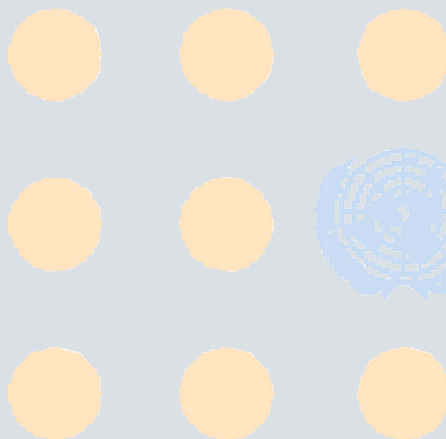


Advocacy Activities
for
Japanese Parliamentarians on Population and Development



**ODA
QUARTERLY
2007
on**

Population and Development



UNFPA



IPPPF

Issued
by

Asian Population and Development Association

in cooperation

with

JOICFP, NPO2050 and UNFPA Tokyo Office

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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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Population—Japan's Choice II**

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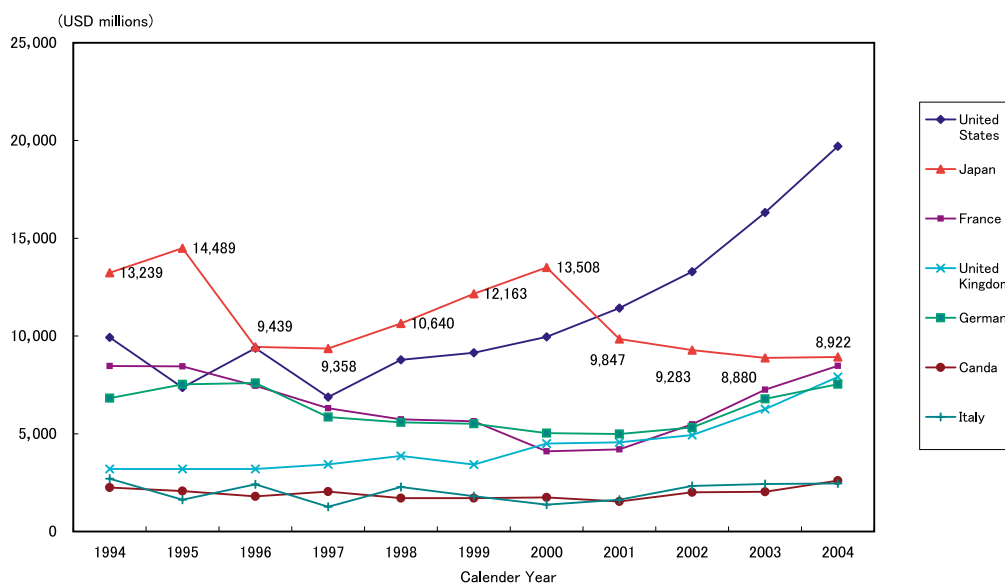
XVII. Reconsideration of ODA for Population Problems

1. Reconsideration of ODA for Population Problems

Japan is making arduous efforts to balance its treasury budget and reduce its deficit government bonds by implementing administrative and budgetary reforms that were once described as “wringing a dry towel” with the goal of improving its current fiscal debt and reducing future credit as much as possible.

The amount of ODA from Japan has continued to dwindle under these circumstances and is said to drop to the level of 1986’s figures, in 2008. Japan’s total ODA contribution has been reduced by 47.99% while its GDP in 2005 increased 8.75% from the 2000 level. At 0.23%, the ratio of the ODA in the country’s GNP is by no means high.

Changes in ODA Contribution Among OECD Members (1994-2004)



Source: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryo/jisseki.html> (accessed 2007-1-30)

Meanwhile, the goal of allocating at least 0.7% of GNP is becoming an international consensus as part of the effort to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which was adopted as the U.N. General Assembly resolution in September 2000. The cutback by Japan stands out in the world amidst these circumstances and it is no exaggeration to say that the country is turning its back on its international commitment.

Needless to say, the decline of ODA for population-related matters has been held back to the extent possible by the enormous efforts of the stakeholders involved in population-related matters because of its humanitarian nature. However, contributions to major international agencies such as UNFPA and IPPF have been reduced by as much as 37% from the 1998 level due to the significant increase in mandatory contributions for U.N., in

addition to reduction in ODA as a whole. From an international viewpoint, it appears as if Japan has become the only country to turn its back on the Programme of Action and the funding goals for its attainment that were agreed by all countries that participated in the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. Considerable increase in contributions from the European countries sheds light on the decline in Japan's international position in the population realm.

While the serious problem of the falling birthrate and aging population facing Japan warrants an increase in pension and welfare expenditures, the country's demography does not leave any room for hopes of the problem easing itself naturally. It appears that such a pessimistic outlook exists at the base of argument to cut back on ODA spending. However, a country's economic strength is not determined solely by its population as the quality of labour force represents a greater determining factor than the size of population in a modern society.

In the context of general rule of international assistance, it has been indicated that, "According to the principle of GNP proportionality, Japan's financial crisis is a problem in terms of the domestic private-public balance sheet and we shall comply with international commitments as international commitments," *1 and has therefore given rise to a serious problem in terms of Japan's presence in the international community. On the other hand, some question the need to allocate taxpayers' money to foreign aid when people at home "cannot receive sufficient pension," are "living in poverty" and "not by any means living in affluence." It is also unfortunately true that obscure accounting procedures and overseas establishment expenses involving ODA has become the object of attack and left the people with an impression that it is a waste of money. At the same time, the expansion of social and economic disparity existing at the backdrop of issues such as working poor and job-hopping part-timers has expanded the victim mentality and generated huge public reaction due to negative media coverage. It is important that parliamentarians lend their ears to these matters as representatives of the people.

However, the present situation in which matters that must be dealt with clearly according to their individual importance and determined according to their merit, are denied as a whole and would create great problems for the future. There is a need to redefine the significance of ODA in an effort to improve the present condition.

2. Japan in the Global Context: Global Stability as Common Property

What significance does ODA have for Japan? Needless to say, Japan is one of the countries that are reaping the greatest benefit from free trade. For instance, Japan relies 60% of its food on import on a calorie basis. A country with few natural resources, like Japan, can only enjoy its economic prosperity when there are countries that sell their

* 1 Source: "On ODA Strategy of Japan," Office of Prime Minister, July 25, 2002, Task Force for External Affairs

resources and countries that buy its products. Although it has become a norm today, it was not without due effort that such an arrangement was realized.

It is easy to understand this well when seen in the light of World War II. Unfortunately, Japan experienced World War II. The war caused serious damage to the Asian countries while inflicting enormous harm to Japan as a result of the Battle of Okinawa, Great Tokyo Air Raids and two atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The calamities brought about by this war continue to deeply afflict our society with its repercussions after more than 60 years.

The population problem existed at the backdrop of this war. Japan's population increased rapidly in the Meiji Era, causing pervasive poverty, mainly in rural areas. Japan had no choice but to expand its influence overseas to absorb population pressure at home. As a result, Japan became isolated from the international community and entered the war as a direct result of being placed under a resource embargo. Rural poverty gave rise to this distressing situation told by the story of Karayuki-san and young officers were struck with righteous indignation because of their sense of justice. One thing led to another and Japan made a seemingly irrational decision of going into war, ended up losing the war and incurred extensive damage.

The prosperity Japan enjoys today cannot be maintained, if they limit their trading ties with their global economic partners. Once the population pressure increases on a global scale, stress on resources will increase and it will be impossible to maintain the environment, which is the premise of economic prosperity. However, the people of Japan today are not aware of the conditions for economic prosperity.

3. Population as Japan's Security Issue

A U.S. demographer predicted before the outbreak of World War II that Japan would go into war because of its rapid population increase. The population problem often exists in the background of international conflicts even if it is not recognized as the direct cause. While environmental destruction including desertification has become a major global issue today, it is said that destruction of the ecosystem caused by population increase and poverty exists behind it.

Japan is a resource-poor country with extremely high international dependence. This fact will not change for a while, no matter how population structure changes. People talk about "Japan in the global context." Japan can enjoy its present abundance so long as a stable environment is maintained all over the world. ODA precisely is an activity that builds international peace through security via economic means instead of military means, and is indispensable for Japan in this sense.

Up until now, aid for population issues has often been regarded as a pure international contribution offered for humanitarian causes. It is necessary to redefine the meaning of

International stabilization and security. Japan must have experienced this problem considering the course that led the country to World War II. It is essential to motivate young people and enhance their ability and at the same time to create a peaceful environment from an international perspective if Japan is to remain competitive and maintain its position and in the international community.

Stabilization of global population is a prerequisite for creating a sound environment in Japan and in other countries.

A pessimistic tone is prevalent in Japan today over issues such as declining fertility and aging society. Parliamentarians play an important role in forming the future of the people. In an effort to generate hope for the future, they are urged to tell their constituency that addressing the population problem and viewing population as security for Japan in the world is an activity for creating the future and an activity for effectively and significantly reducing distressing situations.

APDA, which is supporting parliamentarians in the area of population and development-related issues, and other Japanese NGOs involved in population problems and participating in *ODA Quarterly*, will support their activities to full extent.

XVIII. Population Problem and Conflicts

1. Afghan Conflict and Population Problem

We visited Pakistan recently to study their population and development situation. The population of Pakistan continues to grow rapidly with some predicting that it will exceed 300 million by 2050 if it keeps increasing at the present rate. Pakistan currently has a population of approximately 162.41 million (July 2005 estimate). Since Pakistan is believed to have had a population of 15 million around 1900 when it was part of British India, the country's population increased more than tenfold in 100 years. As many as 202.32 persons live in every square kilometre (2005 estimate) of dry region that receive an average of 500mm of precipitation per year.



Houses built poising on mountain slopes

On this trip, we visited Muzaffarabad, a city that sustained greatest damage from the Great Earthquake of Northwestern Pakistan. Muzaffarabad is located in Jammu Kashmir which is a region disputed between Pakistan and India. Pakistan effectively controls this region and refers to it as Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Located at the entrance of the Karakorum Mountains, the region is that of mountain upon mountain. A tributary of Indus River flows through the valley and has carved deep gorges. The photo above shows many houses built on mountain slopes exemplifying the high population density of this region. In fact, the population density of AJK is far greater than the average for Pakistan at 258 persons/km² (2005 estimate) and is astonishingly large for such a mountainous area.

Another feature of Pakistan's population lies in the overwhelmingly high percentage of youth, with those aged 25 years and below accounting for 100 million out of 160 million national population. This signifies the need for large investment in education and medical care for such a large population of youth, while having to make 100 million jobs available in a period of less than 20 years.

Is all this possible? Realistically speaking, it is going to be a tough journey. And the tougher everyday life gets, the greater the support won by fanatic principles becomes.

This problem is not limited to AJK. The North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) bordering Afghanistan are accepting Afghan refugees partly because of tribal affinity. Coupled with high fertility, these

regions are said to be experiencing population growth rate as high as 7%. A dry region adjoining mountainous areas such as NWFP has conditions that are even more severe than AJK. The youth that cannot find employment will sympathize with fanatic beliefs and at the same time join the guerrillas as a means of earning their bread and butter.



Gah Village at Punjab Plains

2. Population Problem and Conflict

The relationship between international conflict and population remains generally unrecognized. The population problem is not obvious when seen in time span of several years but does have a clear impact over a period of one generation. Needless to say, we live only once and it is not easy to understand the impact of one's life beyond our life span. In addition, we are born into this world as babies and do not fret over why we are born. We rely entirely on the love of our parents and do the best we can to survive. And it is no wonder to people around them. As a whole, however, various needs including investment in education and employment will arise within 20 years and the population that has increased will have impact in the form of environmental burden and others. In other words, rapid population increase almost always exists behind international conflicts in the long term.

Population significantly affecting society as a whole without being noticed is the characteristic of the population problem. It is quite difficult for people to become aware of things that they take for granted.

It is no exaggeration to say that social unrest always exists in regions where population exploded. There are of course cases where population growth which is consistent with economic development, contributes greatly to the development of that society. As we can see from the environmental issues today, however, it will eventually emerge as burden on the planet that requires solutions.

3. The Japanese Case

Are these problems limited to Pakistan and Afghanistan? Actually, Japan experienced the same situation. Population increased rapidly in Japan when the country ended its isolationist policy in the Meiji Era and allowed Western civilization to come in. At the beginning of the Meiji Era in 1872, Japan's population increased from 34.8 million to over 70 million just before World War II in 1940, doubling in only 70 years or so. However, the average increase rate was only about 1%.

As it was difficult to attain economic growth corresponding to such rapid increase of population, it battered and impoverished the rural areas and gave rise to tragic cases of “Karayuki-san” where daughters of farm households were sold to Southeast Asia. Someone visiting Southeast Asia will find graves of “Karayuki-san” representing the sad history of Japan in corners of large cities. Such tragedy may have brought indignation among young officers and led to the runaway of the military. In fact, an American demographer had predicted that Japan would enter into war back then.

4. Palestine Case Study

A similar situation existed for the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Estimated Population of Israel and Palestine 1950-2050

unit:1,000persons

Year	Israel	Palestine	Total
1950	1, 258	1, 005	2, 263
1960	2, 114	1, 101	3, 215
1970	2, 898	1, 096	3, 994
1980	3, 764	1, 476	5, 240
1990	4, 514	2, 154	6, 668
2000	6, 084	3, 149	9, 233
2005	6, 692	3, 762	10, 454
2010	7, 272	4, 409	11, 681
2020	8, 269	5, 806	14, 075
2030	9, 160	7, 320	16, 480
2040	9, 946	8, 837	18, 783
2050	10, 527	10, 265	20, 792

Source: UNPOPIN 2007
Note: Medium variant

Palestine is located in a desert region where water resources are limited and determines the carrying capacity of that region. For this reason, a certain tribe taking over control of water in this region has historically meant death for other tribes that were excluded from it. This is depicted in the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament. The region has historically been under the fate being unable to expand its carrying capacity. Severe population increase still continues in this region today.

As can be seen in the table above, the population of this region increased from 2.26 million when Israel declared independence to more than 10 million in 2005. The population increase appears to be more intense in Israel, which is mainly as a result from migration of people that had moved to Israel with their own jobs and means of livelihood. In contrast, population increase in Palestine is caused by high fertility.

At any rate, constraints originating from resources (mainly from freshwater resources) will become very severe once population increases in regions where the natural carrying

capacity is extremely limited. Moreover, conflict-affected regions do not attract any investment which means there will be limited employment opportunities for the growing population. As a result, people resort to religion to console their grim reality. As with any religion, interpreting and justifying the irrationalities of this world is one of religion's social functions.

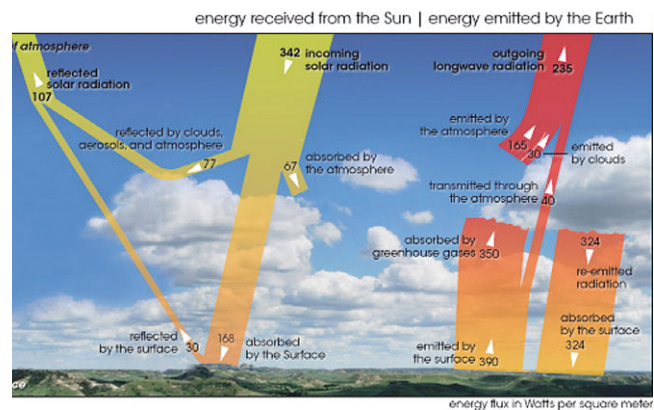
If that were the case, people would be fighting for religious causes even though the true reason behind the conflict existed in issues originating from population, employment and environment. In other words, we see the world around us in a manner that we want to see it, and population is seldom recognized as the root cause of conflict, even if it were the case.

As the population is expected to further increase in Palestine, the environment surrounding peace talks for the region will become increasingly difficult. While it is not commonly recognized, the solution for the population problem is the first condition for building international peace.

XIX. Environmental Problems and Population—Japan’s Choice I

1.Environmental Problems and Population

At the G8 Heiligendamm Summit held under the main theme of “Growth and Responsibility” in Germany in 2007, discussions were conducted on the main agendas consisting of “Global Economy” and “Africa.” It was widely reported that “Climate Change” was the central theme at this meeting.



Earth’s energy balance

Indeed, we are starting to realize the warming of our planet as various parts of the world are hit by hurricanes and heat waves of unprecedented scale. Climate change of this nature is often referred to as “abnormal weather.” There are several definitions of “abnormal weather.” The Meteorological Agency of Japan defines it as “climate that has demonstrated significant deviation from the climate of past 30 years.” Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Organization defines it as “a phenomenon in which average temperature and precipitation deviate significantly from a normal year and the amount of such deviation is of the magnitude that occurs once every 25 years or more.” According to these definitions, abnormal weather is no longer regarded as “abnormal” if it occurs frequently and becomes a “normal” climatic phenomenon.

We must fully understand the horror of “normal” phenomenon from now on. Interest in environmental issues has risen today to the extent that it has been included in the G8 Summit as its central agenda. However, the very important element of “population” tends to be overlooked in the discussion of environmental problems including “population.” In this issue of ODA Quarterly, we would like to look into the relationship between measures against environmental problems and population.

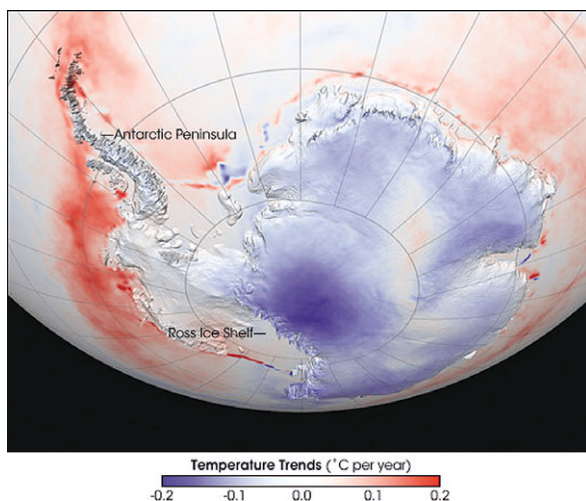
The figure above illustrates the Earth’s energy balance. Put in simple terms, “global warming” is a phenomenon in which energy from the sun that had entered in the form of radiant energy tends to stay inside the atmosphere near the Earth’s surface with the increase in concentration of green house gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

This may be an odd metaphor - dogs stick their tongue out to release sound after running out - but global warming is a condition comparable to dogs not being able to stick their tongue out. In humans, this is comparable to a heat stroke. It is something we need to be careful with in the summer season. Heat stroke develops as a result of not being able to

fully release heat under the scorching sun or high temperature and could instantly lead to death. In some cases, even people in good health die before they can be treated. This is a condition in which homeostasis of the body has been disrupted. The Earth's environment is also standing on a very fragile and subtle base with a sensitive side despite its resilient appearance. While the extent to which human analogy is appropriate is unknown, you may be able to familiarize yourself with this problem by imagining that the Earth is in a similar condition.

We need to take adequate measures without delay before the Earth suffers from heat stroke and dies.

The figure at the upper right-hand corner shows the temperature change in Antarctica between 1982 and 2004. A clear rise in temperature has occurred at the ocean region where heat capacity is large.

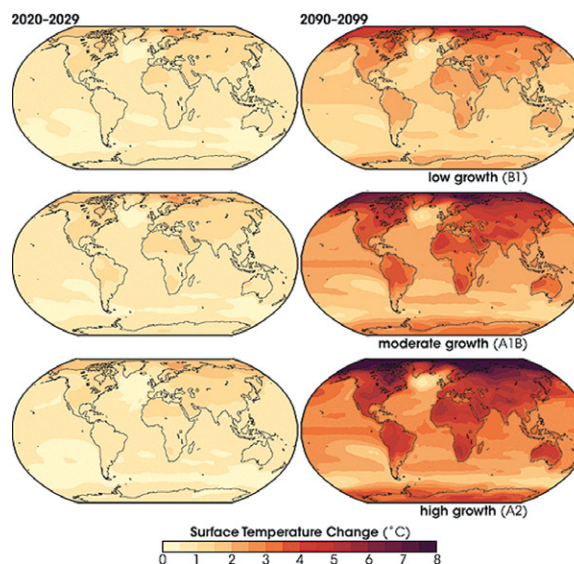


Antarctic Temperature Trend 1982-2004
NASA

2. Point of No Return

Global warming is a part of changing global environment and its cause is not simple. Looking back on history, the Earth has been through repeated cycles of cold and warm periods. There was also a period in ancient times where the Earth was entirely covered in ice, for which the term a “Snowball Earth” has been used. However, one can almost say with certainty that this global warming is caused by human activity because of the incredible speed of warming that we are witnessing today and the fact that temperature is rising worldwide when we are supposed to be heading towards the cooling phase according to the cycle of climate change.

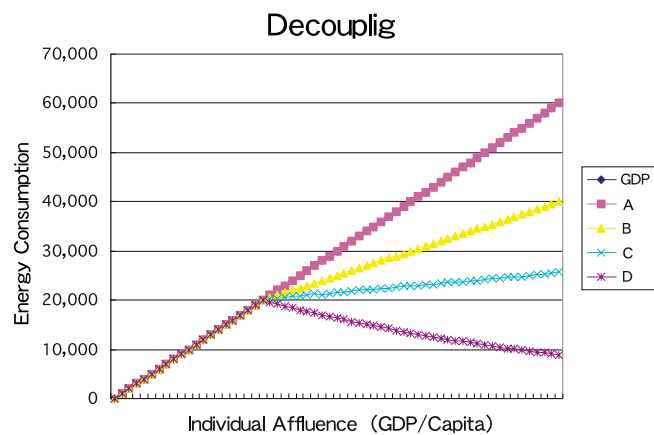
The figure to the right shows the changes in world temperature that has been quoted in a report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). A temperature rise of 1.0 degree C is a very significant change from a global perspective. According to Professor Ryoichi Yamamoto of the University of Tokyo, the rise in temperature will exceed 1.5 degree C by 2016 and 2.0 degree C by 2028, if it continues to rise at the present rate.



Professor Yamamoto also argues that temperature rise must be kept within 1.5 degree C in order to maintain the survival of many wildlife species that, like us, are the crew members aboard Spaceship Earth. As the Earth's temperature rise gains momentum, temperature will continue to rise automatically even after the release of greenhouse gas is maintained at a constant level at a certain point in time. In aviation terminology such point is referred to as "point of no return." It is a quite serious term indicating the inability to change directions. The point of no return for this 1.5 degree C increase was 2006 meaning that we have already passed this point. As the point of no return for a 2.0 degree C increase which corresponds to EU's reduction target is said to be 2018, the time left for us is truly limited.

3. Decoupling and I=PAT

What should we do? "Decoupling" is a keyword used in discussing environmental problems. It refers to a concept that separates "growth" and "environmental load." It appears that efforts that are being made today are concentrated on the advancement of this decoupling. In other words, shifting "Trend A," which represents a condition in which individual affluence is increased while increasing energy consumption at the same time, to Trend B and Trend C through improvement of energy efficiency is the focus of today's green technology development efforts.



Efforts are currently being made to attain the Millennium Development Goals with its main aim being the eradication of eradicating poverty. Generally speaking, improvement of affluence is accompanied by increase in energy consumption. Extreme poverty is also said to cause damage on the environment. Today's development effort has a built-in perspective of reducing environmental burden by eliminating poverty and holding down a part of excessive consumption. However, common-sense physics tells us that there is no magic that would reduce energy consumption while increasing affluence. It may be that there is some miracle out there but the contribution of today's green technology is limited to curbing the increase of energy consumption in relative terms. In other words, a self-serving scenario described in Trend D in which energy consumption is reduced while increasing affluence has yet to be realized.

Paul Ehrlich once proposed I=PAT as a formula showing the burden on global environment. "I" stands for "impact on the environment," "P" stands for "population," "A" stands for "affluence" and "T" stands for "technology." Although classical, it is the

best formula for understanding the environmental problem. Today, energy efficiency has been improved as a result of technological advancement realized through accumulation of enormous efforts. As a result, the situation in which improvement of functions and convenience leading directly to expansion of energy consumption does not exist as it did in the past. However, increase in affluence per capita gives rise to environmental load while increase in population signifies increase in parent population for consumption of various resources, and energy consumption will inevitably increase as a product of this. It is virtually impossible to solve environmental problems without stabilizing population, even though it is hardly ever considered when taking measures against environmental problems. The same is true for advancing the development of Africa which is another key issue. Development efforts have little meaning in areas where rapid population growth continues. Environmental problems and African Development will inevitably turn into a house of cards unless proper efforts are made toward stabilization of population.

In other words, we cannot solve problems regarding environment and African development unless we solve the population issue. This fact clearly shows the fundamental meaning and significance of using ODA to help solve the population problem as base of Japan's international cooperation.

XX. Environmental Problems and Population—Japan’s Choice II

1. Nobel Peace Prize and Environmental Problems

In 2007, the Nobel Peace Prize went to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Former US Vice President, Mr. Al Gore who produced the film “An Inconvenient Truth” It was an indication that prevention of climate change is already being treated as a security issue and recognized as a battle for safeguarding peace.



Forest fire from slash-and-burn in South Africa

Some criticize one of the laureates Former Vice President Al Gore for being insufficiently scientific. However, it is necessary to realize anew the difficulty in revealing the causality on a one-on-one basis as long as environmental problems consist of all too diverse factors. While a wide range of arguments exist, it is almost certain that human activities comprise of the main causes of today’s climate change. Major changes, including that of the economic system, will be needed in order to minimize such change and this requires changing people’s awareness all over the world. “Understandability” would be very important in bringing about this change. Despite criticism, Mr. Gore’s activity was significant in that it encouraged further environmental conservation activities which were inspired by a politician.

At any rate, it implies the arrival of an era in which the problems of the environment are regarded as safety issues that could threaten the survival of humanity on a global scale.

2. Environmental Problems and Population II

We started to get a hands-on sense of the scale of global warming this summer when Japan experienced a record-breaking heat wave. Some predict that autumn foliage, which is supposed to be the prime feature of autumn, will, in the near future, not occur until December at low altitudes. Ginkgo leaves did not turn yellow until very late in the season this year 2007 and last 2006, staying green into November. In addition, glaciers in Greenland are rapidly melting and



Green ginkgo tree colonnade in front of the Diet Building
(November 8, 2007)

a rise in sea level is said to have started. Existing plains that were formed in the past would sink under the ocean, again, as a result of the rapid melting of Greenland's glaciers. This is true for Siberian Plains and European Plains that take up a large portion of Eurasian Continent.

There is no room for argument from the viewpoint of various scientific facts that efforts to prevent global warming are needed. The point is how to go about preventing the warming and what issues we may face in doing so.

In the previous issue of this publication, we analyzed that today's environmental problems, particularly in companies, are executed through "decoupling", which refers to separating the correlation between "economic growth" and "environmental load" by developing technology with a minimum environmental load. It is an effort to reduce the load through technological advancement within the context of "population" (P), "affluence" (A) and "technology" (T) which are factors of environmental impact (I).

The transition from being a carbon energy society to a hydrogen energy society is also a part of this technology. This kind of technological advancement must be pursued by all means as reduction of CO₂ emission is an important element in the prevention of global warming. We should now examine other elements, i.e. "population" (P) and "affluence" (A).

3. Environment, Population and Sustainable Development

Environmental conservation is a rather paradoxical activity. If we are going to put our full effort into conservation of the environment, the most drastic solution would be to eliminate human impact on the environment. Some extreme conservationists go so far as to claim that "environmental conservation is more important than human survival". However, for the majority of people, environmental conservation means "conserving the environment that supports human existence so that we can survive". The Earth's population has been increasing annually. World population was only 1 billion in the 1860s and has now surged to a figure of 6.7 billion today.

Current environmental conservation efforts are primarily geared towards separating the correlation between affluence and energy consumption. However, such efforts will never lead to a dramatic solution when population growth remains unchecked. Population growth in developing countries will lead to deforestation, even if overconsumption in developed countries were the main cause of global warming. Tropical rainforests that had been adsorbing the carbon dioxide emitted by developed countries are now being cut down due to the pressure of population growth and become the emission source of carbon dioxide that these forests have been recycling instead of absorbing it. As this is done out of need for survival or desire for affluence, it is not easy to regulate it completely just because it is illegal. Is it possible to force the increasing population of the developing countries to live in poverty while developed countries enjoy

their affluence? The more they strive to get out of poverty, the further tropical rainforest destruction and environmental degradation advances. Can the people of developed countries deny the right of development for developing countries in order to protect their own livelihood? How can one convince them to stop development to protect the environment?

4. Sustainable Development and Population

The concept that has been conceived to deal with this difficult issue is “sustainable development,” which is defined as “meeting the need of the present generation without depriving the possibilities of future generations.” The concept was coined in 1980 and is not by any means new. However, we must recall the concept of “sustainable development” when dwelling on the present condition of environmental problems. “People living humanely with dignity” is most important. No



Peat that has deposited on the soil has caught fire in the process of burning the forest and releasing large amount of Carbon dioxide (Central Kalimantan, Indonesia).

(Photo courtesy of Asahi Shimbun)

social policy can possibly exist unless it affirms the lives of the people. At any rate, no fundamental solution to environmental problems exists as long as the population continues to increase. Environmental conservation and sustainable development cannot be attained without the stabilization of population size.

There is of course a chicken-and-egg relationship between the two. We know from empirical fact that population will stabilize with the progress of development. Considering the existing condition of global environmental problems and their impact on humanity, however, we also understand that we do not have the luxury of waiting for developing countries to attain development before stabilizing their population. We must fulfil our responsibility of creating, again, a society where people can live humanely with dignity while population continues to increase.

The population issue can never be solved through coercion. Recognition of the problem by each and every person accompanied by changes in lifestyle is most important, and so, what should we do? The solution has been offered in the form of ICPD Programme of Action. It is necessary to reaffirm that the “population problem exists at the core of the environmental problem,” “measures against population problems can produce very tangible results,” and “stabilization of population is absolutely indispensable in creating a society that enables people to live in a humanly manner.” Moreover, it is important to provide sufficient investment in these areas.

As mentioned earlier, measures against the population problem will manifest themselves in tangible results. Japan had been demonstrating leadership in this area, resulting in reduction of population growth rate by half in Asia compared to 30 years ago. We must remind ourselves how tragic it is to “have to reduce population that has increased” compared to inhibiting birth through prevention of undesired pregnancy. Climate change is one of the main agendas at the G8 Toyako Summit that will be held in Japan in 2008. However, we must remember that the population issue exists at its base and that we must raise awareness of this problem in an effort to protect the livelihood of each and every person. We will therefore make an effort to incorporate this problem in the agenda at this conference.

APDA

(Asian Population and Development Association)

1. 25th Anniversary of APDA

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) is supporting the population and development-related activities of Japanese and Asian parliamentarians in addition to implementing research programs commissioned by the government as the secretariat of the Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) and chairman's office of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). APDA was founded in February 1982 as the founding body of AFPPD and celebrated its 25th anniversary in February of this year, 2007. In conjunction with this 25th anniversary, APDA hosted a conference of Asian parliamentarians entitled the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Chikage Ohgi, the Speaker of the House of Councillors and adopted a proposal entitled "Toward the Next 25 Years" that resulted from enthusiastic discussion on numerous topics.

The population problem in Asia has shifted considerably towards the topic of stability in the past 25 years. APDA takes pride in having played a role in the change through its support of activities with JFPF and AFPPD. Congratulatory address was delivered by the Minister of Health, Labor, and Welfare, Mr. Hakuo Yanagisawa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Taro Aso and the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Toshikatsu Matsuoka at the reception held in commemoration of the 25th anniversary and was attended by parliamentarians from respective countries that participated in the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, as well as by member parliamentarians of JFPF, international agencies such as UNFPA and IPPF, and organizations within the related field. Resolution of the population problem and attainment of sustainable development are the prerequisites for building a peaceful future for humanity and there is no future for Japan or for the world unless these matters are solved. It is with this belief that we intend to meet our bold challenge for the next 25 years.



2. Japanese Parliamentarians' Study Tour of Pakistan

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) conducted a population and development study tour of Pakistan from April 30 to May 5, 2007. On this tour we visited

Muzaffarabad in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Chakwal in Punjab Plain which suffered extensive damage from the Great Earthquake of Northwestern Pakistan in 2005 and visited population and development-related projects of UNFPA, Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP), IPPF and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Parliamentarian delegation visiting a vocational training programme for afflicted people

The Population problem in Pakistan is a very difficult situation due to influence of religion and mixture of feudal/tribal society. While Asia as a whole has started treading on the path of stable population, Pakistan’s population continues to grow at a distinctly high rate. Pakistan has the second highest population growth rate in the world after Nigeria with its current population exceeding 100 million. It is the impoverished women and children that are driven to dire conditions when adequate population policies and programs are not implemented under such conditions. The socially vulnerable are subjected to even more difficult conditions. During this visit, we met strenuously with senior officials including the Speaker of the Senate and strongly urged the Pakistani Parliament to organize a non-partisan parliamentarian federation on population and development. Other countries cannot coerce or intervene so long as the population problem is deeply related to sovereignty, human rights and culture and religion of each country. We would like to cooperate in the realm of parliamentarian activities so that the problem will be solved by Pakistan’s own initiatives.

3. African Development and Sustainable Development

Development of Africa is currently at the focus of the global development agenda. The importance and urgency of African development is quite obvious in view of high population growth rate and spread of infectious diseases that threaten entire humanity such as HIV/AIDS. “G8 Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Economic Rewards of Investing in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Health” hosted by the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) was held prior to this year’s Heiligendamm G8 Summit in Germany. The impression from participants in this conference was that measures against AIDS, a disease for which a cure currently does not exist, is very limited and that concrete measures that can be undertaken by parliamentarians are also very limited. For this reason, APDA is



Parliamentarian conference held in Berlin

hosting a conference and study tour from August 28 to September 1 2007 in Tokyo and Gunma for the solution of population problem that focuses on Africa's capacity-building in an effort to make recommendations for the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-IV) and the G8 Toyako Summit scheduled in 2008. At this event we will outline the Japanese experience of having attained complete recycling society in the past to Africa and concrete possibilities for international cooperation through partnership among Japan, Asia and Africa, with emphasis on the role regional cooperation played in postwar reconstruction.

4. Recommendations for TICAD-IV and G8 Summit Adopted at the Afro-Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting

African development is another key point on agenda for the G8 Toyako summit. High population growth continues in Africa and the issues related to public health and food security have become important challenges amidst such an increase in population. There is also a pressing need for measures against the spread of infectious diseases that threaten the existence of humanity such as HIV/AIDS. At the Afro-Asian Parliamentarians' meeting and study tour held from August 28 to September 1 2007, parliamentarians from the African continent had the opportunity to hear the experiences of Japan and Asia in regard to the improvement of nutrition, improvement of livelihood including hygiene and family planning. African parliamentarians also learned about the experience of family planning, infectious disease prevention and income generation programmes that were offered in the context of the post-war New Life Movement, and then visited some sites to gain first-hand experience of how they contributed to empowerment of women and improvement of reproductive health. The study tour then visited the forest that has been preserved for water source recharge and the union of people who own the right of use to pouring gate for hot springs. These are examples of traditional Japanese communities preserving the community property, thereby playing the role of lasting use of resources and environmental conservation. The participants passed a resolution to compile the results of the meeting into a list of Recommendations to be submitted to respective government representatives that will be participating in TICAD IV. One of the participants mentioned prior to departure of study tour that "It will be our responsibility from here on" along with words of appreciation, leaving with us with hope for development of Africa.



Study tour of Asian and African parliamentarians

NPO 2050

1. Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS

The theme for this issue is “ODA: More Emphasis on Population Problems”. This is indeed timely, as the leading role played by Japan in the resolution of global population issues is now being talked about as something of the past.

NPO 2050 feels that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly its rapid spread in Asia should be dealt with urgently and decisively by the political leaders of Asia. Otherwise, Asia will follow the footsteps of Sub-Saharan African countries. It is essential that the political leaders, particularly those in Japan, take effective measures to stop the pandemic. The number of female patients who contract HIV from their partners has been increasing in recent years in Asia, which includes China and India, most populous countries in the world. For this reason, Reproductive Health is considered to be the most effective measures against HIV/AIDS in Asia.

Japan’s contribution and support to UNFPA has been declining in contrast to that of other developed countries. However, Japan has the responsibility to halt and reduce the pandemic, as a leading industrialized country in Asia, by increasing its voluntary contribution to UNFPA and creating, perhaps, a trust fund for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

In the international community, “universal access to prevention, care and treatment” has been actively talked about at various fora such as the Glen Eagles G8 Summit in 2005, UN General Assembly Special Session AIDS Review, and the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006. Asian countries are expecting Japan to re-establish its leadership in the world concerning the global population issues, to show its vision to safeguard the future of humanity, and to offer concrete proposals and resources to that end. It is strongly urged that Japanese politicians respond to these calls positively and protect the future of Asia.

2. Population Aging is Also an Important Issue of Global Scale

Population is aging across the world. It was confirmed by the World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, published by the UN Population Division in March 2007. The world population reached 6.671 billion in 2007 and is projected to reach 9.191 billion by 2050. It means an increase of some 2.5 billion people, a figure equivalent to the total population of the world in 1950.

It is predicted that the population will continue to grow but the fertility rate will gradually decline. The global total fertility rate (estimated number of children a woman will have in her lifetime) decreased by almost one half from 5.02 (1950/1955) to 2.55 (2005/2010). This is said to decline further to 2.02 by the middle of this century.

Such a rapid decline in the rate of fertility coupled with the improvement in the mortality rate will bring about conspicuous changes in age structure. In particular, the elderly population between 65 and above will triple from 477 million in 2005 to 1,492 billion in 2050. Meanwhile, the population aging rate will jump from 7.3 % to 16.2% and the average life expectancy (male-female total) will increase from 67.2 years in 2005/2010 to 75.4 years by the middle of this century. The 21st century is indeed a century of “global aging”.

At the closing ceremony of the International Conference on Aging Society in Asia which was recently held in Tokyo, Ms. Keiko Higuchi, Joint Representative of Japan NGO Council on Aging (JANCA), said “we are experiencing aging for the first time in the history of humankind and we are the first group of people that launch out into the ocean of aging society”, pointing out the importance of sharing experience and knowledge. While there are many issues that must be addressed to on a global scale, we must not forget the “aging on a global scale” is one of such issues.

3. Changing the Image of the Elderly

A society is considered “aging” when the percentage of population aged 65 years and above in the total population (population aging rate) exceeds 7% and “aged” when it doubles and exceeds 14%. Japan’s population aging rate reached 7% in 1970 and surpassed 14% in 1994, which means that its aging process was faster than any country in the world within a period of 24 years. According to the projection made by the Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Statistics, Japan’s population aging rate reached 21.0% in January of 2008. This percentage seems to suggest that Japan is a “super-aging society” and it is indeed the fore-runner in the aging process.

The 2007 Annual Report on the Aging Society states that “Japan will become an aged society that no other country has experienced”. The conclusion is based on the report by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, which indicates that the population aging rate will reach 40.5% in 2055 and the average life expectancy will be extended to 90.34 years for women and 83.67 years for men.

The report also suggests that such an “unprecedented aged society” might be turned into an energetic and reassuring society by changing the image of elderly persons.

The image generally embraced is that anyone over 65 years old is aged and requires support. This should be changed. The report argues that such a stereotype concept should be replaced by a new one that such a person can offer “precious manpower that

can support an aged society” This appears to be a legitimate claim. It is necessary to create a frame of mind that calls for the knowledge, skill and experience of the elderly for building a better and more dynamic society.

Once a framework is created to allow the elderly to fully demonstrate his/her capacity, it will serve as an important example for many developing countries which go through the same aging process.

4. Environmental Problems, Increasing Population and Efforts Towards Their Solution

The environmental problems can not be considered separately from population problems. For instance, the twin environmental problems in China, i.e. the desertification and “the Yellow Sand” in the Loess Plateau, which affect Japan, are caused and made worse by its increasing population and its impact on land.

Working closely with the China Population Welfare Fund and the China Population Family Planning Association, NPO 2050 is successfully implementing its tree-planting activities called “the Greening of the Silk Road”, designed to prevent the desertification, eradication of poverty, and empowerment of women. In 2007, it sent a group of volunteers to Guizhou, China in October, and planted some 165,000 trees together with Chinese farmers and students. This project is promoting a spirit of self-help among farmers that they themselves are protecting their own land, and a spirit of cooperation and friendship between China and Japan.

A teen-age high school student who planted trees with the Japanese counterparts mentioned that he had never been able to eat meat or own a TV set in his life. However, he and his school-mates worked happily with the Japanese volunteers and indicated their satisfaction at their efforts to plant trees and the prospect of some day eliminating poverty with their own hand.

This anecdote gives us, both in China and Japan, something to think about: the seriousness and extent of environmental degradation in China, the need for stabilizing population, a sustainable solution based on a “self-help” spirit, and sharing of same values and understanding among the peoples of China and Japan.

JOICFP

(Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning)

1. Urbanization, Fertility Decline and Family Life

According to U.N. estimate, urban population will exceed rural population this year in 2007. Who could have predicted that the number of people living in cities would surpass the number of people living in rural areas on the Earth so soon?

In the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, population is concentrating in cities. Such concentration is particularly evident in their national capital where traffic congestion far more serious than that in Japan is observed all around. Traffic congestion is prevalent in many national capitals and cities of Asia including Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta and Beijing , and is threatening the health of the people.

Urban life

Bangkok in particular has been suffering from traffic congestion for a long time. It was common practice to stay at the hotel closest to the office of the organization you are doing business with when visiting Bangkok on business. We also had to have a margin of one hour when we made appointments as we could never be sure what time we would arrive. We often had to give up the idea of going out for tasty Thai dinner because of the congestion. Such life in cities would take a great toll on families as well.

A typical commute for a family goes like this. Parents and their two children get on their family car at 6 in the morning. Father is driving with his shirt, suit and tie hanging inside the car. Mother is in the passenger seat doing her makeup. The two children look drowsy and are eating breakfast in the rear seat. Father arrives at his office at about 8 a.m. after dropping everyone off. After work, father drives the car back the same route picking everyone up on the way. Even if he leaves his office at 5 p.m., it would take him an hour to pick up his children that are waiting for him at school. They buy their dinner on the way home and have dinner from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. They spend 4 to 5 hours in the car every day and even longer if there is heavy rain or accident.



Bangkok City, 1995 © DigPlan

We had an opportunity to talk to families living in Beijing and Shanghai. Parents of one-child families invest as much as they can on education for their children. Elementary school children stay busy almost 365 days a year taking remedial classes and lessons after school. Popular lessons these days include English, computer, piano and dance. Parents invariably take their children to and from these lessons. When asked whether

they are frustrated about being busy with school and lessons all the time and not having any day off, they said “It’s fun!” Having to take children to these lessons and picking them up afterwards is placing great physical burden on their parents, not to mention economic burden. Allegedly, two income households can barely afford to raise a child. The situation is said to be similar in Seoul, Korea. Women have to take on their household chores on top of all this.

“The problem of the cities is the problem of rural areas.”

Fertility will inevitably decline when population concentrates in cities and competition becomes increasingly intense. The environment is far from being able to enjoy raising children on economic and physical levels, no matter how much people desire to have children. Hearing the story of small farmers wanting to educate their children as much as possible so that they can be independent and live far away from home in cities as a non-farmer, we were reminded of the fact that “the problem of the cities is the problem of rural areas.”

2. Bringing Smiles to Mothers Around the World

—Solidarity of Mothers—

In the keynote address delivered at the World Health Assembly on May 15, 2007, Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA stated, “No nation can be developed when women are denied the right to health. And no nation can progress when large numbers of women die while giving life. Over the past two decades, more than 10 million women have died from complications of pregnancy and childbirth and some 300 million women have suffered complication or long-term disabilities, such as obstetric fistula. Family planning alone could save the lives of 150,000 women each year. Spacing births by at least two years could save each year more than 1 million children under five.”

Mother’s Day Event

JOICFP hosted “Bringing Smiles to Mothers Around the World” on May 13 at Landmark Tower in Yokohama as an event to celebrate Mother’s Day. The talk show held during this event featured three charming mothers who are working and raising their children and talked about how they are realizing their fulfilling happy life.

The talk by these young, stylish and sophisticated mothers who take pride in their jobs and enjoying their child rearing

appeared to have attracted men as well as women. It delivered the message of how much fun it is to raise children. The three charming mothers also talked frankly about their desire to do what little they can do to bring smile to the mothers in developing countries



Ms. Minako Nagai, freelance announcer (center), Ms. Nanako Ohba, birth coordinator (left) and Ms. Ai Aoki, President of Virina Maternity

because their happy and fulfilling life makes them realize the problems these mothers are facing.

Saving the Mothers

JOICFP is holding this Mother's Day event with an aspiration to widen the circle of solidarity among mothers and inform more people in Japan about the present situation of women in developing countries through such solidarity. It is the wish of JOICFP to increase the number of people who understand and sympathize with our work year after year, and step up the cooperation for making a world in which less and less mothers die.

Only women lose their lives due to pregnancy and child delivery. Providing reproductive health service is indispensable in order to save as many women as possible. Saving mothers is synonymous with saving the lives of children. We intend to work towards increasing the amount of ODA in this area as much as possible.

3. The World Population Day Symposium:

Global Environmental Problem and Our Life

JOICFP and Council on Population Education co-hosted a symposium in commemoration of the World Population Day (July 11) to discuss what we can do for the future of our posterity and the planet. The symposium was held on July 5 at the Japan Press Centre Hall and had approximately 200 attendants.

Hosted by: JOICFP, Council on Population Education

Supported by: UNFPA, IPPF

Cooperation: APDA, NPO 2050, Japan Family Planning Association

At the panel discussion, the coordinator opened the discussion by stating that "After the population reached 5 billion in 1987, it has increased by 1.6 billion by this year 2007 and the world population is projected to reach 9.2 billion by 2050. It is necessary to renew our understanding of the need for Japan's ODA assistance at the same time as recognizing the global environmental problem including population problem as the problem facing each one of us and taking action against it." Comments from the panellists were as follows.



Dr. Ryoichi
Yamamoto

- Humanity is facing the Earth's limit

Dr. Ryoichi Yamamoto (Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo) said "What we should seriously consider is the awareness of the fact that humanity is facing the Earth's limit. We must do something about the lack of discussions about population, economy and civilization". He went on to point out that, "The only option we have is to stabilize population and reduce our consumption of resources, energy and food. Discontinue our consumption, advance our environmental technology and change our tax and financial systems. The world

leaders have started moving in an ecological direction. Prime Minister Abe has proposed “Eco-innovation” and announced a plan for ecology-oriented nation toward the Toyako Summit 2008. Humanity has responsibility for all living beings.” Dr. Yamamoto concluded his presentation by saying that, “Compared to preindustrial era, average temperature will go up 1.5°C by 2016. This will drive 1 million species into extinction and ice sheet will start to melt. Temperature increase in excess of 2°C by 2028 will cause many floods and malaria outbreak, exposing 1 to 2 billion people at climatic risk. Our civilization is fully dependent on the ecological service offered by 1.75 million living species. We must change the way we spend our money, including dissemination of environmentally-friendly ecological materials.”



Mr. Katsuhide
Kitatani

- An appeal for investing in women

Mr. Katsuhide Kitatani (Chairperson of NPO 2050) argued that global population problem is the common denominator in the discussion of global environment and humanity and stressed the need to disseminate education among women and offer them more opportunities for social participation. He called for the need to invest in women by saying that basic hygiene and family planning can be offered to women through small amount of investment. He also added that “The world spent 1,001 billion dollars on military in 2005. Primary education can be offered for 12 billion dollars.”

Mr. Kitatani suggested conserving water and electricity, using cars less often and planting trees to increase absorption of greenhouse gases as things people can readily do to reduce the environmental burden brought about by the oil-dependent global economy. He also struck a chord with the audience by encouraging them to voice to the Japanese Government the need to increase the amount of ODA for international cooperation related to the problems of population and environment and to demonstrate leadership in the international community.



Ms. Kaoru
Kawai

- Abnormal weather and lifestyle

Ms. Kaoru Kawai, who is also a certified weather forecaster, talked about the relationship between weather and human mind/body and about stress studies so that people could live as comfortably as possible amidst the occurrence of global warming and abnormal weather. “It has been very hot these days. You get torrential downpour when it rains and extended dry period when it doesn’t rain. When Fukuoka got 97 millimeters of rain per hour in 1997, it made the top story on the news. However, torrential downpours have been occurring so frequently since then that it is no longer covered in the news. While abnormal weather occurs with the increase of global warming, abnormal weather is not synonymous with global warming. It manifests in the form of extreme weather.” Ms. Kawai suggested that, “Let us incorporate what we can into our lifestyle such as creating a body that perspires by doing without air conditioning for two weeks before summer, turning

off standby electricity and opening your refrigerator less often.”

We hope that this symposium that discussed what we can do as global citizens will provide opportunities for working out policies toward creation of recycle-oriented society with the people.

4. Japan's Initiative Towards International Cooperation—Proposal for Expansion of ODA

- Compiling research results into 5 recommendations

Recommendations from 29 key figures who are concerned with the fact that Japan is the only developed country that has been reducing the amount of its ODA in the past ten years was submitted to the Government, the Diet, Japan International Cooperation Agency and mass media. The recommendation came about as a result of an appeal from JOICFP and Council on Population Education (Mr. Yasushi Akashi serves as president for both groups) and was compiled based on reports from experts in various sectors who were invited to six seminars held since January 2007.



President Yasushi Akashi (center) bringing up issues concerning international assistance at the seminar held at the Japan National Press Club

Recommendations consisted of the following five statements:

- ① Promotion of “International Cooperation aimed at Coexistence of the Earth and Humanity”
- ② Shifting from decreasing ODA to increasing ODA
- ③ Realization of international agreement on ODA and clarification of time schedule for attaining the goal of “0.7% of GNP”
- ④ Enhancement of assistance for Africa based on “human security” and emphasis on viewpoint of women
- ⑤ Promotion of international education for realization of “International Cooperation Supported by People” and responsibilities of parliamentarians and mass media

These recommendations appealed to launch Japan's initiatives in “Powerful International Cooperation Through Change of Perspective”

The course that these recommendations from the opinion leaders of private sector takes is attracting attention as Japan's foreign policy stance will be put to the test at a series of upcoming conferences including the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-IV) in May and the G8 Toyako Summit in July of 2008.

- Delivering the recommendations and their impact

These recommendations were also delivered to Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. In

addition, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) told President Yasushi Akashi when they met on August 22, 2007 that, “It is very encouraging to know that many opinion leaders expressed their approval for expansion of international cooperation all the more because JICA will be merging with Japan Bank for International Cooperation and will be compelled to work under limited budget. From now on, it will be important to develop concrete activities that would link these voices to understanding of the people and expansion of budget.”

- Assistance from a broader perspective

Japan, a country that once boasted of being the world’s greatest donor nation in the 1990s, has been cutting down on its ODA budget due to prolonged economic recession and financial deterioration that followed the collapse of economic bubble. In 2007, Japan’s ODA has been reduced by 40% from the peak year. Japan slipped to third place after the U.S. and U.K. in 2006 partly because of the increase in aid budget by the western countries after the September 11 Terrorist Attacks on the U.S. in 2001. Japan is expected to slip further to fifth or sixth place after France and Germany from 2008 onward if this trend continues.

A major goal of foreign aid in the world today is development based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000 with particular emphasis on Africa. On the other hand, working out a new framework for post-Kyoto Protocol in climate change has emerged onto the spotlight with the increased interest in global warming with each nation expected to play a role in addressing global problems from both aspects of development and environment.

- Seminar on International Cooperation

A seminar was held at the Japan National Press Club on October 24, 2007 with speeches and discussions by supporters including Mr. Mitsuya Araki (CEO, International Development Journal Co.,Ltd.), Dr. Tsuneo Sugishita (Professor, Ibaraki University), Mr. Hitoshi Tanaka (Senior fellow, the Japan Center for International Exchange), Mr. Shinji Fukukawa, (Former president, Dentsu Communication Institute Inc.) and Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto (Adviser, International House of Japan) in addition to Mr. Kenzo Oshima (Senior Vice President, JICA), Mr. Koro Bessho (Director General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Dr. Izumi Ohno (Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies). It was followed by active comments from the audience.

Ms. Sumie Ishii, Executive Director of JOICFP stated that NGO forums have been held in Japan in connection with the G8 Summit. She added that NGOs are working together in the field of global health, and launching an active approach, starting with the preparation of position paper.

UNFPA Tokyo Office

1. Changing Age Structure of World Population:

Ageing and Increase in Youth Population

The Commission on Population and Development installed under the U.N. Economic and Social Council has selected “The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development” as its theme for the year 2007. While fertility decline and the population ageing in developed countries, population continues to increase in developing countries with the youth population under the age of 25 accounting for half of the world population, 3.3 billion.

In Japan, the baby-boomers are reaching their retirement age this spring and its social impact is drawing attention. For this reason, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Japan NGO Council on Ageing (JANCA) are co-hosting a 3-day international conference entitled “Reinventing Retirement Asia: Enhancing the Opportunities of Aging” from March 14 to 16. The conference invites policymakers and researchers from Asian countries to discuss the overall trend of global ageing and its socioeconomic impact with emphasis on Asian countries. UNFPA Tokyo Office will be cooperating as a supporter. An open forum is also scheduled on March 15 at the U.N. University Building. Those wishing to attend the forum can call our office at 03-5467-4684 or email us at tokyo.office@unfpa.or.jp for details.

UNFPA annually issues, “State of World Population” that analyzes and explains population issues in the world from a wide range of aspects. This year’s report will be published on June 27 and focused on “Urbanization.” The Youth supplement was for the first time published last year. The Youth Supplement will be published this year as well (in English only). With 87% of the world youth population currently living in developing countries, the international community bears the responsibility to promote reproductive health care including HIV/AIDS for the sexually-active generation. UNFPA is implementing and supporting programmes to meet the needs of the young generation in developing countries, including health care services, education and vocational trainings.

2. Ms. Purnima Mane was appointed as the new Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA.

Ms. Purnima Mane was appointed as the new Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA. She is filling the post of Mr. Kunio Waki who retired at the end of January 2007.

Ms. Mane, an Indian national, holds a doctorate degree from the Tata Institute of Social

Studies in Mumbai where she later went on to become Associate Professor. Ms. Mane worked for over 13 years in India dealing with public health and gender-related issues.



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UNFPA has been a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) since the beginning of the Joint Programme in 1996. Ms. Mane provided oversight to the area of behavioural sciences research, gender and AIDS during the early stages of its inception before managing the Office of the Executive Director. From 1999 to 2003, she worked at the Population Council in New York as Vice President and Director International Programmes. In 2003, she went on to work for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, where she was Chief Fund Portfolio Director and Director, Asia. Ms. Mane has a distinguished track record as an international expert on gender and HIV, returning to UNAIDS in 2004 as Director of Policy, Evidence and Partnership, serving as a vital member of the Senior Management Team.

At UNFPA, Ms. Mane is expected to work toward promotion of reproductive health with partner organizations.

For further information on the latest UNFPA's activities, please visit the website of the UNFPA (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>).

3. Proper approach towards urbanization is the key to sustainable future

State of World Population 2007 published by the United Nations Population Fund this year is entitled "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth" and discusses the future of humanity based on a projection that, in 2008, more than half of world population, 3.3 billion people will be living in urban areas which account for 3% of the world's land area. Urban areas including small and medium cities with rapid population growth are the sites of severe environmental destruction caused by modern civilization such as pollution and ever-increasing waste. Urban areas are also very vulnerable to natural disasters and, particularly with the climate changes in the recent years, are prone to serious emergency situations. In addition, damages caused by climate changes tend to be concentrated among the urban poor. For instance, the poor and the elderly who suffered from enormous damages from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005 were featured in the media worldwide.



State of World Population 2007
— Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth

We cannot avoid addressing the ideal future of urban society. While it is true that haphazard production and consumption in urban areas as well as inadequate urban

governance bring about environmental destruction, urban areas can also become the place where we can solve environmental problems can be solved through effective utilization of functions that they have. What is needed is for the government and people to work together to address the mid- or the long-term policies concerning measures for the poor, empowerment of women and prevention of environmental deterioration. We must pursue full-scale urban policies in small and medium urban cities with population of 500,000 or less, where about half of the world's urban population live and take measures that utilize the potential of these urban cities before it becomes too late. State of World Population 2007 appeals the importance of the action we must take now.

State of World Population 2007 can be downloaded from UNFPA Tokyo Office (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.

4. Collaboration with civil society

The year 2007 marked the mid-year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) consisting of eight development goals to be attained by the international community by



Maternal Health
Promotion Concert
(Nov 30)

2015. UNFPA mainly deals with activities that are related to Goals 3, 5 and 6, i.e., gender equality, maternal health and prevention of HIV/AIDS. In addition, Goal 8 “Promotion of global partnership” is of key importance in all of these activities. UNFPA Tokyo Office puts efforts into working with civil society and is posting the details of such activities on our official Website (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>). Tokyo Office recently carried out two events in collaboration with civil society.

The Executive Committee for Maternal Health Promotion Concert held “Maternal Health Promotion Concert” on November 30. The event offered an opportunity to think about the issues on fertility decline in Japan and maternal and child health from a global perspective through a talk by Mr. Tetsuya Takeda and Ms. Atsuko Takahata and a live concert entitled “Mother and Child Bonding.” Proceeds from this concert were donated to UNFPA.

A symposium entitled “Symposium CHOICE - Considering Life, Sexuality and Gender-” was held on December 1 under the co-sponsorship of World AIDS Day Series (wAds), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and UNFPA Tokyo Office. In addition to inviting UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) Ms. Purnima Mane as the keynote speaker, various opinions were expressed by the panelists who work in the field in Japan and abroad on gender and life, offering a unique opportunity for the participants, especially young people, to be exposed to viewpoints that were different from theirs.



Symposium CHOICE -
Considering Life,
Sexuality and Gender -
(Dec 1)

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

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.

ODA Quarterly 2007

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