we must seek to stabilize the population by reducing unwanted pregnancies and creating a society in which children are born and grow in good health – this is an indispensable condition for creating a society in which people can live in humane conditions. This is also the most reliable means for creating a future with maximum potential and we must turn our attention to the present condition of ODA that supports these population programs.

3. The G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, TICAD IV, and ODA

The population issue is an issue that cannot, by any means, be dealt with through coercion as it is deeply related to individual lives and values. In this sense each and every individual in developing countries constitute the basis for receiving support for population programs.

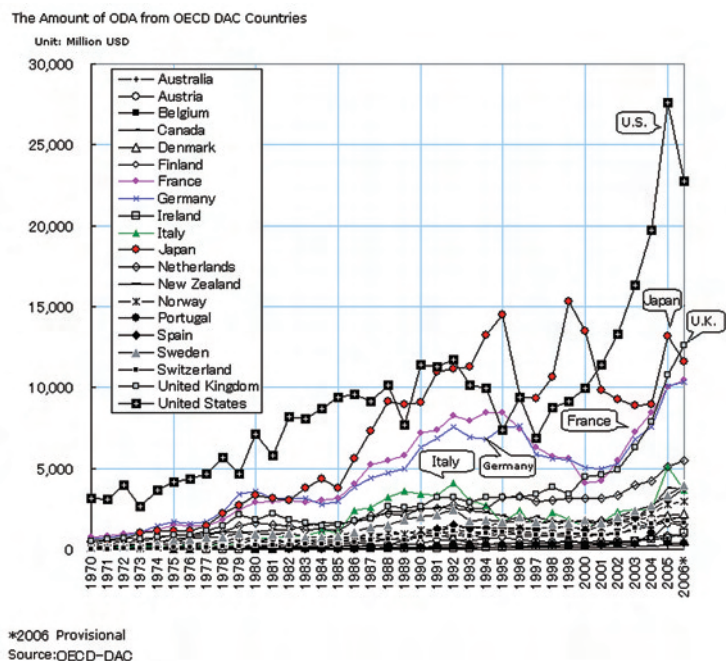
In 1974, Japan was the first country in the world to form a parliamentary forum on population and development, namely the Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF). This was followed by the establishment of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in 1982, with the aim of applying its experience to the Asian region. In 1997, the Forum for Arab and African

Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD) was also established in response to an appeal from Japan after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in Cairo in 1994. These efforts were based on a conviction that the solutions for the population problem cannot be imposed upon society, thus it is important to foster an understanding of people in each country.

It is also the role of parliamentarians that have been elected by the people and represent public opinion to implement such solutions. Since the ICPD, domestic parliamentary committees on population and development have been formed in other Asian countries where rapid demographic transition and economic development are being attained.

It is true that population programs were sometimes used for political purposes. However, the resistance against the principles of ICPD to check population growth has almost diminished as a result of improving individual health and offering a means in which to prevent unwanted pregnancies. On the other hand, there is still a group of countries – mostly consisting of LDCs (Least Developed Countries) in Africa – that cannot implement these programs even if they wanted to due to lack of financial backing. Population stabilization is essential for stabilizing the global environment and enabling the people of LDCs to live with dignity – this is where ODA is needed. The growing population is affecting the entire world, creating various problems in many areas (e.g. environment, food security). What is detrimental to the world is also detrimental to Japan; however, what benefits the world also benefits Japan.

Partly due to the fact that Japan's constitution prohibits itself from having military forces, the country's international contribution has traditionally been centred around economic assistance. However, the no-holds-barred reform was carried out amidst fiscal restructuring and as a result, the ODA budget has been decreasing since its peak in 1999. Even though the budget temporarily increased in 2005 when emergency assistance was offered for the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the ensuing tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004, as well as for debt exemption for Iraqi reconstruction assistance, the amount of ODA in the regular budget has been declining consistently; for instance, ODA offered for water and hygiene in 2006 was cut by 21.6% from the previous year. Japan's ODA falls far short of



the goal confirmed at the Millennium Development Summit held in New York in 2000. It called for the increase of the GNP percentage of ODA to 0.7% but it has remained at 0.28%; this is lower than the 0.33% average published by the DAC (Development Assistance Committee) of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), which consists of major ODA donor countries.

It goes without saying that merely offering funds is not sufficient for assistance to be effective. Even though the people involved are making consistent efforts to achieve results through practical assistance by compensating for reductions in financial assistance with human resources and technical cooperation, this “percentage against GNP” has taken its own course. In fact, the ODA from countries such as Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Denmark exceeds the target of 0.7% against GNP. Other European countries - including Lithuania, which broke away from the former Soviet Union in 1990 - suffered repercussions from the transition phase, from a planned to a market economy after joining the EU in 2004; they must now also meet the EU’s ODA financial standards.

In this sense, proactive and earnest measures must be taken by the Japanese Government this year in the form of initiatives when global decisions and aid policies are made at TICAD IV and the G8 Summit to eradicate the causes of future problems.

In the next issue, we would like to focus on the meaning of international cooperation for Japanese industries before the G8 Summit Meeting.

XXII. Environmental Issues and Population: Japan's Options 4

1. The Upcoming G8 Summit

The G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit will soon be held. At this year's summit, focus will be placed on global issues such as humankind's impact on the environment; therefore the G8 discussion will focus on not only their own countries' interests, but also what is best for the world. The existence of humankind will be threatened as the global environment deteriorates, thus economic activities – which constitute only a mere part of human activity – can only be carried out to an extent that allows the global environment to sustain itself. Historically speaking, however, humankind has not known a lot about the “Earth's limit” previously. In addition, the “environment” was something that was a “given” for supporting economic activities, and not something to be “conscious of”. Nothing is more difficult than being aware of something that other people do not recognize. In addition, various opinions inevitably exist regarding the impact of human activities in view of the fact that global warming has advanced to a greater degree in the past, while global cooling had turned the Earth into planet of ice in the course of natural history. However, reports from the IPCC clearly show that rapid accumulation of greenhouse gasses can only be explained as being the result of human activity and that we will encounter a “point of no return” if things continue the way they are today.



The site of Summit by *wisdomcomplex*

It means that we must now see what people previously saw as a “given” and were unaware of, as something that changes according to human action, with regard to natural resources. Thus, the profit structure and optimum behavior of corporations change when environmental elements, which should be recognized as conditions, change. As these changes will force stakeholders to adjust themselves to a new situation, a sense of unfairness will emerge if a small fraction of them disproportionately profit from such changes. In this sense - from a Japanese stance – all countries, regardless of how developed, should approach the shared environmental problem from the same angle.

At any rate, we must be aware of phenomena that we did not have to pay attention to in the past as phenomena that change as a result of human activity, and the hope is that countries will consolidate their efforts and pursue global problems together. We hope

that by considering those phenomena, we will discover a new direction in which the interests of respective countries and the Earth coincide and that all nations strive to enhance our hopes and possibilities for the future.

2. Japan's Key Industries and the Significance of International Cooperation

What is the relationship between the Earth's interests and Japan's national interest? In this issue, we would like to think about Japan's key industries and the significance of international cooperation, particularly the importance of cooperation in the field of population. Special emphasis will be placed on the food issue and rare metal resources that play an important role in the electronic industry, which is one of Japan's key industries.

Food, Bio-Fuel and Resource Conservation

Japan cannot survive without relying on international relations. It is a well known fact that Japan's food self-sufficiency rate in calorie equivalent is below 40%. Simply put, 60% of the Japanese population would starve if the country did not import food. The skyrocketing price of maize and soybeans caused by popularization of bio-ethanol and bio-diesel has made a direct impact on the dinner table. Oil prices also continued to soar to a record high and made a direct impact on people's livelihood. As today's economy is very complex and largely influenced by financial engineering based capital manipulation, we cannot think simply in terms of consumption (demand) and production (supply). However, the mechanism in which rise in demand leads to higher prices basically remains the same. Food prices in particular are predisposed to plunge in times of surplus and soar in times of shortage. While bio-ethanol and bio-diesel are supposed to have a hedging function against such decreases and increases, their prices skyrocketed in sync with oil prices and triggered an increase in soybean and maize cultivation. Consequently, lands that are unsuited for cultivation such as peatland are logged which, in turn, has caused the significant emission of carbon dioxide from the slash-and-burn method of cultivation. The linkages in the issues of environment and energy are complex, and have far-reaching effects beyond our imagination as one thing leads to another.

Some may argue that since energy sources of biological origin such as bio-ethanol and bio-diesel involve carbon offsetting, planting certain areas for their production will not affect the environment as it will not generate additional carbon dioxide and the carbon dioxide level will remain constant. The reality, however, is that it is actually starting to generate vast amounts of carbon dioxide as a result of forests being cut down and additional land unsuited for cultivation being cultivated – we cannot be optimistic, even though there is carbon offset.

Food supply lagging behind population growth is a common theme in population issues. The world's population continues to increase with predictions of another 2.5 billion people being added, mainly in developing countries. The food problem will become increasingly serious under these circumstances. There was a big uproar in Japan over

rising prices of wheat, vegetable oil and petroleum; these are international commodities that have an impact on the entire world. People in Japan with a GNP of US\$38,984 are basically affected in the same manner as people in Burundi and Congo with a GNP of US\$96 and US\$120 respectively – imagine the larger impact that the price hikes have on these people. The fact that staple crops and food that is produced and consumed in developing countries are now being turned into energy sources that are consumed in developed countries for economic profit, might raise ethical questions. In addition, food is a commodity in times of abundance but immediately turns into a strategically important item in times of scarcity which cannot be obtained simply by paying money.

Rare Metal Resources

Like food, the manufacturing industry, which is one of Japan's key industries, will be seriously affected by changes in the international environment. ICT (Information and Communication Technology) has now become such an important element of Japanese industry that not a day goes by without the use of electronic equipment. To give a familiar example, mobile phones have been significantly improved and have largely gone beyond the concept of a basic telephone; they have become a tool for general communication, as well as entertainment. Almost everyone in Japan, 86.7% to be exact, is in possession of a mobile phone. For this reason, a large replacement demand is generated by frequent model renewals.

ICT has revitalized the industry and largely transformed the global economy. The manufacturing of IT devices has an aspect that differs considerably from the conventional manufacturing industry in that it requires a wide variety of microelements in large quantities instead of using large amounts of steel and petroleum resources such as the so-called "heavy industry".

The supply of rare metal resources is indispensable for manufacturing various components that are built into mobile phones and computers. As Japan has very little reserves of these metals, a situation has arisen where the increase in demand for domestic industry in countries with rare metal resource reserves such as China, results in export restrictions. While some assert that Japan's demand for future production can be met by recycling what has been accumulated within the country, used paper and used steel are quickly disappearing from the country due to export; no deposit system exists for mobile phones either. As a result, there is not any merit for users to go out of their way to return their used phones in response to calls from mobile phone companies. Mobile phones contain precious resources such as lithium, titanium, neodymium, samarium, gold and copper but are discarded after they are no longer of use.

In this sense, it is necessary to build a mechanism for ensuring recycling within the country, while at the same time making efforts to secure scarce resources. The more scarce the resource, the more difficult it becomes to obtain it through economic logic. This is where the day-to-day relationship of both resource producing and consuming countries becomes significant.

3. Proposal: Japan's Options

Points we must keep in mind today with regard to Japan's future include "maintaining a food production base"; "securing the recycling of resources, in particular rare metal resources"; "striving to hold a prestigious position in the international community, as written in the Constitution"; and "securing human resources for the bearers of the future". Japan, by fate, is largely affected by changes in the international climate so long as its industrial structure is based on importing raw materials and exporting products. In this sense, it is no exaggeration to say that keeping stable international relations is a matter of life and death for Japan. Such stability in international relations is not obtained idly - it is only made possible through daily efforts of the many people involved in international relations. In this sense, efforts to expand ODA are very important.

In international cooperation, Japan has an abundance of experience and a strong track record in offering cooperation in the area of population - the global environment cannot be maintained without stabilizing the population. Population programs for are a very humanitarian form of assistance that benefit, for example, poor mothers and children in developing countries. They form the foundation for sustainable development in the context of our planet's future. This is an area where Japan's presence can be demonstrated and its leadership is expected in the international community. The assistance will be highly appreciated worldwide and builds the foundation for making a brighter future for humankind. In this sense, we believe that using the G8 Summit as an opportunity to call for an expansion in assistance for healthcare is a good option for Japan.

XXIII. Global Issues and Population 1

1. Our Home Earth and Population Issues

Now that international conferences hosted by the Japanese Government, i.e. TICAD IV and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, have finished, we must now focus on how to put the results of these conferences into practice.

There are many issues that need to be solved in the world. They include skyrocketing food and oil prices; climate change on a global scale; prevalence of previously unknown infectious diseases; prevalence of other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and dengue fever; and terrorism and regional conflicts. As the world becomes smaller, these threats on a global scale affect everyone. Let us think about the relationship between issues on a global scale and population issues so that we can implement the outcome of these conferences without delay.

What the World Means to Us: Daily Travel Distances; Then and Now

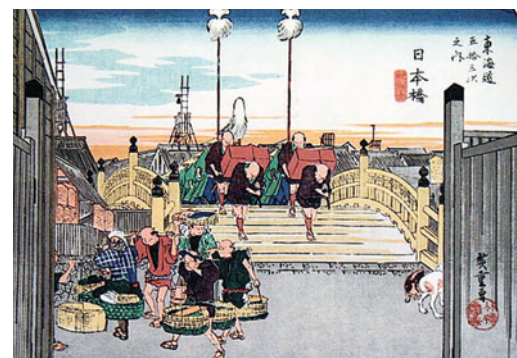
We often hear that world has become smaller, but in what way? Needless to say, the Earth itself has not become bigger or smaller, but people have an anthropocentric view of the world. As Protagoras stated, “Man is the measure of all things”; in this sense, people interpret expansion in the realm of their activities not as the expansion of their living area, but as the world becoming smaller. It is a sensory and comprehensive understanding that cannot be measured uniformly. Moreover, the sense of the world’s vastness differs from each individual’s range of activity.



Airbus A380: World’s largest passenger aircraft

Travel Distances in the Edo Period and in Around the World in 80 Days

Today, one can fly to most major cities of the world within 24 hours, including those located on the other side of the planet. During the Edo Period, however, when means of travel were limited to foot, even a good walker probably could have not travelled more than 40 kilometres a day. This means that starting from Nihonbashi they could have not gone much beyond Totsuka (43 kilometres). It would take someone walking at this speed 1,000 days to go



Nihonbashi as depicted in the *Fifty-Three Stations of The Tokaido*, by Hiroshige Ando

around the world and 500 days to reach the other side of the planet.

In 1872, when Japan entered the Meiji Era and the entire world rushed towards modernization, Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* told a story about going around the planet in 80 days. This corresponds to an average travel distance of approximately 500 kilometres per day. Elizabeth Jane Cochran, a female journalist, made an attempt to go around the world under identical conditions as in the novel for *New York World* newspaper and made the trip in 72 days in 1899. The average daily travel distance for this trip was 556 kilometres.

2. The World has Become Smaller

As mentioned earlier, travel distances correspond to changes in people's living area. In other words, our planet has become 500 times smaller compared to that of our ancestors in the Edo Period, and 40 times smaller than in the Meiji Era. However, things do not go as planned as airline tickets are expensive and trips from a large capital city to a local city sometimes require more time; but from the viewpoint of time alone, the world has become very small. By thinking this way, the time required to import seafood from China is about the same as seafood coming from Tokyo Bay in the Edo Period. The same is true today for salmon brought all the way from Chile, on the other side of the planet, which requires about the same amount of time as dried scad from Totsuka back in the old days.



From the movie "Around the World in 80 Days"

Population Growth and a Smaller World

The advancement of technology in the modern era has turned the Earth into a very small planet; not just in terms of travel speed, but also through facility of human interaction. As people meet others now more frequently and are able to maintain contact more easily, this feeling of "smallness" is more apparent, thus one can see that the concept of "smallness" also includes contact with people. To what extent has our world changed from the viewpoint of world population?

The world population circa 1820, at the end of the Edo Period, was estimated at approximately 1 billion; it increased to 1.35 billion around 1875; and to 1.65 billion in 1900. The period from 1875 to 1900 coincides with rapid global expansion of powerful Western nations and is an indication that rapid population growth had occurred as a result of such expansion. The fact that the world's population reached 6.7 billion in 2008 signifies that the population density has increased 6.7 times since the Edo Period and 4.9 times since 1872.

In other words, looking at population alone shows that its density has increased by as

much as 6.7 times since the Edo Period, and the world has become proportionately smaller. We could go so far as to say that the world today has become smaller by one-3,450ths compared to the 1820s through technological advancements in distance travelling and population density. It could be said that the realm of mobility around the globe for modern day society is equivalent to a 5.9km radius for people of the Edo Period and a 100km radius for people of the Meiji Period.

3. Globalization and the Global Village

From this perspective, we can see that our society has literally turned into a “global village”. As villages in the Edo Period are said to have had an area of 70 to 100 hectares (about 1 square kilometer), the world today would be equal to the area including neighbouring villages then. For people in the Meiji Period, this would be about a distance from Nihonbashi to Kofu, Utsunomiya, Maebashi and Mito. However, we do not fully understand this reality - we still live our lives and make judgments based on the era when the Earth was “big”.

It is common knowledge that abnormalities including climate change are occurring as the Earth can no longer withstand the heavy burden. It is necessary to acknowledge that Earth’s resources are limited and the ecosystem can no longer withstand these current consumption rates in order to maintain this global village. In reality, we have no choice but to regard this planet as our only sphere of life so long as we cannot seek our habitat outside of our earth - we are crew members who share the same inhabitable area, “Spaceship Earth”.

The population continues to grow and consume large amounts of limited energy. The greater the population increase, the greater the threat imposed on food security and energy supply which all result in a great burden on the global environment. Today, we manage to live in this extremely small world. We are aware of the problems that exist in Africa; now every problem that occurs somewhere in the world impacts us in some way or another.

In the next issue, we will be addressing the topics of population and food, energy, climate change, and infectious diseases.

XXIV. Global Issues and Population 2:

Changes in the Social System

1. Global Village

A globalized society is characterized by people, various goods, and information being transported quickly and in large quantities; for example, the development of the airline industry has made it possible to bring salmon fillet to our dinner table all the way from Chile in the same amount of time as bringing dried horse mackerel from Totsuka.

The world used to be a place full of mystery. Unexplored land was full of mysterious animals and incredible phenomena; however, now there is no longer any unexplored land. Looking out of an airplane window at night, you can see endless stretches of road across deserts and mountain ranges. Global desire for convenience and travelling to far away places has been somewhat fulfilled through the advancement of science and technology, and the world has become a very small place as a result.

Japan's food self-sufficiency rate has dropped to 40%, thus under these circumstances Japan must depend on food imports from overseas. However, there is now more concern over the safety of imported food after food imported from China contained agricultural chemicals, which posed a great hazard to consumers' health.

The uninhabited Danjo Islands, located to the west of Japan, are blessed with an abundance of nature. The region is home to many precious flora and fauna, many of which have been designated as protected species, and there are not any factories in that region that release harmful materials which cause photochemical smog; however, there was an occurrence of photochemical smog in 2007. Photochemical smog is said to be caused by emissions from China where rapid economic development is taking place.



The Danjo Islands (Archipelago):
<http://niki3575.hp.infoseek.co.jp/danjo/danjo.htm>

Large quantities of waste with Chinese and Hangeul properties are drifting down to the coastline of Nagasaki Prefecture where the Danjo Islands and other coastal areas are. These pollutants, including those originating from Japan, are carried by the ocean current and said to ultimately reach the area surrounding Hawaii.

We now live in a world of interdependence and interconnectedness, where arguing who is originally to blame for releasing harmful emissions is pointless. We also live in a very narrow and dense interacting society in terms of distance and movement. However, our social system follows the principle of a modern nation-state that started about 400 years ago and remains unchanged.

Modern Era and Nation-State

Nation-states in modern society are the building blocks of the international community. While there are numerous studies about when nation-states were first formed, it is generally believed to be a concept created by the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The Peace of Westphalia was a treaty that secured the end of the Thirty Years' War which was a religious war that gave rise to the principle of the equality of nations and formed the concept of a sovereign state. Today's international laws are in conformity with the principles of the Westphalia philosophy. The treaty allowed the sovereignty of each country as the ultimate authority based on the experience of religious wars. In other words, it formulated the principle of not interfering with other countries that have different religions, languages, values and norms.

It is said that the population of rural and urban areas of Germany was reduced by approximately 40% and 33%, respectively, after a series of wars that continued for nearly 100 years and ended with the Thirty Years' War; the spread of infectious diseases was also responsible for the population reduction. Japan was defeated in World War II and also suffered great loss. Fatalities are said to have reached 5% of the entire population, which is a number beyond our imagination. Considering the nature of religious wars, the Peace of Westphalia can be seen as the result of distress among the countries that became bogged down.

The system of today's international community is in line with this theory. The nation-state and the principle of national sovereignty were very effective in preventing large wars, including religious wars, and in building the principles of the international community. The size of the population was still small, the world was vast, and energy consumption was low when the Peace of Westphalia was signed, thus it was not imagined that problems beyond national sovereignty would affect the entire world.

ODA and Nation-States

We live in a completely different environment today in comparison to the



Source:
http://www.isis.ne.jp/mnn/senya/images_1227/122703.jpg

time when modern nations were born. The world's population was approximately 500 million when the Peace of Westphalia was signed; today it is 6.7 billion. Two-hundred years ago, the maximum average daily travel distance for an individual was 40 kilometers; today it is 20,000 kilometers, thanks to modern technology. The world's population is growing and the world is now smaller in regard to travel distances, however, this is all making a huge impact on the global environment. Global wealth distribution is also extremely uneven as 20% of the world's population owns 90% of world's total income and the assets of the 225 wealthiest people on the planet are equal to the annual income of 2.5 billion people in poor countries.

If the world were a small island, 20% of the residents would be living in relative abundance while the remaining 80% would be forced to live in poverty as the population continues to grow. With the development of the mass media, poor people are aware of a life of abundance. They also know the amount of resources that are being consumed by developed countries.

Those who have done well in life say that their success is the product of their efforts. However, people living in abject poverty cannot receive education, are forced into unwanted pregnancies, and live in unhealthy conditions. It means that these people are not even given the opportunity to have a chance at making an effort. Regardless of the equality that may be attained as a result, sound development is not possible unless the conditions that allow each and every person to make an effort exist. We have divided the Earth into small nation-states with only 20% of its inhabitants enjoying a life of abundance. On a small island, however, everyone on the island will fall together unless they think about the welfare of the entire island.

2. ODA as an Investment for the Future

While the poorest of the poor in Japan may be considered to belong to the upper-income group in a developing country by mere comparison of figures, not all people are living in affluence in developed countries as these countries are also faced with a mountain of issues such as an aging society with fewer children, pension, and unemployment. From the viewpoint of the world as a whole which has now become a small island however, the previously mentioned imbalance is about to become an element that would bring about world instability.

The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been highly publicized with pledges being made to allocate 0.7% of the GDP for ODA. Their progress, however, is still slow. There also appears to be considerable differences in interpretation of this 0.7% between developed and developing countries.

ODA is often seen as a kind of "charity" among developed countries, based on the principle of a nation-state. In contrast, developing countries seem to regard the attainment of 0.7% of the GDP for ODA as an "obligation" of developed countries that

they committed to with the MDGs. While this may be justified, considering the weight of the word “commitment,” it does not automatically lead to actual contribution. Support from voters who are also taxpayers is needed to increase contributions. However, voters may feel uneasy with the notion of ODA being an obligation of developed countries when being persuaded about the need for such contribution.

What if we changed our viewpoint and positioned ODA as an “investment” for making our future sustainable and bright? It is not possible to reap a rich harvest without sufficient investment. It appears that more active and constructive discussions can be held with regard to the strategic meaning and efficiency of utilization by positioning ODA not as “charity” or “obligation” but as an “investment for the future.”

APDA

(Asian Population and Development Association)

1. Activities in Connection with TICAD IV and the G8 Summit

In 2007, APDA organized an international conference of Asian and African parliamentarians prior to TICAD IV and the G8 Summit. As a result of discussions at the conference, the Tokyo Statement of Parliamentarians on Population, Health, and Community Capacity Development was adopted.



Afro-Asian Parliamentarians' Dialogue on Population, Health and Community Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

In late April 2008, APDA convened the “24th Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Population and Development” on the theme of Climate Change, Infectious Disease & Population Issues, with the aim of forming a collective opinion of the Asian region for the G8 Summit. In addition, APDA will hold the “G8 Parliamentarians’ Conference on Population and Sustainable Development” immediately before the G8 Summit.

At this “G8 Parliamentarians’ Conference on Population and Sustainable Development”, APDA is planning to seek the facilitation of North-South issues by providing a forum for the parliamentarians of ODA donor countries and the parliamentarians from African and Asian countries to exchange opinions, and by submitting the proposal that appeals for the solution of the population problem as a fundamental measure towards a bright future for humankind.

2. Activities Towards the G8 Summit: Population, Climate Change and Infectious Diseases

APDA convened the “24th Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Population and Development” on the theme of Climate Change, Infectious Disease & Population Issues at the Malaysian Parliament as a part of its activities before the G8 Summit. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and offered a forum for dynamic discussion. Solutions for the population problem and measures against climate change and infectious diseases are usually handled separately in their respective areas of expertise, however, they need to be linked organically and have maximum efficacy as a whole when we take action for the future of our planet.

The opportunity to conduct comprehensive discussions in this manner appears to have offered a fresh viewpoint for Asian parliamentarians who attended the meeting. Many of the participants promised to hold study sessions and seminars on the same subject upon return to their respective countries.



Presenting the declaration to Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda

As a result of this meeting, the adopted declaration confirmed anew that measures for population issues centred around maternal and child health are very effective from the viewpoint of the population problem and is the foundation for coping with problems such as climate change, environment, and infectious diseases. The declaration was submitted directly to the Japanese Prime Minister by parliamentarians who attended the meeting, namely, Hon. Wakako Hironaka (DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan), Hon. Chieko Nohno (LDP: Liberal Democratic Party), and Hon. Chiaki Takahashi (DPJ).

3. G8 Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Development: Population, Climate Change, Infectious Diseases and Food Security

APDA organized the "24th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development" on the theme of Climate Change, Infectious Disease & Population Issues at the Malaysian Parliament as a part of its activities before the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Subsequent to this meeting, APDA held the "G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Development" in Tokyo from 2-3 July. Prime Minister Hon. Yasuo



Opening Ceremony of the "G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Development"

Fukuda delivered the opening address at this conference which was attended by parliamentarians from 27 countries from Europe, Africa and Arabia, Asia, and the Americas. This conference was epoch-making in several ways. It was the first population-related conference to be attended by an incumbent prime minister. Secondly, the conference directly linked the population problem to the themes at G8 Summit such as climate change, food security, global healthcare, and infectious diseases. Thirdly, G8 Member States which are ODA donors and aid recipient countries from Asia, Africa and Arabia, and Latin America gathered for a frank exchange of opinions. Fourthly, the declaration adopted at the conference was delivered to many leaders that attended the ensuing G8 Summit. In addition to the Prime Minister of Japan who presided over G8 summit, participants presented the declaration to heads of state from Germany, Canada

and France, as well as to the Prime Minister of United Kingdom through the country's nonpartisan parliamentarian federation. Furthermore, the declaration was submitted to the leaders of India, South Africa, Ghana, and Senegal who were invited to the outreach conference. The conference produced significant results with part of the declaration being reflected in the Chairman's Statement of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.

4. From the G8 Parliamentarians' Conference to ICPD+15

As mentioned in the previous issue, the "G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Sustainable Development", held prior to the G8 Summit, attained remarkable results, including its reflection in the Chairman's Summary Statement by the G8 Chairman and then



Prime Minister Hon. Yasuo Fukuda of Japan. The principle of "participation by all members" being confirmed was one of the significant results of the Parliamentarians' Meeting and the G8 Summit. The idea that "there is no irrelevant third party in addressing the issues on a global scale and everyone should be involved and become the driving force" is an epoch-making change in the attitude of developing countries which had been preoccupied with the discussion about the responsibilities of developed countries.

Developing countries are making progress. "Transitioning from a heavy reliance on external donor assistance (for the attainment of the MDGs) to greater self sufficiency within national budgets" is a resolution which was passed at the AFPPD "Asian Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference", held in Mongolia after the G8 Parliamentarians' Conference. Most of the participating countries were convinced that they could attain all or at least some of the MDG targets.

We cannot help but sense the effects of time, thinking about the past when many Asian countries were dependent on developed countries. The results of our activities up until now have taken a tangible form as the people of developing countries have started their activities with confidence and pride. As next year marks the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which formed the basic policy of population and sustainable development, a conference for parliamentarians from around the globe will be held in Cairo, Egypt to commemorate the anniversary review the progress made. We are confident that we can spread these activities to the rest of the world and create a bright future for humankind by galvanizing these activities.

NPO 2050

1. Improving the Status of Women

NPO 2050 asserts that for addressing the population problems adequately in developing regions, women must be incorporated into the mainstream of development through proper education and income-generating activities. For this reason, NPO 2050 offers scholarships to girls from very poor families so that they may have opportunities to go to school. In addition, they promote self-help efforts among rural women by offering technical assistance for spinning, knitting, and weaving textiles, raising Eri silkworms on the Palawan Island of the Philippines. Their products are sold in Japan on a fair trade basis.

The Eri silkworms feed on the leaves of castor plants and cassava. Using Eri silkworms in this project for cash income is ideal in the tropics as it does not destroy the environment, can be raised year-round, and does not require advanced technical skills. In addition, the fact that women have an income-generating activity enables them to gain confidence, make future plans for themselves and for their families, and give them a sense of satisfaction. The



Women producing high-quality textile; a scene from technical guidance

Fukushima-Asia Friendship Association donated 10 fire pumps to the project, for watering the cassava fields during the dry season, to help these women.

2. Africa's Aging Population

The Yokohama Declaration adopted at TICAD IV contains an analysis of the present situation on a wide range of issues that need to be addressed. In particular, in the section dealing with the MDGs, it contained statements referring to the future generations such as “decent job-creation, in particular for the youth, income generation, expansion of access to primary health-care and basic education” and “the fundamental need to improve the quality of and expanding access to education for all African people, with special emphasis on youth”.

According to the UN estimates, Africa's population will increase 2.2 times from 922 million in 2005 to 1,998 million in 2050. The emphasis on the young population is

understandable as they (ages 0 to 24) will be 571 million in 2005, occupying 62% of the entire population.

We must be prepared for the aging population. According to the “Aging in Sub-Saharan Africa” report published by the US Census Bureau in 2007, the population of the aged 60 years and above in this region will increase from 35 million in 2006 to 139 million in 2050, despite the high mortality rate of AIDS.

The United Nations held “The Second World Assembly on Aging” in 2002 in Madrid, Spain to address the issue of aging and adopted a plan of action. The implementation of the plan, covering the first five period, was evaluated at the United Nations Economic and Social Council in February of 2008 and adopted a resolution seeking a more effective approach. It shows that demographic changes such as aging of the population must be incorporated when drafting a development plan.

The Maternity Health Record Book, a Japanese initiative, should be useful in promoting maternal and child health in Africa. We also would like to emphasize, at the same time, Japan’s experience on aging would also be useful.

3. Mitigating Global Warming and Poverty in China

NPO 2050 has launched tree-planting activities in China in order to reduce the impact of the Global warming, and, at the same time, to improve the status of women and to reduce poverty among farmers. By greening the Loess Plateau, the project aims at preventing desertification and dust storms, preserving ground water, and eradicating poverty. This is possible as the project buys seedlings from farmers, mostly rural women, and pays for planting Seabuckthorn which is indigenous to China, and for the maintenance of trees after planting. Employment is thus created and a self-help spirit promoted among farmers. As Seabuckthorn berries can be harvested in 4 years and sold to Chinese medicine and juice manufacturers, it would help eradicate poverty among the farmers concerned. Seabuckthorn also fixes the nitrogen into the ground, helping plants to grow better and to hold the soil down. It is, therefore, a very useful tree that helps prevent sand storms, in addition to greening the land.



Women who enjoy working; Labor wage for one day is around 20 Chinese Yuan (around 310 Japanese Yen)

4. Corporate Businesses Contributing to Poverty Eradication

Governments, the United Nations, and NGOs are working towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aim at eradicating poverty and starvation

by half by the year 2015. The evaluation report published by the United Nations in September 2008 shows that it is extremely difficult to attain all of the goals by 2015.

Under these circumstances, corporate activities are attracting attention and business companies could possibly act as new partners. Businesses can offer employment opportunities, leading to poverty reduction, improved health care and the environmental protection, in their pursuit of business opportunities. There is a growing recognition in this respect of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently compiled a report analyzing the activities of 50 progressive companies entitled “Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with the Poor” and held a symposium in Tokyo to publish the report. The representative of Key Coffee, Inc. introduced the company’s experience in the transfer of skills to coffee farmers and the improvement of their living standards, in their efforts to reintroduce the Tradja coffee which had been wiped out from the market in Indonesia. A representative from Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd. talked about a domestic water supply system using a slow filtration device that converts river water into safer domestic water; this project is operated by local people in six Asian countries.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is promoting poverty countermeasures through corporate initiatives while the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) is supporting industrial development and human resource projects in Africa. We look forward to the expansion of “private sector activities within ODA.”

JOICFP

(Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning)

1. Global Health and the G8: Women's Life

A baby girl is born in a country in Sub-Saharan Africa. She survives her first month of life, meaning that she now has a very high chance of living. Of the 9.7 million children under the age of 5 who die every year, 3.5 million die within 28 days after birth. The girl is vaccinated before her first birthday and survives malaria and manages to celebrate her fifth birthday. By that age, she already starts to help her mother with a plenty of domestic chores. She has her nose to the grindstone until age 10, doing housework; drawing water; collecting firewood; and looking after her younger siblings. Because she is so busy, she cannot attend school that is located far away. Between the ages of 13 and 15, she is married off to a man chosen by her parents. After all, she could not go to school.

She gives birth a year later. Child delivery is a deadly endeavour when one's body is not fully matured. People assisting in the baby's delivery are mothers and women from the neighbourhood; none of them are midwives nor have any medical training and there are not any health facilities. There are cases of stillbirths, 2.5 million each year, and cases where both the mother and infant die; one woman loses her life every minute in the world due to pregnancy or child delivery. Under these circumstances, women continue to have children, and no one teaches them availability of contraceptives or family planning, nor can they obtain information on their own if they cannot read or write.

The girl's husband dies of AIDS several years later. 2.1 million people die of AIDS every year, taking the lives of those in their prime in particular. Many African countries are experiencing shorter life expectancy and a sharp decline in productivity due to AIDS. However, women are not even informed about what AIDS is.

The wife starts feeling sick several years after her husband dies. Healthcare facilities are not available in her neighbourhood, so she borrows money from her relatives to go to a far away hospital. There she is diagnosed with tuberculosis which she has developed as a result of being infected with HIV/AIDS; she contracted HIV/AIDS from her husband.

Tuberculosis accounts for half of the direct causes of deaths from AIDS. A patient can have access to medicine if they are lucky, receive treatment for tuberculosis, as well as treatment to delay the development of AIDS using anti-retroviral drugs, and raise their own child. Most mothers, however, die without being able to receive adequate medical services, which is resulting in a growing number of AIDS orphans. There are already 15 million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa and their number is predicted to reach 20 million by the year 2010.

Japan will be hosting the Hokkaido Toyako Summit this year; the year which also marks the halfway point for meeting the MDGs. Japan was the first country in Summit history to propose an agenda on global health with emphasis on infectious diseases at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, which led to the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in 2002. NGOs that are engaged in global health highly appreciate Japan's commitment towards global health. At the same time, we expect Japan, as the host country, to demonstrate leadership at this year's Summit by expanding their investment in global health, both qualitatively and quantitatively, towards the goal of achieving the health related MDGs by the target year. It is hoped that through this, women's situations such as those depicted in the examples above will be improved.



NGO representatives visit Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's official residence to deliver a request to demonstrate leadership, as the host country, at this year's G8 Summit; he will be attending the Davos Conference (World Economic Forum) in February 2009

2. All Roads Lead to Toyako; “Me too — Give Everyone a Chance to Live”

In this issue, we would like to outline the global health campaign that JOICFP is running for the Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July 2008.

“Me too — Give Everyone a Chance to Live” is a campaign launched by four NGOs, including JOICFP, to collect signatures from those who support the objectives of the campaign activities via campaign website and other sources of information. These signatures will be delivered to the Japanese Government before the G8 Summit.

The campaign states the following:

“More than 30,000 people lose their lives every day from diseases that they could have survived if they had access to healthcare professionals and medicine; many of them are women and children.”

In 2008, Japan is expected to demonstrate international leadership as the host country of the G8 Summit. JOICFP will approach the leaders of G8 nations that have an enormous influence on global trends to provide greater assistance to global health, in terms of both quantity and quality, under leadership of the Japanese Government. We can no longer dismiss the fact that precious lives are being lost, even though they can be saved through will and decisive action. We also need your “me too” so that we may have a greater impact on the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit this summer.

We have received a great deal of help with this campaign from our supporters. For example, nearly 1,000 signatures were collected by maternal and child health promoters

in Wakayama and other prefectures in the hope that women all over the world would not lose their lives as a result of pregnancy and childbirth. Support was also received from the members of the Japanese Nursing Association and the Japanese Midwives' Association, in addition to the many signatures collected from students at Waseda University and event participants.

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) on 28 May 2008, Prime Minister Fukuda highlighted the importance of the population issue in Africa and added that it is also a reproductive health issue. Mr. Fukuda is the first Japanese Prime Minister in history to have used the term “reproductive health.” Everyone involved was moved by this fact as it was the result of his accumulated efforts in taking initiatives towards gender equality.

We hope to collect as many signatures as possible and deliver them to Prime Minister Fukuda so that the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, which will be held from July 7 to 9, 2008, will remain in history as the first summit that shed light on maternal and child health and reproductive health, thereby taking a big step in the movement for saving the lives of women and children all over the world.



3. Can the Millennium Development Goals be Attained?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit in which 189 UN Member States participated, including heads of state from 147 countries - has reached its halfway mark this year in 2008. With its specific timeline for attainment set at 2015, the MDGs have become the program of action that the international community needs to follow.

Going through a situation where advocacy had been implemented based on individual goals of addressing issues such as education, health, and poverty respectively, the international consensus on the development goals now cover all the targets under the umbrella of the “attainment of the MDGs”. In order to discuss the progress of MDGs at their halfway mark, a High-Level Event will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York on September 25th 2008.

Unfortunately, progress in the area of global health is slow compared to others, with notable delay in MDG4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and MDG5 (Improve Maternal Health). International agencies, including NGOs and UN agencies, announced that 6 million mothers and infants can be saved by the 2015 with an additional funding of US\$10.2 billion per year in order to achieve the MDGs by their deadline. The announcement also

included the fact that, although US\$10.2 billion a year may appear to be a large sum of money, the world is spending the same amount in 2.5 days on defense. This is happening while one woman is still losing her life every minute today due to pregnancy- and birth-related causes. What is more striking is the fact that this figure has seen no improvement in the past 20 years.

The Japanese Government announced the Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health at the Hokkaido Toyako Summit, under the leadership of Prime Minister Fukuda. It marked the moment when maternal and child health was placed at the center of the global health agenda for the first time in the history of G8 Summits. Japan was the first country to take up global health with a focus on infectious diseases as the agenda at the 2000 Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit and shed light on maternal and child health at the recent Toyako Summit. Japan has therefore taken initiatives in all health-related MDGs, i.e. Goals 4 to 6, at the Summit.

The spirit of “participatory approach” mentioned by Prime Minister Fukuda at the Davos Forum continues to run in the Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health. The Framework was made by combining the wisdom of many of the parties concerned and by forming a collective view of civil society, including domestic and foreign experts, as well as NGOs. The Framework for Action not only set the course for putting global health on the agenda at the Summit meeting next year in Italy and the year after next in Canada, but also created a mechanism for G8 nations to review and report the commitment and results in the area of global health every year to ensure accountability.

All we have to do now is act. We will strive to attain the MDGs on time by appreciating the Framework for Action which was prepared after a long build-up that spanned over more than a year with the parties involved in the Summit, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). The question is how the Toyako Framework for Action will be implemented and delivered to those who truly need it.

At the International Media Centre (IMC) of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit



NGO working space at the IMC



NGO being interviewed by television reporters

4. Maternal Mortality Rate at the MDGs’ Halfway Point

The global countdown to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has started. Now that we have reached the halfway point in 2008, we must ask whether the health MDGs are attainable. In particular, many issues still remain with regard to

“Maternal Health Improvement” targets, such as “Reduction of Maternal Mortality” and “Universal Access to Reproductive Health.” As these areas involve social and cultural issues, in addition to issues of health and medicine, some predict that the goal cannot be attained by 2015.

- Maternal mortality slow to improve

Looking at maternal mortality in any developing country, the reality is that it has made relatively little progress over the past 20 years. In 1990, 576,000 women lost their lives worldwide due to pregnancy and childbirth. The estimated mortality figure remained at 536,000 in 2005; This means that one woman is losing her life every minute. Moreover, 99% of these deaths occurred in developing countries.

Although countries, allegedly, stepped up their efforts after the MDGs were set in 2000, improvement of the maternal mortality rate is not making the desired progress, despite the worldwide targets and commitments made by heads of state. Measures for strengthening health-related issues were also newly incorporated at the recent Hokkaido Toyako G8 Summit.

Comparison of Maternal Mortality-Related Indices: 1990 and 2005
(Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the World Bank)

Region	1990		2005**	
	Mortality*	Number of deaths	Mortality*	Number of deaths
Worldwide	430	576,000	400	536,000
Developed regions	11	1,300	9	960
Developing regions	480	572,000	450	533,000
Africa	830	221,000	820	276,000
Asia	410	329,000	330	241,000
Latin America	180	21,000	130	15,000
Oceania	550	1,000	430	890

*Mortality rate per 100,000 live births

**Maternal mortality in 2005 was even higher in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia at 900 and 490, respectively.

Many areas of improvement have been indicated, including the recommendation of safe and clean deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant; human resource development; and improvement of the health system (e.g. improvement of emergency obstetric care and coordination between hospitals and public health; cooperation between health administration and local NGOs; and the enhancement of research sector for identifying the causes).

In retrospect, the same points were made 20 years ago. All relevant parties should be fully familiar with the issues that need to be solved and how to go about doing it. However, the biggest challenge that continues to hinder progress is how to make the system work and how to go about finding the funds to do so.

- Where is Japan headed? How long will the cutback in ODA continue?

It has been some time since Japan has been referred to as “the world leader in maternal and child health” in areas where maternal and child health programs were pursued comprehensively for many years. For this reason, there should be some way in which Japan can step up its international contributions in this area. Japan has been a forward-

thinking country in the area of maternal and child health and has not only had experience and know-how, but has also offered steady financial support in this area. Due to a cutback in ODA over the past decade, however, the amount of Japan's financial contribution has embarrassingly dropped by as much as 40%, both in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, while contributions from other developed countries increased. Japan should take pride in being a "leader in maternal and child health" and fulfil its responsibility as a dependable member of the international community.

UNFPA Tokyo Office

1. Proposals for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) from a Health Perspective

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) will be held in Yokohama from 28-30 May 2008. Eleven international agencies and international NGOs are currently working together to propose an action plan, based on their specialized experience and knowledge concerning development in Africa. In the health cluster, UNFPA and UNICEF played the central role in proposing policy recommendation in view of the realities in Africa.



Improvement of healthcare is a pressing issue, Infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, are posing serious threats to societies and the economy of African countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is a region where not only nearly half of the global maternal deaths occur. In the meantime it is also home to two-thirds of the Global total of people living with HIV.

“Improve maternal health” is one of the goals of Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG5). Maternal mortality must be further reduced by 5.2% every year in order to meet the target set for the year 2015. Nevertheless, the annual decline in maternal mortality since 1990 has been mere 0.1%, despite the international efforts concerning global health issue including infectious diseases.

Recently, world poverty is further deteriorated due to climate change and natural disasters that have occurred in recent years.

Improvement of emergency obstetric medical facilities, human resource development, maternal/infant healthcare, HIV prevention/treatment, and enhanced coordination in family planning, hold the key to success. Increased political commitment is needed in the international community.

The State of World Population 2007 can be downloaded from the UNFPA Tokyo Office website: http://www.unfpa.or.jp/pdf/2007_all.pdf. Please contact the Tokyo Office, listed below, if you wish to have it mailed to you and for other inquiries.

2. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) closes

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) was held from

28-30 May 2008 in Yokohama, Japan. Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, in his opening speech on the first day of the conference, reaffirmed the importance of reproductive health and maintenance of the health of pregnant women and children. Moreover, UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid, attended a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Fukuda with the wives of the heads of state and discussed maternal and child health.

On the second day, the Executive Director attended the session meeting on human security, and pointed out that health is a goal that must be pursued by the entire society and is the core element of human security. She also pointed out, “Progress in the field of health requires commitment from the high political level. Attaining the MDGs, in particular MDG4 and 5 would lead to poverty eradication,” calling for the need to prioritize the improvement of women’s health in development policy and to increase financial assistance.

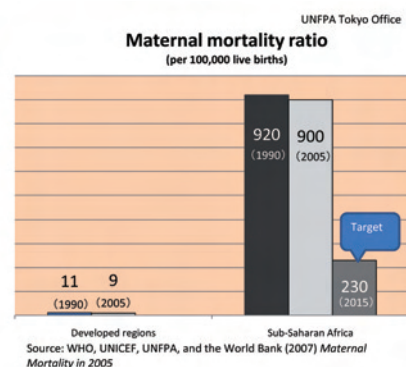
On the last day, the Yokohama Declaration and the Yokohama Action Plan were adopted as the tangible outcome of TICAD IV in which reference was made to the strengthening of health systems, to effectively deal with major health issues, including human resource development, improvement of maternal, newborn and child health, and measures to fight against infectious diseases. Along with UNICEF, UNFPA played a central role in preparing the policy recommendation of the health cluster. Our input was to a large extent incorporated into these documents.

While there are great expectations that these outcomes will be brought up to discussions at the G8 Summit in July, a follow-up mechanism is needed so that the results of TICAD IV will contribute to tackling with the problems facing Africa. The end of the Conference means for us the new starting point.

3. Aiming for the Attainment of MDG5; “Improvement of Maternal Health”

We are now more than half way towards the target year, 2015, by which Millennium Development Goals(MDGs), are to be achieved. On 25 September 2008, a High-Level Forum on MDGs will be held during the session of the UN General Assembly.

While steady results are being achieved in some of the eight Millennium Development Goals, MDG5, “Improvement of Maternal Health”, is a goal that has made the least progress so far. The two targets for measuring the progress of this goal are: (1) “Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015; and (2) Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.”



With regard to the Target 1, every minute a woman dies giving life, adding up to 536,000 dying every year. Ninety-seven percent of maternal deaths occur in priority 75 countries

and half of these deaths in Africa. As the maternal mortality ratio in Sub-Saharan Africa was 900 in 2005, greater efforts are needed to attain the target of 230 by 2015 (see diagram on the left). At the High-Level Forum, specific measures to be adopted will be discussed in view of these circumstances.

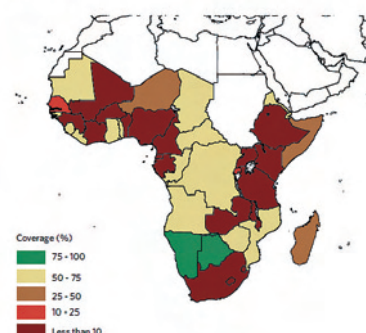
Japan has demonstrated its leadership in the international community this year as the host of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. The importance of international efforts in maternal and child health, with focus on reproductive health, has been emphasized in the speech by Prime Minister Fukuda at the opening ceremony of TICAD, the Yokohama Declaration, the Yokohama Action Plan, and the declaration by the leaders at the Summit. Japan is expected to make further contributions based on these outcome documents with the aim of attaining MDG5 by 2015.

4. 12.1 – World AIDS Day: UNFPA’s strategy against HIV/AIDS

According to the latest 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic in 2007, there are 33 million people live with HIV in the worldwide; 2.7 million are newly infected; and 2.0 million died of AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa region accounting for 66.7% of all people living with HIV (see diagram below). The number of people living with HIV(PLHIV) is also steadily increasing. The number of HIV incidents reached a total of 1,082 surpassed 1,000 for the first time (AIDS Incidence Report 2007, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare).

Half of the PLHIV in the world today are women and the number of women living with HIV continues to rise. This is caused by the fact that in developing countries women have less access to education compared to men, have insufficient information for prevention, and are exposed to higher risk of infection due to discrimination and violence. Swaziland, where the adult prevalence rate is the highest in the world, the prevalence rate of female young people is 4 times as high as than that of male young people.

Proportion of population living with HIV in need of treatment who are receiving antiretroviral therapy, Africa, 2007 (Percentage)



For this reason, UNFPA implements projects that integrate HIV/AIDS strategies with policies regarding employment policies, education, and reproductive health aiming to enable women to earn cash income.

According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the gap between required and available funding for HIV/AIDS countermeasure activities worldwide is estimated to be US\$8.1 billion. Japan, as a member of the international community, is expected to contribute with this pressing global issue.

Latest information about the activities of the United Nations Population Fund can be found on the UNFPA Tokyo Office website: <http://www.unfpa.or.jp>.

About ODA Quarterly

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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