

THE TWELFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Manila, Philippines
February 12~13, 1996

THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(APDA)

THE 12TH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Program

Feb 12th (Mon.)

Opening Ceremony [10:00 - 11:30]

- Address by Senator Neptali A. Gonzales
Senate President, The Republic of Philippines

- Keynote Speech

H.E. Mr. Fidel V. Ramos
President, The Republic of Philippines

- Welcome Address by Rep. Teresa Aquino-Oreta
PLCPD Chairperson for the House of Representatives

- Opening Address by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda
Chairman, APDA

- Address by Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai
Chairman, AFPPD

- Address by Dr. Nafis Sadik
Executive Director, UNFPA
Read on her behalf by
Dr. Hirofumi Ando
Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Tribute to the President [11:30 - 11:50]

Luncheon [12:00 - 13:30]
Hosted by Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of AFPPD

Session I Study on Population and Development [14:00-16:30]

- 1) "Survey on Urbanization and Development in Nepal"
by Dr. Toshio Kuroda, Director Emeritus, Nihon University
Population Research Institute
- 2) "Population and Development in Philippines --Status of Women--"
by Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Chairperson, United Nations
Committee on the Status of Women
- 3) "Basic Survey on Agricultural and Rural Development in Pakistan"
by Dr. Shigeto Kawano,
Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo

Presentation, Manila Proposal [16:30 - 17:15]

Reception [18:00 - 20:00]

Hosted by Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and
Development Foundation (PLCPD)

20:30 - 1:30 (Feb. 13th) Drafting Committee for Manila Proposal

Feb. 13th (Tue.)

Session II Slide Presentation and Discussion [9:00 - 9:30]

Session III [09:30-11:00]

"Women in the 21st Century - Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -"

9:30 - 11:00 Discussion based on Draft of "Manila Resolution"

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 11:45 Adoption of "Manila Resolution"

Luncheon [12:00 - 13:30]

hosted by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA

Session IV Strategy of Asia for "FAO World Summit on Food " [14:00 - 16:30]

- Focus on Sustainable Food Production, Food security and Population -

14:00 - 16:30 Round Table Discussion

16:30 - 16:45 Coffee break

Closing Ceremony [17:00-17:30]

Closing Remarks

by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA

by Mr. V. T. Palan, Regional Director of the East and
South East Asia and Oceania Region, IPPF

by Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, Chairperson - Senate,
Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development

Reception [18:30 - 20:30]

hosted by PLCPD and APDA

(with Press)

Opening Ceremony

[10:00~11:30, February 12, 1996]

Address
by
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales
Senate President, The Republic of Philippines

- Population and Development: Challenges for Parliamentarians in The 21st Century -

It is a privilege to join all of you today in this 12th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. I am specially honored to welcome you to the Philippines in behalf of the Philippine Senate which is co-sponsoring this historic meeting with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).

This event is made more significant by the bi-partisan, and multisectoral collection of participation of some 50 parliamentarians from different countries, regional, national, and local leaders, international and local NGO's and the media, all assembled this morning to collectively attest that while we may differ in our own national interests, political affiliations, religious identification, and ideological beliefs, we all agree that population management is a key to our regional and national survival.

The themes to be tackled in this two day conference "Women in the 21st Century: Strategy for Prosperity and Peace" and "Strategy for the World Summit on Food Security: Food and Population" are both timely and urgent for the Asia Pacific Region, and underscore the vital role that women play in the world's quest for prosperity and peace and ensuring food security to the teeming millions of mankind.

Global estimates place the world population at about 5.6 billion by the end of 1995 and is expected to reach 6 billion before the turn of the century. By 2025, according to United Nations projection, the total world population will have grown to between 7.6 billion and 9.0 billion, with 8.3 billion considered to be the likely figure, if population management programs all over the world are successfully implemented.

The Asia-Pacific region accounts for close to 60% of the world's inhabitants and counts on three of the four most populous countries in the world. The need to manage this region's rapid population growth has become a central agenda of governments and citizens who feel the pressure of meeting the escalating need for basic social services such as housing, education, and health care; environmental protection; rational land use; agricultural productivity; as well as to fill the need for employment.

Increasingly over the past three decades, parliamentarians through the International Parliamentarians Union (IPU), regional organizations like the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFFPD), and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) which are present here today, and national groups like the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), met and forged consensus on issues related to children in Rome (1990), population in Cairo

(1994), social development in Copenhagen (1995), and late last year in Beijing, on women's empowerment.

In all these conferences, the unique role of parliamentarians in formulating public policies, acting as spokespersons for various issues, and allocating resources through the national budget, has been recognized, and commitments made to work for the implementation of the agreed upon programs of action.

I am sure that you have noticed that we in the Philippine Senate and members of the House of Representatives have actively participated in these conferences in various capacities, and tried our best to put these new initiatives in our legislative agenda upon our return. The list of luminaries in the global parliamentarians movement is long and illustrious. We hope we can include some leaders of the Philippine Congress, like our Senate President Protempore Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, and Congresswoman Teresa Aquino-Oreta to this distinguished list.

These roles, we must all acknowledge, change when we take into consideration the political system and executive-legislative relations in each country. But like the case of the Philippines where we have forged a partnership between the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, and between Congress and the Executive, I am sure such of you have found a way to translate these commitments into action.

My colleagues in the parliamentary movement, the population and development issues confronting our countries, and our region, are multifarious and urgent. This 12th Asian Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Development is the latest milestone in our quest to ensure that our people, and our region, get the quality of life they truly deserve. I am happy and proud to be associated with this conference, and I look forward to the discussion of issues, and forging of consensus today and tomorrow. In behalf of the Philippine Senate, I welcome you to the Philippines and thank you for your committed advocacy to population management.

Thank you and mabuhay!

Keynote Address
by
H.E. President Fidel V. Ramos

- A Test of Our Humanity -

Introduction

We of the Philippines feel proud and privileged to be hosting this very important meeting of Asian Parliamentarians.

There is no doubt in my mind that our concerns on population and its relation to development will define the nature and the direction of many other policies well into the next century.

They will be a test not only of our judgment and our will as leaders in government - but also of our humanity, of our fundamental belief in the dignity of human life.

This has long been a crucial concern in the Philippines, which has experienced a relatively high population growth rate, but where we have sought to resolve population issues within a democratic framework - a framework that recognizes and respects individual rights and beliefs enshrined in our constitution.

Population, Women and Food

Indeed, our population and development policies are integral to our political and economic growth as a nation. These are factors that we shall have to learn to reconcile and put to positive use.

Among of the major principles that Philippine democracy stands on is our firm commitment to enhancing the role of women in our society and insuring food security for our ever-expanding population.

We have drawn attention to these issues wherever and whenever we could, in various meetings around the world.

You may also have heard of the lively debate that attended our preparations for the recent International Conference on Population and Development that took place in Manila.

Last year in Copenhagen, I reaffirmed our position on these concerns when I addressed the World Summit for Social Development.

We had stated that position earlier in Cairo, where we related population issues to the larger context of human development.

All throughout the months before that conference, we undertook a consensus-building process to ensure that the positions we took in Cairo reflected what the nation believed and wanted as a whole.

A Seven-Point Consensus

The product of our consensus building was a seven-point program that the Philippine Delegation adopted throughout the Cairo Conference. May I just reiterate them briefly, because they define, in effect, our population and development policy:

1. Human life is sacred and our respect for human life is paramount and non-negotiable; therefore, abortion should never be promoted as a method of family planning;
2. The family as a basic unit of society is anchored on the permanent and exclusive marriage between a man and woman for the purpose of the education of children and a communion of life. Marriage is the foundation of the family and shall be protected by the state;
3. The family remains the foundation of the nation and of all striving for development;
4. The state recognizes the role of women in nation building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men;
5. The state recognizes freedom of conscience in accordance with religious and moral convictions, consistent with the common good. The government policy to provide information to the family as a basis in planning how to live and grow springs from our respect for this freedom and for human life;
6. The state shall defend the rights of spouses to found a family in accordance with their moral or religious convictions and the demands for responsible parenthood; and,
7. Human development should be viewed holistically, addressing all needs and aspirations of a human person from politics, economics, to culture and religion.

In this context, the Philippine delegation in Cairo also emphasized the need to consider the compatibility of any program with our cultural values, especially those that concern our strong family ties.

Our Policy for Women

It is within this synergism that my government recognizes that women in the 21st Century have a vital role in development. Without the equal and equitable social participation of women, it will be very hard for my government - and any government, for that matter - to solve population issues and attain social sustainable development in harmony with the fragile limits of the environment.

In Beijing, we were equally specific. We defined our basic policies on women, committing ourselves to the following measures:

We must broaden women's economic opportunities;

We must support women by strengthening the family;

We must promote education for all;

We must improve girls' and women's health;

We must protect the human rights of women to enable them to participate in decision-making in society and in the family; and,

We must anchor all of these programs on the precept of sustainability.

"Sustainability" is a word we very often hear in the rhetoric of development these days. But when global estimates place the world population at about 5.6 billion today and is expected to reach 6.0 billion by the turn of the century, just how does one achieve sustainability in real terms?

With some 1.5 million more Filipinos emerging every 12 months, how does one strategize sustainability in terms of real basic needs?

Food Security

The realities of development require that we break down and translate "sustainability" into its components - in terms of things we can actually do within areas we can actually influence. One of those components is food security.

Two weeks ago, after a long process of local, regional and national workshops that culminated in a national food security summit, we agreed "That every man, women and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental faculties."

It is a principle which I believe is worth adopting not only in the Philippines, but also within your parliamentary plan of action for Asia and the Pacific.

Food security exists when everyone, regardless of age or gender, is assured access at all times to the food that they need for a healthy life.

Food security is achieved if a nation can ensure the availability of food at all times, stabilize food prices, and increase employment as well as income and production. This is the basic premise of our food security and action program.

Science, technology and progressive politics have long dealt with this issues of food security. And we know that today, the theoretical means and resources exist to feed the whole world.

The Vulnerable Environment

And yet, it is ironic that while technology has vastly improved, agricultural productivity in the field still has lagged behind. While agricultural productivity in the laboratory has advanced so many giant steps, so many of the world's people still remain poor and hungry.

In a report of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), it is estimated that 800 million people are still chronically undernourished, and two million of this number are children under the age of five.

It is the tragedy of this generation that in their struggle to rise above mere subsistence levels, so many people are still forced to eat next year's seeds to allay this year's hunger.

The pressure of our high population growth rate and the need to provide the minimum basic needs to an ever-increasing national society are now taking a big chunk of the government budget, giving less and less for the improvement and development of our agriculture such as support and training of farmers, improved agricultural and irrigation technology, and research and development, all of which are necessary to achieve improved food production.

Quite clearly, we cannot long afford the effects of this steep population growth rate and the highly vulnerable condition of our natural resources and environment.

This warning has been sounded loud and clear on many platforms, here and abroad. The widening gap between food supplies and population growth, particularly in those areas of the world where the specter of hunger and malnutrition is most visible, is an ominous daily threat to millions around the world.

A Synergistic Balance

There is no better way, in my belief, to meet this threat than for every nation to strike a synergistic balance between the three developmental factors of population, resources and environment. And this brings me back to the main theme of your meeting: Women in the 21st Century - A Strategy for Prosperity and Peace.

Here in Asia - the rising colossus of the 21 century - women will play a special role within our cultures and our societies as agents of growth and change. And I mean growth and change not only in material terms, but also in respect of the social and human values at the heart of Asia's culture.

The Philippines chairs hosts in 1996 the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), including its leaders' summit of 18 heads of government. For the first time in APEC, food human resource development and population are being recognized as key issues to sustained economic growth. In preparation for the summit, APEC's technical experts, senior officials and ministers as well as business leaders will intensely examine these problems.

Closing

I said earlier that our response to the challenges of population and development will be a test of our humanity. That will be because our policies and strategies will be a practical demonstration of how fair and how compassionate we have become - in sharing not only our wealth or resources, but also the rights, privileges and responsibilities of decision-making - with women, the poor the other marginalized sectors of our societies.

May this meeting be another milestone on a long road that has already passed through Cairo, Beijing and Copenhagen, a road to the future, to the growth and the good of all.

Thank you all, and as we say here, a long life - MABUHAY!

Welcome Address
by
Rep. Teresa Aquino-Oreta
PLCPD Chairperson for the House of Representatives

Honorable Parliamentarians and Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends;

On behalf of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development, I welcome you to our country and to the Twelfth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

In particular, please allow me the honor to welcome Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association; the Honorable Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; DR. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund; and the Honorable Neptali Gonzales, President of the Senate of the Republic of the Philippines, all distinguished Asian leaders on population management advocacy.

The presence of His Excellency, President Fidel V. Ramos, as your Keynote Speaker invests this meeting with a special significance, considering that the concept of population and development continue to be particularly controversial in this country today. We are deeply indebted to the President for his demonstration of his unswerving support for our efforts at crafting a viable consensual population policy that embraces the concerns of women and child welfare and food security.

Indeed, one of the most compelling factors for a population policy is the concern for food. And nowhere is this more pronounced than in this country where not only must we make sure that 60 million or so Filipinos are assured of food everyday, but we must also ensure that we have enough on the side to nourish one and half million Filipinos born every year. It is noteworthy that, in this country, under the leadership of President Ramos, food security instead of being a seasonal agendum in cabinet conferences, is today a continuing topic of the highest councils of the land.

One thing I am also particularly proud to say to all, is that our President has the distinction of consistently putting the developmental role of women on top of his agenda for growth. In this light, the President will be interested to know that, in this century of giant strides for the cause of women empowerment, many of the women notables and leaders who made those giant steps possible, are here among us today. Veterans of the 1975 Mexico Declaration on the Equality of Women, the 1980 Copenhagen Programme of Action for Women, the 1985 Nairobi World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, and last year's historic Beijing Conference.

In this regard, I am also proud to announce that for its part, the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines has passed a resolution expressing its unqualified support to this conference. Moreover, the House Resolution urges the conference to further advance the cause of women empowerment in the Asian region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, ensuring food security is part of people empowerment. Realizing the full potentials of women is women empowerment. This, I believe is what our conference is all about. Welcome to this conference on empowerment! MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Opening Address
by
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda
Chairman,
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, the President of the Philippines; Honorable Senator Neptali A. Gonzales, President of Senates ; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Mr. Shin Sakurai M.P., Chairman of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); Distinguished Parliamentarians; Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association, I would like to extend my heartily welcome to the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population And Development.

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to hold this meeting in the Philippines where remarkable development has been achieved under the leadership of His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos who is with us here today. His Excellency has been an old time friend and an active member of AFPPD and APDA, and is also the elder brother of Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, the Chairperson of AFPPD Women's Committee. It is an unexpected pleasure for us that His Excellency, who is deeply versed in the topic of population and development, has kindly agreed to give the keynote speech for this meeting.

Being one of the first organizations to recognize the importance of women's issues in solving the population and development issue, we, APDA, had prepared a three-year plan to hold discussions under this topic; we have discussed " Family, Household and House Wife" in Beijing, China in 1994, and "Work and Economic Activities of Women" in Tokyo in 1995. This year, we will be discussing "Social Participation of Women and Policy Proposal for Women and Development" to sum up all the discussions that have been conducted up to now.

It is very significant that the discussion on this proposal will be held here in Manila. The Philippines is said to be one of the countries where women enjoy the highest social status in Asia and are making active advancement in the society. The Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), which has been the parliamentarian's group engaged in the issue of population and development here in the Philippines, is co-chaired by two women -- Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani and Representative Aquino Oreta, whose tireless activities are known throughout the world.

Moreover, Senator Shahani is the world authority on the women's issues and has served as the secretary general at the Third World Conference on Women which was the women's conference held prior to the Beijing Conference (FWCW). I am convinced that to discuss and adopt our Proposal, and naming it as "The Manila Proposal" here in the

Philippines would provide a perfect opportunity for showing to Asia and rest of the world the bright future of women's issues in Asia.

The last three years in which we have discussed the women's issues at the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development have been a very important period for the issue of population and development. In 1994, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held to determine how to address the population and development issues of respective countries for the next 20 years and was proceeded by the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) in March 1995 and the Fourth Women Conference on Women (FWCW) in September of the same year.

In conjunction with these inter-governmental meetings, AFPPD called out to regional federations of parliamentarians throughout the world to convene parliamentarians' meetings in their respective regions. We have learned that the enthusiasm of Asian parliamentarians regarding the population problem has won respect from the entire world. It was of great honor that, in cooperation with the AFPPD Secretariat, APDA was able to cooperate in its limited capacity to initiate these meetings.

Consistent throughout these meetings, which were held mainly under agendas such as "Reproductive Health and Rights," "Empowerment of Women" and "Improvement of Women's Status," was a notion that "Women are at the subject, not the object, of the population problem. The population problem cannot possibly be solved without solving the women's issues."

As we have started our discussions about the women's issues before the Cairo Conference, we take pride in having taken our action in such timely manner.

Many discussions have taken place. Now is the time to carry them out.

What we are going to discuss this year under the working title of the Manila Proposal has been prepared in view of the results of inter-governmental meetings and parliamentarians' meetings that have been held up to now, and is intended to serve as a material used during your review. Following a full discussion, I believe that it will be adopted as the Manila Proposal, proposed to your respective governments through your hand, and serve as a steady step towards solution of women and population issues.

We have also scheduled in the afternoon of the second day a roundtable discussion for discussing Asia's strategy in preparation for the World Food Summit which will be held in Rome by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in November of this year.

As the decision to hold this roundtable discussion was made at the last minute, the preparations may be incomplete. However, I hope that it would provide an opportunity for you to freely discuss Asia's strategy with regard to the issues of security and sustainable development of Food and Population.

As the schedule is rather tight, I would like to conclude my address by requesting your lively discussion and hoping that this conference will prove fruitful for us all.

Thank you.

Address
by
Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P.
Chairman,
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
(AFPPD)

His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, the President of the Philippines; Honorable Mr. Nep-tali A. Gonzales, President of Senates; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund; Distinguished Representatives; Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to thank you very much for attending the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

The Philippines has been attracting the world's attention for the rapid advancement it has achieved in the recent years. His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos is the elder brother of Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani who has been a friend and an active member of AFPPD. All of us at AFPPD take pride in the remarkable development that the Philippines is achieving under the outstanding leadership of His Excellency, and it is a great pleasure for us to have the opportunity to hold the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in this energetic country with the honor of attendance by His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos.

I would like to express my cordial gratitude to those of you whose efforts have made this conference possible.

The Philippines is a neighbor of my country, Japan. Although some difference exists in average temperature, the two countries are both island countries surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and have close similarities in terms of natural environment and land area. They also have cultural kinship of eating rice as staple and fish as main dish.

Social advancement of women in the Philippines is a phenomenon that is known throughout the world. Co-chairpersons Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani and Representative Aquino Oreta of the Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, whose work as active members of AFPPD is widely known, have offered enormous cooperation during the preparation of this conference. Indeed, they are the symbol of the active role played by women in the Philippines.

In particular, Senator Shahani is actively engaged in AFPPD by assuming the heavy responsibility of the Chairperson of the AFPPD Women's Committee. She has also demonstrated strong leadership as rapporteur general at the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development which we called out to the world and held in Cairo, Egypt in September 1994 and resulted in adoption of the Cairo Declaration. Needless to say, she is also an expert on population and women's issues and has served as secretary general at the Third World Conference on Women which was held prior to Beijing.

The purpose of this conference is to reach some kind of conclusion with regard to the women's issues that we had discussed in the last two years, and to discuss and adopt the Manila Proposal with the aim of submitting a concrete proposal to Governments. It was in February of 1994 that the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development addressed the women's issues based on the notion that "Women are the subject, not the object, of the population problem. The population problem cannot be solved without solving the women's issues."

We take much pride in the farsightedness of Asia as this was an effort that was made prior to the International Conference on Population and Development in which "Reproductive Health and Rights," "Empowerment of Women" and "Improvement of Women's Status" were discussed as main agenda.

I think that it is very significant that this discussion that we have been conducting for the last three years is going to be summed up here in the Philippines where social advancement of women is so conspicuous. Following its adoption, the parliamentarians attending this meeting are requested to hand over the Proposal to their respective Governments and work towards turning our discussion into reality so that we can take a steady step in solving the population problem.

With the adoption of this Proposal, we will conclude our three-year discussion on the issue of population and women at this meeting.

It goes without saying that the efforts to solve the population problem must not cease even for a moment. Conferences of much importance for the population and development issue were held consecutively in the last three years, giving rise to heated discussions on various aspects of population and development and resulting in conclusion of international agreements.

In September 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo, Egypt to decide on the population policy for the next 20 years; in March 1995, the World Summit on Social Development was held in Copenhagen, Denmark to discuss correction of social inequality, eradication of poverty and realization of social justice; and in September of the same year, the Fourth Women Conference on Women was held in Beijing on the theme of empowerment and improvement of social status for women.

We, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held the International Conference of Parliamentarians' on Population and Development, the International Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Social Development and the International Parliamentarians' Meeting on Gender, Population and Development in conjunction with these meetings by calling out to the regional federations of parliamentarians all over the world. The manner through which the population and development problem is addressed in the Asian region has spread to the world and inspired the establishment of federation of parliamentarians for the population and development problem in the Africa-Middle East region. Our activities in Asia has become the driving force behind the international activities to tackle the population problem.

In addition, the social development issues and women's issues that were discussed independently are issues that require immediate attention -- and none of these issues are issues that can be solved easily. In this sense, winding up a discussion on the women's issue does not mean they have been solved. We have no choice but to continue our efforts to address all of these problems. We cannot afford not to move forward.

Therefore, with your approval, I would like to suggest "Population and Food" to be the theme of discussion following women's issues.

In November of this year, the World Food Summit will be held in Rome by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The task of "supporting the ever-increasing population" will become increasingly important in the future. That is why we have scheduled a roundtable discussion on food and population on the second day of this year's conference.

"No child should be born just to starve and die." These are the words of Honorable late Mr. Takashi Sato who was one of the founders of the Asian Forum and served as its first chairman. Creating a world free of starvation, and being responsible for creating the fundamental conditions that enable humanity to build their own future -- I believe these were the keynote and spirit of AFPPD.

Much difficulty lies ahead in the future of food supply. Population is declining in terms of rate of increase but continues to increase in terms of absolute number. The environment surrounding food production is becoming increasingly difficult because this swelling population and excessive consumption of the developed countries are leading to deterioration of the environment.

The measures for "restraining population increase and achieving food development that is harmonious with the environment" will be of crucial importance if we are going to make the future promising for the human race. This is an issue that can never be taken too seriously.

As people to whom the future of our countries have been entrusted, we parliamentarians have the obligation to make responsible decision on this issue that will determine the future of humanity from a long-term perspective and put them into action, so that humanity will keep on living and the future will be bright for our children.

The important key in fulfilling this obligation would be to build a cooperating relationship with exporting countries while maintaining food production base in regions where the environment is disadvantageous for production and striving to secure an environment that will enable each country to become basically self-sufficient in terms of food.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to freely discuss this matter and make this the first step in addressing the population and food security issue of Asia.

Asia started addressing the issue of population and women before the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and became the driving force behind

worldwide activities concerning this issue. Much is expected from us in Asia. And that is why we must use all the wisdom that we have and make choices that will not be regretted in the future.

In closing, let me invite you to engage in active discussions that will turn this meeting into a fruitful event so that we will be able to bear the heavy responsibility that has been imposed upon us.

Thank you very much.

Address
by
Dr. Nafis Sadik
Executive Director, UNFPA

Read on her behalf
by
Dr. Hirofumi Ando
Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Senate President Gonzales

Congresswomen Aquino-Oreta,

Senator Ramos-Shahani, Mr. Maeda, Mr. Sakurai

Excellencies Distinguished Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to be able to join you today at this 12th Meeting of Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development with its special focus on “Women in the 21st Century - A Strategy for Prosperity and Peace”. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Philippine Congress for hosting this event and to His Excellency, President Ramos, for gracing us with his presence.

I would like to pay a special tribute to President Ramos, who has long been in the forefront of addressing the most crucial challenges the world faces to achieve sustainable, human development and population. Again and again, he had affirmed his commitment to make a difference in people’s lives and to ensure that basic human needs are met through education, health care, housing and employment. And he has spoken out courageously for the right of women and men to decide freely and responsively the number and spacing of their children. His leadership has been an inspiration to us all. And, on behalf of the United Nations Population Fund, I would like to reiterate our hope for his continued support and close cooperation.

Distinguished participants,

This meeting comes at an important time, as it is your first gathering after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing last September. The conference provided the international community with a unique forum to place the rights, concerns and progress of women into the center stage of all development efforts. It was an occasion to reaffirm the goals and aspiration of the International Conference on Population Development in Cairo, where the centrality of women, including their reproductive rights and health, first received such unequivocal support.

Now is the time to make the goals of Beijing and Cairo a reality. I would like the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for providing us with an opportunity here to reflect on these emerging issues and to chart an effective course of action. Parliamentarians from this region have long been in the vanguard of efforts to address the population and development challenge. Your long tradition of involvement with these issues makes your contribution to the Beijing and Cairo process invaluable.

Over the next two days, you will have the opportunity to further this process through your discussion of the Manila Proposal on Gender and Development. Many of you have participated in the International Capital Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development in Tokyo last August. The Meeting adopted the Tokyo declaration which was widely publicized in the media and made a significant contribution to the discussions at, and the success of, the Women's Conference.

The Beijing plan for Action, reiterated and reinforced many of the goals of the ICPD. As you know, the quantitative goals of the ICPD Programmed of Action are designed to eliminate the most prominent obstacles to women's advancement by the year 2025. It requires countries to achieve universal access to primary education with special emphasis on the education of girl children. The Programme of Action also sets targets for the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality. And finally, the documents demand that a broad range of quality reproductive health care and family planning services is made available to all members of society.

In many countries, policies have been adjusted and programmes initiated to achieve these goals. UNFPA, as well, has revised its substantive and procedural guidelines in follow-up to the ICPD, the Social Summit and the Women's Conference. And the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force chaired by the Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik, has already distributed very specific instructions to all United Nations Field Offices on the operational implications of the Programmed of Action.

The progress we make in the implementation of these goals will determine the future of humanity. In dealing with such challenges, the ICPD Programme of Action argues that investments into individual well-being and productivity are the most effective strategy to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development including food security. In Cairo and Beijing, the international community acknowledge the eliminating gender disparities and investing in people, their health and education, is the real basis for development.

The Asian Population and Development Association and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development under the leadership of Hon. Shin Sakurai have been working hard to realize this holistic, human-oriented vision of development. I would like to pay special tribute to the determined efforts of the Asian Forum's Standing Committee on Women under the excellent leadership of Senator Shahani and her distinguished colleagues especially Congresswoman Aquino-Oreta. With your help, the international community will continue to advance towards a world of full equality between men and women and the opportunity for all people to realize their aspirations.

In closing, I would like to appeal to you, as parliamentarians, to continue to play a critical role in mobilizing the political will and the resources needed to achieve the goals of Cairo and Beijing. You have the power to turn the needs of your constituents into laws and policies. And we need your special insights, wisdom and dedication to set the right priorities and formulate the programmes required to achieve sustainable human development. My colleagues, I look forward to share your thoughts and ideas over the next two days and wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you.

Session I: Study on Population and Development

[14:00-16:30, February 12, 1996]

"Survey on Urbanization and Development in Nepal"

by

Dr. Toshio Kuroda,
Director Emeritus, Nihon University
Population Research Institute

Thank you very much. I will discuss on the Urbanization and Development in Nepal.

Urbanization is a phenomenon that is intrinsic to economic and social development, i.e., it is a process of modernization. Demographic implications of urbanization are also important aspects because the migratory movement of population, which is a major factor in urban population increase, greatly affects fertility and mortality, and consequently, creates regional disparities in natural increase rate and affects the regional age structure of population. Patterns of urbanization differ considerably between the more developed and the less developed regions. In 1994, the more-developed regions were heavily urbanized with more than 75 percent of the population living in cities. However, only 37 percent of those in the less developed regions were urban residents. The less developed are undergoing a process of rapid urbanization in contrast to the more developed regions where the urbanization has slowed down.

Another important point is the urbanization of the world population as a whole. That may be called, "globalization of urbanization." Between 1975 and 1995, the urban population of the less developed regions has more than doubled, increasing at a rate of 3.8 percent per annum. It is estimated that 57 percent of the population in the less developed regions and 61.1 percent of the population will be urbanities by 2025. The United Nations projections indicate that half of the world population will be living in urban areas by 2005. They suggest that the 21st century will be of an urban world -- a world humankind has never experienced before in terms of way of life -- a world that inevitably requires fundamental changes in the social system on a global scale.

Urbanization often introduces social and economic disturbances if rapid urbanization involves large-scale migration from rural to urban areas. On the one hand, large urban centers cannot provide adequate housing, jobs and medical service because of lack of necessary resources and capabilities. Urban problems such as unemployment, traffic congestion, environmental deterioration and so on will become serious. People talk about "over-urbanization", which means, the concentration of population and industries beyond the supporting capacity of a city. Conversely, rural areas are suffering from shortage of labor due to large-scale out-migration of young people.

In order to cope with the contrasting difficulties in urban and rural areas, comprehensive policies involving both areas should be taken by the central and local governments because these areas are closely linked with each other. The final objective is to foster a more balanced distribution of population by promoting sustainable development in both sending

and receiving areas. In particular, strategies encouraging the growth of small or medium-sized urban centers and seeking development of rural areas should be strengthened.

Here, we are concerned with urbanization and development in Nepal. The foregoing general remarks of urbanization may be useful in understanding the present situation as well as future prospect of urbanization and development in Nepal. Nepal is one of the least developed countries, a category in which the average percentage of population living in urban areas was 22 percent in 1994.

However, the figure for Nepal was only 13.1 percent in the same year, which was much lower than the average of the least developed countries. It was also the lowest among the South Asian countries with the exception of Bhutan where the percentage was 6 percent.

An outstanding feature of urbanization in Nepal is the fact that it has been marking the highest average annual increase rates of urban population since the 1970-1975 period. For example, in the 1990-1995 period, Nepal showed an increase rate of 7.07 percent as opposed to 4.44 percent for Pakistan, 2.87 percent for India, and 2.20 percent for Sri Lanka. Bangladesh showed the second highest percentage after Nepal of 5.26 percent.

Secondly, rapid changes in spatial distribution of population in Nepal must be pointed out. Topography of Nepal is characterized by three major regions: the mountain region, the hill region and the Terai (lowlands). The distribution pattern of population has been undergoing rapid changes since 1971. The percentage of population living in the mountains and the hills exceeded 60 percent in 1971, but started to decrease sharply since then. It came to 57 percent in 1981, and 54% in 1991. On the other hand, that of the Terai increased from 38 percent in 1971 at 47 percent in 1991.

There are two reasons. The first reason is an increasing trend of urbanization. As stated earlier, the level of urbanization is still low, although it is increasing very rapidly. The number of emerging urban centers and small towns is greatly increasing. The second reason is the eradication of malaria in the Terai (lowlands), which has resulted in a substantial movement of people from the mountains and hills to the lowlands where there are more job opportunities. The Terai region is not only fertile, but is also urbanizing very quickly at the annual rate of more than 8 percent between 1952 and 1991.

In other words, the two "pull factors", of agricultural employment and urban employment opportunities, are emerging in the urban centers of the Terai region. On the other hand, the "push factor" in the mountain regions is the harsh physical condition, coupled with lack of cultivable land and employment opportunities for young people that have resulted from high fertility.

Currently, the Terai accounts for 65 percent of cultivated land, as well as for over 35 percent of roads and 63 percent of industry. The urban population of the Terai region has increased from 17 percent of the national urban population in 1952 to over 53 percent in 1991.

Thirdly, the present trend of urbanization in Nepal is characterized by a pattern of dispersion, i.e., it is not dominated by the capital city of Katmandu. Although the population of Katmandu is increasing rapidly, its share in total population is very low. It has remained at 2 percent for a long time and increased slightly to 2.3 percent in 1991. Its share in total urban population indicates a declining trend from 36 percent in 1961 to 25 percent in 1991. The total urban population of Nepal increased five times during the 30 years from 1961 to 1991 while that of Katmandu increased only 3.5 times.

The urbanization trend in Nepal seems to be characterized by a pattern of dispersion, not by a primary city oriented pattern like Thailand.

Lastly, let us examine the urbanization trends in Nepal from the migration streams among the three major regions: the mountains, the hills and the Terai. (Lowlands). Table 3 shows the migration streams based on place of birth statistics obtained from the census results of 1981 and 1991. The continuous trends of migration streams are characterized by dominant streams from the mountains and the hills to the Terai region. The net in-migrants in the Terai amounted to about 700,000 in 1981 and 920,000 in 1991. On the other hand, both the mountains and the hills show net out-migrants in 1981 and 1991. In particular, the results for the hills indicate that a large number of people born in the hills have moved to the Terai region.

Urbanization in Nepal is very unique. In spite of low level of urbanization, the increase rate of urban population is very high. It is expected that Nepal will catch up with the neighboring countries in terms of urbanization level in the near future.

The city of Katmandu is growing quickly and turning into the Katmandu Metropolitan Area. As far as the current situation is concerned, however, it is doubtful whether Katmandu is truly Nepal's primary city. Firstly, the size of population of Katmandu is not large enough to be called a primary city; and secondly, the recent rapid urbanization in Nepal is to a great extent attributed to urbanization in the Terai region due to tremendous inflow of population from the hills and the mountains. It will be very interesting for social scientists to examine whether the current local urbanization is a "stepping migration", a process where this population that moved to small and medium urban centers in the Terai region will eventually settle in Katmandu and result in establishment of Katmandu as the primary city.

The so-called urban problems coupled with environmental deterioration are already becoming serious. There is much evidence demonstrating that heavy concentration of industries and population will inevitably bring about serious social and environmental problems. In the case of Nepal, we can see a huge wave of people coming down to the Terai region, the lowlands, from the mountains and hills. Topographically, this kind of trend of migration is very much favorable or unfavorable -- how to define it, how to understand it -- and so also any policy to intervene in this kind of trend of migration and also distribution of population in the Terai.

Again, I am thinking, it might be my personal opinion -- if that's correct or not, I don't know -- but anyway, maybe Honorable Madam Meena Pandey may be asked to make a

comment on my view. So, and also from standpoint of demographer who is particularly concerned with the migration issue, I am thinking to define the characteristics of this kind of trend of migration or urbanization trend in Nepal. I say that this kind of fast migration, this fast distribution of the population in Nepal -- this means that I simply do not like there to be the so much population in Katmandu. You can also find that the population in Katmandu is rapidly increasing, but in terms of the share of population in Katmandu compared with the total population, it is very low. Maybe 20 to 25 percent -- very low, and not only that the population of Katmandu sharing in the total urban population of Nepal is also just around the 20% or so, and also that it's still coming down. So, it is an interesting study as far as population is concerned.

We don't have any evidence to show that the Katmandu is coming to be the so-called primary city just like Bangkok and Thailand. I think, why do I wait? So how to understand, I think this is very, very important and also might be a very interesting point, not only for social scientists but also, of course, for Nepal. I think that Nepal, how are the government and also parliamentarians going to think about this kind of trend of migration and also urbanization?

So then my idea in view of this kind of very much characteristic trend of migration and distribution of population in Nepal, I do not like too much concentration in Katmandu. Now I find that still now we can recognize that environment problems are becoming very serious in Katmandu.

Then I think that Katmandu is becoming to be the primary city eventually, or they continue to be this fast population, which means a small or medium-sized city that's increasing. And then I think that some experts coming may be interested in this kind of migration pattern. We can say that shipping migration patterns, which means, according to the imagined number of the small and medium sized cities, the very small type of urban cities are coming to be more and more increasing, not in connection with Katmandu, but particularly in case of Nepal and so-called Terai land area, the Terai region, where there are so many small cities found coming out.

So then, according to this shipping migration high position fast incoming from the northern areas, small towns are becoming middle-sized cities also. They just sit down for several years. The incoming migration is to the urban large cities and, finally, coming to the biggest one, and there I am talking about whether Katmandu or not. So now as the plains situation is concerned, we can say that this is a pattern. But will it continue to be this pattern or not? Maybe some think they are going to concentrate into the Katmandu population, and the industry concerning Katmandu will make Katmandu a big city just like Bangkok.

So this, I think, is the first serious point to make as for Nepal. What are we going to do? I think there is still an environmental problem coming, emerging in Katmandu City. There is more population concentrated in Katmandu in terms of industry and population which continues to increase, and then such is more serious in terms of the environmental aspect. It seems to be that, in a study as far as population is concerned, I am very much in favor. There are so many small and medium-sized cities emerging, and then people coming into

the city from mountain hills region, are coming into so these small cities and medium-sized cities, and not to Katmandu. So then I think that maybe a government policy should be made that this kind of trend of migration and distribution of population pattern should be kept like that. So I think preventing the excessive concentration of population and industry into Katmandu, we should be thinking in that way. I think that maybe Madam Pandey may make a comment on this also.

I think, however, that it is very interesting. So we can now make an appropriate policy to continue maintaining these countries, not giving so much concentration on population and industry in Katmandu. I think that's better -- my hypothesis must be a better one.

I have just one more point in connection with the experience of Nepal. In Japan we also had many experiences. In this connection, we had dramatic concentrations of population and industry in the big, largest metropolitan areas like Osaka and Tokyo -- and there were times that the government was very clever and recognized that. They wanted to prevent heavy migration and also the concentration of industry into the large cities. Then as early as 1961, a very wonderful policy has been adopted. With this new policy, I forgot the exact name of this law, the government wanted to prevent the heavy migration from rural areas to the largest metropolitan areas. So, they wanted to establish an in-between between the local area and the largest metropolitan area. They wanted to create an in-between, I remember that 25 years ago, a kind of a new industrial city or zone, something like that. And then a tremendous investment had been made to prevent migration from rural areas coming into the big cities. You don't need to come into Tokyo, you should just to get out of here. We have a nice place, you have enough land area which is also very cheap so that you can establish new factories and also dormitories. It's okay. But actually, what happened, I think, the idea was wonderful one, but actually was not legalized. The profession in the industry did not recognize it. Oh, what happened here, we don't know it -- then here we should go to Tokyo and Osaka and that way. So, this idea was a very good one, but sadly the time was amiss, the time was lost, too early. But eventually this kind of investment was becoming to be useful, three years later, three years later this kind of investment was coming to be very much effective. Now there is too much concentration in a big city like Tokyo, so they wanted to go out because of the environment and also scale of the economy. And the environment is coming to be varied once in a while and the living environment also comes to worse and some countries. There is also the extremely high cost to establish a factory in Tokyo, so some of them are going out. And then again, on the other hand, the local area is now going to have some way of employment opportunity due to the regional development policy of the government.

So I think that just like they are now happy in the Terai region, in some cities, it is very similar to our experience in Japan. Thank you so much. (Applause)

Table 1 Distribution of Population by Region

(%)

Region	1952/54	1961	1971	1981	1991
Mountains	64.8	63.6	10	9	8
Hills			53	48	46
Terai	35.2	36.4	38	44	47
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : NPC & CBS, Population Monograph of Nepal, 1995.

Table 2 Urbanization Trends in Nepal

(1,000 persons and %)

	1961	1971	1981	1991
Urban population	336.2	461.9	956.7	1695.7
Rural population	9,076.8	11,094.1	14,066.1	16,795.4
Total population	9,413.0	11,556.0	15,022.8	18,491.1
Percentage urban (%)	3.6	4.0	6.4	9.2
Kathmandu (Capital)	121.0	150.4	235.2	421.3
Kathmandu / Total pop.(%)	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.3
Kathmandu / Urban pop. (%)	36.0	32.6	24.6	24.8

Source: CBS (Census Report)

Table 3 Migration Streams among Major Regions

(based on Place of Birth Statistics)

Place of Residence	Place of Birth				Net Migration	
	Total	Mountains	Hills	Terai	Number	Rate(%)
Mountains						
1981	35,619	-----	33,423	2,196	(-) 261,467	(-) 20.1
1991	36,674	-----	32,003	4,671	(-) 161,655	(-) 11.2
Hills						
1981	169,923	134,254	-----	35,669	(-) 424,711	(-) 5.9
1991	173,968	76,503	-----	97,465	(-) 753,923	(-) 9.0
Terai						
1981	724,043	162,832	561,211	----	(+) 686,178	(+) 10.8
1991	1,017,714	121,826	895,888	----	(+) 915,578	(+) 11.1
Total						
1981	929,585 (100.0)	297,086 (32.0)	594,634 (64.0)	37,865 (4.0)		
1991	1,228,356 (100.0)	198,329 (16.1)	927,891 (75.5)	102,136 (8.3)		

Source: NPC&CBS, Population Monograph of Nepal, 1995

Table 4 Average Annual Increase Rate of Urban Population in Selected South Central Asian Countries

Country	1965-70	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85	1985-90	1990-95
Bangladsh	6.70	6.74	6.76	5.57	5.04	5.26
India	3.27	3.76	3.66	3.24	3.01	2.87
Nepal	4.30	7.32	8.11	7.97	7.43	7.07
Pakistan	3.90	3.76	3.87	4.87	4.90	4.44
Sri Lanka	4.21	1.83	1.28	1.24	1.58	2.20

Source: United Nations: World Urbanization Prospects The 1994 Revision, New York, 1995, p.111

Q&A

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

I notice that my colleague from Indonesia would raise a question. Please.

HON. NAFSIAH MBOI (INDONESIA):

Thank you, Chairperson. I wonder how you knew.

First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation and thank you so much for this very interesting paper. There are several questions, sir.

First of all, Professor, could you provide us with some figures showing the gender analysis of the urban migration? Are there more men migrating than women or total families?

As we know from the total population of Nepal, there are only ninety-two women per hundred men, which is very low indeed. But how does that impact on the urban migration? Could you give us some figures on that please.

The second one is, I found your analysis on page three very interesting saying that the poor sectors are really the agricultural employment as well as urban employment in the Terai region which would mean that these facts, these two “pull factors” would result in a positive economic impact as well as positive impact on food production.

Could you give us some figures on the human development index or indicators comparing these rural urban areas, especially the Terai areas? Because if it should prove more positive, would you agree that with the limited resources available to the Nepal government, that this would be better to concentrate sustainable development efforts in the Terai region?

My third question, Professor, is on page 4, where you said that although the urban migration or the level of urbanization is low but actually, the urban population is very high. Could you give us some more data on the total fertility rate in these regions which again is closely related to the gender difference of the urban migration?

And last, I agree fully with you that, as of now, the Katmandu share in the total population is quite low and that industry should not be concentrated in Katmandu because, I was there last week and I noticed that urban pollution in Katmandu is already very high and very bad, which again confirms your suggestion not to develop any industries in Katmandu, except for draconian measures actually, but to really pull it to the Terai region.

Could you comment on that Professor? And thank you.

Thank you, Chairperson

DR. TOSHIO KURODA:

Thank you very much. It is an interesting and also very difficult question for me.

The first point I will talk about is the last one because I remember very quickly.

So then, in the last point you are talking about Katmandu. To you, I confer that the environmental issue coming into this year is not fine. Of course, the government has to take policy to prevent the environment problems. I think they also have to invite more the industrial aspect ...so that's okay. But on the other hand, I'm not saying government should not take forgetting attitude for the development of Katmandu. I'm saying, of course, this should be done, but much more attention should be pinned on the local ones, I mean, the Terai region. In view of the very dominant factor of the poor population, in that case, the Terai region is the only very much capable area in terms of topography. Other than this, its lack of mountains, and of course, hills also, makes it a good one.

I know that from the statistics of the media 60% or 70% of the water lands are located in the Terai region. So the people are lagging behind so much in terms of water lands and also in employment opportunity and, of course, mountain area.

So, as is happening, more and more citizens are coming into the Terai region. So, in this case, this country should become more developed, and then that means preventing more industry and more also population going into Katmandu. This is something right, this is a kind of investment. So, I said, too much concentration in big cities like Katmandu, in our case also, in Japan, Tokyo, is too much, but this was the national trend. But I think, in case of Nepal, the government should take a policy to prevent one. It means, the local area, it means, Terai region.

It is just like what happened in Japan. And also in some parts of the not so much developed areas for investments there coming out -- they are going to have more opportunity for the young people. Some of them do not need to go to Tokyo. Even young people who have gone to Tokyo, some will leave again. Now, they are going to have another chance in the local areas where the environment is better and the commodity prices are cheaper. So, they will have no need to go back in that way.

Previously, I think, Nepal government should take a stronger policy to emphasize the importance of the Terai region. They need to come to contribute more to the prevention of too much concentration of population in Katmandu. So, that is one way for the government -- they have so many choices.

And then Tokyo has so much about the analysis of the migrant.

Anyway, I further note that the migration statistics are very different. Of the available statistics in connection with the migration we availed of only those, you know. Even in that case, I think, there is a breakdown in terms of types of migrants, you know -- family or individual or sex, and also by age. I think, it might be available. But in my case I just utilized this one.

Anyway, the important point is that these are based on the data given by the 1981, 1991 to census and also migration in connection with the place of birth. You see these are the only ones. So, they can't take on a much more detailed questionnaire in connection with the migration. Maybe during the next census period, they can do it. Anyway, in that case, you might ask how much is it? What is happening? So, then, I think, you can get a much more detailed one.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

We thank you very much professor Kuroda.

Here's a piece of paper saying that this subject needs a little more time. If you can, please, so, I will give time after the next paper. However, Professor Kuroda, I shall repeat CNN Larry King said, don't go away, stay around for more questions.

The next one will be of the title, "Beijing and Beyond: Implementing the Platform for Action" by Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Chairperson, United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women. She is the Academy Vice President and Professor in Psychology of Ateneo de Manila University. May I now call upon Dr. Patricia Licuanan, please.

“Beijing and Beyond”

- “Population and Development in Philippines --Status of Women--” -

by

Dr. Patricia Licuanan

Chairperson,

United Nations Committee on the Status of Women

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Distinguished Parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen.

I has been five months since the United Nations Fourth World Conference was held in Beijing, China and I must confess that I still suffer from a rather serious hangover from that conference. But unlike with most hangovers, this particular one, I really am not trying to cure. As a matter of fact, I'm determined to nurse this hangover in myself as well as in others so that the spirit of Beijing will help us through the more difficult task of implementing the Platform for Action that came out of the Beijing Conference.

After all the conflict and controversy, all the declarations and debate, the long often tedious, often very difficult negotiations, after all of the reels of videotapes, CNN and all that and the reams of newsprint -- what in fact was accomplished in Beijing? And more important perhaps, what remains to be done?

Allow me to share with you this afternoon my thoughts on the Fourth World Conference on Women -- some reflections on Beijing as well as the challenges beyond Beijing.

First of all, may I just -- could you bear with me as I go through some, a little bit of background on the Fourth World Conference on Women. We all know that there were three United Nations World Conference on Women prior to this one. We had Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985. The United Nations declared 1976-1985 the United Nations Decade on Women: Equality, Development and Peace. At the end of that period the accomplishments of the decade were reviewed in Nairobi and the output was the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000.

In the year 1990 there was no world conference, even though there were world conferences every five years prior to that. Instead the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at an extended session reviewed the implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies. This review revealed the following important findings: first, that there had been significant changes right after the Nairobi Conference particularly in the area of legislation. This might interest you as parliamentarians, as countries consciously reviewed existing laws and changed those that were discriminatory towards women in order to conform to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women or CDO. So, that was the first finding. The second finding was, given this how-

ever, these changes tended to level off. There were a lot of changes in the beginning right after Nairobi and then it sort of tapered off as the implementation of these new laws or these less, these non-discriminatory laws were much slower in coming. In other words, the implementation of the laws were getting more difficult.

The review revealed that, unfortunately, it was easier to change the law than it was to change actual behavior and practices. Thus while there was progress in de jure equality, de facto equality was far behind. The conclusion was that there was need for drastic action if the goals of the Forward-Looking Strategies which were formulated in Nairobi were to be achieved by the year 2000. So, in 1990, the Commission on the Status of Women decided that the Fourth World Conference on Women should be held in 1995. But it emphasized that this 4th World Conference should be different in the sense that: First, it should focus on priority areas of concern, strategic objectives to reach the goal or equality, development and peace. In other words, to narrow down the priorities. Second, it felt that this 4th World Conference on Women should recommend specific actions to be taken, it should emphasize action and implementation. So, these mandates were reflected in the theme of the conference which, if you will remember, was action for equality, development and peace. So, what were the accomplishments? Given that mandate, what were the accomplishments of the 4th World Conference on Women? I believe there were many but I am forced to highlight a few.

First, the 4th World Conference on Women reinforced old concerns. The 4th World Conference on Women produced a very solid document, the platform for action that covered and reinforced old concerns that remain concerns -- when I say "old", concerns that were raised in Nairobi, Copenhagen and even in Mexico. This would be like the concerns of poverty, the concerns of health, education, political participation, human rights.

The 4th World Conference on Women also gave these so-called "old areas" new visibility, a fresh perspective and recommendations for concrete actions from a wide range of actors, government, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society and so forth.

Second, accomplishment perhaps might be phrased this way:

The 4th World Conference on Women upheld commitments of past conferences. The 4th World Conference on Women built on past UN Conferences and upheld the commitments made particularly in the recent conferences on Environment and Development in Rio, that was in 1992, the Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, and the conference on Population and Development in Copenhagen in 1995.

Finally, in terms of accomplishments, the 4th World Conference on Women broke new ground. That I feel was the most significant. Among and again here, what new ground did it break? Well, a lot, no. But I again will emphasize four or five of these.

First. It elevated the issue of violence against women from a private domestic concern to the level of public policy. It also broadened the definition of violence against women to include acts previously justified in the name of culture and tradition.

Let me read the specific paragraph which I believe are very key when we discussed violence against women and the broadening of the definitions. First of all, this is paragraph 113.

“113. The term “violence against women” means any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation”.

Second, maybe ground breaking element that I'd like to emphasize was that, it acknowledged women's unremunerated work. This is work at home, in family farms, in small business enterprises and called for the development of methodologies for measuring women's work and reflecting it in national accounts.

The background here is very simple, that women do a lot of work, as a matter of fact, measures a United Nations Statistics have shown that if you count work that women do in the formal sector as well as what she does in the informal sector and at home, she really works much longer hours than men. But in any type of formal account, you will see that women's work is recorded as being less and certainly, women's contribution to the economy is recorded as a much less than it actually is.

The United Nations Development Program in their last Human Development report, emphasized this very strongly. And it is said that if you count the work that women do which is unpaid for and you give it a monetary value, the, the gross domestic product of countries will go up by about 30 percent.

A third breakthrough I believe is, it brought women's sexual rights within the parameters of human rights.

May I quote from very significant paragraph again in the “Platform for Action, paragraph 96.

“96. The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behavior and its consequences.”

Fourth, it affirmed the rights of the girl child, addressed issues of discrimination against her and sought protection for her from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Actually, it was only at the very last prepcom, preparatory meeting in New York just prior to the Beijing Conference that the whole section on the "Girl Child" was added and this was in the initiative of the Asian groups as well as African groups. It remains a very significant contribution of the Beijing Conference.

Perhaps, finally, I'd like to emphasize this because this is very important to the Philippines.

A breakthrough in the 4th World Conference on Women is, it recognized women migrant workers as a vulnerable group and ensured their rights. This is the first time that women migrant workers in addition to simply women migrants are so recognized. So, in past women's conferences women migrant workers were never singled out or given any attention as such. They were always included under the rubric of women migrants. But now specifically, may I quote paragraph 116.

"116. Some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, women living in poverty and women in situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, civil wars, terrorism, including hostage-taking, are also particularly vulnerable to violence."

This was on the chapter on "Violence Against Women" and this was the paragraph that spelled out the vulnerable groups and I think that is very important that women migrant workers are recognized today as a particularly vulnerable group.

Paragraph 58 (k) reads this way. It is in the "Action Sections under the Economy", under poverty actually and governments are called to quote:

"58. (k). Ensure the full realization of the human rights of all migrants, including women migrant workers, and their protection against violence and exploitation, introduce measures for the empowerment of documented women migrants, including women migrant workers; facilitate the productive employment of documented migrant women through greater recognition of their skills, foreign education and credentials and facilitate their full integration into the labor force."

What is very significant here is the recognition that migrants do have credentials earned in their home country and should also be recognized in the host countries.

Having pointed out some of those highlights, may I just comment on what were some of the unique features on the 4th World Conference on Women? How was it different from past conferences?

Well, first of all, just share. I think we all have read the accounts on how large the attendance at this Conference was.

By far, the 4th World Conference on Women was by far the largest UN conference ever, with estimates running up to forty-five thousand (45,000) to fifty thousand (50,000) people attending both the inter-governmental meeting and the non-governmental forum in Huairuo. Of course, it was in that non-governmental meeting that you have the largest groups. But all told, there were about forty-five thousand (45,000) to fifty thousand (50,000) people.

I guess, in a sense, a unique feature of the 4th World Conference was the type of controversial issues that were very heatedly discussed there. Perhaps, whenever I was asked to summarize what were the main areas of controversy and they asked this of me often because -- well, I chaired the preparatory committee and worked, it was Beijing, and I also chaired the main committee which was the main committee that was negotiating the document. I've summarized it as the 3 R's: rights, resources and reproductive health. These are quite interesting to this group of parliamentarians.

In the area of rights, we debated at quite length human rights instruments and terminology. There was a debate on whether the term "universal" should be used before the phrase "human rights". Also, under this section, you would have the discussions on political issues, the role of NGOs in civil society.

In the area of resources, the second R, we would have the traditional north-south very specific and very controversial debates on the resources needed to implement the platform. This was very heated also because the Group of Seventy-Seven (77) felt very strongly that there should be new and additional resources to implement the platform for action, whereas, the European union and particularly, specifically, the donor countries were a lot more conservative about one thing, new resources. And they felt that all resources should just be re-mobilized or, perhaps, re-deployed for these purposes.

Finally, the area of reproductive health. I think, basically here, would fall a lot of the religious and cultural issues: the issues of gender, sexuality, reproductive health, sexual and reproductive rights, family and family structure and the debate on sexual orientation.

Another distinguishing feature, I believe, of the conference was the whole emotional tone of the debate. The debates were probably more heated and more emotional than in past conferences. This was the only world conference where women's issues, I'm talking now of world conferences on women, where women's issues were the main agenda rather than geopolitical issues. In fact, as Senator Shahani recalls, because she was Secretary General at the 3rd World Conference in Nairobi, that there are heated debates until the wee hours of morning and, perhaps, the one that they were debating up to the very last minute was the use of the term "Zionism" that period when we were fighting the Middle East war.

And, basically, I think geopolitical issues have a way really of getting into the agenda of any world conference. And I am not saying that geopolitical issues were not discussed in Beijing. They certainly were. But, in addition, you did have very, very heated debates which were concentrated on women's issues. The reason for this is that women's issues are very close to home, I think, and elicit very strong emotional reactions because, in a

sense, the emancipation and empowerment of the women is viewed as possibly threatening home and family. Change is after all, very threatening and can be very threatening.

I have characterized the debate in the 4th World Conference on Women as being, in a sense, representative of a clash between two global forces. I think, as a social scientist, that the 4th World Conference on Women was caught between two dynamic and powerful global forces. The global women's movement, on the one hand, represented primarily by the very dynamic women's non-governmental organizations and religious fundamentalism, on the other, represented perhaps by the Catholic and Islamic fundamentalists. These were the same forces that have clashed at the International Conference for Population and Development in Cairo and had returned determined to win the next round.

But why the disagreements made headlines and while these controversial issues really were the ones emphasized? I believe it is important to emphasize that the 4th World Conference on Women did, in the end, reach agreement on most issues. We were successful in removing the four hundred (400) or so brackets in the draft document and passed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by consensus. The reservations expressed which is a natural mechanism at UN conferences were mainly in a particular chapter, this was a chapter on health, and again focused quite a bit on reproductive health. There was no mistaking the strong sense of accomplishment and unity as the Conference came to a close. So truly, there was agreement and shared concern about the following priority areas. Any may I just summarize the twelve (12) areas of concern that came out of -- that were emphasized in -- the 4th World Conference and are emphasized in the Platform for Action. These were:

- 1) The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
- 2) Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services; that's the chapter on health.
- 3) Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services; that's the chapter on health.
- 4) Violence against women;
- 5) The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation;
- 6) Inequality in economic structures and policies in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources;
- 7) Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
- 8) Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
- 9) Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women;

- 10) Stereotype of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media;
- 11) Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and finally
- 12) Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.

May I say something now on the implementation of the Platform for Action? Even before we reached Beijing, I used to say that the 4th World Conference on Women had already achieved one of its main objectives, and that is raising the level of awareness and discussion of gender issues globally. I think it was clear to me that if it were not for the fact that we were holding a world conference, all the discussion on women and women's issues would not have really reached the peak that they did. So already, even before we reached Beijing, I believe that one of the objectives set for the 4th World Conference had been achieved. In Beijing, on September 15, 1996, at 4:45 a.m. and I remember it well, when the main committee of the conference approved the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, there was truly a sense of shared success. However, having said that, no matter how successful the Conference may have been, the ultimate test has to be the implementation of the Platform for Action.

So, what do we know so far?

First of all, the United Nations General Assembly has just passed the resolution at the last GA on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. And the system-wide structure within the United Nations for this follow-up will be the focus of the next meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in March. Right now, it is too soon to present actual results, but let me say that mechanisms for implementation are being set up at the national level. I am confident that this is taking place and you maybe aware of what is happening in your own particular setting, in your own particular countries.

In the Philippines, may I just introduce, perhaps, certain structural mechanism which will be pursued and which we will depend on for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

The first important mechanism is the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (1995-2025).

On September 11, 1995, President Fidel V. Ramos issued Executive Order 273 approving and adopting the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development. I remember we were in Beijing at that time and we received the message that this had been, in fact, tasked. This is a 30-year plan formulated by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women or the NCRFW which is the national focal point for women in the Philippine government, with the National Economic and Development Authority and with the participation of all government agencies and women NGOs. The Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development, is actually a national document, it's a blueprint embodying a comprehensive plan or program of action for ensuring that women and men equally

participate in and benefit from development. The PPGD as it is called, takes over from the Philippine Development Plan for Women which was the predecessor of this Plan after the latter's mandate expired. The Plan's 30-year framework ensures that gender-friendly and gender-responsive policies can take root and flourish despite the barriers posed by traditional attitudes and stereotypes.

Secondly, I'd like to introduce the Women's Budget.

For any progressive policies and plans to be realized, these should be supported with appropriate budget allocations. The most reliable measure of government's political will to respond to women's concerns is how much it spends on them. As they say, "put your money where your mouth is."

In 1995 General Appropriations Act contained a provision, which is Section 27, for gender-responsive projects which was meant to facilitate agencies' access to funds for Gender and Development activities. So, an early assessment of how agencies have utilized this provision resulted in the publication entitled "Women's Budget: Philippines, 1995-1996."

For this particular year, 1996, the General Appropriations Act, Section 27, states and may I quote:

"All departments, bureaus, offices and agencies shall set aside a minimum amount of 5 percent of their 1996 appropriations to be used for projects designed to address gender issues. The concerned departments, bureaus, offices and agencies shall submit reports to the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women through the Department of Budget and Management, indicating the amounts utilized to implement such gender-responsive projects and activities."

So, now 5 percent of the budget of our various agencies will be used for women.

Another mechanism which was, probably, much an earlier mechanism that was set up, proposed a couple of years before Beijing was Republic Act 7192 or the Women in Development and Nation-Building Act. This was, I feel, is a very important breakthrough legislation.

It ensures the fundamental equality of women and men which, of course, is enshrined in our Constitution, but legislation, really, is very supportive. This legislation supports that. It strengthens the mandate of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and legislates that a substantial portion of the official development assistance funds from foreign governments and multilateral agencies be allocated to support programs and activities for women.

Other mechanisms, perhaps, very quickly:

First, the President of the Philippines has directed all members of his Cabinet to include the Beijing Platform for Action in their agency key result areas or KRAs, which they have produce.

Also, the President has directed all concerned agencies to mainstream the relevant areas of concern in the Platform for Action in the Social Reform Agenda.

And may I also say that your counterparts, the women legislators and some progressive male legislators in the Philippines also have a legislative agenda, which in a sense, has been inspired by the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development as well as the Beijing Platform for action.

Ultimately, in conclusion, may I say, that ultimately, the Platform for Action is a platform for change. May I share with you one of my favorite experiences in my many years of involvement in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

In 1991, in Vienna, because the Commission on the Status of Women was located in Vienna before it moved to New York, the CSW had to decide on the title and theme of the Fourth World Conference on Women. At that time, I was Vice-Chairperson of the Commission and was assigned the task of chairing the consultations on this issue. That's why, I remember it quite well.

One of the early favorites for the title of the Conference and the theme as "Half the World, Half the Power." It was very short, it was very strong and it had a nice ring to it, like a bumper sticker, very nice. But after some discussion, more sober heads prevailed as it was pointed out that the proposal sounded as if it was pointed out that the proposal sounded a bit too threatening to men. Actually, it was the Asian group that pointed it out. We're very sensitive about conflict, right? And it may undermine the support that we would need from time, so in a sense, that was ruled out.

The second popular suggestion was "Partnership for Equality, Development and Peace." This was definitely much friendlier and it would have been chosen as the theme if it were not for one practical problem. We were informed by the Chinese delegate at that time, the Chinese delegation, that there would be a serious translation problem as there was no character, Chinese character that stood for partnership between men and women outside of marriage. Their character for partnership between men and women connoted marriage. So, again, back to the drawing boards.

Finally, the unanimous choice was "The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace," basically, to emphasize that action was needed to achieve the goals of Nairobi.

As I reflect on Beijing and beyond, on the need for change and on the implementation of the Platform for Action, I realize the need to combine elements from these early discussion on the title and theme of the Conference.

What are these elements?

First, power, power. I believe, we should not be shy, we should not be coy about power, There is need for genuine empowerment of women. Women must not be coy about power not should men feel threatened by women holding formal positions of power. Why I ask, "Must women always disguise their power or use it behind the scenes?" We like to say, "Behind every great man is a woman." Or in many ways, we force women to use their power in a manipulated way because it cannot be upright. What's wrong with women's power more upright? And basically, I think, women parliamentarians, many of you in this room are such, are excellent examples of formal power of women and more power to you, and may your tribe increase.

The second element -- so that's power. The second element which came from the second theme is partnership. I think, partnership, genuine partnership between men and women is also crucial. But crucial in partnership is the element of equal partnership, so it should be a partnership between equals to be a genuine partnership between men and women.

And finally, the last element as reflected in the actual theme is action, action. The time for analysis and discussion is over. We need action now.

Thank you. (Applause)

Q&A

HON. YU-FOO YEE SHOON (SINGAPORE):

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to congratulate Doctor Patricia for a very comprehensive information, and I think you were very hot for women and also planned out very hotly for women and also planned out a very good plan for action. My question is this, just now you mentioned that it's a very frightening situation of these changes to work at 21st century. So I want to ask that I'm quite positive that through education and through participation, women would gain the ground step by step. Maybe in certain countries, faster, in certain areas, lower. But the question is as social scientist, I think we encouraged globalization, also high technology and also mobility of labor. My friends point out to me, Indonesians allow women go out to work but come back. Even when they are Muslim they also propose divorce to their husband. Or even my friends in Hong Kong also face different problems.

So the question is that, will this improvement of women participation create another situation to work with different values for marriage and different values for family structure? So as a sociologist, what is your advice to a politician? How do we face these new challenges, and especially the role to work of future generation? We're talking about creation and future population. So, is it the state, the government who spends more money to have institution okayed or should the husband and wife find a new balance and new arrangement in life?

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

How about a question from India and then answering at the same time, Pat.

HON. JANGBIR SINGH (INDIA):

Thank you Madam Patricia for that very nice feature on the problem of women. I will raise one or two points which I want you to mention. One thing is, I'm still not clear whether what is meant by when we talk of empowerment of women. What exactly does it imply? Because I think that even today, women are very powerful especially in the household sector. And you were talking of the quotation, in fact, I want to make slight amendment on the quotation. The quotation is, "Behind every man, was turning a woman." After that you said, correct. Talking him into that he was wrong, so every woman has been telling her husband that he is wrong. He doesn't know what to do. But with that thing the husband has been improving in doing his things. So the power is only there if you talk of the household power. Talking about the power outside the household, I would like to mention that, what exactly is required in that particular field.

Now, take the case of that some of the men can do this. They become engineers, they become doctors, they become -- so many professions they work in. But the moment they get married they give up their profession for the sake of the children or household. Now what happened is that in the field of engineer or doctor, he will surely become an unemployed youth. He had lost that field forever. See, that means in unemployed men, the boy

was there, he wanted to become an engineer, but he did not get the field because of the women guard, the lady guard guarded, and the moment she got married she gave up their field. So one thing is sure, losing your technical expertise plus the employment. No, these are points which have to be, the technical problems which have to be gone into.

Now, the other thing which you probably feared, I don't know it very well except for the point that was mentioned -- the ownership of the asset. I think I don't know whether it was there in the Beijing Declaration or not, but the ownership of assets is not there like the borderland. Land belongs to the husband. Now the woman is mostly working, she is working here at liberty, she doesn't work here as an owner. So all the benefits of their production are going to the men. His bank loan, he's getting the bank profit, he's getting the sale, trade, everything he's getting. But the woman is deprived of their ownership. I don't know whether that is -- it must be there. I mean, I told I'll just mentioned it.

And then the last, the training of the men, because most of the production today, in their statistics, has been done by the men. But there is no exclusive training for the women, either for seed or fertilizer or farm pesticides or needs pursuing harvesting, whatever it is. They are just doing these on an informal basis, but they are the actual producers in the field. Whereas all of our training, all of our techniques, technicalities are going to the men's sector.

So these are some issues which I told I will just mention, and whether there is a plan of action for these.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

Professor Patricia?

DR. PATRICIA LICUANAN:

First of all, I think some elements from both questions are really related and I guess the question here had to do with the perceived effects of educating women, the perceived effects of employment of women and their possible repercussions on the quality of life in the family and the welfare of the family. Okay. And so, I guess, it has been noted with a quite a bit of anxiety that as women need the home, what is going to happen to the family and what is going to happen to children.

So, basically, I feel here one must address this issue from the point of view of shared responsibility, that a family is a responsibility of everybody, of children are the responsibility of parents not just of the mother.

So, essentially, what this means you asked me, -- the distinguished delegate from Singapore asked, should the state, therefore, have more services available in order to assist women who have to leave the home, or should husbands take more share of the responsibility at home?

I say, both. All these mechanism have to be set up in order to allow women, their role in other aspects of life beyond family, and for women to meet, in fact the need for often is the need for combined income in many developing-households and developing countries. And the only way this can happen is for the state to provide for more day care or NGOs, private sectors to provide more support facilities for the care of children and the elderly, but also for husbands/fathers to take on the role of parents. And the father, in many ways, has been -- as a psychologist, I say -- deprived of the opportunity, the tremendous growth opportunity to raise their children.

Often, fathers, they don't attend to the children when they are infants, neither as toddlers, then later on, they try here -- this is an example, perhaps, from the Philippine experience -- at a certain age when they are teenagers, they have to come in as disciplinarian. And, you know, so the bond with the father, particularly between sons and father is very tenuous because they do not have that care-giving role that the mother does have.

So, I think in a sense, that is a new role that men have to develop in this present world.

Then you ask, what does it mean to empower women?

Empowerment of women includes economic dimensions, it includes political dimensions, and rightly you say, she has a lot of power at home. But I guess part of my response to that would be, there should be more to it than that, that is basically why is her power often simply informal power. In a sense, she is a better resource in the other areas where she is very much needed.

So, I do believe that and in many ways I will be a good sport and listen to your cute little remarks about women in the home and how they -- behind every man is a woman telling him he's wrong. Men love these jokes, no? But in a sense, I think, we have to take it quite seriously that this is something which is of serious concern and maybe, if in fact, in the Philippines we like to talk about men being under the skirts, you know of the woman whenever you have women quite powerful, even at home.

The fact of the matter is, I believe that this should not be -- oh, how I would put it -- the reason women sometimes have to assert themselves so strongly in informal ways is because they are deprived of formal power. And so, in a sense, if this power is out of the open there would not be this over-compensation by confidently telling their husbands that they are wrong, which I don't think they really do. But it's a cute joke, you can go on with it.

All right, why educate women when, in fact, women, after a while, after they get married, will go back to the homes, and in sense you have deprived a perfectly competent young man perhaps of that scholarship and he could have been the engineer, instead of this woman who's going to give it up anyway after she gets married.

I think, that's a valid question. But perhaps the prior question is, why does she gives it up after she gets married? Much of it is for practical reasons because, yes indeed, someone

has to care for the children, but my answer to that is, does it always have to be the woman? She needs support in caring -- the family needs support in caring for that child.

But, too, there is all of the social pressure. Let's face it, the woman who achieves -- a woman parliamentarian who is here, a woman who is president of her company does so with much greater difficulty than a man for many reasons, but one of them is that he has to come back and a lot of social pressure which is telling her, "you are neglecting your main responsibility." So it's often the difficult situation to be in and that's the reason many of them dropped out. Many of them might want to continue as engineers if the practical support were there, and if the psychological pressure that she is doing wrong and she being neglectful were not present.

So I would say, let's change that attitude and say, "Sure, a woman engineer is just as good and just as valuable to our society as a male engineer. And let's have more of them.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

Thank you. Just one more...

HON. TERESA AQUINO ORETA (PHILIPPINES):

Can I? That woman in agriculture, I have to respond to that because it is a very important part of the platform for action.

Yes, you are right. You say that in many ways, women are not trained to work in agriculture. And let me just say that, the point we want, we always make in this area is that, traditionally, in developing countries we know that. In the Philippines we know that very, very -- we know it very strongly that traditionally, women work beside the men in the field. In all phases of rice agriculture, she is right there beside the man. Perhaps, even sometimes pushing the plow. And yet, when development planners think of the farmers, their image is the male farmer, the male farmer and they talk about the farmer's wife. It's a perspective that is completely divorced from reality. The woman is the farmer as well. So what happens? With modern agriculture, as you have to learn new skills and as training programs are designed, these are designed and offered to men, to the male farmer.

So, women who have traditionally always been in agriculture become more marginalized. So the modernization of agriculture marginalizes women from a task and a role she has traditionally always been involved in. And I so agree, yes, there has to be a training program focusing and targeting women and that is very clear here, women farmers and women fisher folk.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN):

Thank you very much. I was advised at first that I should not go beyond the time limit but there is one more question from Pakistan, Mr. Javad. Could you come up and ask your

question to our speaker here? But the rest can have a coffee break... However, we will applaud the Professor... (Applause) Thank you very much.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. GHASSAN TAYARA):

Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention? We shall begin.

First of all I want to introduce myself. I am Doctor Engineer Ghassan Tayara, Member of Parliament of Syria and Arab Republics. I'm also President of the Engineering Syndicate of Syria.

First of all, I have small words. I want to say, instead of by saying "behind a great man there is a woman," let us try to change it and say that "in front of great man there is a woman guiding him to success." Second, I think, the woman likes to hear this also, "behind the great woman should be a man."

Our lecture now is on Basic Survey on Agriculture and Rural Development in Pakistan will be presented by Dr. Shigeto Kawano, Director, Asian Population and Development Association, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo.

Take the floor, please.

"Basic Survey on Agricultural and Rural Development in Pakistan"

by

Dr. Shigeto Kawano,
Professor Emeritus,
The University of Tokyo

DR. SHIGETO KAWANO:

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure for me to take this opportunity to present my view on the problem of the agricultural development of Pakistan. Based on the latest survey conducted by APDA of Asia, I couldn't join the field trip so my information about our agricultural development of Pakistan is very limited. So, it could have been said that it would be great for me to present my view in the presence of the delegates from Pakistan.

So, frankly speaking, I think I have to ask for a critical suggestion from the delegates of Pakistan. So, anyway, allow me to read my paper prepared beforehand.

Summary of Survey Result

The agricultural productivity of Pakistan is low even when compared to that of its neighboring country -- India. The main reasons for the low productivity of agriculture can be attributed to deterioration of soil caused by salt damage and insufficient supply of water through agriculture. It must be said that the prospect of this low agricultural productivity being able to support the country's population which is increasing at an annual rate of 2.9% is very difficult. The majority of Pakistan's land belongs to the arid region and its natural condition is such that the volume of evaporation exceeds that of precipitation. As this signifies that such agriculture, that is entirely dependent on rainfall, can only secure extremely low production -- irrigation using rivers and groundwater will have crucial importance in the agricultural development of Pakistan. Therefore, the analysis in this survey focused on clarification of natural conditions of Pakistan and on the intricately connected issue of salt damage and irrigation.

The Punjab Region, which is the largest granary in Pakistan, has been known since the old days as the breadbasket of the world and holds a vital position in the agricultural production of Pakistan. The Punjab Region is a vast region that extends around the tributaries of Indus River, and was divided into the Punjab States and Haryana States of India and to the Punjab Province of Pakistan as a result of the division of India and Pakistan in 1947. Owing to the irrigation network that was built during the British settlement, the Punjab Region boasts a high irrigation rate of close to 100%. Nevertheless, salt damage, which should be preventable with abundance of high-quality agricultural water, has been recently occurring seriously in this region where irrigation is so prevalent, and poor maintenance and operation of the irrigation network considered to be one of the major causes of salt damage and water logging.

This survey has selected the Punjab Province as its subject in view of the significance of the agricultural production of Punjab Province in the agriculture of Pakistan, and the problems associated with salt damage and water logging that are occurring in the Province despite the extensive irrigation network that are in place.

Pakistan is in the midst of financial difficulty where the total payment for its national defense and interest payment of foreign debt accounts for about 60% of national expenditure. For this reason, agriculture-related subsidies from the Pakistan Government are being discontinued one after another under the conditionality of the World Bank. The Water and Power Development Authority which has been engaged in irrigation and water supply, is in the process of shifting to self-supporting programs by separating its profitable electric power division. If the financial independence of these irrigation-related organizations is carried out as scheduled, it would significantly reduce the funds available for irrigation infrastructure, which, in turn, would have a serious impact on agriculture in Pakistan. This is because enormous investment in infrastructure is required for maintenance and repair of canals and tube wells.

According to an analysis of Pakistan's economy in this survey, cutbacks in subsidies for agricultural production are predicted to cause a decrease in agricultural production of this country and become an obstacle to the development of Pakistan's economy as a whole. It is therefore necessary for aid-providing nations and international organizations to offer assistance in the realm of agriculture for the purpose of its development.

The survey selected Sheikhpura District, a typical rice and wheat growing region in Punjab Province, as the area of its field study. But even in the same district the productivity of agricultural is not homogenous, and different from region to region. The disparity of agricultural productivity in these districts is largely attributable to their distance from main canals and roads as well as differences in the quality of their groundwater. For this reason, we adopted the two villages -- Village K and Village A were selected as the place of the actual field survey based on the differences in groundwater quality and distance from main canal and Lahore, the provincial capital of the province. The water demonstrated, through the comparison of village K which was close to the main canal, and village A, which was far from the main canal, that the difference in productivity was due to differences in the conditions of water supply.

The field of study was mainly conducted in the form of a hearing survey of field workers, Patwaris and farmers, and based on reference materials on the areas in study that were provided by the Agricultural Department of Punjab Province.

As mentioned with regard to the selection of the place of study, the necessity of improvement of salt damage, water logging and irrigation are recognized for the development of agriculture in Pakistan.

Pakistan is in a situation where basic studies that are needed for assistance are not necessarily being carried out sufficiently. In addition, the limitations of this study in terms of area and time make the data obtained from this study insufficient for discussing concrete aid requirements of Pakistan as a whole. However, the following can be stated as a result

of the analysis and field study that were conducted on the natural conditions and socio-economic conditions of Pakistan based on the data that we have collected.

First, as sustainable growth in Pakistan requires increased productivity in the agricultural sector, assistance from aid-providing nations and international organizations will have to place further emphasis on investments for the improvement of agriculture.

Second, from the viewpoint of increasing the efficiency of aid, the subject of aid shall be concentrated in areas that have high cost-benefit and are easy to maintain and operate. Therefore, any aid will have to fully utilize the resources that are locally available.

These are some of the points I would like to emphasize later.

Therefore, possible subjects of governmental development aid with regard to irrigation are: 1) construction of dams and power plants; and 2) maintenance and operation including repair of irrigation facilities (i.e. lining of canals and construction of drainage facilities). While both have indispensable significance for the agricultural development of Pakistan, priority shall be given to maintenance and operation of irrigation facilities when considering the problem of salt damage and water logging and efficiency of aid that is provided. When “construction of dams and the power plant facilities” and “maintenance and operation of irrigation facilities” are compared as subjects of investment, the former is an option that requires large-scale investment and a long time while the latter can be started from a small project scale as it has technological divisibility in terms of investment, and can be implemented as an accumulation of projects on a water course basis.

In particular, investments toward water courses (supply and drainage) are expected to offer maximum cost-benefit because its investment effect (including labor input) will be offered directly to the beneficiary farm households, thereby making it relatively easy to mobilize natural resources and open the door for maintenance and operation on a long-term basis. In addition, materials (e.g. clay) that will be needed in the process can be obtained locally for effective utilization of local resources. Therefore, a priority shall be given to the improvement of water courses from the viewpoint of its high cost-benefit and ease of maintenance and operation. Needless to say, financial assistance must be provided for mobilization of these rural resources even in the event that beneficiary farmers are directly in charge of such mobilization. In other words, to support, to offhand for the purpose of paying the farmers.

Second, the installation of wells is also desired as part of water resource development for farm plots. Its diffusion however, requires a stable and inexpensive supply of electricity. Moreover, as installation of tube-wells can aggravate the salt damage problem in regions that have saline groundwater, it will be necessary to identify such regions without delay and limit the installation of tube-wells in such regions. Furthermore, priority must be given to water course improvement projects in salt-affected regions as long as alternative source of water supply cannot be expected.

Similarly, the improvement of salt injury shall be addressed by fully utilizing the resources that are available in rural areas. In concrete terms, it would be desirable to support the use

of Sudan grass for its desalinizing effect, and the utilization of organic waste and manure and the use of plaster.

The following matters need to be taken into consideration with regard to methods of support. The management of irrigation system is currently shifting from a centralized approach to a decentralized approach, which means that the authority for making decisions concerning irrigation is likely to be transferred to provincial governments. If that were the case, assistance will have to be discussed at least on the provincial government level instead of the national government level.

As mentioned earlier, reorganization of authorities governing irrigation in Pakistan is being planned, and therefore, assistance will have to be provided after ascertaining how this will turn out.

Furthermore, the subject of irrigation projects will be limited to social groups such as water courses, and participation of the farmers in mobilization of rural resources and in maintenance and operation will be the key to success of the project. In such a case, there will be a need for projects that are based on social science concepts and take acceptance by farmers and organization of farmer leaders into consideration.

Lastly, allow me to speak on the fundamental ideas regarding the importance of goods security problem of the world as a whole.

I will talk about food security from the global perspective.

It is said that about 15% of the world population is suffering from malnutrition. We need more food to feed these malnourished people at the same level as those in the developed world.

I think it is possible to produce that extra food if there are no restrictions in terms of time and various other factors. However, there are other problems. For instance, hunger still exists despite the fact that food supply is exceeding food demand. The contradiction lies in the fact that, even though food supply is feasible, the prices have gone up beyond the level the 15% of malnourished world population can afford. I think that finding the ways to solve this contradiction will be our fundamental task in addressing the problems of population and food in the future.

If the world trade is carried out in a perfect manner and free trade is thoroughly pursued, it would be possible to adjust supply and demand by shifting food from surplus areas to deficit areas. This is the measure that is currently being considered by WTO.

However, the problem of the poor countries in the world does not lie in shortage of food but in lack of purchasing power needed for food consumption. At the basis of an approach to free world trade is an attempt to allow food deficit countries to increase production through liberalization of trade and obtain enough purchasing power to buy food.

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However, although food may move freely from country to country through trade, it does not necessarily move freely all the time. Food producing countries do not offer food to food importing countries in the event of poor harvest. This is where the problem of food shortage and unstable supply occurs and the need for food security arises.

There are many countries in the world today, and they all have very different natural conditions. As I mentioned just now, Pakistan is an arid country where precipitation is insufficient and cultivation cannot be performed without irrigation. On the other hand, there are countries that are endowed with vast land and agricultural resources and those that are not.

People cannot move freely between these countries. As a result, countries that are poor in agricultural resources inevitably experience famine when there is shortage in overall amount of food that is available. However, world peace cannot be maintained in such a state.

My proposal for solving the problem arising from lack of balance between world population and food will be as follows. The present state in which developed countries are producing large amount of food and exporting it to developing countries is against the principle of international division of labor. The reason for this lies in food production that continued in developed countries during and after the war which eventually resulted in overproduction. The structure of international division of labor started to crumble after developed countries started selling farm products to developing countries which used to export food to these developed countries.

This is where the contradiction in which the developing countries whose income is low and therefore have to rely mainly on agriculture have to import food originates. I think it is necessary to rectify this situation in order to maintain the stability of food self sufficiency in the world.

In addition, countries must secure at least 60 to 70% of food they need from domestic production. Otherwise, they will not be able to supply minimum food to their people and maintain the stability of their society in the event of overall food shortage. For this purpose, it is necessary to take measures that are in conformity with natural condition of each country.

In other words, countries with water shortage must build dams and canals so that they will be able to produce food like countries with abundant water, while countries with abundant water do not have to make so much effort with regard to water. So the measures that will have to be taken in terms of natural conditions differ from country to country. International and bilateral assistance are needed in taking these measures from the viewpoint of natural conditions and are the fundamental requirement for realizing food security.

I think, this will be the basic principle in food security. I used as an example Pakistan to illustrate this point. Thank you very much for your attention.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. GHASSAN TAYARA):

Thank you, Professor. I think we haven't enough time, but I hope that we can give some minutes to one friend from Pakistan if he wants to give some comments. Please?

HON. SYED ZATAR ALI SHAH (PAKISTAN):

Well, I thank Professor Kawano for his very informative and enlightened discourse on Pakistan and the food security.

I don't want to start a discussion on this subject but I simply want further information if the Professor will kindly tell us how the intellectual property rights are going to affect the food production and the farmers economy in the poor countries which he has just described?

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. GHASSAN TAYARA):

Professor, please?

DR. SHIGETO KAWANO:

I think that problem has been solved through the success of Green Revolution. Dissemination has taken place. In other words, as far as seed selection is concerned, scientific expertise had to be disseminated. I think that the communication of knowledge, and communication of capital and communication of commodities could result in international trade showing the question of whether you have enough participation that can result in international trade. My point is that international assistance is needed to address these disparities.

So. The question that you asked, concerns intellectual property rights, that is to exchange and provide more knowledge and expertise that is already taking place. But I think we need to promote the dispersion of knowledge from developing countries to non-developing countries.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. GHASSAN TAYARA):

I'm sorry, you see that we haven't enough time, since as of this time, it should be for presentation of Manila Proposal. You can, during dinner, discuss any further question with Professor, Dr. Shigeto Kawano. So, let us thank the Professor and he will leave the floor.

MR. TSUGUO HIROSE (APDA):

Ladies and gentlemen, now, we would like to ask Honorable Senator Chieko Nohno to present the Manila Proposal.

This Proposal was made by the Secretariat. This is composed of several important statements which were adopted at three previous international meetings of parliamentarians in Cairo, Copenhagen and Tokyo.

After the presentation of Manila Proposal, there will be a Drafting Committee Meeting for the Manila Proposal tonight after dinner, from 8:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in this Proposal will be welcome to attend the Drafting Committee Meeting. The place of the Drafting Committee Meeting, the Narra Room, is located on the ground floor.

Thank you.

Honorable Senator Chieko please.

Readout of the Manila Proposal

HON. CHIEKO NOHNO (JAPAN):

As I have been appointed by Mr. Hirose of APDA, I would like to read the Manila Proposal in Japanese.

This Manila Proposal has been compiled by the APDA Secretariat in view of discussions that took place at the Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in 1994 and 1995, International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Social Development and Population in Copenhagen in 1995, the Indochina Women's Conference, the AFPPD Women's Committee Meeting, which was held last year in Manila, and the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development in Tokyo.

The Secretariat Draft of Manila Proposal has been created as a result of discussions among more than 400 parliamentarians from 250 countries that was conducted over a total period of 3 months. Therefore, I trust that there will not be many objections regarding the content of the proposal itself. It being a draft, however, there are naturally expressions that need to be modified and items that need to be added. For this reason, I will simply read the Secretariat Draft for now and will not conduct any discussion at this point.

After having you listen to this draft, I would like to ask the Drafting Committee prepare the final draft. If you would like to express your opinions, please attend the Drafting Committee which will meet for 2 hours from 8:30 this evening. Dr. Mboi of Indonesia has already checked the English wording and made some suggestions for the Secretariat Draft.

As time is limited, I request that you take this opportunity to fully discuss this matter. APDA and PLCPD will serve as the secretariat for this meeting.

I'll just read this Proposal.

Manila Proposal on Gender and Population

13th February 1996, Manila, Philippines

Proposal by the Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development
Secretariat's Draft

Preamble

With the 20th century just around the corner, we parliamentarians concerned with population and development gathered in Manila, the Philippines, to work out a strategy for creating a bright future for humankind and our mother earth. Keeping in our mind the international trends emerging from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in March 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in September 1995, we have promoted our in-depth discussions under the main theme of "Women in the 21st Century --- a Strategy for Peace and Prosperity" for the past three years through our meeting in Beijing, China, in Tokyo, Japan, and here in Manila.

Based on our conviction that women are the key to the solution of the population issues threatening the coexistence between humankind and Earth, we make the following set of recommendations to our parliamentary colleagues and our respective governments on empowerment of women in this Asian region in all spheres of health, economic, social and political life --- so that they may realize their still unfulfilled needs. Our proposal is as follows;

Introduction

Affirm that, without equal and equitable social participation of women, it will be impossible to solve population issues and attain social development or sustainable development harmonious with the global environment. This necessitates the empowerment of women in all spheres of health, economic, social and political life, especially through the improvement of educational standards. Through such empowerment, women's status should be improved and through such enrichment of their voluntary options in their life, solution of population issues and attainment of the goal of sustainable development should be sought.

Recognize that, population, sustainable economic growth, social development and security and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as are our efforts to slow down the rapid population growth, eradicate poverty, protect the environment, create job opportunities and reduce unemployment, and that through the promotion of social integration, efforts should be redoubled to enable women and disabled person to participate ---fully and equally--- society, culture, economy and politics. And we emphasize that since it is women and children who suffer first and foremost under the conditions of

war and civil strife and stress that there can be no solution of the population issues or attainment of sustainable development without peace and justice.

Propose furthermore that as the respective goal, the annual growth rate of population in Asia should be brought down under 1 percent by the year 2005 by implementing the measures advocated in the Program of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. We also propose that the currently high levels of infant, child and maternal mortality, which are the major causes of rapid population growth, be lowered sooner than targeted in Cairo (an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live birth, an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000 children, and maternal a mortality rate below 75 per 100,000 live births, all by the year 2015) by the year 2005.

1. Women and Health

Equitable and universal access to education and reproductive health and rights including sexual health and rights, are a pre-requisite for improving the living conditions of all individuals, including adolescents, and for empowering women and promoting their advancement.

Equity and equality between men and women are essential for fuller realization of reproductive health and rights and men that are required to actively participate and equal sharing of household work and share cooperation and responsibilities with women.

Note with concern the high, and in some cases increasing, rate of pregnancy among adolescents and the need to provide adolescents with necessary education on their health and rights regarding reproduction and sexual behavior and with services, including information.

Emphasize the need to eradicate the unsafe abortions which are quite detrimental to the health of women, through dissemination of reproductive health services and pledge our strong commitment to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services.

Note with concern, in the context of deteriorating economic conditions which have placed young women at increased risk of exploitation, prostitution, trafficking in women and children, drug abuse and unsafe sexual encounters and have diminished their already inadequate access to appropriate reproductive health information and services and urge governments to maintain or increase their budgetary allocations to women and gender-related programs, even in the process of economic recovery.

The low economic and social status of women is a major factor in the high rates of infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, the rapid worldwide spreading of AIDS/HIV infection among women, the exposure to harmful and dehumanizing practices, such as female genital mutilation, sex selection and the commercialization of certain new repro-

ductive technologies, and the prevalence of sexual abuse, exploitation and violence and it is urgently necessary to take measures for improving this situation.

2. Empowering Women in Society and Economy

Majority of the illiterate are women, especially those in rural areas, and the feminization of poverty has been progress. The provision of education to women is pre-requisite for promoting social and economic development, improving living conditions and empowering women.

Emphasize that efforts be rendered to ensure access to primary and secondary education for all women and girls (thus making such education compulsory) and to vocational and higher education, which will help create employment opportunities and lead to their economic and social empowerment.

Affirm that active efforts be rendered to change through the process of education the traditional ideas about the roles for two sexes, to let boys and girls respect each other and to incorporate education on reproductive health in compulsory education.

Emphasize the need to change the attitudes and practices of both men and women concerning their roles in and contributions to society and urge them to work in partnership to empower women and to bring about gender equality and equity in all spheres of economic, cultural, political and social life.

Emphasize further the need for women themselves to respect, value and give full support to other women to enable them to realize their full potential and to maximize their choices with respect to their various roles in society.

Emphasize, in this regard, the need for all the media to strongly recognize their important role in promoting the equality between men and women and helping girls build up self-esteem and to fulfill their important functions in promoting gender equality.

Attach value to women's work, both inside and outside the home, and stress that women receive equal pay for equal work and equal support within trade unions and other groups in the organized sector.

Recognize the important role of women in maintaining the bonding, form and structures of the family and the need to enhance men's responsibility in child-rearing, household work and extend our support to the plural forms of family.

3. Resources for Population and Gender-Related Issues

In order to realize the above proposal and solve the population and development issues, we accept the responsibility as elected representatives of the peoples to translate public

support for population and development activities into the most beneficial distribution of budgetary, human and administrative resources. We take note of the strong international consensus on the need to mobilize significant domestic and external financial resources and endorse the estimated resource requirements set forth in the Program of Action. Additional resources to population and development programs should be made available by shifting resources from defense expenditures.

Note the widespread multiple and spread effects and high investment efficiency of resources invested in the fields of population and development and affirm the need to pour human and financial resources strategically in population and development for the sake of stable and sustainable economic development in the Asian region.

Urge the donor community to strive to fulfill the agreed target of 0.7 percent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, to earmark 50 percent of this share for women and gender-related activities as well as for population activities and to monitor the use of those resources. We also urge governments to honor the commitments made at previous international and regional conferences and to allocate the resources pledged under the respective action plans and programs.

Urge interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on a mutual basis, 20 percent of official development assistance and 20 percent of the national budgets to basic social programs, especially by reducing military expenditures.

Urge international financial institutions to ensure that structural adjustment and economic recovery programs are conducive to realization of social justice and the direction of full consideration to and solution of gender equality and the needs of women.

Emphasize the need to generate public support among constituents for mobilization and allocation of adequate domestic resources to support policies and programs on population, women and gender that will advance gender equality, promote social development and address pertinent women's empowerment and population issues with special attention to rural and peri-urban community population.

4. Roles of Parliamentarians on Population and Gender-Related Issues

Urge governments to integrate gender perspectives into their development strategies, policies and programs, especially when they enact legislation on population and development activities.

Try to enact legislation to enable governments to formulate and implement policies and programs to improve the legal, health, social and economic status and rights of women and to promote the equal involvement of men in reproductive health, child-rearing and household responsibilities.

Offer support to and try to enact legislation for the promotion of greater awareness of, positive attitudes toward and understanding of the complex inter-relationship between population, family welfare, the status of women, maternal and child health care, environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Recognize the need to maintain and develop cooperation and dialogue with government national machinery for women, non-governmental organizations for women, private-sector and community organizations in the implementation of population, development and gender-related programs.

In order to translate the action plans adopted at the major international conferences on the status of women into national legislation, it is necessary to promote research, the sharing of information, and cooperation with experts' technical opinions on fields essential for solving women's issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

In this respect, we parliamentarians have a unique and important role. In order to play this role, we are required to develop networks among parliamentarians at the national, regional and inter-regional levels. It is especially necessary to cultivate the closer relationship between AFPPD and Africa and Middle Eastern Parliamentarians Activities on Population and Development.

Such networks will enable parliamentarians not only to deepen their understanding of the interdependence between issues in society and economy but also promote and expand cooperation in solving these issues through the exchange of our experience.

Asia is the first region in the world to address population and development issues. Based on our conviction that Asia should play a leading role for the solution of the world's population issues, we the participants in the Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development make the above proposal to our respective governments and pledge our commitment to the realization of our proposal.

MS. HARUYO KITABATA (APDA):

Thank you very much Honorable Senator Chieko Nohno.

Now, we are able to finish the session today and from 7:00 to 8:30 we will have the dinner hosted by Senate President Pro-Tempore Leticia Shahani and the Representative Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Chairperson of the Philippine Legislatures Committee on Population of Development Foundation at the Champagne Garden of the Manila Hotel. And after the dinner, we will have the Drafting Committee for Manila proposal which will be led by Senator Chieko Nohno. And tomorrow we will have--we will start the Session III from 9:00 in the morning.

Thank you very much.

Session III: "Women in the 21st Century
- Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -"

[09:30-11:00, February 13, 1996]

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. CHIEKO NOHNO):

We now would like invite comments from all countries except for those that have already participated in the drafting committee. And again, I would like to repeat that—please, limit your comments on content, while editorial as well as typographical errors can be submitted in written form.

Thank you. I will start with Australia?

HON. COLIN HOLLIS (AUSTRALIA):

Thank you. Colin Hollis from Australia.

I have now difficulty with this reporting. I think it's very wide-ranging but nevertheless an achievable agenda. And I will have much pleasure in forging this, in presenting this to the parliament of Australia.

I congratulate those who have been involved in the work they have had to bring such a formal resolution to this conference. My congratulations!

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you, Mr. Hollis.

China? Nobody from China? India and Indonesia have been in the drafting committee. Korea?

MS. OO CHUNG LEE (KOREA):

Well, I fully agree with this Declaration, and I have one suggestion that: You advocate that the principles and, of course, the countries' situation is different. So not included in this Declaration is that plan of concrete action. So each country should make a plan of concrete action, and then at the next meeting, each country should report about the improvement of women's situation on these issues.

So, it is just a suggestion, not a particular declaration.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you.

Allow me to reply to that. It is not the mandate of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and APDA to do that. But yes, indeed, because if we agree to this Resolution, then indeed, in all our countries, we will further adopt it and make action plans according to our respective countries.

Thank you.

Japan was already in the drafting committee, our Chair.

So, Malaysia? New Zealand? New Zealand please.

HON. JANET MACKEY (NEW ZEALAND):

No.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

I am going alphabetically. New Zealand? Nepal? Mrs. Pandey, do you have any comments? Could you please say it out loudly?

HON. MEENA PANDEY (NEPAL):

Thank you. I agree to this paper.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you, Mrs. Pandey.

Pakistan was a very active member of the Drafting Committee, as well as India and Japan. Singapore?

HON. ASAD ABID (PAKISTAN):

I think I would like to add something here.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

You are from Pakistan?

HON. ASAD ABID (PAKISTAN):

Yes. Madam Mboi and Senator Nohno, I am very glad that the draft as finalized reflecting the contributions, particularly from you and the other members who participated last night.

I would draw your attention to the first page, second paragraph. "We have gathered for three successive years (in Beijing, Tokyo and this year, Manila.)" The others are enough. And "Manila", because we are already here in Manila, may be crossed out.

On page 2, Introduction, the last paragraph, I would suggest that the word "Finally" be crossed out and we start with "We also call attention". Because this is a continuation of the foregoing paragraph, so it would be better if we just say "We also call attention..." or "We call attention...".

Other words, maybe, it is only a matter of diction. Then there is a comma here and there which may be crossed out, which can be done.

On the last paragraph of page 7, the second line of the last paragraph, on page7, "The participants in the 12th..." It should be "The participants of the 12th..."

Thank you very much.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you. Actually, he was also in the drafting committee and he was very active last night. Before this meeting, this plenary session, we did have a meeting of the drafting committee. Anyway, thank you so much for your corrections which are very good.

Singapore?

MS. YU-FOO YEE SHOON (SINGAPORE):

Ms. Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the working committee, which worked very hard to make this resolution. I would like to comment in two areas.

One is the objective of this resolution. As you know, ultimately, what we want to infringe on the parliaments, especially the male parliamentarians, is to be involved more actively to promote this. Whether we like it or not, the majority of them are still men. Maybe, we can make it more balanced in the sense that, like on page 1: What is the objective?

Is the ultimate objective just to enhance women's status? Or is it for the betterment of the quality of life of mankind, better family life and all these? This is, maybe, something that needs to be emphasized.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Could you be more specific, please? What page is that?

MS. YU-FOO YEE SHOON (SINGAPORE):

On page 1. What I want to ask is, what is the objective of this Resolution to make it clearer? Is it just to enhance the women's status or to promote the quality of life for mankind? Let us make it easier for us to tell it to men.

Then on page 3, about Women and Health. On the second paragraph, we talk about girls. What about educating the boys and men also? If boys and men know the sexual issue better, if they have correct sexual behavior, I think they will impose less problems on girls and women.

And the other question is on third paragraph. It says here: "Furthermore, we express concern at women's continuing recourse to unsafe abortion." I think this is a very sensitive issue. Different countries have different religions and different laws. So, you note about this problem, but did not really give a concrete suggestion on how to help the women out of this situation.

On page four, again, I feel that HIV/AIDS infection, the exposure of some girls, these are not just girls, but also boys. I understand that in some countries they also have this problem among boys.

On page five—it is just an observation—I see that you have improved on the last sentence, “We encourage interested, developed and developing country partners to allocate on mutual basis 20 percent of official development assistance and 20 percent of the national budget for basic social programs.”

I do not know whether you still want to put the sentence: “maybe accomplished by reducing military expenditures.” As you know, this is a very debatable suggestion. If we put cutting of military expenditures, normally that will become very sensitive. So do you want to just say: “The countries should try their best to spread out this budget instead of cutting military expenditures.”

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you, Ms. Shoon. Let me answer your concerns.

The whole document clearly states that we are not only concerned about women’s status or women’s issues. That is why in the title, we have used “gender” as well as “women.” All over the document we are actually inserting “head of family”, “relations of men and women”, and even having “children and adolescents”, both girls and boys. So for sure, it is not the case. If you want to make specific recommendations to make it clearer, we would be happy to receive that.

Your second comment, on page 3 second paragraph, adolescents really are boys and girls. We say there “to provide adolescents with full information, education and services related to their reproductive rights and sexual behavior.” We do agree that both boys and girls are very important.

Your fourth comment about unsafe abortion, the fifth paragraph is actually the way out. Which is, we have to promote, we have to pledge our strong commitment to promote expanded and improved availability and utilization of gender-sensitive reproductive health and family planning services across the region.

You may remember that in Cairo, in the ICCPD, we agreed that we should not tackle unsafe abortion at the end, but we have to prevent unwanted pregnancy. That is why this sentence is there.

Your fourth comment on page four, HIV/AIDS, you are right. It is not only girls, and actually that sentence does not say so. It says: “...explosive spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS infection.”

So, maybe, shall we put that between “new reproductive technologies and sexual abuse.” If we put it there then, maybe, it does not seem to be only women. Okay. Thank you.

And then the fifth comment about the 20-20 allocation, that has already been agreed and signed by our countries starting in Rio and then later again in Cairo; and this was the formulation in Copenhagen.

About the military expenditures, that has been agreed upon in Rio and then concurred in Cairo and this is the last formulation in Copenhagen.

So you are happy? Thank you. Sri Lanka?

HON. NIRUPAMA RAJAPAKASE (SRI LANKA):

Madam Chairperson, I am fully in agreement with the Resolution because, in comparison with some developing countries, women in Sri Lanka have forged ahead and have achieved progress which is encouraging and admirable; the literacy rate being 87% among women, and women representing 50% of the population with 40% in labor force.

Also, this Resolution will help because all problems are not really under control. And since we have gathered here to deliberate on the main theme, which is "Women in the 21st Century", I would like to mention at this time that it will be appropriate to mention at this meeting that Sri Lanka produced the first woman prime minister of the world, Madam Sirima Divandarnaka, who served the country three times in this capacity. These two distinguished ladies are a testimony to their contributions that could be made by women in ushering in peace and prosperity, both nationally and internationally, in preparing to enter the 21st century.

On behalf of Sri Lanka, I wish to pledge ourselves to work for the realization of this resolution.

Thank you very much.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you very much. May I also comment that other region and other countries in our region in Asia have prominent women like Pakistan, India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Japan. Actually, all countries have prominent women, even women as heads of States.

Thank you very much for reminding us again and congratulations to Sri Lanka. Syria?

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Thank you, Madam Chair.

First of all, I want to congratulate you for this Resolution. I have some small comments.

First of all, you know now, in many countries of Asia there is war, internal and outside. So, some things should be done or written in one place about solving the problems between countries in this way. So, in this case, we can arrange that 20 percent of military expenditure go to the development of countries.

Second, I do not find any mention anywhere about old and non-progressive traditions. In many countries, the law has the equality of women and men. But the old traditions put the men a little bit ahead. Also, we should work as parliamentarians against such kind of old non-progressive traditions. In this case, we should also speak about educating the women and men to be aware about such kind of tradition.

Third, which is the last page, you are speaking about calibrating between parliamentarians, and you nominate the African-Middle Eastern region. I think we should say, “and all over the world”, not only the African-Middle Eastern region, because you know that also there are some efforts done in America also. So it is better to put that as “all over the world.”

Thank you, Madam Chair.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you Dr. Ghassan Tayara. I think we all agree that your first comment is quite relevant. What we have put in there, and we would welcome concrete formulation and where to put it.

As you have seen in this Resolution on page 2, the last paragraph, it is really devoted to them: “We also call attention to the fact that these goals will be unattainable without peace and justice. Women and children, always the foremost victims of war and civil strife will continue to suffer disproportionately from social instability and continuing poverty.” Maybe, it is there that you would like to put a sentence that we should work together and help for peace. Thank you.

The second one, maybe some other parliamentarians would like to comment on this.

Actually, the deliberations and the preparation for the meetings in Cairo, as well as in Beijing and Copenhagen, what we are saying is, we know that these exist. We should not always blame everything on the man, but let us look forward. It will not help us if you always keep looking backward, blaming the old non-progressive traditions. We know it is there, but we have already pledged ourselves in Cairo, in Beijing and Copenhagen that now we will go forward—men and women together. So that is one reason why we did not again and again put the blame on old traditions et cetera, but pledged ourselves to work for a better future.

If you honorable Dr. Ghassan Tayara and other members will agree, I think we should not put it again here. Would you like to comment on that?

HON. MEENA PANDEY (NEPAL):

I would like to see this title—abortions must be allowed, but we should make one point: before considering an abortion, we must take into account not getting the abortion because of the time factor. After three months, we should not allow the abortion right because the child will be killed.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you, Ms. Pandey.

Actually, we have already agreed to that we will leave that to the respective countries. I think all deliberations and fighting and debating about that is already finished in Cairo as well as in Beijing.

What I would like to ask comments about, including or not including the phrase that was proposed by the honorable member of parliament from Syria, is to include that we have to educate men and women to work against the old, non-progressive traditions, which is quite negative. We want this Resolution to be more of a positive sense.

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Let me explain the situation, why I am speaking about it.

For example, if you will go to rural areas, a woman can drive a vehicle. But if you will go to the city, if the woman will drive a vehicle, this will be a problem. If you will ride a bicycle in the village, this is a problem, but if a woman will ride a bicycle in the city, this is not a problem.

So I say that in the rural areas the education should be equal for men and women. Because in our country, for example, you will not find that in the rural areas. Illiteracy, for example in men is 10%, but in women it is 90%. So in rural areas we should work hard in education for men and women against such kind of traditions.

Thank you.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you. And if you would like to look at page 4, that is exactly what we have done, what you are suggesting: “We call upon our respective governments to work to institute compulsory education for all girls and boys on the primary and secondary levels and to ensure wide utilization of the opportunities provided. Furthermore, we urge special attention to achievement of greater equity between girls and boys in vocational and higher education in order to make them more employable and economically self-reliant.” I hope that is enough. Thank you.

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Not enough.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Not enough. You wanted education against...

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

You are speaking about employment. I am speaking about non-progressive traditions. This is the question, not employment.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

No, no. It is the compulsory education for all girls and boys and to achieve greater equity between girls and boys. Dr. Achakzai, You wanted to comment on that.

HON. HAMED KHAN ACHAKZAI (PAKISTAN):

Thank you very much.

I am Dr. Hamed Achakzai from Pakistan. I congratulate this prestigious gathering in making such a nice and precise declaration.

But probably last night, while working we were a little bit sleepy and nobody pointed it out. Since this is a Resolution regarding population and development, and also women, we must declare, we must suggest—I do not know the precise words, you can synthesize that—that the sufferings made to the population and development by interference of one country into the other, we must include a sentence to stop those sufferings. We must have a sentence to ensure peaceful coexistence, and we must find a way that disallows interference of one country into the other. Because of that interference and the sufferings in that country, population and development is rather stuck.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Dr. Hamed, this is again something else.

HON. HAMED KHAN ACHAKZAI (PAKISTAN):

This is my suggestion—to the whole members of the Asian countries—that we must have something here to stop unnecessary interference of one country into another, which brings sufferings or death.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Dr. Hamed, may I remind you that you are an active member of the Drafting Committee, and that we have adopted this in the Drafting Committee. So to add something new... excuse me...

HON. HAMED KHAN ACHAKZAI (PAKISTAN):

I leave it up to you. I have suggested it and, whether it is worth mentioning in the draft, I will leave that to all of you.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you. If you would draft the wording, then we can propose to the plenary. Thank you. So, we can continue. You still want it...

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Yes. Excuse me. When I spoke about war between countries, I do not want to nominate, and I do not want to say about some country interfering. I want to say that Asia is now suffering from different kinds of terrorism and war between countries, and this should be recognized by us and we should solve it by wisdom, by peace talks, not to speak in other words. I do want it to be something that we can understand; that we mean this country or that country. This I want to say.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

I would like to propose that the two of you formulate it and we could put it on page 2, last paragraph of page 2, if everybody agrees with this. Okay? If you could formulate it, please. Thank you.

Let me now invite the honorable Member of Parliament from Thailand.

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

What about that Africa-Middle Eastern.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Oh, yes. Right. Thank you. I forgot. I wrote it down. But collaboration on page 7, I have no objections to that. Could you explain, Mr. Kusumoto? This is on page 2 paragraph 3. The proposal was: the African and Middle Eastern region should be replaced by all parliaments' organizations over the world.

MR. OSAMU KUSUMOTO (APDA):

As you know, after the Cairo of conference, the African and Middle Eastern region will establish their own forum for their parliamentarians' activities and profession. And we are now making a very crucial issue about these kinds of fora. We understand your opinion.

I'd like to propose this sentence: "Parliamentarians at National, Regional and International Levels."

In fact, it is important to cultivate closer relations between AFPPD and other Regional Population for Parliamentarian Forum of Population Development, especially parliamentarians' activities on population and development in African and the Middle Eastern regions. Is it okay?

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Excuse me. I don't know. Where is the Middle East here? We are from Middle East. We never have justice. This is something that was spoken in Cairo. As you know that we have a global committee on population and development which now is working. Why you don't also say, "Global Committee on Population and Development"?

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Yes, what he is suggesting...

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

And also, in Copenhagen they spoke about European population and development. Let us say AFPPD and all over the world. That is enough. And I don't want to be—I am from Syria, I don't want to be—to belong to the Middle East. I belong to Asia. This is the best for us.

Thank you.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

You remember, last year in Tokyo, we were invited to attend our meeting also. The representative of the parliamentarians of the African and Middle Eastern region, you remember they were there? They were introduced and they also attended the meeting when we were in Tokyo. That is one group now—Africa and Middle Eastern region. It's one group you call that.

But personally, I have no objections to include what Mr. Kusumoto has proposed and you also is to add—"closer relations between Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and other regional forums of parliamentarians on population and development, especially in the African Middle Eastern region."

This really is the South-South cooperation. That was explained last year in Tokyo.

Do you still have any principal objection?

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

I have no principal objection.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

You have no principal objection. Thank you.

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

I am in principle against the terminology of "Middle East". We speak about Far East, Middle East, and so forth. Why?

With your permission, I want to make a suggestion, Madam? If we can just say “other regional associations or parliaments” so that we will not be very specific.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Does everybody agree to that?

MR. OSAMU KUSUMOTO (APDA):

Dr. Tayara, the African and the Middle East Forum on Population, or Parliamentarians on Population and Development decided in Copenhagen to set up their Executive Committee meeting. AFPPD has already committed itself to and discussed the establishment of their forum.

African and Middle Eastern Region will have General Executive Committee with special emphasis on African and Middle Eastern Activities for their forum in April, and this will include both the Middle Eastern and the African regions. I think, it is very difficult to find a geographical division of the Asian and the Middle East regions. For some, it may be difficult, but we need to mention this matter.

Do you have any opposition?

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

I do not understand why we need it. Maybe you need it but why do we need it? When we speak about regional, we should not. Maybe, tomorrow, we will be in the Arabian region. When we speak about the Middle East and Arab, Arab is approximately the Middle East.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

I understand, and I hope it is acceptable to put just “Other Regional Forums of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.” That is included. Okay.

Thank you.

It is almost coffee break now. I hope we can finish before coffee break. Could I invite the Honorable Member of Parliament from Thailand please.

HON. TARNTHONG THONGSWASDI (THAILAND):

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Actually, we have one comment, but it was already mentioned and settled. So what I have to say now is just to thank the working committee for this very good and excellent work.

Thank you.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you so much, Ms. Tarnthong.

The Honorable Member of Parliament from Vietnam is recognized.

HON. NGUYEN VAN TIEN (VIETNAM):

Thank you, Madam Chairman. On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to say something.

Thank you for your concise document. We have read the document and we found out only one sentence that talks about the political role of women. It is on the fourth paragraph, or last paragraph on the Role of Parliament in Population and Gender Issue.

But would it not be better if we put political role of women in the second section, on the Empowering Women in Society and Economy?

You see, it is very important. In China, the percentage of women parliamentarians is 21%. That is very low, we know that because the role of women parliamentarians is very important in making decisions.

And second, we want to put more. We want to include in the presentation the fact that so many single women lead a single life. Could we mention in the presentation this idea in some paragraph in the second session?

Because when the socioeconomic development grows more and more, the rate of divorces and single women is really high. This affects the family ties in Asia.

Thank you.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you. I think that is a valid comment and I think that we can formulate it and put it on that portion—about female-headed households and single-parent families. I think that could be possible. Thank you.

HON. SHOZOU AZUMA (JAPAN):

I would like to say thank you very much for your kindness and effort in order to finalize the Manila Resolution. I would like to make some comments.

We have an excellent Lady Chair of the drafting committee. So it is not very necessary for me to make comments. However, you know we are very practical.

I would just like to make some more comments on page 5, Resources for Population and Gender-Related Issues, second paragraph: “We call upon...action plan and programs.” About the 0.7 percent of the gross national product, already the chairman informed us

whether this were the figures agreed in the previous international conference. So we cannot have any objection on this figure itself. However, in the case of Japan, these were the figures. We are already sharing 0.31 percent, something like that. Even Japan is the fast-developing country in the world, if we reach this figure, 0.7 percent, it means that we have to make double on the present performance, which we are doing. So we do not know how long does it take.

However, I do not hesitate to say we are trying to know whether we can get this or not. On the other hand, they were saying that in order to earmark 50 percent of the share, it means...

Unfortunately I was not in that meeting in which this figure was agreed. However, from the practical point of view, I wonder whether we will reach this or not. So, if you do not mind, could you take note of this one. Thank you very much.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Thank you, Hon. Azuma, a Member of Parliament from Japan.

As we all know this, this has been agreed upon. The sentence: "To strive to allocate..." means try to allocate; it is not saying you have to. I think that was the agreement in Cairo. And, again, this 50 percent also was the formulation in the Copenhagen Plan of Action.

I would like to mention, again, for the Honorable Member of Parliament from Syria that on page four, it says: "...moving away from traditional gender stereotype towards concepts of equality, mutual respect and harmonious partnerships in all spheres of life."

Ladies and Gentleman, these notes of Japan, and the addition of Syria and Vietnam will be submitted to you later on.

Can we then say that, in general, we can adopt this Resolution as our Resolution?

VOICE:

Yes.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (HON. NAFSIAH MBOI):

Can I have a sign by clapping your hands?

[Applause]

Thank you so much, and may I turn the Chair over to Honorable Congresswoman Chieko Nohno.

THE CHAIRPERSON (HON. CHIEKO NOHNO):

Thank you very much.

I am very glad that we have reached this conclusion before the coffee break. Thanks to the extensive efforts from you. We have been able to find one target.

Today is St. Valentine's Day. You might want to consider this resolution a gift from women to men. Men and women have equal rights and based on this equal rights, we would like to brighten our future.

Those of us living in Asia will have to make concerted efforts to create a better world. One is given just one life. So we have to cherish this only life that we have. I think that is the consensus that we have.

As human beings, we can transcend all the national borders and join our hands to make this a better world, and I think that is the spirit of this resolution.

Thank you. [Applause]

MANILA RESOLUTION ON WOMEN, GENDER, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

13 February 1996

12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

Manila, Philippines

Preamble

We, Parliamentarians of Asia, concerned with Population and Development met in Manila to devise a strategy to achieve a brighter future for the family of Asian nations, the world community as a whole, and our Mother Earth.

Aware of the international trends flowing from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994), the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD, 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW, 1995) we have gathered for three successive years (in Beijing, Tokyo, and Manila) to deliberate on the theme "Women in the 21st Century — A Strategy for Peace and Prosperity."

Based on our conviction that women's full involvement is crucial to the solution of population issues which threaten the quality of life for millions of people across Asia as well as the natural environment, we make the following set of recommendations to our parliamentary colleagues and our respective governments believing that such recommendations will lead to greater empowerment of women in all spheres of life, thereby enabling them to be more effective partners in the family and community, more able to realize their full potential in life, and more articulate in identifying and working with others to fulfill their unmet needs.

Notwithstanding the vastness of our region, our rich cultural, religious, political, and economic diversity, the wide variation in our development experience and stages of development, we act together in proposing the following:

Introduction

We affirm that without full and equitable partnership of women and men, it will be impossible to solve population issues and attain social development and sustainable economic development in harmony with the global environment. Achieving

such partnership requires empowerment of women in all spheres of life — economic, social and political — by improving access to education and economic opportunities for girls and women across Asia. This will help improve women's status, expand their choices, as well as increasing their opportunities and ability to determine their own lives.

We recognize that population, sustainable economic growth, social development, security and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as are our efforts to reduce rapid population growth, eradicate poverty, protect the environment, create jobs and reduce unemployment.

We believe that the family is the basic unit of society and note with concern signs that its survival as a human institution is threatened. Inequities of power, gender, and income act on each other and all members of the family causing stress, tensions, even violence in the family setting. We therefore advocate strongly for efforts to improve gender equality as well as the effectiveness of population and other development programmes which are essential for survival of the family.

Recognizing the inter-relationship of poverty, rapid population growth, high infant, child and maternal mortality rates, we also urge countries of the region to accelerate the achievement of the targets set in Cairo.

Reductions in population growth rate and efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable patterns of development will fail without respect for human rights.

We also call attention to the fact that these goals will be unattainable without peace and justice. Women and children, always the foremost victims of war and civil strife, will continue to suffer disproportionately from social instability and continuing poverty. Therefore, we urge increased effort to achieve peaceful resolution of conflict and disputes throughout the region regardless of origin.

1. Women and Health

Universal access to appropriate reproductive health services including relevant education regarding sexual health and rights is a pre-requisite for improving the living conditions of individuals, including adolescents, and the family as a whole.

We point with alarm to the high — and, in some cases, increasing — rates of pregnancy among adolescent girls through the Asian region, as evidence of the need to provide adolescents with full information, education, and services related to their reproductive rights and sexual behavior.

Furthermore, we express concern at women's continuing recourse to unsafe abortions which are detrimental to their health and welfare and which reflect the deficiencies of existing family planning services.

We hereby pledge our strong commitment to promote expanded and improved availability and utilization of gender-sensitive reproductive health and family planning services across the region.

We urge governments to increase budgetary allocations to women and gender-related programmes to counterbalance deteriorating economic conditions. These conditions place young women and children at increased risk of domestic and international trafficking, exploitation, prostitution, and involvement in substance abuse and illegal drug trade. At the same time we call on appropriate national and regional bodies to direct serious and immediate attention to these issues which destroy the fabric of society and thrive on indecision and lack of political will and community involvement.

We recognize that persistence of women's low economic and social status in many parts of the region is a violation of their human rights and deplore the fact that they are major factors contributing to the high rates of infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, the exposure of some girls to harmful and dehumanizing practices such as female genital mutilation, sex selection and the commercialization and improper use of new reproductive technologies, as well as sexual abuse, exploitation, violence and the explosive spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS infection. We call for urgent and immediate action from the community to the international level to eliminate all these conditions and practices.

2. Empowering Women in Society and the Economy

Two thirds of the world's illiterates are women, the majority of whom are in rural Asia. The education of girls and women is necessary to overcome this pattern for the realization of women's own potential as well as broader social and economic development in the region. The feminization of poverty — a phenomenon noted for some time — continues in both urban and rural areas.

We call upon our respective governments to work to institute compulsory education for all girls and boys on the primary and secondary levels and to ensure wide utilization of the opportunities provided. Furthermore, we urge special attention to achievement of greater equity between girls and boys in vocational and higher education in order to make them more employable and economically self-reliant.

In the context of the call for wider educational opportunity we emphasize the need to promote changes in the attitudes and practices of both women and men re-

garding their respective roles in and contributions to society, moving away from traditional gender stereotypes towards concepts of equality, mutual respect, and harmonious partnership in all spheres of life, in particular, homemaking, parenting, and general family responsibility.

We also call for the elimination of persistent patterns of gender bias in the recruitment, compensation and advancement of workers, regardless of whether the employer is government or private sector.

We urge particular attention to the distinctive and unmet needs of women who are heading households regardless of the reason.

We emphasize the need for women themselves to respect, value and give full support to other women to enable them to realize their full potential and to maximize their choices with respect to their various roles in society.

We call upon the media to recognize their important role in communicating the new ideas of gender equity and partnership between women and men.

3. Resources for Population and Gender-Related Issues

We take note of the strong international consensus on the need to mobilize significant domestic and external financial resources. Furthermore we endorse the estimates of resource requirements set forth in the ICPD Programme of Action. We accept the responsibility as elected representatives of the people to ensure translation of public support for Population and Development into workable programmes with the best feasible distribution of budgetary, human and administrative resources. Moreover, we urge that additional resources for Population and Development programmes should be made available by reorienting budgets wherever possible.

We call upon the donor community to strive to allocate the set target of 0.7 percent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, to earmark 50 percent of this share for women, population, and gender-related activities and to monitor the use of those resources according to agreed upon mechanisms. We also urge governments to honor their resource pledges stipulated in various action plans and programmes.

We encourage interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on a mutual basis, 20 percent of official development assistance and 20 percent of the national budgets for basic social programmes. This may be accomplished by reducing military expenditures.

We urge international financial institutions to ensure that structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes are designed and implemented in a humane

manner, conducive to realization of social justice, the achievement of gender equity, and fulfillment of the needs of women and their families.

We emphasize the need to generate public support among our constituents for mobilization and allocation of adequate domestic resources to support policies and programmes on Population and Development.

4. The Role of Parliamentarians in Population and Gender-Related Issues

We urge governments to integrate gender perspectives into their development strategies, policies, and programmes, giving attention to the importance of gender issues in both objectives and management. We believe this to be particularly important in relation to legislation on Population and Development.

We recommend and endorse enactment of legislation which will enable governments to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve the legal, social, economic and political status of women and assure them full enjoyment of their rights.

Recognizing that such action will not be easy we offer our support and will endeavor to promote greater awareness of, positive attitudes towards, and understanding of the complex inter-relationship between population, environmental conservation and sustainable development.

In the context of this effort, we commit ourselves to review and reevaluate women's involvement in politics in our respective countries. As representatives of the people and leaders of political life we accept our responsibility not only to advocate but also to act in our own sphere to build a more equitable society. In keeping with this, we will work to strengthen women's involvement in politics, particularly in decision making positions.

We recognize the need to develop and maintain good working relations with all who are active in promoting and implementing population, development, and gender-related programmes — the machinery of government, non-governmental organizations, women and men in the private sector.

In order to translate the action plans adopted at the major international conferences on the status of women into national legislation, we urge that appropriate research be carried out and that there be wide sharing of information and cooperation with technical experts in fields essential for addressing women's issues in the Asian region.

In this respect, we have a unique and important role. To fill this role effectively, we must develop networks among Parliamentarians at the national, regional

and inter-regional levels. In particular, it is important to cultivate closer relations between Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and other regional fora of Parliamentarians. Such networks will enable us not only to deepen our understanding of the interdependence between issues in society and economy but will also promote and expand cooperation in solving these issues through exchange of experience.

Based on our conviction that Asia should play a leading role in the solution of the world's population issues, we, the participants of the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, make the above resolution to be forwarded to our respective governments. At the same time we pledge ourselves to work for the realization of this resolution.

Manila, 13 February 1996, adopted by the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

Session IV: Strategy of Asia for "FAO World Summit on Food "

- Focus on Sustainable Food Production, Food Security and Population -

[14:00 - 16:30, February 13, 1996]

MR. SHIV KHARE (AFPPD):

No, this session should be finished so that we can go to the closing.

Friends, as you see from the program, this is a special session which we are going to do today to discuss food security and the strategy which we are going to adopt in coming one year in Asia. As you, most of you may know that the World Food Organization is going to organize a World Food Summit in Rome in Demantat, Manambat. This World Food Summit will bring the heads of state to Rome to discuss issues related to poverty, hunger, malnutrition and the achievements of food security. And they are going to adopt policies in this relation and also actions at global, regional and national level. You may also note that the United Nations had declared 1996 as the year for poverty elimination. So, this is the correct year where the parliamentarians and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians, especially, would like to take the initiative in mobilizing parliamentary support in the field of poverty elimination, food security and related issues like poverty and malnutrition.

The Asian Forum, as you all know, has taken initiatives in the past of organizing international conferences of parliamentarians on issues such as population. We organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. Then, we organized the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Social Development and Population in Copenhagen to coincide with the Social Summit in Copenhagen. And then last year, we organized an International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender Population and Development in preparation for the Women's Conference in Beijing. The Tokyo conference was very useful because of all the women parliamentarians who attended, there were nearly 90 from nearly 60 countries. and they all went from Tokyo to Beijing, and they were really country-rooted towards the achievement of the goals of the Beijing Conferences.

With this encouragement, again, the Asian Forum is planning, discussing and thinking about taking an initiative to organize an International Conference of Parliamentarians on Food Security and Population to coincide with the World Food Summit in Rome.

In preparation to that, we will also like to organize several national, sub-regional and regional meetings of parliamentarians to open their views on this topic. And our partners in different other continents like the Inter-American Parliamentarian Group in Latin America and North America, the Forum of African and Middle East and Parliamentarians in Africa and the Parliamentarians in Europe are also going to do the same and will organize the international conference. If it is approved, then in cooperation with our partner organization like the African Parliamentarian Group, Inter-American Parliamentarian Group, International Medical Parliamentarian Group and the Global Committee of Parliamentarians, we would like to organize in their cooperation.

In today's session, we would like to start this, we would like to initiate the whole food security campaign of parliamentarians and we have today three eminent people with us. We have with us on my left, Mr. Chadha who is the joint Secretary in the Ministry of

Agriculture in the Government of India, and we have especially invited him to very briefly give to us some background about agricultural policies. Then, we have Dr. Kawano to whom you already know. He has done a lot of work in this area. And then, we have our very own professor, Dr. Kuroda, and they will also give their own perspective.

So, I would like first Dr. Kuroda to speak and the time is ten minutes.

DR. TOSHIO KURODA (JAPAN):

Thank you very much, Chairman.

So this is a very difficult issue. This relates to the survival of the mankind, and we are trying to address the issue of food in relation to population. In other words, we are trying to take a microscopic perspective in addressing this issue.

As you are aware, ladies and gentlemen, that 200 years ago, Robert Malthus, famous Britain economist, talked about the population and food. He made a very pessimistic paper called "The Principle of Population." Now, it's 200 years ago. The population will increase in a geometric manner whereas the food production will increase linearly, and therefore, there will be overpopulation. Eventually, all of you will face a disaster situation. The death rate, disaster and fatigue would all contribute to increasing the death rate, meaning less population. And then when we have enough reduction in population, then the population will once again increase, then the food supply situation would recover and the cycle will repeat. So the fate of the new mankind is a very pessimistic one. That was the projection made 200 years ago.

Now, what has happened to us for 200 years? As you are aware, since Malthus, the industrial revolution took place on the face of this earth as well as agriculture revolution. The food production increased dramatically and after world War II, what happened? As many of you know, for example, Green Revolution took place here in Asia which created a significant role especially in this part of the world. And as a result, the food production increased by three percent per annum until recently, especially since 1950 up to 1990, over four decades.

Surprisingly, the food production increased by three percent per annum. So, the problem was now, the oversupply of food. In retrospect, this is a surprising fact.

Now, what happened to the population after World War II? In the 1960's, the population grew by 2% per annum, a surprising rate. But since the food production increased by 3% per annum, so, despite this dramatic increase in the population of 2% per annum, we were able to feed most of the people. Roughly, the growth rate in population is about 1.5%, that is on a global level. So the question is: are we now free of the food supply question? Are we free of these concerns after two hundred years? Is there no concern that we have to have regarding population and food? Can we say that given the fact that the food supply increase is faster or outpacing the growth rate of population as a result of green revolution and some other technological revolution?

For the last forty years or so, despite the pessimistic view that Malthus had two hundred years ago, we were able to enjoy the situation where we could be free of these pessimistic views. However, more recently since the beginning of this decade, the growth rate of food production has begun to decline and in some worst cases, the population growth rate outgrew the food production, which is increasing by about % per annum, whereas, the population is growing by between 1.6 and 1.7 % per annum. In other words, the relationship between the growth rate of population and food supply has now reversed. So once again, we're faced with the very old question of not having enough food supply to feed all the people on this planet. So how are we to redress the situation? It is a very difficult question.

And another question that we have to address is whether to be pessimistic or optimistic. I, personally, don't think we should be too pessimistic or too optimistic, but personally, I think we should be a little bit on the pessimistic side because if we tend to be optimistic, we may be complacent with the situation and we may not try to make any more effort. Now suppose we do nothing about the population increase and let it grow as is, what are we to do on the food supply side? I would like to list up some of the concerns that we have, although I believe my colleagues will elaborate on this later.

1) Green Revolution then contributed to the food increase in recent years. Can we expect another round of Green Revolution? I, personally, doubt it because with the high input of chemical fertilizers, we were able to increase the productivity of land, but the input has reached the limit. No matter how much we increase the chemical input, fertilizer input, we will not be able to see further growth, proportionate growth of productivity of land. Technically speaking, this is called the principle of diminishing returns. In other words, even if we double the fertilizer input, the productivity would only increase by 1.5 tons and then, it's the absolute productivity that is going to decline. That's where we are today. In other words, the more fertilizers we use doesn't necessarily mean more food we will get. We have already reached the limit in that linear relationship.

And in the area of farmlands, there are no more new farmlands available because after World War II, we have almost exhausted all the agricultural frontiers. And not only that, we have had to convert conventional farmlands into industrial, commercial and residential area. With the more urbanization concentration of people, we need land to build school, roads, houses and plants which would mean we will have to convert conventional farmlands to these other uses. So it is difficult to improve the land productivity over what it is today and the availability of new farmlands is impossible, which means that we can't expect another Green Revolution. So, one area of hope is biotechnology. But is it really warranted in laboratories? Yes, we understand that we see some viable results. However, would biotechnology contribute sufficiently to feed the increasing number of population? Will that kind of biotechnology become available? I am not too sure about that and I have keen interest in this area. Of course, we need to see concentrated effort in biotechnology, but the question remains as to whether biotechnology would be able to make contributions in time. From the population point of view, that's the concern that we have. If I have some time left later, I would like to talk a little bit more about population.

Since 1985 to 2025, over those forty years, the incremental population per year is about 40 million. So over thirty years, we are going to have another four billion people over what we have today. We only have about thirty years where we have to make decisive action. Within the next thirty years, will biotechnology be able to insure food supply that can feed that many people? Will the biotechnology solutions become available within the next thirty years? If the answer is “no”, then we have to be very pessimistic. Not the year 2025 -- by year 2025 the world population would exceed 8 billion. Frankly, the world population is 5.7 billion, but by the year 2025, it will exceed 8 billion. And then twenty-five years later, by 2050, the world population would reach 10 billion. We don't have to think that far into the future. Maybe we just have to concentrate on the year 2025, where the world population is expected to be 5 billion. And we have 85 million new people, babies born every year, and we have to supply enough food, shelter, and clothing to all these people. The world population will be 8 billion. Now what is the limit? What is the carrying capacity of the earth with regards to the population. That is the concern that we have.

Some people say that eight billion is the limit of the earth's carrying capacity. Of course this may vary, depending on the situation. But I think this could be one benchmark -- eight billion.

The cultivated land on earth -- I don't remember the exact figure, but if I remember correctly the per-capita cultivated land should be point zero four (.04). So, many scholars believe that eight billion is the limit of the earth's carrying capacity vis-à-vis population.

Now, over the next 30 years, before the world population reaches eight billion, this is a critical path, this a decisive moment. Will biotechnology provide us with solutions? We don't know, we cannot be confident. And I'm sure the scientists and experts are working seriously on this, but we still cannot be -- we still cannot rest assure. So, we have to address the population and should.

As far as population is concerned and as has been discussed so far, we have to control the population so that we will not reach the world population on eight billion.

According to UN calculation, according to the medium-scale projection of the United Nations -- we will visit this population issue later, when I'm given more time -- we need to make extra effort to control the population growth. These are the microscopic issues, and there are some microscopic approaches that can be taken that vary from country to country. Dr. Kawano yesterday talked about the situation in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, irrigation is the key. In other countries, electricity supply is the key. In other country, something else is the key. So, the microscopic approaches may vary from country to country.

I'm afraid I've spend more time than I was allowed, so that is the end.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you very much, Doctor. That was very interesting (Applause)

MR. KAMAL MOHAN CHADHA (INDIA):

Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to share few works about India Agricultural Policy.

Before that, I would like to mention that I am working in the government as an officer. Normally, we are supposed to listen to the parliamentarians and not speak. And this is a very rare opportunity that I have been given, a chance to speak to parliamentarians. Officers are faceless entities who work behind the scene. Like the women of the home. Similarly, we officers also work behind the scene, we don't come in front. So today there's a chance to speak and it's really overwhelming for me to speak to such an elegant member of MPs.

First, I'd like to take the issue of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is something that to take only so much from the natural resources that your need are fulfilled, but there is sufficient left for the future generations. Our children and their children should be able to enjoy the same fruits which our grandparents have been enjoying from the nature.

This concept of sustainable development is supposed to be new, as far as the world is concerned. But as far as India is concerned, our scriptures mentioned about it, more than two thousand years back.

In one of the scriptures, Mother Earth told the King, "Pick only so much from my bosom, so that I can reproduce. Don't take so much that I will not be able to reproduce." So that is the crux of sustainable development, that we take only so much from the Earth or from the natural resources, in which for the future, also, we will keep something for the children who are going to follow us.

On this, there's a small story I would like to mention, the case of the hen which laid the golden egg.

There was a farmer, he had a hen. It laid one golden egg every day. So, the farmer was getting the golden egg.

One day, greed overtook him. He said, "Why should I wait every day for one egg? Why don't I kill the hen and take out all the eggs that are in there?" Then and there, he killed the hen and he could not get even one egg.

So, this is about sustainable development. We are so greedy that they want to take everything from the earth today, and we don't want to leave anything for the future.

So, if we reduce our demands, if we reduce our requirements, then only will there be the possibility of sustainable development.

On the question of population, whether the earth can sustain it or not, this was discussed about 70 years back when Mahatma Gandhi -- we were fighting the freedom struggle. And I think he said, "I don't consider this question of family planning." He said, "India can support more than double the population that it has today." And actually, we are supporting more than three times the population.

So, the Mother Earth has the capacity to increase productivity. Only thing is that, our technology, our research, our method of cultivation should be geared to that extent.

With this background, I will now just like to mention that we, in India, have been able to increase our production, increase our productivity, increase the use of inputs -- whether it is fertilizers or seeds or others.

But the only point is, we did not have a concrete policy against which these developments were taking place. Agriculture here never -- we face difficulty about productivity, we even went into research and started new seed varieties. Whenever the land were becoming less fertile, we started using fertilizers. But the aim was to have a system of which -- against the backdrop of which agricultural production can be increased. That is why in 1992, we drafted the for first time an agricultural policy. It has been discussed in the Parliament, it has been discussed by the state governments. And, luckily, I have been involved in drafting the final shape of the agricultural policy which we are likely to adopt very shortly.

So, I will just give some highlights of that agricultural policy which we are going to finalize shortly.

The first thing is, what is the need for a policy?

As I mentioned earlier, that we were finding solutions to the problems, which we presented ourselves. But there was no long-term strategy or long-term planning for those solutions -- for those problems. No agricultural policy, in long-term perspective and strategy has been devised. Moreover, there was a problem of additional imbalance. Our green revolution brought prosperity to a few parties on the country but the other parties were neglected. So, there was a need to give chance to the other areas also. So, the agricultural policy was devised to see that a balance is maintained in all the areas and with various crops.

The aim of the policy is to create an environment by which the farmer feels that he should invest more in the agricultural sector to increase production, increase productivity and generate surplus for their exports. But what have made today, earlier, that the farmer said that agriculture was not a paying proposition, it was a losing concern so that is why peo-

ple were migrating from the agricultural sector to the other sector. So with this policy, we want to bring their people back to the agricultural sector so that they have an interest in this.

No, the new policy would need to enhance agricultural growth, economic development, and removal of unemployment in the rural areas.

So the thrust areas are: One is, economic upliftment. The most important thrust area for agricultural policy is that the rural people should, whether it be the farmers or women or agricultural laborers or backward classes, they should all get economic upliftment through employment and reduction of underemployment.

What is happening in India is that during the lean season, there is a lot of underemployment. The farming season is for about four to six months. Then first six months there is no employment for the rural farmers. So that under-employment has to be tackled as one of the main thrust areas.

Then investment. To be able to upgrade their investment, which is for a one-year crop only. But what is required is an investment for long term development. But this infrastructure development will take priority. That means irrigation, wells, tube-wells, roads, transportation and communication. All these sectors will be given importance so that after agricultural production has increased, the marketability of the agricultural production is also increased.

The next thrust area is research and education.

Now, today, what is happening is, the researches are taking place only in the laboratories. It is now being transmitted to the field areas. All their research activities should be concentrated.

For the various regions, there should be separate thrusts of research and education, and then it should go down from the laboratory to the field areas. There should be proper demonstration of techniques to the farmers and the advantages would be brought out to them -- what exactly would be the advantage in forming a particular research system.

Then land development. There are many areas in India, about hundred million hectares, which are unproductive, which are lying barren. So, the aim is to bring more and more area under cultivation by giving proper treatment in the form of watershed development, tree plantation, and other activities so that land, which is fertile, should become more fertile.

Then we go to the sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is conservation of land, as what others are mentioning, plus the water resources. So, whatever water resources are there, if we are going to exhaust all these resources in the near future, the land would become dry very shortly. For our future farmers, that will be a problem. So, there should be no wastage -- there should be proper lining of canals, there should be proper regimentation of the water supply to the farmers.

So, in the villages development, we will inform this Committee which is made and ensure that every farmer will get a particular quantity of water and there should not be more water given so that there is enough available. So, this is the continuation of water resource. Then the land should not be used for building construction, for industrial, for settling human being. All that has to be given up so that there is proper conservation of land for agricultural development.

Then we are trying to stress equal fairly integrated pest management. The chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides will not be used, and we will use integrated pest management and use bio-fertilizers.

Now, integrated pest management, you know, what they call it, "to set a chief, to guide a chief." So you have the insects or the pests which are in the atmosphere. They are being used to see that the pests which are destroying their growths are eaten away by this, instead of putting pesticides. If you put chemical pesticides, the quality of the food will deteriorate and when we consume their food, our health problem will increase. So to avoid that, we have this integrated pest management and use of bio-fertilizers. If we use chemical fertilizers, again there is a risk of bad food coming into the food chain, into the human body and giving more diseases. So, we are trying to avoid that. So, the stress is on integrated pest management and use of bio-fertilizers. Bio-fertilizers, that means leaves, grass and all dirt. We just put it in the ground, and then fertilizers come out of the dirt. Plus whatever excreta of the animal is there, they will just make pits in the ground, put it there for ten, fifteen, twenty days, then it becomes a good fertilizer and we use it. This doesn't mean that we are not manufacturing fertilizers. We are still manufacturing chemical fertilizers but the stress is on bio-fertilizers especially in the rural areas where this is available.

Then credit support. You see, our farmers in the field, they used to get a loan from the rich moneylenders in the rural areas. What happened was that a farmer used to become a bonded laborer. If I take hundred of it from somebody, then for all my life I will be working for him and work will only be the interest and the principal of my debt will be brought down to my children and grandchildren.

So, now, the aim is to free the farmers from being bonded laborers, and they are having these cooperative societies and cooperative banks. And we are trying to see that a loan is given to farmers easily and at the low rates or interest.

Then insurance. Due to the vagaries of weather, we are having this problem of restriction of crop year by year. So, we are giving crop insurance policies to the farmers who pay a small premium to us, and then, if the crop is lost, we are able to reimburse the damage to them.

The cooperative societies are a major sector for our agricultural development and we are trying to make them democratic in such a manner that they have full autonomy.

Then supply of inputs. We are trying to see that needs, fertilizers and machinery are all available to the farmer at their doorsteps, near the village, at cheap prices so that they can

increase their productivity. These cooperative societies are used for transportation of these inputs to the farmers.

Then processing. Now, after the production is there, we need something to do with the production which is generated. So, we are trying to have food processing units near the villages so that the marketing of the produce is possible and the processing units are able to give employment to the rural people.

Then we are trying to encourage export promotion so that the farmer takes interest in his produce, and he can produce more and he can get income out of the exports.

Then we have the system of remunerative prices for each and every item whether it is beef or rice or pulses. We have a fixed minimum support price every year. So the farmer is assured that whatever he spends in the field, he will get, at least, some profit per winter on their production. So that minimum support price is reviewed every year to take into account the cost of production.

Then (inaudible) industry. We are trying to give as much benefits to agriculture as are available to industry. But at the same time, we are saying that, in context of tax penalties which are there for the industry, they are not put on the farmer. So, the farmer will get the industrial benefit without these disadvantages.

Then other testing areas are the involvement of the lead institutions in agricultural development, an increase of agriculture potential and land reforms. So these are testing areas for us.

I would only like to mention that we are only concerned with the food production in the agriculture department. They have many outlets all over the country. There are about one million outlets all over the country, and even in village areas. And there are mobile vans also where food grains are taken to villages and people can get those food grains at controlled prices. And if they buy from market, it will be costly. So we try to give them at marked down, controlled prices. So we have sufficient reserves of food grains. Our target was to raise 16 million tons of food grains reserve but at present we are having 32 million tons of food grains. So there are sufficient reserves available today and if there is a lean year, we are able to take care of the problem.

So I end, thank you. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you, Mr. Chadha for giving a real insight of the Indian agriculture situation. May I now request very quickly Dr. Kawano to speak?

DR. SHIGETO KAWANO (JAPAN):

I should be very brief.

In 1947, the United Nations announced or published a report for underdeveloped countries entitled "Measures for the Economic Development of Underdeveloped Countries."

When this report was published, many people were quite skeptical about the possibility of success because it has stated that in the developing nations, the population growth of 1.2 percent was the economic growth within the range of couple of percentage points.

Forty years later today, population has increased dramatically, so has the economy. The growth has surpassed the expectations or estimates.

What has allowed this? One is that we did not have any measure. And also, we have been able to promote international cooperation and collaboration. One good example is the success of the Green Revolution. And also the social reform have been progressing well, and that has been emphasized by the report. There were successful land reforms. And also in China, their ... revolution is a success. So this social transformation, which were not mentioned in the Evening Report then, had occurred to a benefit. So those were the very beneficial sets of conditions which worked in favor.

Half a century has passed, as mentioned by Dr. Kuroda, what will happen in 20 years time? What is the world like in 30 years time?

Professor Brown has put forth a very famous forecast. Professor Brown says that conventional oppose economy growth for the past population growth, to pass food production increase. If they continue into the future years, then given the current productive level, can we satisfy the needs. This conclusion is very pessimistic. There will be an increase of population, economic growth will continue. There will be increased demand for food, certainly.

Now, in the meantime, if we can continue to increase food production, even under such circumstances, we may see shortages of food. Then, given such forecast, or if that forecast is of any value, what are the concrete phenomena that we'll be experiencing if we increase the output of food production?

Professor Kuroda has put the question mark about the possible increase of food. Now, I do not have an answer. But if we cannot increase the production of food as we used to, well, according to Malthus, he says that if there is lesser supply of food, we will see the reduction of population growth. That is not true. We have the special security, medical services and other welfare ... so the Malthus Theory may not prove to be true.

And then what happens? Then, productive income should be reduced. Which means that the growth rate would come down as well. And in because of such change for a short term or time, or if there are temporary famines or dire shortages of food, it may give rise to a major turmoil or social instability in the world. So those things could happen.

Now, Professor Brown has given his version of forecast into the future and he talks about the possible increase of food production in the future. But not withstanding what he says, there is something that he has overlooked, and that is, we are not taking full advantage of

the resources on this planet Earth. In other words, there are still potential resources to be tapped. There is still hidden productive potential to be capitalized on, and I mean that of the developing nations, developed nations, European Union, Americas and maybe Japan. According to Professor Brown, Japan has maintained very high prices of rice and yet Japan has not increased the production. In other words, the increase of rice does not warrant the increase of wood production. But that is not the proper observation. In Japan, we're trying to limit the production of rice. The same is true in the United States and also in the European Union. It is a policy matter which may be subject to criticism. But the fact that we are limiting, we are trying to reduce food production means that there are certain potentials that can be tapped. So, if the market is there where they can sell the products at a higher price, then people will start to produce, but that portion is missing in Professor Brown's report. But we do have some potentials, there are many factors of uncertainty.

In 1973, in the United States, the wheat price increased three fold all of a sudden. The petroleum crisis also triggered the increase of consumer prices and it has really caused many troubles on the side of world economy, including Japan. Now Japan is 100% dependent on the import of soybeans from the United States. And all of a sudden, the US exports only half of Japan's need.

The fact that food exists on this planet Earth does not assure the distribution or the supply of that food. Food apparently seems to have the nationality, the place of origin. And when there is shortage of food, shall we transcend the national boundaries, and even they distribute food amongst those in need, maybe not. When there is a dire shortage, countries will tend to protect his or her own citizens to the fullest, maybe, at the expense of neighboring countries. So, even the distribution of food is not warranted.

Therefore, as I have said yesterday, not all countries share same set of agriculture resources: Climate is different; the rainfall is different; the area of cultivated land is different; all are different. And some countries have a very advantageous set of conditions for agricultural production, others not. Those disadvantaged countries, which have a lower income level, mostly the developing nations, the nations with very scarce agricultural resources would come under serious pressure at times of crisis. Therefore, international cooperation to overcome such is needed.

Also in 1975, the FAO meeting in Rome took place, and it was a good conference, an international conference. Up until then, the United States were the major suppliers/exporters of food to those countries in need, but in 1975, the United States declared that they can no longer bid as a supplier or exporter of food to other countries. Instead, they have called upon those countries to increase their food production. And at that time, it was also called upon the countries to accumulate their stock of reserve food, but this has never happened. We do not have a stockpile of food, but maybe, this is the right time to stop and think again that we should be building up a reserve, and this is a global responsibility.

This policy may generate economic losses. True, but it has ensured stability of society and, maybe, it is essential that we build such food stockpile.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you very much. That was by nice. We have ten more minutes. So, if anybody wants to comment... Now, Madam.

HON. NAFSIAN MBOI (INDONESIA):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and for all three speakers who have given us a very clear and interesting presentation.

What I would like to comment on Professor Kuroda's presentation is, or, maybe, we should make clear that shortage of food in our countries usually mean shortage of rice, which is wrong. Because I have lived for a long time, more than ten years, for instance, in Timor, where it's a very dry area, and corn was the staple food. But because our policy has always been rice cultivation, and it is impossible because rice cultivation is very expensive in many areas, like in Timor, even impossible, because of the very low rainfall and so, there is no water for irrigation.

So maybe, we should make clear that shortage of food is not equal to shortage of rice, or the other way around. Shortage of rice is not equal to shortage of food. So, maybe, I would like to have your comment, instead of only -- that we should not only stress in rice production, but also diversification of staple food, like corn, cassava, sorghum, yam, et cetera.

And secondly, where agriculture is impossible, to really stress on cash crops and increase the buying capacity of the people, plus improve the distribution policy, so that people there can still buy food if they cannot produce.

The second is, Dr. Chadha, I was very much impressed with the comprehensive, and very positive, agricultural policy. I wonder where is the human resource development in this whole policy. I missed it. Because we know that these policies are good, but the same, too, have forgotten the people. Especially the human resource development which, as we know in our countries, are... really need different training, a different way of thinking. And even, different or new values and... values and habits, this counts for both men and women.

I hope you can give us more information on that.

Thank you.

HON. GHASSAN TAYARA (SYRIA):

Thank you very much. First of all, I understand the question that what our Forum should act for the coming years about food security. From this point of view, I think, we should raise some questions.

First, do you think that each country can build for her own strategy for food security without the connection with food security in all over the world, or let us say, it was all over the countries of Asia? Of course, any strategy in any country goes different. And according to land possibility, water possibility, technology also, as we know now in some countries, there is some kind of using food as a weapon. And many conflicts happen between countries according to their supply of food. And when we are speaking about food, I don't think about rice or grain, but also meat and fishing. And for example, less than six months ago, there were problems between Canada and Spain about fishing; and between Spain and Morocco about fishing. So, I think, we should have some kind of high strategy for our country together... Otherwise, it is impossible to speak about food security for each country.

Thank you

DR. SHIGETO KAWANO (JAPAN):

Should we talk about the national strategy or the global strategy, I think, that is the question. I basically think that the countries and parties who have concern should take initiative in addressing this. It's not that someone will be addressing the issue for you, whether it is your own responsibility to think about your food security and take initiative in mustering collective efforts. And, therefore, the relevant countries should all start with themselves, start with your own strategy, your own problem.

MR. KAMAL MOHAN CHADHA (INDIA):

Thank you, Madam, for addressing that issue about human resources development. Actually, you are right that in the original policy which we have adopted, human resources development is mentioned. Here, I've taken only extracts from that – it is not the actual policy that is the subject of the comment. And here, I have mentioned research and education, so the education probably takes care of... I sort of compressed it, but actually in the original policy, HR&D takes authority.

HON. YOSHIO YATSU (JAPAN):

From the parliamentarians' appointed bill regarding the FAO World Summit and the issue of population and food security, I would like to share with you some insights regarding the Asian strategy. The world population growth rate is declining in recent years. However, the absolute number of population is increasing especially in developing countries, and that is true here in Asia as well. Whereas, looking at supply and demand of food, there is a dramatic economic growth in Eastern Asian countries as well as in Asian countries, and in China as well. High economic growth rates are expected to continue in the future. The tradition of food consumption patterns is maintained but at the same time, we are seeing the modernization of the dietary habit.

So, in addition to the consumption of food increase, we are seeing an increase in the consumption of livestock cattle, meaning more feed grains would be needed as well. So, I think this will be a new approach that we need.

Since the Green Revolution, the production capability was enhanced in Asian countries, but now it has become difficult, I think, for them to produce their own feed grain in their own countries to feed the cattle farm. And we are at the same time seeing deforestation and degradation which is weakening the agricultural foundation.

So, from this perspective, the long-term and medium-term supply and demand of food would be affected by the environmental degradation of agriculture as well. So, it is not likely that we can continue to expect the growth in food production as we have seen in the past. So, there is a possibility that we will face a serious shortage of food, especially when we think about food security in Asia. Securing the stable supply for the peoples is one of the basic policy matters for all countries.

The elimination of famine and malnutrition is, of course, a must. But the dynamic changes in demography will have to be taken into consideration in trying to secure the food supply as well. This would mean that the exporting countries and the importing countries, such as Japan, as well as the developing countries and the low consuming countries, have different situations, so they need different kinds of food security strategies. And in sub-Saharan areas, the focus of attention is on the famine in that area. But this is not limited to that part of the world. We are seeing similar situations in Asian countries as well.

Being part of the Asian region, I believe that at the FAO Food Summit, we have to address this issue from a global perspective. And also in order to achieve food security, sustainable agricultural food production will have to be the basis of national development. And also another approach that will be needed is to secure ways for the income of the people. So, WTO export-import issues are being addressed in relation to food. But I think that is not enough. I think we have to take our own initiatives and perspective in addressing the food security issue. And therefore, at this conference, as parliamentarians, I feel the need to come up with some kind of appeal or initiative in order to maintain and increase the agricultural production and to further promote the development of rural areas here in Asia, the cooperation is needed.

Japan shares that view so I would be more than happy to hear the insights from my colleagues.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you very much for valuable insights. There are surplus countries and deficit countries and the conventional way is to address these countries with different approaches. However, I think we will be able to have a more encouraging approach if we can combine the two approaches, the universal approach.

HON. MARGARITO B. TEVES (PHILLIPINES):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a few questions on the paper "Sustainable Food Production in India." Perhaps, I would like to address this question to Mr. Kamal Mohan Chadha (India):

In the paper, it is said that India is self-sufficient in food grains, and to me, it's quite fantastic. In fact, the paper suggested that there is even a reserve. What is not clear to me are the following:

One, if we focus on some staples that are probably relevant in some Asian countries like the Philippines, rice for example, I would like to find out what would be the yield per hectare in the case of rice in India.

And secondly, in the process of achieving self-sufficiency in food grain, I would like to find out how much of the government's budget, whether national or local or combined, was allocated to food and related services in arriving at self-sufficiency.

And third, whether the policy of self-sufficiency will continue in India, because I would like to find out whether they should be a model. Self-sufficiency is an approach toward food security, but it could also be a kind approach for self-sufficiency in one or two major crops and also self-reliance on other crops. In other words, it need not necessarily be just the approach that is self-sufficiency, because we are looking at aspects like comparative advantage here. In other words, there might be a cost associated with the approach or strategy of arriving at self-sufficiency versus a combination of self-sufficiency in few products and self-reliance. So, it is possible that the resources of the country can be reallocated to other activities, not necessarily in agriculture, but in other industrial activities, but having the resources to access the other crops where the country might not have the comparative advantage.

So, in summary, three issues: One is the yield per hectare per rice; two, the budgetary support to food and related services as a person of the total budget; and three, would be the kind of strategy so this will continue as, you know, in the light of also increasing population, we might need some areas for other activities. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you.

MR. KAMAL MOHAN CHADHA (INDIA):

As far as the productivity of rice is concerned, it was 668 kg per hectare in 1950-51. Today, we are at 1879 kg per hectare.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

One thousand eight hundred seventy nine?

MR. KAMAL MOHAN CHADHA (INDIA):

One thousand eight hundred seventy-nine (1,879) kilograms per hectare of rice production is the productivity as it stands today. So it has gone up from 670 or so in 50's. In the last 40 years, it has gone up to more than three time or so. So that is the increase in pro-

ductivity because of our various development activities, research and inputs and other improved practice which we are having.

As far as the budgetary allocation is concerned, actually, I would like to mention that unfortunately, it is not keeping pace with our requirements. We have been saying that our budgetary allocation should be more than five percent of the total allocation, but actually, it is about 2.5%. So we have been trying to object to the Planning Commission. So we have been writing to the Planning Commission to please increase our resources. The question is not only one of self-sufficiency. We may be self-sufficient in food grains, but if we have produced more, we can export more and then generate self-sufficiency for other sectors. So we're never content with whatever we've got. What I'm trying to say is that we would like to produce more and then export. But the problem today is that we're having less investment in the agricultural sector. So as I mentioned in the agricultural policy, one of the aims of the agricultural policy is to increase investment, especially, on infrastructure development like irrigation, roads, transportation and other activities. And if you've seen in my paper, the credit input has gone up more than double in the last five years, from 115,060 million rupees in 1991-1992 to 211,113 million rupees, more than double the investment, not only in the government sector, but then from the credit portion also, they are increasing the investment. What the farmer needs is money. Actually, he is in need of work. But you must give him the support which is required in terms of cash condition. So that is very, very clear if you see this input portion. In the last three, four years, the agricultural credit has gone up from 115,060 million to 211,113 million, so that is essential for the increase in the agricultural sector which we are having. Is there any question?

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

The question was: policy of self-sufficiency in agriculture will continue.

MR. KAMAL MOHAN CHADHA (INDIA):

Sir, as I told you, we have no more time to address this as plain and simple. We have, too, surpluses for export only. As far as the question about cash crops is concerned, that I did not touch yet, but we got most of our exports through cash crops. So we've got lots of emphasis on tobacco, they sell fruits, horticulture, forests, vegetables, flowers, all these cash crops are also getting their investment. But I think that paper talks only of food grains. I'm given these 192 million tons of food grains production against the requirement of 160 to 170 million tons every year which we are having. So this food grain production increases for rice, meat, barley, and oilseeds. So in self-sufficiency, it is there, but again, we have to keep our fingers crossed. One bad season of monsoon rains and then the whole thing will go bad. Thank you.

HON. MARGARITO B. TEVES (PHILLIPINES):

Follow P and A clarification. The equivalent of a little over 1,800 in terms of production of rice, that's equivalent to 1.9 tons per hectare, right? You said that productivity has

increased from a little over 600 kilos to close to 1,900 kilos. So that's roughly about 1.9. Is it 1.9 tons per hectare? Can you -- I cannot hear.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

It will be quintels, hundred quinties make one quintel. Hundred quinties make one ton. So that is the ratio. So this will be 18 point some quintels, it's not tons.

HON. MARGARITO B. TEVES (PHILLIPINES):

What is the equivalent of that in metric tons?

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Point zero one eight (.018) tons.

HON. MARGARITO B. TEVES (PHILLIPINES):

Per hectare?

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Yes, I don't know what will be...

HON. MARGARITO B. TEVES (PHILLIPINES):

Yes, I'd like clarification on the 2.5% allocated to agriculture ... maybe just for clarity and the terms of reference. Does this include a) investment in infrastructure supporting agriculture like road, farm-to-market roads, irrigation, post-harvest facilities; and b) is this exclusively national government without the support from the local government?

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Sir, I'd like to mention that this is the investment which is being made at the central level. We have got the investment at the central level and then the state level. So the central level is 2.5% of the gross national budget at the national level. But what is more important is that the farmer is investing his own money. See, they are only supporting some infrastructure development, some schemes, some pilot projects, some training activities, extension activities, but the farmer on his own is investing a lot, and that is where this credit thing -- I've mentioned that he's taking the loan from the bank -- they're putting it in the field, plus his own money also. So there is lot of investment other than the government sector. I will say that the government sector is negligible compared to what the farmer is investing on his own in the agriculture sector.

Just to supplement. Actually, the farmer does the farming and the government only provides some loan if needed. So the farmer buys the seed. The farmer tills the land and the farmer produces, so the majority of investment belongs to him. This 2.5% is more or less for rural development of seeds, education and agriculture colleges and other agriculture

input because we have development officers, then you have agriculture extension officers. So these all in first picture is expenses on the infrastructure mostly. And also, yes, there is subsidy here.

So actually, subsidy, because after this liberalization policy, we have tried to do remedy because we are not giving subsidy only to a few selected for parties in the northeast region. Then also for seed transportation to transport the seed in the very remote areas. So they give them transport subsidy for seed development plus we give some subsidy on fertilizer input because fertilizer. But otherwise, for machinery, for marketing, for other things, there is no subsidy. But we give them marketing support, like supporting the cost of production of per year of rice at 200 rupees per quintel. So we will see that the farmer gets about 200 of this. So he will make a margin of 100 rupees on his investment so that when the prices get collected every year, all the cost of production is taken into account. There is what is known as the Committee on Agriculture Cost and Prices. So the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices, every year, goes through the details of the investment which the farmer has to make, and then they fix the prices so that the farmer can get some profitable income out of that, plus so that the consumer, like me, is not into hardship. If they fix the price very high, then I will have to suffer. So there is a balance between the cost for the producer and for the consumer like me.

HON. SYED ZAFAR ALI SHAR (PAKISTAN):

Thank you very much for giving me this time. I'm really very much interested in this impressive paper of Dr. Chadha since India is self-sufficient. So I don't think they need this food security. I would just mention in favor of those countries who are still not self-sufficient, who are depending on their imports, the countries which really need the global supervision and the areas in dire need of security regarding the food. There are three factors -- one is the resource, one is the manpower, and then the technology. These countries are lacking out of these three factors, either one or two. So, these are the real countries which need global supervision to provide them the factor which they are missing. Out of these -- but of the resource...(Sound defect)...rice, wheat, corn and such things. That needs proper integration and these resources could be introduced so that farmers and fishermen can get the know-how and enrich their talents by utilizing these resources. And they would also be in dire need of infrastructure, like you mentioned, that they might need some pilot projects and all such things.

This morning, I talked to the Professor. He heard of some problems in our part of Pakistan, which I come from. We have two problems. One problem in that part of the country is that of silt. We have the water level up to the surface. So, that makes the ground "incredible". So, we put in two wells to drain the water, to make the water level drop.

In the other part of the country which I come from, we have the only source of water for our agriculture is underground water. The underground water level is 400 feet to 500 feet below ground level. To pump that water for agriculture purposes, we need electricity. So, that electricity costs us ten times that of another country where the water level is just 10 feet or 12 feet below ground level. So, I'm sure that there are also such problems in other

parts of the globe. With underdeveloped countries, such are the problems that really need global supervision and security.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Anybody else? Nobody?

HON. TOYOAKI OTA (JAPAN):

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

My colleague, Honorable Yatsu, who spoke before me, but as we are going to shift our focus to food, I would like to share some of my thoughts with you.

As was mentioned already by many different countries, they have their different problems and challenges and different sets of conditions. Now, we believe that food security is essential and maybe, we must have a concept that we must be self-sufficient. That should be at the base of philosophy or strategy.

But as three distinguished intellectuals have said, the population growth is continuing. It really took the slowing down of food production to increase. So, it is quite likely that in the near future, we may face the shortage of food, we might see an increased population who are suffering from malnutrition. And that may give rise to uncertainties, disputes, confrontation and even conflict.

So, food is of such value. We must think of a mechanism that, no matter where you are born, where you are living, you must be assured of sufficient food to live.

Now, Professor Kawano has talked about stock-piling of food, of having reserves. And maybe, that should be discussed from global perspective as well. Again, agriculture is closely related to environmental issues. He talked about slash and burn approach, or we also have suffered from too much input of chemical fertilizers, thus contaminating the underground water.

So what we do today may create sufferings on the part of our children and grandchildren. We must make sure that we do not contaminate or sacrifice this Mother Earth, just to secure enough food for us today.

If you recall, my colleague Hon. Yatsu, talked about the World Trade Organizations role. It is an excellent mechanism. But maybe, agriculture has special, unique distinctions or features that would require, maybe, a different perspective or further discussions on our part.

With due respect to World Trade Organization, maybe we should be getting together and think very seriously about what we can do in terms of food and goods security. And we hope that Asian Parliamentarians can take initiative in this regard.

DR. SHIGETO KAWANO (JAPAN):

We see that each nation is actually beset with problems. And be aware of that some of the problems are as I have mentioned a while ago. But that what is present right now is the population has grown to this number, and still we are maintaining peace in this world. I feel that it is a responsibility of all human kind, that each and every one of us must see to it that no one suffers starvation.

And I have listened to your words with much interest, and I agree with you a hundred percent.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you very much for your contribution.

HON. YOSHIO YATSU (JAPAN):

May I say something in relation to the Honorable Ota? I think it was a very important issue that he has pointed out. Also Dr. Kawano followed it and gave us a very important comment.

We have actually introduced this session to this conference and I feel that we must continue this in the future, and appeal to the whole world on this issue. I hope my colleagues will think about this.

DR. TOSHIO KURODA (JAPAN):

I would just like to mention a little bit about population, and would you been with me for a few more minutes, please?

I mentioned that the world population is increasing and when we look at this, I feel that 30 years from now are really the critical years. And if we did not have this past 30 years' experience, on the other hand, I don't think we would have anything that we see in the agriculture area today.

Population growth, I think, and the number of population must be taken into consideration. We must not forget the growth of population. Was it mentioned by the Pakistan delegation, that the issue of food and population is really a global issue? Each nation has its own characteristics and its own problems and we must actually meet those problems and issues.

But, I think, in many of the countries, and I think Japan including, agricultural productivity will not actually reach the levels of economic development and also population growth. And if that is so, we must actually have a global system where we can take measures and resolve these issues.

I feel that with the increase of the world population, we must relate this to food. And you must all remember that the United Nations' projection goes farther and tosses up some-

thing very, very in particular. And we must read from the United Nations' statistics that there is a serious problem ahead of us. Of this somehow I ask a comment and I would like you to consider this issue. We have talked about the women's issue until now, but when we talk about agricultural labor, I think, in Asia most of the agricultural laborers are women, and I think this cannot be separated from the women's issues. And I feel that we have not really had a separate deliberation on the separate topic, but I think women's issues and labor and agriculture sectors are closely related.

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Thank you very much. It looks to be very stimulating

The one thing which I want to inform you is that in preparation to the World Food Summit, there are several activities which are being conducted by the different UN agencies. There will already be different heads of UN agencies attending. There will already be different heads of states attending, those who will meet under the different avenues like the Organization of African Unity, the Sub-Meeting, and the ASEAN meeting. They have already had some kind of discussion on food security in the past. But the meetings which are going to take place this year in preparation to the World Food Summit, there will be a session which is actually going to be conducted in Asia from 14th to 18th of May. This will be the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. This would also make preparations for the World Food Summit and have discussions on regional and sub-regional dimensions.

And then from 17th to 23rd of June, there would be a technical conference on Plant Genetics and Resources in Germany, and this outcome would also be held into the Summit. Then from 2nd to 6th of July, there will be a Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

And then there is the Committee on World Food Security that will meet in September 1996. The venue has not yet been decided. That Committee would actually synthesize all the inputs which they have got on regional agreements and regional documents and will put a summation to this summit.

Then the FAO, its own council, the governing council of FAO is going to meet from 1st to 10th of October in Rome and that will review all the arrangements and all the documentation.

And then on 11th and 12th of November, before the World Summit, there will be a Senior Official's meeting which is normally a you know, and then they will discuss point by point and word by word all the regulations and all the documents which is to be presented to the summit.

And then on 13th to 17th November, there will be a Food Summit in Rome. What we are planning is, to try and see whether we can organize a Parliamentarians' Conference along which is on the 10th and 11th of November so that a parliamentarian delegation could also participate into the World Food Summit and present its point of view. And we are

seeking the help of several people on that and the prominent one is the former Minister of Agriculture from Japan. Hon. Yatsu? So, he will be also helping in that direction.

So, from now on, our direction for this year in the Asian Forum would be devoted to the World -- to the food security and population, and we are requesting other regional parliamentary organization to also devote in that area.

With this view, I would like to thank Honorable Speakers here, I'm sure that they have contributed very well and we invite you for a cup of tea before the closing session. The closing session will start here at what time? So, we'll start the closing session immediately after tea at four thirty.

Thank you very much.

Closing Ceremony

[17:00~17:30, February 13, 1996]

MR. TSUGUO HIROSE (APDA):

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for waiting. We would now like to start the closing ceremony.

We have been in this room for many, many hours and we have had very active and very fruitful deliberation and discussion by the parliamentarians gathered here today. The secretariat of APDA, thanks you all from the bottom of our hearts.

First of all, I would like to call on the Chairman of APDA, Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, please.

Closing Remarks
by
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda
Chairman,
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

I wish to thank the distinguished participants of this meeting for engaging in enthusiastic discussion for the last two days. Having had the honor of participation by His Excellency President Ramos in the opening ceremony, I believe that this year's meeting has been a memorable event for the parliamentarians from various countries. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated cooperation of the organizers in the Philippines, including Honorable Senator Shahani. As a result of the efforts made by all the participating parliamentarians, the Manila Resolution was officially adopted at this year's meeting. I offer my hearty congratulations.

The Manila Resolution is a fruit of all the efforts that were made in Asia with regard to the women's issues in response to discussions that have taken place since the 10th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in 1994 until this meeting. At the same time, it is a significant result that takes into consideration the discussions in the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Cairo, the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development in Copenhagen, the Indochina Women's Conference, the AFPPD Women's Committee Meeting, which was held last year in Manila, and the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development in Tokyo. This Resolution also sums up all discussions that have taken place among the more than 600 parliamentarians from over 250 participating countries.

It is also a concentrated "Resolution" for solving the issues of women, gender, population and development that have taken place around the world in the last three years. It would be an extraordinary pleasure for us, as the sponsor of this meeting, if this Resolution could be personally handed over to your governments by you, and contribute to solving the issues of population and development in Asia.

We also have a roundtable discussions on the second day to prepare for the World Food Summit which will be held by the FAO in November of this year in Rome. It makes the first step taken by Asia to address the issue of Population and Food Security -- an issue that will determine the fate of humanity.

Population and food is a very important issue on which the survival of human race rests; it is also an issue that cannot be solved without the effort and cooperation of all of you to whom the administration has been committed by the people of your respective countries. Although we, the Asian Population and Development Association, are a small organization, we will continue to make further efforts to support your activities.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest appreciation again to the efforts made by the organizers in the Philippines who have done such a perfect job in organizing these meetings. With my prayers for your continued health and happiness, I declare the meeting closed.

Thank you very much

MR. TSUGUO HIROSE (APDA):

Now I would like to call a man, a representative of IPPF, International Planned Parenthood Federation, who has been very cooperative in our activities. It is my honor to call on V.T. Palan, Regional Director of IPPF-ESEAOR.

Closing Remarks
by
Mr. V. T. Palan
Regional Director, IPPF-ESEAOR

Honorable Senator Shahani, Honorable Mr. Maeda, Honorable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to say a few words at the closing ceremony of the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. The International Planned Parenthood Federation which, as all of you know, is the largest international Non-Governmental Organization in family planning and reproductive health, which has members of 140 countries throughout the world, has always held the view that any significant progress in the field of sexual and reproductive health must have the support of parliamentarians. Without the commitment, both financial and programmatically, from parliamentarians, we will never be able to deliver our programs in our respective countries. The harder and more complex the task we undertake, the more critical becomes the role of parliamentarians in ensuring commitment and support nationally and internationally. It is therefore a particular pleasure to note that this 12th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development has totally committed itself to promoting family planning and reproductive health concerns in Asia.

The theme of this meeting is "Women in the 21st Century" and how they can be brought into the mainstream of economic and social development to ensure their prosperity and societal equality and peace. There can be no doubt that if we are to address reproductive health issues seriously, the obvious links between population growth and sustainable development cannot be ignored. And in addressing population growth, the pivotal roles women must play needs to be appreciated and promoted. We are particularly pleased to note that the Manila Resolution on Gender and Population covers the various dimension of the issue.

There is no doubt that this document, unanimously approved by this meeting, contains several important and forward-looking strategies. The reaffirmation of equitable participation of women to solve population and social development issues is particularly timely. Undoubtedly, as this Manila document has emphasized, we need to concern ourselves with the question of women and health. In looking question of women, the need for all countries in Asia to allocate optimal resources to the education of women, must clearly assume the highest importance. Without educational opportunities to the highest level possible, there will be very little scope in empowering women and their legitimate concerns. Indeed, one could even say the once educational rights are in place and implemented, some of the health and reproductive health rights fall consequentially in the right context.

Of equal concern must be the question of empowerment of women in society and in the economy. Once again, the Manila document quite rightly focuses on this issue. Since the majority of the population in most Asian countries live in rural areas, therefore, the strategies must focus on this segment of the population -- the marginalized, the under-served women living in the rural areas, it is no longer appropriate that much of our focus continues to be on the smaller, but relatively better off, living in urban centers. The role of the media in bringing to focus the often deplorable situation of women in rural areas has to be highlighted. None of these empowerment, education, and job opportunities can come to fruition if developmental resources are not made available. While many developing countries will continue to require external assistance, there must be sufficient momentum within countries to allocate developmental resources to this important area of family planning and reproductive health. The role of parliamentarians, at the national level, to bring up this complex interrelationship between population, status of women, maternal and child health and sustainable development cannot be over-emphasized. Parliamentarians have a unique and important role in taking forward clear strategies into implementable programs by ensuring that development resources are being made available.

In delivering programs, the role of non-governmental sector and in particular, organizations involved in sexual and reproductive health issues must be strengthened and encouraged even further. Therefore, the International Planned Parenthood Federation is particularly pleased to note that due recognition has been given to the close partnership between governmental machinery and non-governmental organizations in promoting opportunities for women, both in their own development. It is our view that the Manila document should be widely disseminated at national parliamentary forums so that there is an even greater awareness of the strategies required and the greater willingness to provide development resources for program implementation.

The Asian parliamentarians can be justifiably pleased at having systematically addressed this issue at "Women in the 21st Century", through the Manila resolution.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. TSUGUO HIROSE (APDA):

In this connection, we have had the honor of the presence of His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, and we have been given the wholehearted support of the peoples of the Philippines, as well as the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines.

It is my honor to introduce the Honorable Leticia Ramos-Shahani, Senate President Pro-Tempore, Republic of the Philippines.

Closing Remarks
by
Hon. Leticia Ramos-Shahani
Senate President Protempore, The Republic of the Philippines

Mr. Maeda, Mr. Palan, all of the distinguished members of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development -- and I'm glad to see that there's still a majority of us left this afternoon, all of the members of the APDA -- my colleagues in the Philippine Congress, and the members of the Secretariat. I am pleased and honored to join the Closing Ceremony of our Meeting this afternoon, that is the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. I, therefore, am happy to participate in these closing meetings on behalf of the Philippine Government, the host government of this event, as well as on behalf of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development.

I believe Mr. Maeda has already given you a background to the two main themes of this meeting, that is on women and food security.

Let us have the opportunity, with your permission, to go back to the background of the Manila Resolution on Women, Gender, Population and Development. I think, it is important for us to be clear about this because we have arrived to be proud in being able to be part of the mainstream of international and regional conference, and at the same time, be able to take initiative on our own.

It will be recalled that two years ago in the historical meeting in Cairo on population and development, representatives of one hundred eighty (180) states agreed that empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health and health services, skills development and employment, and through their full involvement in policy and decision-making processes at all levels, was the key to improving the quality of life for everyone.

Last July in Manila, women parliamentarians from ten Asian countries -- and I'm glad to see that some of our sister parliamentarians are present also at this meeting today and yesterday -- we all assembled here and sounded the call for increased advocacy and regional cooperation in the area of women's concerns.

In the subsequent gathering of world leaders in Beijing last September 1995, for the 4th World Conference on Women, the entire world community committed itself to the broadening of women's economic opportunities, promoting education for all, particularly for the girl-child -- which was very much welcomed in the Asian region -- improving girls' and women's health, and protecting the human rights of women to enable them to participate in decision-making in the family and society. The declaration, which was made in the Vienna conference on human rights when it was said that women's rights are human rights -- and human rights are women's rights -- was again affirmed in Beijing.

When we opened this conference yesterday, President Fidel V. Ramos proclaimed that it would be impossible for any government to solve population issues and attain social and sustainable development without the equal and equitable participation of women.

In identifying Asia as the “Colossus of the 21st Century,” President Ramos also affirmed that women will play a special role within our cultures and our societies as agents of growth and change, and that the ultimate test of our humanity and of our own societies is our ability to share rights privileges, and responsibilities of decision-making with our women.

Today, with the approval of the Manila Resolution on Women, Gender, Population and Development, we have taken another decisive step in his growing and booming region of the Asia and Pacific area, but where there are also so many islands of poverty and misery towards institutionalizing into the legislative agenda of our respective parliaments.

We affirm in this document that women’s empowerment remains the key to population and social development, and that the partnership between men and women is paramount to the success of population programs. I believe that we have to reassure the Asian men that what we want here is not reverse discrimination, but rather a balanced relationship of gender equity between men and women, not based on inferiority or superiority, but based on respect and dignity of the human person.

We also reassert our conviction that regardless of the diversity of our cultural, religious, political and economic conditions, we can still forge a common consensus as to how to address basic human issues and human rights and responsibilities.

This evening, we close this meeting of nearly fifty parliamentarians from sixteen countries securing the thought that political leaders from the Asian and Pacific region will continue to lead the global parliamentarians’ movement in ensuring that the last three decades of the women’s struggle for equality and equity have not been in vain.

While we congratulate ourselves for a job well-done and for being in the mainstream of international and regional initiatives, let me inject a note of sobriety to our gathering this afternoon by saying that, while we look forward in anticipation to the so called “Century of Women,” we should stop looking at women only in the context of the future.

I submit that women have always plays a central role in human development, but humanity has always been unable to acknowledge this reality because we have been trapped in a gender-biased prism of development that tended to view women’s contributions in gender stereotypes.

During the First Industrial Revolution in 18th Century Europe and 19th Century America, this was indeed the industrial revolution of men because the world needed men since they possessed the muscles to operate the engines of industry -- I would say the muscles and the brain, of course, to operate the engines of industry -- machines and other equipment and tools that women were not able to physically to operate.

But in the 21st Century -- this is the Second Industrial Revolution -- the machinery needed for technical revolution have changed. The use of computers, cellular phones, fiber optics technology require a different set of skills to harness technology, more delicate, lighter touch and the kind of attention too detailed which have now made women indispensable to the high-tech industries all around the world. This where the skills of women are not only important but they will be indispensable to the revolution of the Second Industrial Revolution of the 21st Century.

The AFPPD Chairman Shin Sakurai and just now APDA Chairman Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda were correct in saying that Asia was the first to recognize the powerful role of parliamentarians in addressing population issues. The leadership of the Asian Forum was also instrumental in the formation of a Special Committee on Women -- the first among all regional parliamentarians associations, and the model for the rest of the world.

Let me then take this occasion to reiterate the call that the women parliamentarians made in this same venue last year that the AFPPD undertake a comparative inventory of the existing legislation in our respective countries on women's issues and on related issues like families and children, to serve as the guide in developing legislative priorities toward the empowerment of women in the context of population and development issues.

It is about time perhaps that we developed within our organization a "Regional Gender Watch" Report which will serve to monitor how far we have come as countries and as a region, in ensuring that the mandates of Cairo and Beijing and of our own meetings are implemented through legislation and sufficient budgetary allocations which, after all, are within our power to give as parliamentarians.

The AFPPD Committee on Women asked the participants in the Manila Conference last year to send in their list of the AFPPD Bangkok office for appropriate action. Given the urgency of this initiatives, I should like to announce, as Chairperson of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development that our Association here in the Philippines is ready and willing to assist in whatever capacity, to ensure that this project is completed at the earliest time. I think this would also be a good addition or input to our proceedings on the World Summit on Food.

As elected representatives of our people, I believe it is also our duty to be able to bring the Manila Resolution to the grassroots level so that the common women, the women in the rural areas, the marginalized women will receive the good news that their women leaders are cognizant of their needs wherever they may be.

Finally, as we prepare for the food security summit this year, we likewise need to prepare a regional inventory of population and food security priorities with special emphasis on the role of women in agriculture, in the food processing industry and in other related fields of food security to become a basis for the various national meetings which will culminate in the regional conference.

I am sure, however, that the value of this meeting was not only to come and deal with documentation but more importantly maybe to deepen our friendship with one another

and to realize that all of us, although we belong to different countries in the Asian region, have common goals and have shared values as we face the third millennium.

So, I would like to express a personal note and say how happy I am to see all of you again, many of us are really I would say scarred veterans of many drafting groups and resolutions in Cairo and Beijing and Copenhagen and maybe we shall see each other in Rome again. But I think you can call this the Asian and the women's Mafia in the parliamentarians' group all over the world and I really would like to say how happy we are that you are here in the Philippines.

I must express some regret that I have not been able to be with you more often, but we are really at the height of our legislative activities. But at least, Congresswoman Oreta and I have really tried to give our very best and utmost time so that we could spend more time with you. And I would like to apologize for any shortcomings which, as hosts, we may have overlooked, but I would like to say how happy we are to see you again and it is with a lot of affection and with a lot of pride that we have received you in our country.

I would like to bid my special thanks to my Japanese sister, Madame Nohno who I know did not maybe sleep too well last night because she chaired the Drafting Group and Doctor Madam Mboi who I think also carried the torch for everybody. But I think we have evolved in this group a kind of sisterhood and a brotherhood which I am sure will carry us to our other meeting in the world and also in this very important region of Asia and the Pacific.

So, on behalf of Congresswoman Oreta and myself, may we wish you a very happy trip back home, Bon Voyage, Sayonara and Maligayang Paglalakbay, as we say in Filipino, but as we say in French Au Revoir, and of course you know what that means. I hope we shall see each other again. Thank you very much (Applause)

THE CHAIRPERSON (MR. SHIV KHARE):

Leticia Shahani, thank you very much for your excellent and heartwarming greetings. And I would like also to thank Mr. Palan and Mr. Maeda for their greetings as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the 12th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. Before closing, on behalf of APDA, I would like to thank you all. APDA is working for the future of Mankind and the future of the Earth. And we are committed to making study steps forward and I wish you every success and we would like to ask for your continued support and cooperation. Thank you.

List of Participants

AUSTRALIA

Hon. Colin Hollis, MP Parliament of Australia

INDIA

Hon. Jangbir Singh, MP

Mr. Kamal Mohan Chadha Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

Mr. Man Mohan Sharma Executive Secretary, Indian Association of Parliamentarians of Population and Development (IAPPD)

INDONESIA

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Hon. Nieke Iswardani Indonesian Parliament
Kuryana

Hon. Soekati Marwoto, MP Indonesian Parliament

Hon. Awang Faroek Ishak Indonesian Parliament

Ms. Karen Houston Smith International Development Consultant
Advisor to Dr. Nafisah Mboi

JAPAN

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Executive Director, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

Hon. Yoshio Yatsu, MP Member, JPFP

Hon. Masaru Hayakawa, MP Member, JPFP

Hon. Shozou Azuma, MP	Director, JFPF
Hon. Hiroshi Sudou, MP	Member, JFPF
Hon. Toyoaki Ohta, Senator	Member, JFPF
Hon. Chieko Nohno, Senator	Member, JFPF
Hon. Masako Ohwaki, Senator	Member, JFPF

KOREA

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Ms. Soo-Kyung Youn	Secretary

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Mohd. Soberi Shafii	MPPD - Committee Member
Mohd. Isa Idris	MPPD - Committee Member

NEPAL

Hon. Meena Pandey, MP	
Mr. Moti Bhandari	Senior Officer

NEW ZEALAND

Hon. Janet Mackey, MP	
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PAKISTAN

Hon. Syed Zafar Ali Shah	Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan Chairman, Pakistan Parliamentarians Association on Population and Development
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Hon. Shannaz Javed	National Assembly of Pakistan
Hon. Asad Abid	National Assembly of Pakistan
Hon. Hamed Khan Achakzai	National Assembly of Pakistan

PHILIPPINES

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	PLCPD Chairperson for the Senate
Hon. Burgos Drive	Senator
Hon. Heherson Alvarez, MP	
Rep. Teresa Aquino Oreta	PLCPD Chairperson for the House of Representatives
Rep. Margarito B. Teves	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Leonor Luciano	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Charito Plaza	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Temistocles Dejon	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Leopoldo E. San Buenaventura	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Julio Ledesma, IV	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz	Member of the House of Representatives
Rep. Fausto L. Seachon, Jr.	Member of the House of Representatives
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Syrian Arab Republic People's Assembly

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Hon. Tarnthong Thongswasdi, MP

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Hon. Truong Thi Khue, MP

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Dr. Patricia Licuanan Chairperson, United Nations Commission on the
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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

Mr. Hirofumi Ando Deputy Executive Director

Mr. Satish Mehra Representative, Philippines

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF)

Mr. V.T. Palan Regional Director, the East and South East Asia
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