

THE SIXTEENTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*REVIEW OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA
AND PARLIAMENTARIANS' INITIATIVES*

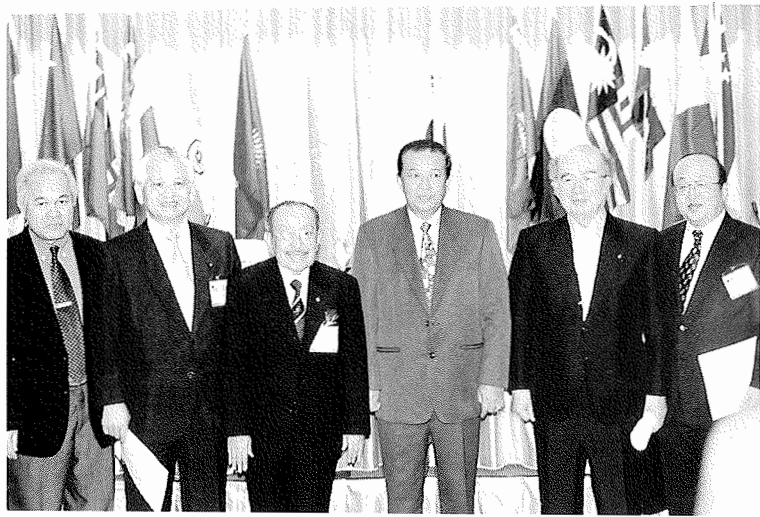
Bangkok, Thailand
March 18-20, 2000



THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(APDA)



Participants of "The 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development"



(from right) Mr. Kunio Waki–UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Taro Nakayama, M.P.–APDA Chairman, H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha–President of National Assembly of Thailand, Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn–AFPPD Secretary General, Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P.–AFPPD Chairman, and Sen. Prof. Dr. Arun Paosawasdi

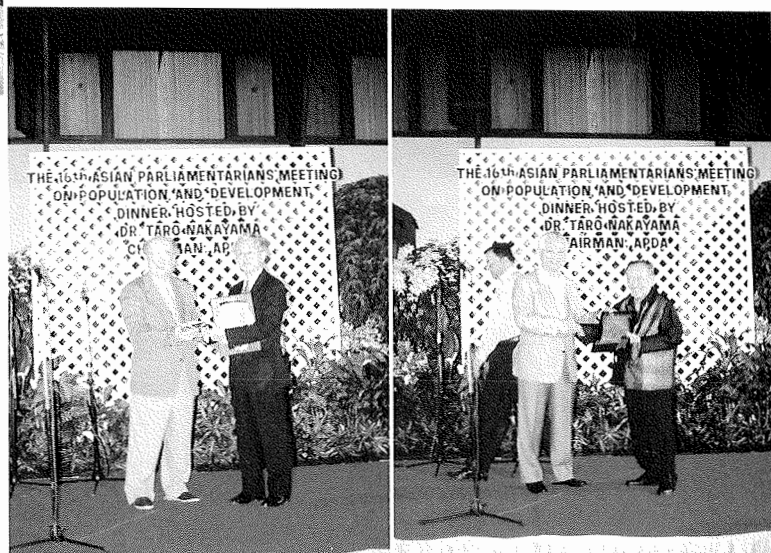
A View from the Meeting



Panel Discussion: (from right) Mr. Chay Wai Chuen, M.P. (Singapore), Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, M.P. (Mongolia), Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P. (Australia)–Rapporteur General, and Mr. Jamgyrbek Bokoshov, M.P. (Kyrgyzstan)

(Left) Presentation of “GIN PAI” from Dr. Taro Nakayama, M.P. to Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Former UNFPA Deputy Executive Director. It also had presented to Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn.

(Right) Presentation of Memento from Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P. to Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn. It also had presented to Dr. Hirofumi Ando.



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PROGRAMME

THE 16TH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REVIEW OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND PARLIAMENTARIANS' INITIATIVES

Focus

To review the status of Population and Development-related issues in the 20th Century, and discuss parliamentarians' initiatives in the 21st Century.

Saturday, March 18, 2000 (1st Day)

Opening Ceremony

- 10:00-11:00 Welcome Address: **Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn**,
Secretary General, AFPPD
Address: **Dr. Taro Nakayama**, Chairman, APDA
Address: **Mr. Shin Sakurai**, Chairman, AFPPD
Address: **Mr. Kunio Waki**, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
Opening Address: **H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha**,
President of the National Assembly of Thailand
- 11:00-11:30 Tea Break / Group Photo
- 11:30-11:45 Special Speaker: **Dr. Hirofumi Ando**, Former Deputy
Executive Director, UNFPA
"Parliamentarians' Role on Population
and Development"
- 12:00-14:00 **Lunch** hosted by **H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha**,
President of the National Assembly of Thailand
- Session 1: Population and Sustainable Development**
—Environment, Food Security, and Water Resource—
- 14:00-14:30 Speaker: **Dr. Lee Jay Cho**, Senior Advisor,
East-West Center
- 14:30-15:00 Speaker: **Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii**, Kyoto University
- 15:00-15:30 Followed by Discussion
- 15:30-15:45 Tea Break
- 15:45-16:45 Discussion to continue
- 19:00- Welcome Dinner** hosted by **Dr. Taro Nakayama**, Chairman, APDA

Sunday, March 19, 2000 (2nd Day)

Session 2: Population and Health

—Infant / Maternal Mortality, Medical Progress and Population—

9:00-9:30 Speaker: **Dr. Somsak Chunharas**, Director,
Bureau of Health Policy Planning,
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

9:30-10:30 Followed by Discussion

10:30-10:45 Tea Break

Session 3: Impact of HIV / AIDS

10:45-11:15 Speaker: **Mr. Steven Kraus**, Programme and External
Relations Adviser, Joint UN Programme on
HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

11:15-12:15 Followed by Discussion

12:15-14:00 Lunch hosted by Mr. Kunio Waki, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Session 4: Population and Social Development

—Five Years from the World Summit on Social Development—

14:00-14:30 Speaker: **Dr. Bienvenido Rola**, Chief, Social Policy and
Integration (of Disadvantaged Groups) Section,
Social Development Division, UN ESCAP

14:30-15:30 Followed by Discussion

15:30-15:45 Tea Break

Session 5: “Five Years from the Forth World Conference on Women”

—Women Issues in Asia, Progress and Constrains—

15:45-16:15 Speaker: **Ms. Lorraine Corner**, Regional Programme
Advisor, UN Development Fund for Women
(UNIFEM)

16:15-16:50 Followed by Discussion

17:00-18:30 27th Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD

**19:00- Dinner hosted by Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn,
Secretary General, AFPPD**

Monday, March 20, 2000 (3rd Day)

Session 6: Globalization and Population Issues

9:00-9:30 Speaker: **Dr. Vipan Prachuabmoh Ruffolo**,
Director, College of Population Studies,
Chulalongkorn University

9:30-10:30 Followed by Discussion

10:30-10:45 Tea Break

Session 7: Population and Development in the 20th Century
—Parliamentarians' Initiatives in 21st Century—

10:45-12:00 Panel discussion

Closing Ceremony

12:00- Address: **Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn**,
Secretary General, AFPPD
Address: **Mr. Shin Sakurai**, Chairman, AFPPD
Address: **Datuk Dr. Raj Karim**, Regional Director,
East & South-East Asian and Oceania Region
International Planned Parenthood Federation
Address **Mr. Colin Hollis**, New Secretary General, AFPPD

13:00- Lunch hosted by Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman, AFPPD

OPENING CEREMONY

Welcome Address

Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Secretary General, AFPPD

Address

Dr. Taro Nakayama
Chairman, APDA

Address

Mr. Shin Sakurai
Chairman, AFPPD

Address

Mr. Kunio Waki
Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Opening Address

H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha
President, National Assembly of Thailand

Special Speaker

Dr. Hirofumi Ando
Former Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Welcome Address

Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Secretary General
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha, Dr. Taro Nakayama, Mr. Shin Sakurai, Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Mr. Kunio Waki and friends.

I welcome you to the land of smile i.e. Thailand-- it actually means “Land of the free people” (Land of freedom). You are here at a time when we celebrate the sixth cycle birth anniversary of our beloved king, and the 100th Anniversary of the Princess Mother – Leader in Humanitarian Action. I am indeed happy that 25 countries are represented here from Asia-Pacific and CIS-countries to discuss issues related to population and development. In the year 2000, Asia has the highest population on the earth with China and India with more than one billion population each and still growing. The populations of a few other countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines are also increasing. The future of Asia’s economic development and well being of individual human beings is now in your hands. If you decide not to do anything, then we can all predict what the future of greater Asia will be. Take the developed countries as an example. They have developed and can provide all possible facilities to their people. This is because they first controlled their population. Their population is small. There is no other way. We are also developing, but are we able to take care of all of our citizens? Please give this serious thought when you are here and back home.

My friends, If you think you loose, you have lost. Success begins with a fellow’s will. It is all in the state of mind.

May I also inform you that AFPPD has now grown to a membership of 21 countries and the last General Assembly in Niigata was attended by 27 countries. The Asian Forum National Committee with full time staff and programmes are also increasing. India, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan have full time offices, and parliamentarians programmes in other countries are either supported by AFPPD or National UNFPA offices.

The Asian Population and Development Association was founded by Mr. Takashi Sato, former Agriculture Minister of Japan with the active support of Mr. Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan. The APDA has activities in research and survey in population and development related fields. It also provides support to the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in Japan. This Asian Regional Seminar on population and development is organised by APDA from last 16 years in cooperation with the Asian Forum on a different theme each year. In 1990 it was held in Bangkok for the first time. APDA is chaired by Dr. Taro Nakayama, former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan, my long time friend, and also president of International Medical Parliamentarians organization. Mr. Shin Sakurai is the chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development which is now 19 years old.

I must also say that parliamentarians work in South and North America, Africa and Europe is also growing. A European network will soon be an official identity. The Asian Forum has provided not only guidance to the African and Canadian Forum and also provided financial support.

May I take this opportunity to express our deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Hirofumi Ando who took early retirement from UNFPA for his support and dedication to the AFPPD’s growth as well as the development of the parliamentarians movement globally and I hope that he will continue to be

available to support the AFPPD.

And now may I introduce to you the new Deputy Executive Director Mr. Kunio Waki. He comes with a rich background of JICA, UNICEF and UNDP. We welcome him as a new member of our family.

May I, on this special occasion, welcome H. E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha, President of Thai National Parliament for sparing his valuable time to preside and address our meeting.

Once again welcome to you all. Work hard, enjoy most and maybe shop utmost. And like I said at the beginning: Smile. It creates happiness and hope and fosters good will in business.

Address

Dr. Taro Nakayama
Chairman
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Your Excellency Wanmuhamadnoor Matha, President of the National Assembly of Thailand, Mr. Shin Sakurai AFPPD Chairman, Mr. Kunio Waki, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, The Honourable delegates, Mr. Raj Karim IPPF Director for East and Southeast Asia, Esteemed lecturers and Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you most sincerely for your participation at the 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

We meet here in the time of Janus, last year of the twentieth century and the start of the new millennium. As you know, the world population crossed the six billion mark last October.

The theme of our meeting is: "A Review of Population and Development in Asia, and Parliamentarians' Initiatives." We have come together at the time of Janus to assess the impact and renew our understanding of the population issue as it effects mankind.

Today, the population problems mean different things to different countries. On the one hand, countries such as Japan must cope with problems arising from their extremely small number of births and rapidly increase of aged population, while on the other there are countries that continue to suffer from the rapid population increase. This is the result of a certain degree of success which our programs have enjoyed. At the same time, it also means that we must make greater efforts in the future. In any case, we have no choice but to address the specific characteristics of each country and solve the problems one by one.

There is, I believe, a need for us to reconsider the population issue and the vision of our activities as parliamentarians. Takeo Fukuda, the former Prime Minister of Japan, a pioneer in the field of population often referred to as the father of our activities on population and development, stated categorically: "We must change our thinking. Based on the common perception that our resources are finite we must collaborate to build new ethics and a new system". These were farsighted words of warning.

As a result of the unprecedented advances in science and technology in the twentieth century, especially during the last fifty years, we have witnessed the arrival of a "super-advanced civilization", which in turn has put a colossal burden on the global environment. The most conspicuous manifestation of this is the rapid increase of population and the excess consumption that accompany wealth.

In advanced industrial countries with a low birth-rate, there is excess in crops as a result of mass production made available by improvements in production technology whereas in developing countries with a high rate of population growth there is a striking shortage of agricultural production.

There are 1.2 billion people on the brink of starvation on our planet today, while the same number eat more than is good for them. Those who overeat live in fear of life-threatening diseases from over-eating, while many do not have enough to meet the minimum needs of their daily lives and who live on the borderline between life and death without human dignity.

There is an urgent need for us to solve this issues in the world in a humane and peaceful manner.

It seems that everything in the world today is run by economic principles. As important as they are, would not the pursuit of ever-greater short-term returns mean obliterating the earth and denying the future of humankind? The earth's resources are finite.

The most severe problems exist in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the sectors that produce our food. As a result of competition for fishery resources, the catch is beginning to decline. At the same time, there is an ever greater number of conflicts involving the fishery resources as a result of maximising short-term profits.

Also, in the field of agriculture, farmers have overused fresh water resources beyond its environmental capacity to renew them, merely for the purpose of pursuing greater short-term profits. One result is that crops are damaged by the saline water in the world's granaries.

While total fresh water resources have not changed since the first appearance of man, they are shared today by six billion people. The per capita share constantly declines and there are greater incidences of competition for water between agricultural and industrial users.

Also, population growth has serious repercussions on the availability of drinking water. For example, drinking water is a critical factor for improving public health condition and the reduction in infant mortality. To prevent transmission of infectious diseases, we all know that water supply and sewer systems must be improved.

In developing counties several million infants die every year because of the lack of safe drinking water and lack of public health facilities. If they escape death a great deal of time and energy is spent on fetching water in areas where water supply and sewer systems are not available.

In order to solve this problem under the United Nations Decade for Water and Public Health program in the 1980s much has been done to supply drinking water and public health facilities. However, the positive impact had been offset by the population growth and the number of people who have no access to those benefits has not decreased.

Fresh water resources are finite and only 8 out of 100 million volume of water, about 150 trillion cubic meters, circulates in a repetitive cycle of evaporation and precipitation (rain). It represents 27,000 cubic meters per person, or in the case of Japan approximately 5000 cubic meters.

Not all of the water resources can be used by humans alone. Fresh water is a habitat for creatures that live there and as such has an important role in maintaining the global environment. Fresh water resources that are available for human use is said to be one tenth in an optimistic scenario.

There is no choice but for us to share these fresh water resources between food production, industrial and household uses. Water resources are not equally distributed geographically or seasonally, so scientific and technological innovation is essential.

If we consider the continued increase of population it is essential that we ensure water for food production and for drinking purposes. It is critical that we improve irrigation facilities and effectively manage irrigation programs while at the same time build water supply systems or dig wells to draw drinking water.

The present serious arsenate pollution in India and Bangladesh is a result of poor water management. Excessive pumping of the irrigation water caused the underground water table to drop. And as a result of drawing water from deep wells, through geological layers containing arsenate, the chemical became

mixed in the drinking water.

Generally speaking, as deep wells are free of micro-organisms they are extremely effective from the point of view of public health, but they tend to cause mineral contamination. In fact there is a prevalence of diseases including cancer because of the arsenate.

In any case, the need to share the finite fresh water resources among rising population increases the tension between water and human beings.

In the search for the efficient utilization of resources and the improvement of public health, the critical issues of population and water must be addressed by us parliamentarians in earnest.

More than ever, we politicians must, from the global and long-term perspective of ensuring the future of mankind and the sustainability of the earth's resources, propose new ethical standards and systems that will ensure a bright future. Our political will is more important today than at any other time. As the new century unfolds, I feel that we are standing at an important moment in history, both for the Asian Population Development Association and for our own activities here in Asia.

Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, my good friend and a fellow medical doctor, will be retiring this April from his seat in the Senate. In his capacity as Secretary General of the AFPPD for the past ten years he has served with honour and contributed to the development of our activities. He has also borne responsibility from the very beginning as Secretary General of the International Medical Parliamentarians Organisation which I serve in my capacity as chairman.

Under his inspiring leadership the AFPPD has developed alliances with like-minded organisations in other fields. Our esteemed colleague will be eighty years in April. We wished to celebrate this occasion with him, which is an important reason for holding the AFPPD meeting in Thailand. We in APDA hope Dr. Prasop will continue to give us his wise guidance as a respected senior leader.

Dr. Hirofumi Ando who has untiringly served the UNFPA retired in January. We will all miss him. He has from the early years of its inception always given full support to the APDA and AFPPD and its activities. We could always count on his understanding and unstinting support of the activities of APDA and the JFPP.

Dr. Ando will be teaching at Nihon University. Creating the future can only begin by nurturing human resources for the future. We wish him well in his new role. We ask him to continue to lend us his cooperation in our common endeavour.

We have asked Dr. Ando to present a special speech focusing on the significance of our activities as parliamentarians.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Kunio Waki who previously served with UNICEF and other UN agencies and who has assumed the post of Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA. We are confident that he will bring his valuable experience to his new job and that we can depend on him for his cooperation.

Nothing would give greater happiness to me as the organiser of this event than its success in reminding us of developments in the field of population during the twentieth century and in helping us to open the door to an understanding of what needs to be done in the twenty-first. I look forward to a most successful meeting.

Once more, congratulations on your 80th birthday, Mr Prasop.
Thank you.

Address

Mr. Shin Sakurai

Chairman

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (APDA)

Your Excellency Wan Muhamad Nul Speaker of the Thai Parliament, Dr. Taro Nakayama, President, Asian Population and Development Association, Mr. Kunio Waki, UNFPA Assistant Executive Director, Mr. Raj Karim IPPF Director for East and Southeast Asia, My honourable parliamentary colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I'd like to thank anyone who attended our conference last year in Niigata, the first one that was held in Japan, my constituency. I'd like to report to you that it ended in great success and would like to thank you for your contributions and participation.

Thank you all very much for participating in the 16th Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. This is the last year of the twentieth century. The world population has exceeded the six billion mark last October. We are at a huge turning point with our activities about to change in a big way.

Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, who has been one of AFPPD's initiating members and its secretary general since 1990, will most unfortunately be resigning in April as a Senator in Thailand. He is Thailand's most prominent medical doctor and is much respected for his discerning views. When the permanent office of AFPPD was established in Thailand, Dr. Prasop has offered us the use of a part of his Neurological Foundation Building.

No words can adequately do justice to describing the generosity of his contribution and cooperation. Originally we had intended to hold this meeting in April to coincide with his eightieth birthday, but his calendar was full, because he is so loved and popular among his Thai friends. So here we are in March.

Among the original members of AFPPD Dr. Prasop is the only person who has continued to actively contribute to its activities. Dear Dr. Prasop, please accept this expression of our most sincere gratitude for all you have given.

There is another disappointing development. Dr. Hirofumi Ando who has unfailingly rendered services to AFPPD since its inception has retired from UNFPA as its Deputy Executive Director. Mr. Ando was instrumental in achieving demographic transition of Iran working with Ayatollah Khomeini. Mr. Ando has been the promoter and facilitator of parliamentary activities beginning with the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development held in conjunction with the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, which was followed by a series of similar international parliamentary conferences. He has also given a substantial support to the establishment of the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD).

I have learned that Dr. Hirofumi Ando will be putting to good use his profound knowledge and experience by teaching at the Nihon University to raise the cadre of young leaders. I am convinced that this new commitment to nurture young leaders he takes on after his retirement from UNFPA will be as rewarding as the parliamentary activities he supported.

Mr. Kunio Waki, who was introduced a while ago, whose prior service was with UNICEF and other UN agencies has succeeded him. We hope that Mr. Waki, as his predecessor, will continue to support AFPPD and its much-needed activities on population and development so that we may serve our constituencies better.

Time does indeed fly as an arrow. The AFPPD will be marking its twentieth anniversary next year. In Japan a young man and woman will receive suffrage at twenty years of age and become an adult member of the society. In a similar context the activities of the AFPPD must become full-fledged.

Meanwhile, the environment that surrounds us is becoming increasingly relentless. Dr. Nakayama has shared with us his thoughtful insight quoting former Prime Minister Fukuda, that we should ponder what must be done with the limits of the earth clearly in mind. As a matter of fact, since the times in which the pioneers expressed their fear of the future, the population has exploded and the environment deteriorated.

We are also witnessing the globalisation of economies. In fact information knows no national boundaries today. Globalisation is engulfing the real economy as well, which is a situation we simply would not have imagined twenty years ago.

If well managed, the globalisation may enable us to reduce the pressures on the global environment even as the population continues to grow. However, the global economy as we know it today is increasing to put pressure on the global environment.

The Aral Sea in central Asia is in danger of drying up because rivers running into the sea have been tapped excessively to support cotton production under the planned economy in the past. As a result the dried up lakebed laden with accumulated agricultural chemicals is causing widespread harm to the environment. In India as well as in China the excessive use of underground water is resulting in the depletion of aquifer and the salinisation. These situations are widening as a result of the globalisation of the economy and the consequent commercialisation and pursuit of short-term profits.

Depletion of aquifer and rise in salinity are occurring in traditional granary areas. The threat they pose to the worldwide supply of food and impact on food security can only increase not decrease.

In the global economy the farmers of the world are forced under economic rationale to produce products that sell and are not necessarily the best in terms of environment or ecological conditions. In pursuit of short-term profits they put pressure on the environment destroying the basic environment necessary for sustained agricultural production.

At the same time, areas considered not economically competitive, because of their ecological conditions, have been abandoned causing to destroy the foundations of agriculture.

Is this permissible if one were to consider that the population will continue to increase? Today, in the name of the globalisation of the economy human security is being threatened. There is a need to carry out sufficient study on the international rules of trade so that the global economy will be beneficial in a true sense to humankind's future.

The trend of globalisation does not stop at economy. It applies to the field of security. Problems of a country are no longer the problems solely of the country. This trend is likely to accelerate in the next century. Globalisation has created a unipolarity in which everything concentrates in the most powerful country. A super power is winning in every field i.e., information, trade and finance and in the military, so that the logic of the mighty holds sway in all matters.

If all matters were to be decided by the logic of the mighty, would that not result in tragic conflicts and

wars?

I believe we must search ways that will harmonise the requirements of the global environment and respective cultures through dialogue, accommodating different views from the perspective of mother earth and our collective future.

We are meeting this time to address the realities of Asia and the role of parliamentarians. The purpose is to analyse the meaning and impact of the population issues on humankind as we wrap up the twentieth century in an attempt to reconfirm its significance.

The population issues lie at the bottom of all global problems. To resolve the problems and realise sustainable development to build a bright future I am convinced that our will as politicians has a big role to play.

At the end of the twentieth century let us do our utmost so that we will not leave worries for the next generation. I am confident that you will again make earnest contributions to this conference.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Address

Mr. Kunio Waki
Deputy Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The President of the National Assembly of Thailand, Distinguished Parliamentarians, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today on the occasion of the 16th Asian Parliamentarian's meeting on population and development. I would like to congratulate and thank Dr. Nakayama, President and Mr. Hirose, Executive Director of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for organising the meeting. I would also like to acknowledge the important support provided by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) under the leadership of Mr. Sakurai and Dr. Prasop.

I am personally grateful to you for this opportunity to join in your discussion and learn from you on current population and development issues in Asia and the Pacific. I joined UNFPA only one month and a half ago, and am still going through the initial training period. I sincerely hope to be able to follow the great footsteps of Mr. Ando, Dr. Sadik and Mr. Salas, and continue the good tradition of cooperation between UNFPA and parliamentarians.

The population situation has changed in the past 16 years since Asian parliamentarians gathered to discuss population and development for the first time:

- World population growth has fallen from 2 per cent to 1.3 per cent,
- Average number of children has fallen from 4.9 to 2.7. (In Europe, North-America and Japan the current fertility rate is 1.5 or below even);
- Life expectancy at birth has risen from 56 years to 65 years.
- The share of population living in urban areas has increased from 36 per cent to 47 percent.
- The number of persons who have moved to another country increased to 125 million.
- The share of the persons aged 60 years and over increased to 10 percent of the world population with 53 percent of the world's older persons living in Asia and the Pacific.

The numbers above reflect the many gains made, but also direct us to the new challenges ahead. Urban conglomerations and new consumption patterns pose a very serious challenge to environment and food security. Ageing has its impact on economic growth, labour supply, pension and health care. The devastating tolls from HIV/AIDS pose serious social problems, particularly in Africa.

The role of parliamentarians in advocating for, creating awareness on population and gender issues, mobilising resources for and enacting appropriate legislation for population issues is therefore as crucial as it was two decades ago.

Parliamentarians through the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and its sister organisations in Africa, Arab States, Latin America and other regions have been on the forefront to discuss new and emerging population and development issues.

I would therefore like to thank all parliamentarians who have been involved in these initiatives. I know it requires a personal commitment as you have shown, to raise population issues which are sometimes sensitive political issues, but are a key to sustainable human development and global peace.

Without your continued commitment and hard work, we would not have been able to move forward as reflected in the ICPD+5 review. Without your commitment we will not be able to meet the many challenges ahead. We count on your continued leadership in improving the well-being of people throughout the world.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.

Opening Address

H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha
President
National Assembly of Thailand

Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Dr. Taro Nakayama, Mr. Shin Sakurai, parliamentarians and honourable and beloved participants.

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you at the 16th Asian-Pacific and CIS-countries Parliamentarians Seminar to review the population programme. I understand that parliamentarians from Asian-Pacific and CIS-countries work together on Population, Development, Environment and Social issues under the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) with Headquarter in Bangkok and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) in Tokyo. I had the opportunity to open an AFPPD meeting of parliamentarians not long ago in December on HIV/AIDS.

The effort to inform and educate members of parliament on issues such as population, environment, and HIV/AIDS is very important so that parliamentarians who are normally very involved in political issue can also understand the need to work on social issues. These issues are vital for the future shape of any nation.

The issue of environment is closely linked to population, they are inseparable. The ever increasing population keeps negating the impact of development. Climate stabilisation linked to environment is one of the most challenging jobs in new century; deforestation, stabilisation of water tables, protecting plants and animal diversity all depend on population planning. If we are not able to do this then our ecosystem is in great danger.

Mr. Lester Brown, well known expert and president of Washington based World Watch Institute warns that if we do not act urgently to save our environment, many countries will face the prospect of wholesome ecosystem collapse. Saving the planet is a massive undertaking and we parliamentarians need to heed the warning signs now, otherwise it may be too late. The challenge is either to build an economy that is sustainable or stay with our unsustainable economy until it declines. One way or the other, the choice has to be made by our generation which affect the life on earth for next generation. We must act now to see that population and environment is stabilised and we save our earth.

In the population field, Thailand has made good progress. Our people now understand the importance of small families, but issue of HIV and AIDS need more attention as well as the problems related to young people. As you may know, Thailand and other Asian Countries, young people constitute as much as 50 percent of the total population. The Thai population programme is rather successful. We hope to achieve a fertility rate to replacement level in 25 years and slow down growth rate, thus averting 20 millions births. Thailand's educational institutes like Chiangmai University, Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University, KhonKaen and Songkhla University provide International Training Courses on population and we hope they will prove successful in the future. However, the problems on population and environment are worldwide problems, so we need concerted efforts from every country to solve these.

As parliamentarians we have to persuade the governments of our people not be satisfied with industrial development without considering the environment. That kind of development is not sustainable. Human resources, population and environment have to be taken into consideration.

Sometimes, the money we gain from economic development has to be spend on improving the environment, the quality of the health of our people. Therefore, we have to emphasise population issues, in doing so avoiding spending a lot of money and time on problems that could have been prevented.

Thailand also has been identified as one of the centres of excellence in the field of Population and Family Planning. We also have a good health care system and our private hospitals can boast of world standard facilities.

I do hope that this seminar will be beneficial to sustainable population and environment development and to the world as a whole. I wish your deliberations to be constructive and useful. I declare the 16th Asian Parliamentarians meeting on population and development open. I hope you will enjoy a happy and safe stay.

Thank you.

Special Speaker

Dr. Hirofumi Ando
Former Deputy Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

“The Role of Parliamentarians on Population and Development”

Your Excellency, Chairperson, Distinguished Parliamentarians, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate Dr. Taro Nakayama, President and Mr. Tsuguo Hirose, Executive Director of Asian Population and Development Association and his colleagues for organizing this meeting with the valuable support of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). I also thank them for inviting me to speak at this meeting. It is indeed a great honour to be here with you. I would also like to thank those speakers who talked about me this morning in such kind manner. Now, allow me to start with my personal experience.

This January I went to Prague to visit Mrs. Carmelita Salas, the Philippine Ambassador to the Czech Republic, to pay tribute to her late husband, Mr. Rafael M. Salas, the first Executive Director of UNFPA and my mentor. The first thing I noticed in her living room was a framed poem in the calligraphy of the late Prime Minister Kishi, who had presented it to Mr. Salas during one of their many meetings in Tokyo. It expressed Mr. Kishi's wish for lasting peace among the four oceans of the world. It also symbolised a historical encounter between two persons who shared the same vision, that population issues cannot be solved without the involvement of parliamentarians.

As many of you recall, in 1973, Mr. Kishi, together with the late General Draper, led a mission of American and Japanese parliamentarians to observe population issues in Asian countries. Mr. Kishi and his parliamentary colleagues were exposed to social and economic miseries caused, in part, by the rapid population growth in the continent. Upon returning to Tokyo, Mr. Kishi decided to dedicate the remainder of his life to assisting developing countries in solving their population problems. He established the Japan Federation of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, a non-partisan association about 150 members of the Diet for this purpose. The Federation was instrumental in forming the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Beijing in 1982.

When we look at activities of national and regional parliamentary groups, especially in Asia, we can say that you parliamentarians have certainly played critical roles in increasing awareness of population issues. Two decades ago, it was still taboo to talk about population and family planning matters. They are now well understood and discussed openly. To this end, parliamentarians have been part of the international consensus on the importance of population issues.

This has been reflected clearly at international population conferences of the last two decades, most notably the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, as well as more recently, during the high level discussions at the international meeting of parliamentarians in The Hague, and those throughout the ICPD+5 process. There, Mr. Sakurai and his colleagues reminded us of the important linkages between population, food and environment.

At both the ICPD and ICPD+5, the importance of parliamentarians in population and development activities was recognised. It was further reaffirmed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD+5 last summer, that parliamentarians can and should play important roles in advocating population issues and in supporting population and reproductive health programmes, both nationally

and internationally.

Asian parliamentarians, in particular, were pioneers in advocating population issues. They also assisted their counterparts in other continents in establishing their own groups, among them, the Inter-American Parliamentary Group (IAPG) in Latin America, the Forum of Africa and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), and the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. These pioneers include Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Mr. Takashi Sato, Mr. Eisaku Sumi, and Mr. Sat Paul Mital, all of whom are unfortunately no longer with us, as well as Mr. Huang Hua and Mme He Liliang, Mr. Shin Sakurai, and Senator Prasop Ratanakorn. This list is by no means exhaustive. There have been many other who are committed to population issues.

Many parliamentarians have been involved actively in supporting population, reproductive health and family planning programmes nationally and within their own constituencies. Among these are Senator Oreta-Aquino of the Philippines and Mr. Mustapha Ka of Senegal. I would like also to note the excellent work by Mme Nguyen Thi Thanh who has worked with the national women's association to help improve the status of women and improve their reproductive health service in Viet Nam. The work of Mr. Mital who established a Parliamentarians' Centre and its activities are well known. Let me also mention the important work of the African Forum in reviewing the existing laws with a view to eliminating those that discriminate against women and girls as well as those that adversely affect the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Parliamentarians have also worked tirelessly to mobilise resources to support population and reproductive health programmes. Without their commitment, I doubt very much the budget of UNFPA, the largest inter-governmental population assistance agency in the world, would have been at the current level. Specifically, the effort of Japanese parliamentarians under the leadership of Dr. Taro Nakayama should be commended in this regard. I would also like to thank the Government of Japan for its continued support to the work of UNFPA.

The success of parliamentarians in the field of population and development has required strong political will and personal commitment. As we still face the problems resulting from large population growth in Asia and, as we confront new emerging issues such as population aging combined with decreasing fertility, food security and water shortage, migration and rapid urbanisation, we require your continued political and personal commitment.

As I embark on a new career, after having worked with you for some time, I express my deepest gratitude to all of you for the support and guidance you extended to me over the years. It has been a great privilege for me to know and work with you. Whatever I was able to accomplish was due to the support and assistance extended to me. I take this opportunity to humbly request that you continue to dedicate yourselves to solving the problems caused by population factors, especially in your respective constituencies.

In concluding, please allow me to extend my best wishes to Professor Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Secretary General of AFPPD on his retirement. He has played an extremely important role in the Forum. I also wish all of you a very successful and fruitful APDA seminar here in this beautiful city of Bangkok.

SESSION 1

Population and Sustainable Development -Environment, Food Security and Water Resources-

Speaker:

Dr. Lee-Jay Cho
Senior Adviser, East-West Center

Speaker:

Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii
Kyoto University

Session 1

Population and Sustainable Development

The 21st-Century Challenge for Population, Food, the Environment, and Water Resources

Chairperson

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu

Member of the House of Representatives, Japan

Resource Person

Dr. Lee-Jay Cho

**Senior Adviser, East-West Center
Chairman, Northeast Asia Economic Forum**

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the parliamentary forum. On this occasion I'm extremely happy to participate in this very significant, meaningful get-together of the parliamentarians and the participants of the various sectors of this region. I am especially grateful, because I felt a certain obligation that I should be attending this meeting, because Senator Prasop who has worked for so many years and so hard to bring about the involvement of parliamentarians at a policy and political level at this very important issue of population and development. We go back to the 1980s and early 90s when we first started the Asian parliamentarians meetings that we have planned and executed together and we have travelled a great deal together and we have continued our interaction. His contribution to this endeavour is certainly in some ways historical. In no way am I able to avoid this occasion and I am extremely happy that I could arrange my schedule so that I could be here and contribute my own input as well as expressing my gratitude to professor and senator Prasop. At the same time, Dr Ando, whom I have known for many years, since he started his work at ESCAP some 20 years ago, has dedicated himself to the issues of population and development. Supporting and providing necessary arrangements for the evolution of the parliamentary interactions like we are having here. We owe a great deal from Mr Ando who has just retired from UNFPA and will carry on his work at Nihon University. I really feel that I want to do as much as I can to the great effort on the part of Dr Taro Nakayama and Shin Sakurai in bringing about the political commitment on the part of each of the countries in this region. We are involved in the 21st century challenge of making this region a place of great dynamics and sustainable development where human civilisation would continue in a harmonious way. I have always felt that Taro Nakayama's efforts have been very contributory in that sense.

History doesn't evolve in a straight line, it has its own rhythm, it moves in cycles and at this time we are at an important turning point of this historical cycle. The completion of the demographic transition in some of the industrialised countries on the one hand and some of the other countries being in the midst of this transition is a process that generates many problems and challenges.

Demographic trends

Where are we going, demographically and in terms of the globalisation that is taking place and hastening its tempo?

The world population crossed the six billion threshold on October 12, 1999, according to the latest UN report titled *The World at Six Billion*. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the world's population had reached only 1 billion (1804), and it took more than one century, 123 years, to double. To add the most recent billion it has taken just 12 years. There appears to be general agreement on projections of the world's population increase to about 9 billion in the middle of this century, around the year 2050 and the world population is expected to stabilize at just above 10 billion after 2200. Of course, these projections assume a crucial condition: namely, that the governments of both developed and developing countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations continue to promote activities aimed at reducing the growth rate of population. The world population is currently growing at about 1.3 percent per year. This represents some progress recently, in that the growth rate has declined from a peak of 2 percent in the 1960s, but the absolute growth will continue for some time. The current annual addition is 78 million, compared with 86 million in the 1980s, 95 percent of which took place in the less-developed regions.

Eighty percent of the world population currently reside in the less-developed regions, and by the middle of this century, this proportion will increase to more than 90 percent (see Figure 1). During the same period, relatively little population will be added to the developed countries, and in a number of countries such as Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom, where much of the world's wealth is, the population size will be shrinking significantly.

Among the developing countries, the present rate of growth in population is highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by the rates in the Near East and North Africa, in South Asia, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, whereas East Asia has the lowest rate of growth. Though population growth rates on the whole have declined in most of the less-developed world, they have not declined significantly in Africa and in parts of South and West Asia, and here we see the lowest gains in life expectancy and quality of life.

An alarming implication is that as much as 97 percent of global population growth is projected to take place in Africa, Asia, and Latin America between now and the year 2050. African countries are among the poorest in the world, and their population will increase fourfold, while India's will double. There is a growing division between "low-growth and have" countries and "high-growth and have-not" countries—in particular, East Asia versus South Asia.

Some industrialised nations are facing a rapidly declining population due to a declining birth-rate. Places like Europe have taken 100 to 200 years to go through the demographic transition from high fertility rate to low fertility rate, whereas as in Asia and other developing regions it has only taken several decades (e.g. in China, Korea only 10-20 years). Countries like Japan, Britain and Germany are facing a serious decline in number of people.

The population of the world is aging, particularly in developed countries such as Japan. For example, currently around one out of five persons in the developed countries are age 60 or older, and in 2050 nearly one out of three will be in this age range. In terms of average age of population, the Japanese and Italians are the oldest (40.2 years), followed by the Germans and Swedes.

This also has serious economic implications. We consider that an economy can also be aging. Yet, the economic system can rejuvenate itself with economic leadership, creative institutional arrangements and technological advancements. Therefore, in the area of population and development both developing and industrialised countries face challenges on their own and challenges together.

An example: In countries like China and Bangladesh women are trying to bear fewer children, but still they are very productive, yet in contrast, in countries like Japan, young women don't want to get married ("marriage-bust", as opposed to -boom) in combination with a "baby-bust". Living with parents and freer sex lead to the lack of need to get married. These women don't want to devote all

their time, trying to raise children. It remains to be seen whether these changing values will take hold in future generations. One projection forecasts a total Japanese population of 135 people in 300 years (!) Although this is just a speculation, it still has some meaning; It poses these countries the new challenges of a biologically and economically ageing society.

Those countries that are about to complete the demographic transition, such as China, will follow this aging pattern and at a faster tempo, because of more rapid fertility transition. On the horizon are emerging serious regional and national imbalances. Asia's population will increase by 1.6 billion during the next thirty years, and Africa's present population of 600 million will increase to 1.6 billion within the next single generation. The combined population of India and China will grow by that time to almost 3 billion, and India will eventually overtake China as the world's most populous country. The proportion of population of the more developed countries (MDC; 22% in 1990) is projected to decline to 14% in 2050 and to 7% at the end of the 21st century.

Explosion of Urban Populations

Explosive growth of the cities, by absorbing the migrants from the rural areas, is one of the inevitable consequences of the industrial revolution and demographic transition. The European and North American metropolises exploded, expanded, became saturated, and finally stabilized in the middle of the past century. Half of the population in many large cities live in slums or squatter settlements, often without running water, toilets, or electricity. The massive weight of the numerical pressure on the densely settled cities without adequate infrastructure has led to the process of population dispersion, that is, in the form of social disorganization and disintegration.

The alarming fact is that, in only a few years (by 2006), over half the world's population will live in cities, and urban populations in developing countries are growing more than five times faster than in industrialized countries. The urban explosion in the developing world has been fuelled by massive migration from impoverished rural areas, and the pull factors include jobs, shelter, health services, and schools. Urban population growth is also converting arable land into uses for expanding cities

Environmental Impact of Population Growth and Development

Economic globalization began with the extension of trade, followed by investment. The lowering of trade barriers and the dismantling of some obstacles along national borders have facilitated this flow. Goods, services, technology, capital, labour, and enterprises now move more freely than ever across national and regional boundaries. The business activities of some individual firms have proliferated all over the world, further integrating the global economy.

Population growth, and economic development along with it, have brought a host of global and regional environmental problems, among them air and water pollution, water shortages, desertification, and deforestation. Soil erosion and salinisation have reached dangerous proportions. Annually, 15 million hectares of forests and 6 million hectares of cultivated land are being lost.

There are two forces, I believe, that contribute to the evolution of history: a centrifugal force, a force of expansion on the one hand, manifested in economic and cultural globalisation ("Coca Cola-culture" and other cultures). On the side there is a centripetal force; that contributes to regional cohesion. There is always a contrasting force, operating in one direction or the other. The 21st century will be characterised by a centrifugal force of expansion and decentralisation on the one hand. The feared consequences of disparity and loss of harmony form one of the main questions we are facing today. Who benefits from the economic globalisation?

The benefits of fossil fuels have accrued disproportionately to wealthier nations, which can afford to consume. But the by-products of their consumption have global consequences, and so the less wealthy

nations share equally in the disadvantages. In the past, sustained and rapid population growth has been followed quickly by economic development and associated environmental problems. The U.S. population, for example, grew more than three times as fast as the world population from 1800 to 1950, and now the United States leads the world in emissions of industrial carbon dioxide, with 22 percent of the global total. Today, the same conditions are threatening in Asia, but the global consequences are becoming intolerable. Over the past two decades, China's emissions of industrial carbon dioxide ballooned from 1 percent to 11 percent of the global total, most of it stemming from rapid industrialization that is just beginning. If China were to achieve the U.S. level of per-capita fossil-fuel consumption, China's emissions alone would exceed total 1990 global carbon dioxide emissions. We now have cleaner fuels and more efficient machinery and technology than those that were available during the industrial development of the West. Unfortunately, conversion to such fuels and technologies is a quite difficult challenge for China, because its coal reserves are abundant and the ideal alternative energy sources and modern machinery are expensive.

From the perspective of the world as a global village, the developed and the developing countries must face several challenges, as they confront the population growth and industrial development of the twenty-first century. An obvious explicit challenge is to minimize the projected population increases. Even with successful population programs, however, the numbers will grow. A second challenge is to find ways to meet future food needs. Simultaneously, the present-day widespread poverty, especially in South Asia and Africa, must be alleviated. Thirdly, we must learn to manage the natural resource base in such a way that it assists us in meeting the population challenge without damaging the natural environment, either now or in the future. These challenges are clearly interrelated, and we will not solve one without addressing all. The issue of food illustrates the connections between the other issues well.

Food for Growing Populations

Projected increases of the global population will more than double the aggregate demand for food between now and the middle of this century. Most agricultural experts recognize that, within the national boundaries of those countries that need increased food production, only a limited amount of uncultivated but arable land is available. Therefore, the increase in food production can no longer come by simply bringing new land under cultivation. It must come instead from increased yields.

Agriculture is the major viable sector for employment and income generation in most developing countries today. But one of the major sources of environmental degradation is the increase in the density and activities of agricultural populations, who lack appropriate technology and financial resources. With proper technology, agricultural intensification can contribute a great deal toward alleviating poverty, by increasing food production and at the same time reducing over-exploitation of natural resources and the consequent degradation of the environment.

The experts are divided on the issue of future food production and the preservation of the environment for the rapidly swelling global population. On one side are the pessimists, including environmentalists and ecologists who see a disaster in the making. They predict the eventual collapse of the natural resource base and the environment, under the unbearable weight of future demand created by explosive population growth. They argue that "the rapid depletion of these essential resources, coupled with a worldwide degradation of land ... and atmospheric quality, indicate that the human enterprise has not only exceeded its current social carrying capacities, but it is actually reducing future potential biophysical carry capacities by depleting essential capital stocks" (Daily and Ehrlich 1992: 762-63).

On the other side are the optimists, including many economists and some agricultural scientists, who feel that technological innovations and continued investment in human capital will ensure adequate food production in the future, at least for the approximately 9 billion people whom they expect to be living in the mid-twenty-first century.

In fact, the prospects for the necessary increases in food production within the condition of sustainability are not as secure as the optimists predict. Nor are they as dismal as the pessimists may believe. For the world as a whole, it is not completely inconceivable that an overall improvement in dietary intake and the necessary increase in total food production can be achieved. Such an achievement is, in fact, rather plausible. The increased agricultural production can be achieved by raising crop yields, through more intensive use of existing farmlands and, where economical, by bringing more arable land under cultivation. According to the most recent report of a four-year study released by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Institute of Geography of CAS, for example, China will be able to feed its people, even when the country's population soars to 1.5 billion, as is projected to happen by 2025. Agriculture and the price of food will, however, still be subject to unpredictable obstacles, such as fluctuations in the weather, trade interruptions, political instability, vulnerability to pests, and other natural disasters.

The demand for food in the developed countries has already risen almost to the saturation point. It has stabilized partly for reasons of health consciousness, including popular concerns about dietary intake of animal fats. In the rest of the world, there will be regional and country-by-country differences with respect to food production and consumption. Bangladesh and China, for example, have no reserves of fertile land or water, and they lack sufficient capital for agricultural intensification. Mongolia has plenty of arable land available but insufficient water to use it for crops; furthermore, Mongolia's population is extremely sparse, so an expansion of cultivation would be entirely uneconomical. In this regard, it is interesting to note that, if Mongolia and the PRC's province of Inner Mongolia were added together, their combined territory would be equal in size to India, but they would have a population that is less than 1 percent that of India's.

It is technologically feasible to feed the growing global population, in terms of both sheer quantity and improved quality of food. But we must realize that the economic and environmental costs of such increases in food productivity may be too heavy a burden for many poor countries to bear. Another very important dimension is the efficient distribution of agricultural products. Success will depend largely on the ability of government policies to design and develop institutional arrangements that effectively deal with increased production, rising poverty, and environmental deterioration. Ultimately, if a country cannot limit its population growth, it will be much more difficult in the long run to feed its population adequately while, at the same time, preserving the quality of the environment.

The food needs of growing populations result in the destruction of tropical forests and woodlands, leading to poor uses of land such as non-stop cultivation of worn-out land and over-grazing. Three interdependent approaches thus need to be pursued in tandem: enhancing agricultural capacity, preserving the natural resource base, and stabilizing population.

The Environmental Constraints: Air and Water

At any level of development, population growth increases energy use, resource consumption, and environmental stress. Air and water pollution and land degradation, resulting from increased population and demand for energy and resources, are damaging complex ecosystems and reducing the quality of human life. Each human being is the source of multiple and diverse environmental impacts, and therefore, the number of people—the size of population—is the single most important factor in environmental deterioration. Population–environment relationships that have endured for generations can teeter and collapse once critical natural thresholds are exceeded, as clearly demonstrated in Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean, which provides a painful historical lesson. Sixth-century Polynesian migration and settlement created a unique civilization on the island, which was heavily forested and had plentiful natural resources. The population grew to 9,000, and with population growth came environmental degradation: deforestation, land degradation, and stripped wildlife by about the year 1500. By 1772 when the Dutch arrived, it was completely barren. The highly organized, complex

civilization was a memory, and the remaining 3,000 people were engaged in chronic warfare and cannibalism.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

The biggest single environmental change may be the so-called “greenhouse effect”—a rise in carbon dioxide that has serious implications for climatic changes such as a rise in sea level, increased floods and droughts, shifting of food-production zones, and ecological disruption, including a decline in the number of species. Energy-derived consumption of resources appears to be the main source of air pollution. Energy consumption per capita in the industrialized world is ten times that of low- and middle-income nations. Nonetheless, the developing countries already account for 45 percent of the emissions of those gases because of the size of their population and magnitude of their development. For example, we can see a fairly clear relationship between economic growth in terms of GDP and number of motor vehicles per 1,000 people in Figure 3. With global population reaching about 10 billion by the middle of this century, and under the assumption of constant global per-capita carbon (CO₂) emissions, total emissions are projected to double and reach 11.98 gigatons. The 1990 per-capita emissions in the MDCs were 3.3 tons, whereas they were 0.46 tons in the less developed countries (LDCs). Emissions in the LDCs will more than double, however, by the year 2050 (see Table 1 and Figure 4). Carbon emissions from fossil energy in Asia was only 25 percent of the global total, but in the span of only one generation, namely 30 years, will increase to 30 percent as shown in Figure 5. Over the past two decades China’s emissions of industrial CO₂ increased from 1% to 11% of the global total. If China were to achieve the US level of fossil fuel consumption per capita, China’s emissions alone would exceed the total of 1990 global CO₂ emissions. China’s abundant coal reserves make the needed transition to cleaner fuel and technologies an especially difficult challenge.

Water

An adequate and dependable supply of fresh water is essential for human health, food production, and economic development. Throughout history, secure access to water has been essential to social and economic development and to the stability of cultures and civilizations. As populations have grown, fresh water has become increasingly less available where and when it is needed. Wealthy countries as well as poor ones are using water unsustainably, and they will have to face the consequences. Sooner or later, water could overshadow oil as a scarce and precious commodity at the centre of conflict and peacemaking. The most effective long-term strategies for dealing with water scarcity include conservation and more efficient use. A blue revolution in water supply and sanitation is needed as much today as the green revolution in food production was needed after 1950.

Today there are about half a billion people living in 29 countries affected by water stress (below 1,700 cubic meters per capita per year) or the more serious condition of water scarcity (below 1,000 cubic meters). How fast the world’s population grows between now and the middle of this century will determine whether this number grows to 2 billion or to as high as 7 billion -namely, fourfold or more, as shown in Figure 6. The condition of water scarcity is beginning to hamper economic development and food production and often causes severe environmental damage in some regions of the world. China and Canada, for example, have roughly the same amount of renewable fresh water and the same land area. But China’s population is more than 40 times larger than Canada’s, and therefore, on average, each person in China has less than 3 percent of the fresh water available to each Canadian. Although higher living standards will increase per capita consumption, the bigger population size has a more significant influence on the availability of fresh water.

In China and India the mismanagement of water coupled with expanding populations is a real issue, producing a financial and human crisis and it could have a global impact. Last year Beijing’s underwater table fell by 3.5 feet. In Bangkok the water table is dropping 2-4- inches per year. Chronic water shortages are expected to occur in Africa, the Middle East, northern China, parts of India, Mexico, the western USA and the former Soviet Central Asian republics. While this is happening we also see more people below the poverty line in Asia today than there were five years

ago (defined as having an income of less than US\$1 a day). An equal number of 1 billion people world wide suffer from eating too much and obesity as from not having enough food to eat (e.g. North-Korea).

Conclusions

The wave of demographic transition from high to low birth and death rates, accompanied by explosive population growth, started in Europe and North America and is now working its way through various other regions of the world: East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Today's developing regions of South Asia and Africa are in the thick of this historical process. It is crucial for the social and economic development of these regions that their population growth does not exceed sustainable levels. Past efforts to minimize the impact of the demographic transition by reducing birth-rates have mostly taken the form of family planning programs, which have generally been successful.

Accompanying the demographic wave has been a sequence of stages of industrial development. This second historical process is characterized by widening gaps between the levels of economic development achieved by different countries, leading to further bifurcation into "have" and "have-not" nations. Clearly, the industrial transition requires creativity and determined efforts to minimise its negative impact. Poverty undermines health and degrades the environment. Slower growth of population, together with higher income and greater employment in the non-agricultural sector, will contribute more than anything else to the ability to recognize and accommodate the resource and environmental constraints that seem to impinge on the agriculture of less-developed countries, for example. Rapid growth in demand for food, based on higher income rather than population growth, will lead to agricultural diversification and result in the production of higher value crops and animal products by the farmers (and also the potential for negative impacts of its own).

Environmental changes such as acid rain, ozone depletion, and climate change under way at the global level will have a significant impact on food production and health practices. The efforts to achieve sustainable growth in agriculture must take a holistic perspective, and effective communication and dialogue must be encouraged between the research community and policymakers. Among other issues, they will have to consider whether recent globalizing and regionalizing trends enhance international equality or further distort it, particularly with respect to food, nutrition, environment, and quality of life.

In order to eradicate social inequality and preserve a balance between development and the ecosystem, thereby achieving sustainable development, the developing countries must achieve an economic growth rate of 5 percent per annum until 2010. At the same time, the industrialized nations will have to cut back their emissions of contaminants by 4.4 percent annually, to preserve the quality of the global environment at the current level.

Japan's goal, between the years 2008 and 2012, is to reduce average carbon emissions to 5 percent less than the 1990 level. Japan's success in achieving this goal will determine whether the rest of Asia will be able to launch the process of sustainable development.

As a matter of fact, Japan's emissions of contaminants for each U.S. dollar of industrial output are already the lowest in the world, by virtue of efficient technology for using energy and raw materials. As an economic superpower, Japan needs to provide important leadership in the area of environmental protection and population stabilization, and, at the same time, maintain the stability of the Japanese economy. This is a formidable challenge for Japan.

The design of "incentive compatible institutions" capable of achieving compatibility between the goals of individual organizations and social objectives still remains far from our theoretical and practical domain. This deficiency is evident in our failure to design and develop a framework and

institutions that would help to bring about contemporary distributional equity, either within countries or between the rich and the poor countries. It is even more obvious in the lack of institutional arrangements for achieving inter-generational equity, and inter-generational equity is, after all, the basic premise behind the demand for sustainable resource use. We can choose to use up our resource base for present purposes, or we can develop the technologies and institutions needed to provide future generations their share of a still renewable planet.

Slowing population growth can buy the time needed for the success of efforts to preserve the environment and alleviate poverty. The essence of sustainable development is that natural resources must be used in ways that will not limit their availability to future generations.

I'd like to finish with a quote from a Chinese philosopher some 2000 years ago: "Heaven created disaster you can get away with somehow, but mankind created disaster you can not survive."

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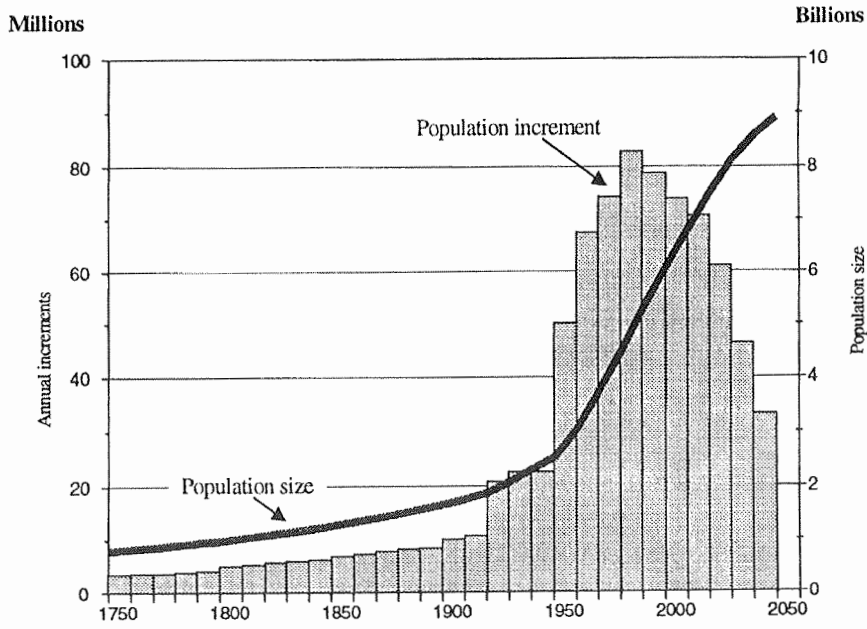


Figure 1. Long-term world population growth, 1750 to 2050
 Source: United Nations (1999)

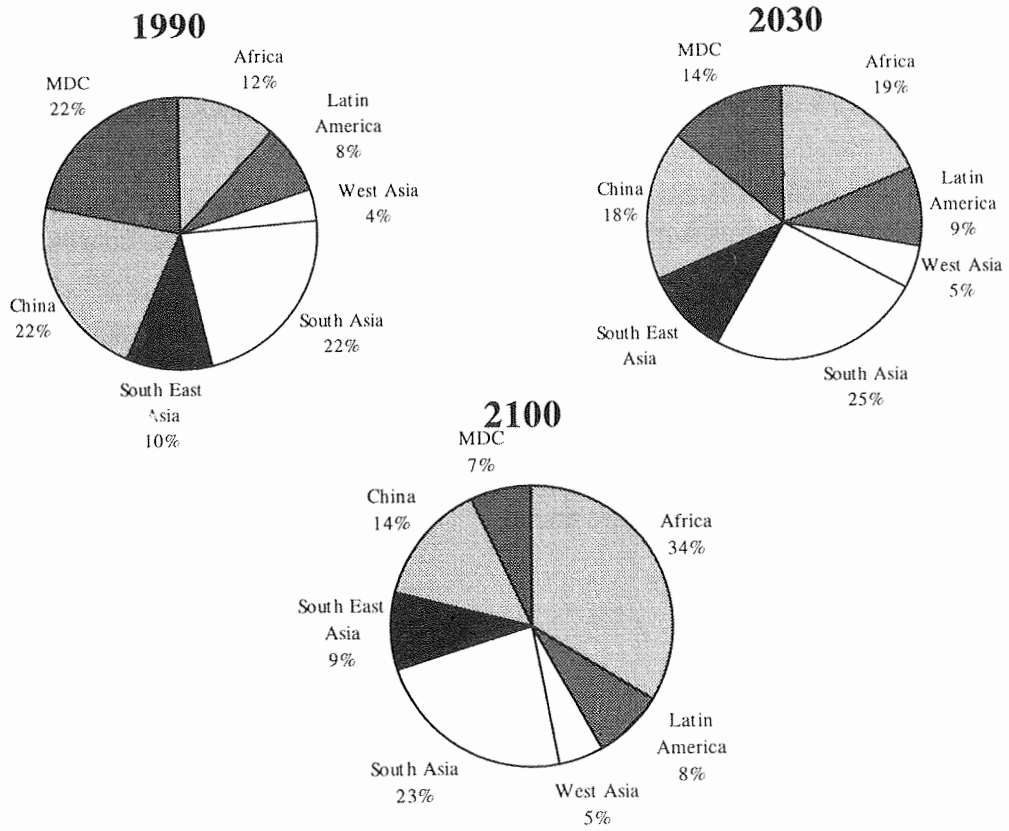


Figure 2. Regional distribution of world population under the central scenario, 1990-2100
 Source: Popnet.

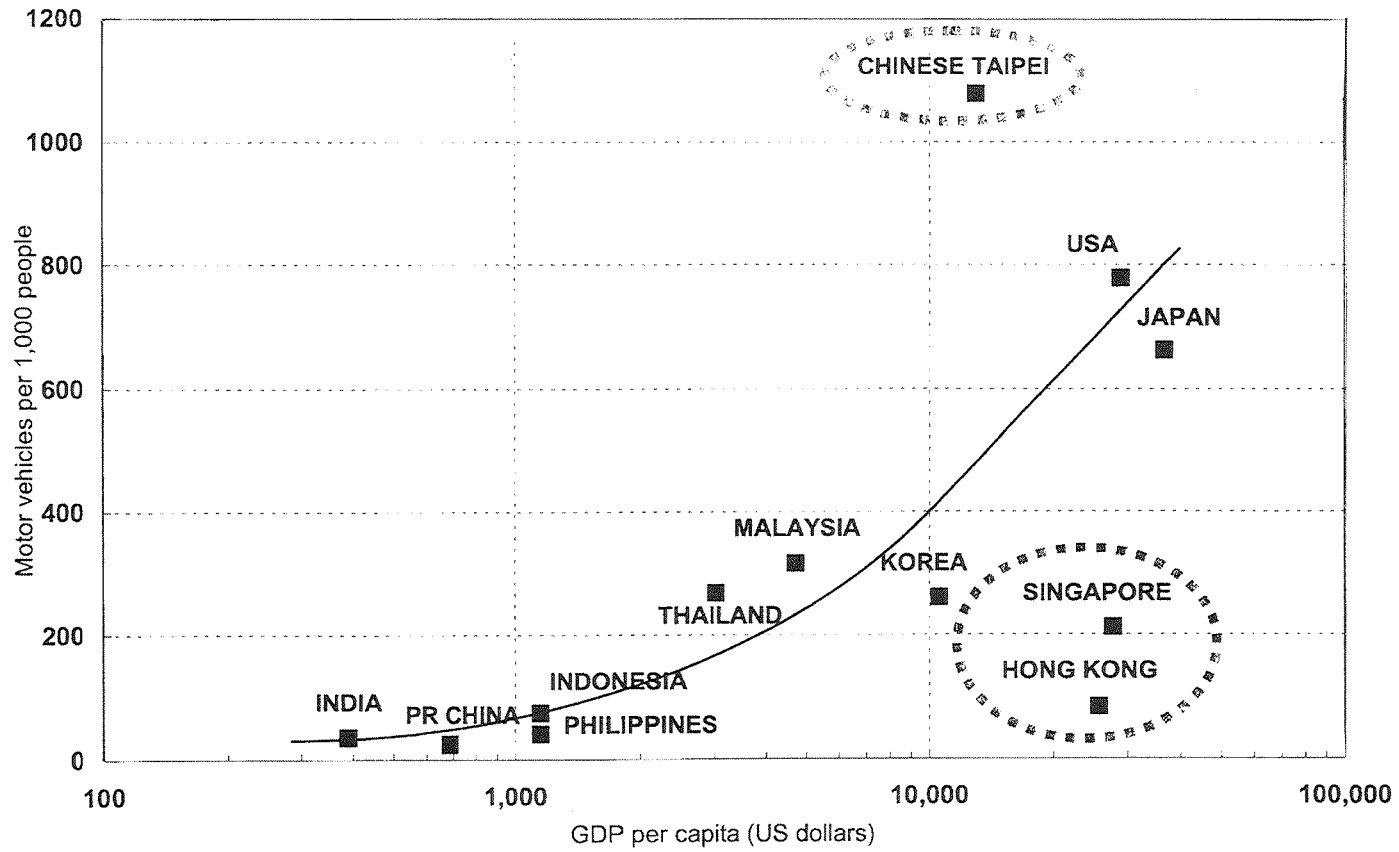


Figure 3. Motor vehicles per 1,000 people and GDP per capita, 1996

Source: Charles Johnson and Saengroj Srisawaskraisorn.

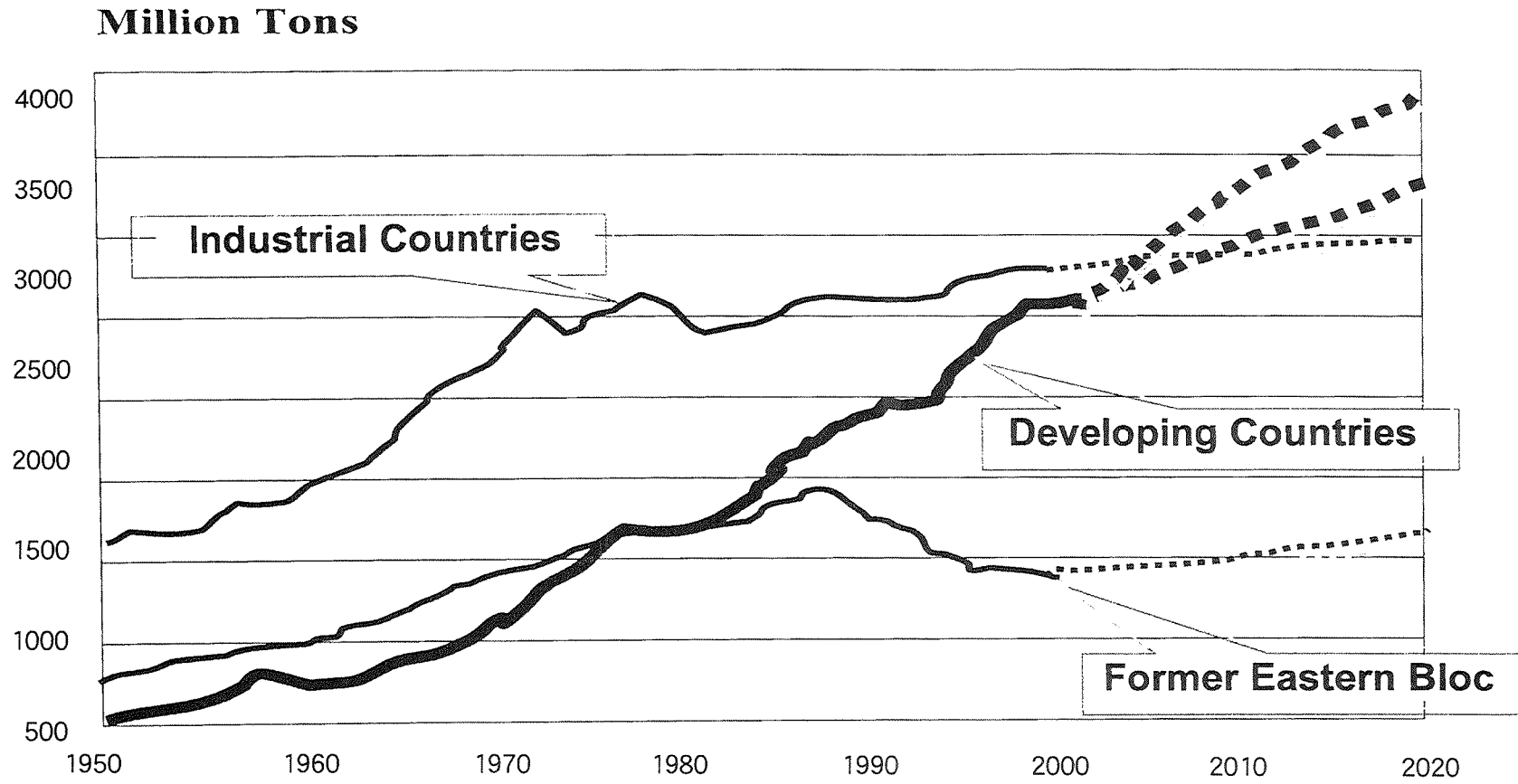


Figure 4. Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning, by economic region, 1950–2020

Source: Charles Johnson and Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn.

Figure 5. Carbon emissions from fossil energy, 1990 and 2020

Source: Modified by Charles Johnson and Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn from Energy Information Administration, 1999.

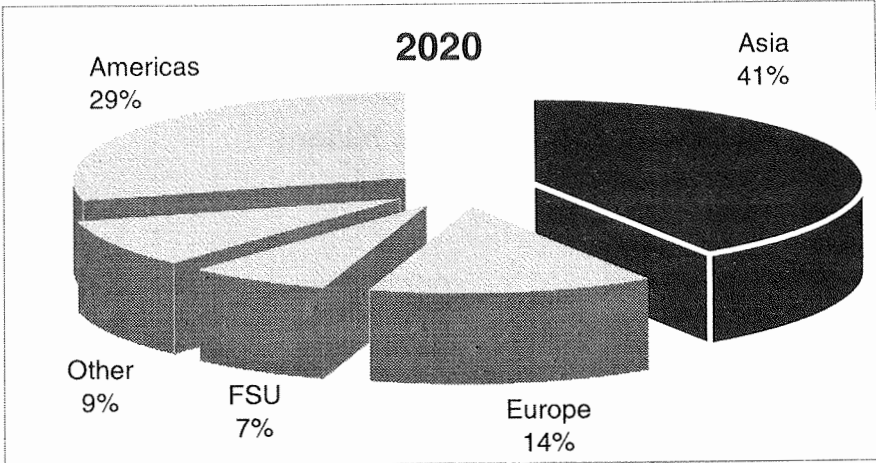
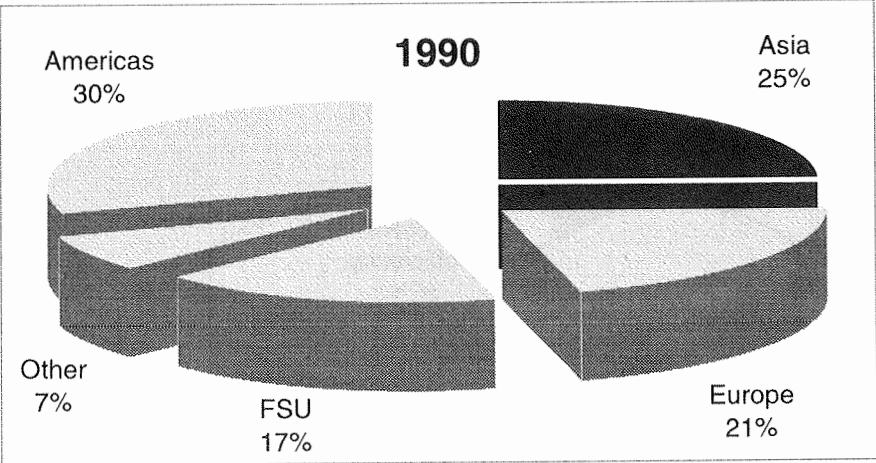


Figure 6. World population in freshwater scarcity, stress, and relative sufficiency: medium population projections, 1995 and 2050
Source: Gardner-Outlaw and Engelman (1997).

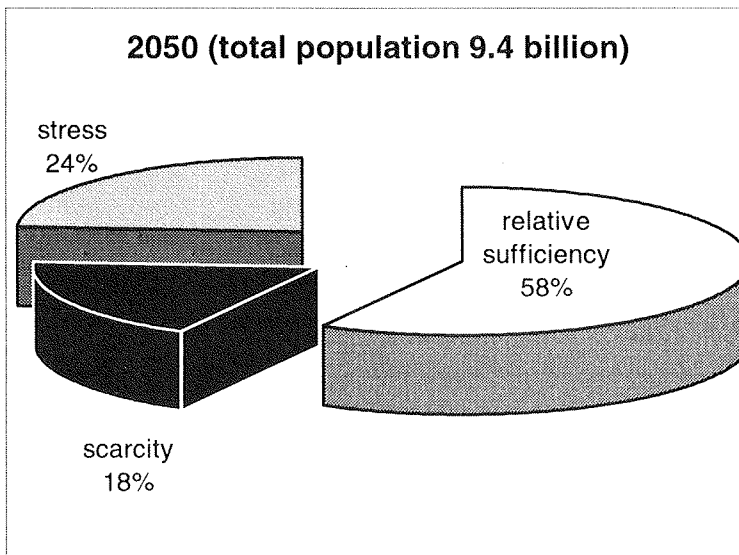
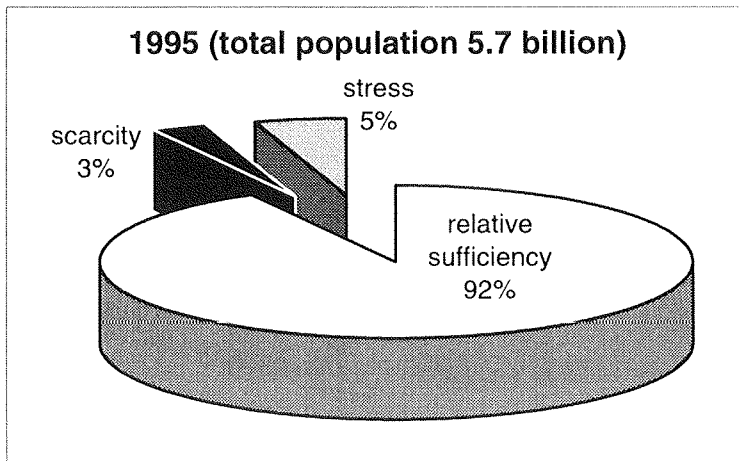


Table 1:

The effect of population growth on total carbon emissions in 2050 at three different levels of desegregation, constant and changing per capita emissions

Year and region	Population (billion)	Constant Per Capita Emissions		Changing Per Capita Emissions	
		Emissions (tons per capita)	Group Total (gigatons)	Emissions (tons per capita)	Group Total (gigatons)
1990 (observed)					
One-region world	5.29	1.07	5.67	—	—
MDCs	1.14	3.30	3.76	—	—
LDCs	4.15	0.46	1.91	—	—
Two-region total	5.29	—	5.67	—	—
Top	0.29	8.00	2.32	—	—
Upper middle	1.00	1.95	1.95	—	—
Lower middle	2.00	0.50	1.00	—	—
Bottom	2.00	0.20	0.40	—	—
All four groups	5.29	—	5.67	—	—
2050 (central scenario)					
One-region world	11.20	1.07	11.98	—	—
MDCs	1.24	3.30	4.09	3.3	4.09
LDCs	9.96	0.46	4.58	1.0	9.96
Two-region total	11.20	—	8.67	—	14.05
Top	0.30	8.00	2.40	5.0	1.50
Upper middle	1.20	1.95	2.34	2.5	3.00
Lower middle	3.20	0.50	1.60	1.0	3.20
Bottom	6.50	0.20	1.30	0.5	3.25
All four groups	11.20	—	7.64	—	10.95

Source: Popnet.

Population Explosion, Food Shortage and The Need For Modification of the WTO (Free Trade) Principle¹

**Resource Person
Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii
Division of Natural Resource Economics
Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University**

I lived in Bangkok 30 years ago, two years as a research representative of Kyoto University and then I learned the Thai language and I also conducted many village surveys. So I would like to start with a kind of practice of my Thai that I learned that time. (Translated) It is a great honour to be given the chance to give a talk at this 16th Parliamentarians meeting on Population and Development, on the related problems, natural resources, environment, and national and international policies.

In this paper the effects of the factors influencing world food demand and supply in the past and in the near future are analysed and synthesized as a projection for year 2020 and their implications are drawn as the need for modification of the WTO(free trade) principle.

The world grain stock/use ratios (ratio of stock volume against use volume) which are the criteria for global availability of grain have shown a tendency to fall since 1987. According to USDA data, except 1997/98 the world average stock/use ratio for all the grain has been below 17% since 1994/95 that is considered by FAO the dangerously low level. The ratio is at around the lowest level since the war, and is about the same as the level during the food crisis year of 1974. The stock/use ratios for rice and coarse grain have been lower than the average stock ratio since 1989/90 and they have been lower than 17% since 1993/94. The ratio for rice is projected to be at the dangerously low level of little more than 11% in 1998/99. (see Fig. 1) These low stock/use ratios are caused by the following long-term factors in the world: They are (1) transformation in agricultural policy during the late eighties and the nineties in Europe and the United States, (2) the recent stagnation in grain yield increase due to slowdown in agricultural technology improvement, scarcity in and degradation of natural resources such as soil and water and increase of cropping intensity, (3) the population explosion and the rapid increase in demand for feed and food grain caused mainly by the high economic growth in Asia, most notably in China.

Since the last half of the eighties, the agricultural policies in Europe and the United States have changed from policies of high support, surplus production and dumping export of agricultural surpluses to the scheme of policies of reducing price support, subsidising income directly, curtailing surpluses, correcting inter-regional differences and environmental degradation. Since these countries had been major international buffer stock holders of agricultural products and these policy changes have been made following the market fundamentalism under the influence of the Uruguay Round agricultural trade negotiations during 1986-1993 and under the current WTO framework, these changes will somehow continue into the 21st century and thus will keep the stock ratios for grain at a low level. (Fig. 2)

The limitation in agricultural technology improvements and in natural resources is clearly represented by the sharp decline in the growth rates in grain yields on the globe during the past four decades.

¹ A paper presented at the 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, "Review of Population and Development in Asia and Parliamentarians' Initiatives," held at Bangkok, Thailand, during March 18-20, 2000.

According to the FAO data, the annual growth rate of the yield has declined continuously from about 3% during the 60's to about 1% during 1985 and 1996. Agricultural research expenditures in the international and national research institutions have been decreasing considerably. Grain yield stagnation due to constraints in natural resources and increase in cropping intensity has been reported in many parts of Asia. In order to cope with the exploding population the grain yield must grow at 3% annually, but actual growth rate is only about 1%. Grain productivity of major inputs has been declining. (Fig. 3 and Table 1)

Water shortage for agricultural production has been worsening especially in fast growing Asia. Water demand for non-agricultural purposes has been growing at high speed in many developing countries. Annual stoppage of water flow in the Yellow River in China (that is a good indication of water shortage in northern China) has been rapidly worsening since 1990 in terms of number of days per year and length of no water flow from the mouth of the river. In 1997 the number of days became more than 250 days and the length became more than 700 km. Although stoppage hasn't occurred since 1998, the long-term picture is clear. From interviews held with the farmers in the area it appears that the underground water level in the fields has been declining over the last five years, sometimes even 1 meter per year.

In my interviews with farmers and researchers in Punjab and Harayana, India which is the granary for whole Indian people in August last year, I heard that underground water table in most of Punjab and Harayana Districts is declining at about 50cm per year because of too much pumping up of water for agricultural production. Electricity is free there, so the pumps are switched on automatically whenever there is electricity. Politicians do not price electricity out of fear of losing seats. According to me and other researchers a catastrophe is awaiting, if this situation continues. If it will continue at this speed it will cause in the near future a severe reduction in Punjab grain production. I personally experienced in 1998 that water supplies suspension in most cities in India lasts very long hours every day and rivers near big cities on Deccan Plateau in India are extremely polluted.

Arable land and planted area of grain have been decreasing last two decades on the globe. Soil degradation such as soil erosion, desertification and salinisation have been spreading very fast on the globe. Very wide areas of forest have been cut and burnt, and afterwards the area has been used for agricultural purposes often by extensive soil mining way. A case in point is Thailand.

The world population had increased by 2.5 billion during the past 4 million years. But it increased by the same amount during 1950 and 1985. Population explosion started around 1960 and it will continue up to year 2025.¹⁾ Annual growth of the world population is more than 70 million during the period of 1955/60 and 2020/25. It was more than 80 million per year during 1975/80 and 1995/2000. Population explosion is an important factor to increase food demand. Fast economic growth especially in the developing countries accelerates the increase in the world demand for food because fast income growth of the people causes shift in the dietary pattern of the people from more carbohydrate consumption to more animal protein consumption. This leads to fast increase in the demand for feed grain. Recent negative economic growth of the developing countries caused by the monetary crises creates temporal reversal in this tendency.

Incorporating all the factors affecting world grain demand and supply discussed just above, using a simple projection model and assuming future values of exogenous variables of the model such as population, income, income elasticity and conversion ratio between feed and meat, I projected world demand and supply of grain in year 2020. The projected world deficit of grain in year 2020 is 417 million metric tons.²⁾ The current world total grain trade is about 200 million tons, and the projected deficit is very large. Assuming world price elasticity of demand and supply of grain to be about 0.15, the world trade price of grain will increase by about 50 % in year 2020 compared to the base year of 1993. Lester Brown,³⁾ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of Japan and FAO⁴⁾ predict shortage of grain in early 21st century. International organizations such as IFPRI and World Bank

predict that grain price will decrease by 10 to 30 %, and thus think that we will face surplus of grain in the world in early 21st century. Reading the publications projecting a surplus, I think the assumptions for their projection are too optimistic. These assumptions are for example: no limitation in arable land and water, positive price response in planted area of grain, and considerable yield growth of grain in the future supported by technological improvements in agricultural production. Based on those optimistic assumptions it is easy to come to a surplus projection.

Green revolution with rice and wheat that depended on new seeds and increased use of modern inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals, agricultural machinery and irrigation water, had increased the production of these grains to reduce the size of the huge world hungry during the seventies and the eighties. But the annual growth rate of grain yield has been declining rapidly to a level much below the level required in order to cope with the growth of the world grain need during the past four decades. The levels of modern inputs per unit harvested area in the world has been increasing since 1960. (Fig. 4) Population explosion and income growth in the developing countries will cause explosion of grain demand. In order to meet this exploding demand and the projected large future food shortage only by conventional technology, we will have to use increasing amount of modern inputs per unit harvested area of grain and this will aggravate already severe environmental destruction. More surface and underground water will be needed in order to cope with the projected world food shortage. This will not only aggravate salinity problem of soil, water logging and depletion of underground water resources in the irrigated area but also increase already severe competition for water among agricultural, industrial and urban sectors. More arable area will be needed for the exploding demand for grain that will increase soil erosion and soil degradation. Thus, in order to meet the huge projected world food shortage by conventional technology we will face exhaustion of such natural resources as water and soil. In order to avoid these environmental destruction and natural resources depletion, we will need a new socially optimal technology that not only will increase yield but also will conserve environment and natural resources at the same time. Some reorientation in agricultural researches to this direction has been done such as increasing emphasis on gene engineering and conventional researches for crops' resistance to drought, pests, insects and salinity. But more fundamental reorientation is necessary and major modification of research policy is needed.

As agricultural policy and trade rule influence environment, natural resources and the welfare of the huge poor in the world, the researches are required in order to identify the optimal policy and trade rule. The agricultural trade liberalization under the WTO system will reduce food production in the North much more than the amount of food production increase in the South caused by the liberalization, and thus increases the food price in the world.⁵⁾ This price increase will lead to more use of chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals in the world and serious decline in the welfare of the huge world poor, about 800 million on the globe.

The WTO agricultural trade liberalization will distribute most of its economic benefits to developed countries.⁶⁾ Thus this international economic and political bargaining of trade liberalization will cause a very unequal economic results and thus I think this bargaining is unfair. I think essential modifications in the bargaining process or in the distribution of the benefits of trade liberalization should be done.

The WTO liberalization will lead to more food production far away from densely populated developed and developing countries to sparsely populated countries. In these countries food production will be conducted by larger size farms and more commercialised fashion that leads to higher variability in world food production. Since food is the necessity especially in the developing countries, the price elasticity of its demand is small or price variability is intrinsically high and thus food price will become very variable and this is a great harm to the huge world poor. Appropriate agricultural policy and trade rule for agricultural products is important in order to increase food supply and food security, and reduce environmental destruction and burdens to natural resources. The nation in each country, especially the huge poor and hungry in the developing countries requires not only larger food supply

but also stability or sure daily access to staple food, i.e. food security. More than ninety percent of the world rice production and consumption is done in Asia, and rice is the most important grain and the staple food in Asia. I believe liberalization of rice trade under the WTO system will destroy this stability and sure access to the huge Asian hungry of 0.5 billion. The international rice trade market is much more thin, unstable and unreliable compared with other important world grain like wheat and maize. Most Asian countries have pursued and would like to maintain rice self-sufficiency policy in order to secure food security for the nation in each country. Liberalization of rice trade will not increase the size of the international rice trade market very much because most Asian countries pursue rice self-sufficiency policy. Consequently, The rice trade liberalization will greatly destabilize world rice market that is a great risk for the huge Asian hungry. ⁷⁾

Given sparse population and the soft state condition⁸⁾ in the case of developing far away countries, the people in these countries will pay less attention to negative environmental impacts and over use of natural resources by the liberalized and greater food production in these countries. These negative impacts of food production, I believe, are best controlled when more food production is conducted in each and more populated country that needs it. People in each of such country can better observe these negative impacts taking place near them and can better influence government policies and other measures to reduce them. More food production in the densely populated developing agricultural countries will reduce poverty and equalize income distribution by increasing income of the huge agricultural poor in these countries.

The economic benefits of liberalisation are distributed unequally. The GATT secretariat calculated that the impact of the Uruguay round was around \$5100 million. 60% of these benefits will be distributed to Europe, North America and EFTA. Only 22% will go to developing countries whereas 60% of the world's population live in these countries.

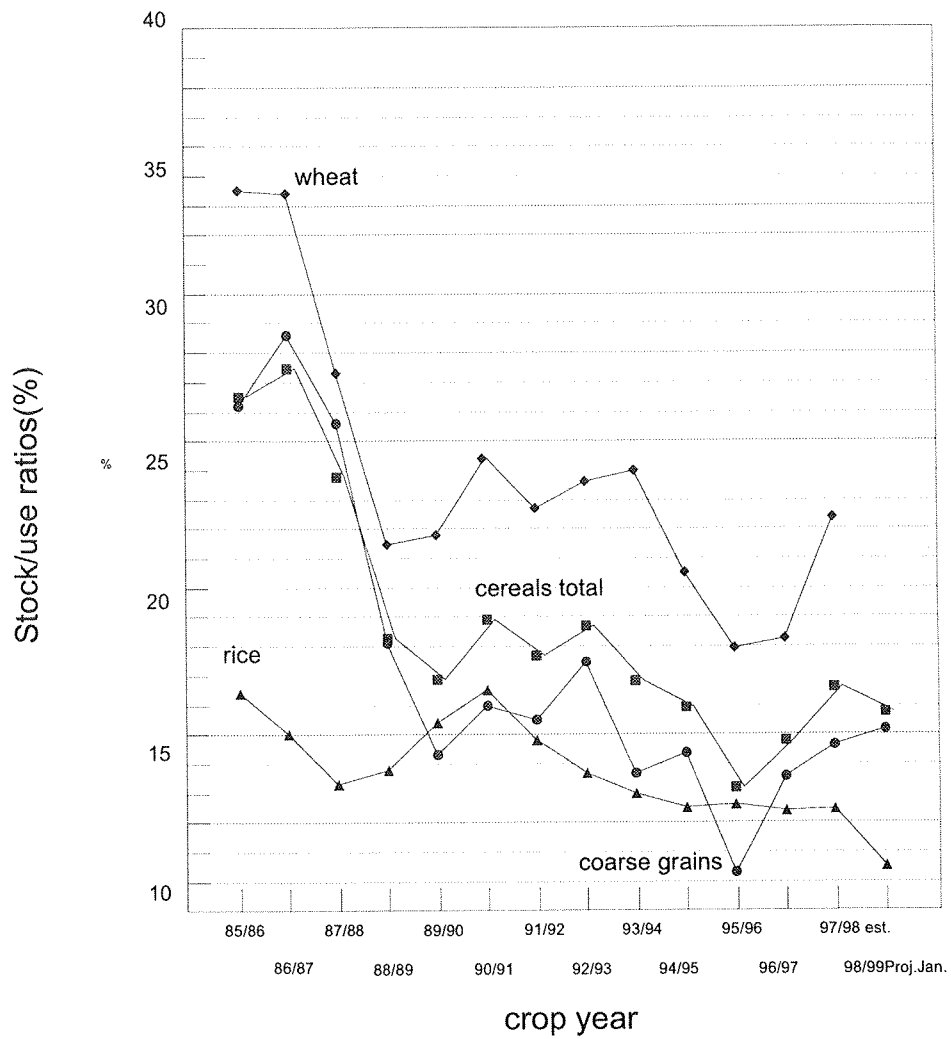
The WTO agricultural trade liberalization will increase world food price variability, food price level, environmental destruction, natural resource depletion and inequality in national and world income distribution. I think the free trade rule, that is the core principle of the WTO system, should be modified, and socially optimal agricultural and trade policy oriented toward greater self-sufficiency of staple food in each country and minimize environmental destruction and natural resources depletion should be sought. This is necessary for the people on the globe to cope with the constraints in natural resources and environments against population explosion, economic growth and expected future food shortage. One example for such trade rule is "autonomous tariffication" ⁹⁾ under which import tariff is determined autonomously by each country based on the nation's desire for food self-sufficiency and for the external values of the rural and agricultural sectors, and is not determined generally by international negotiations, like it was done in the Uruguay negotiations.. Under the autonomous tariffication, there should be an appropriate standard internationally agreed by which the autonomously determined tariff in each country should be reduced as productivity of that country is increased by the efforts of the farmers of that country.

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Fig. 1. Stock / use ratios of world major grains
at the end of each crop year

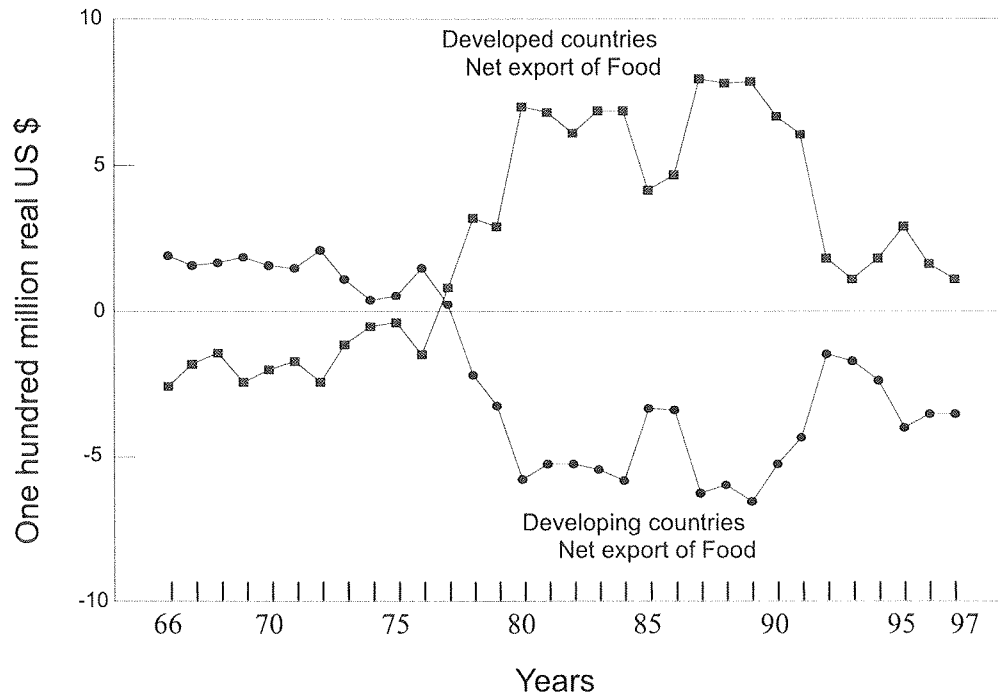


Data Source: USDA Data sets by internet and other USDA publications.

est.: estimates,

proj.: projected values.

Fig. 2 North & South Food Trade Balance
 Trade Value Deflated by the FAO Trade Price Indexes(1980=100)



- Notes
- 1) The net export quantity data for developed and less-developed countries are calculated based on the old FAO trade value data for developed, less developed and socialist countries deflated by trade price index, adjusted by adj. coeff.
 - 2) The adjustment coefficients for the under-valuation of FOB export value are 1.07 before 1991 and 1.08 after 1991.

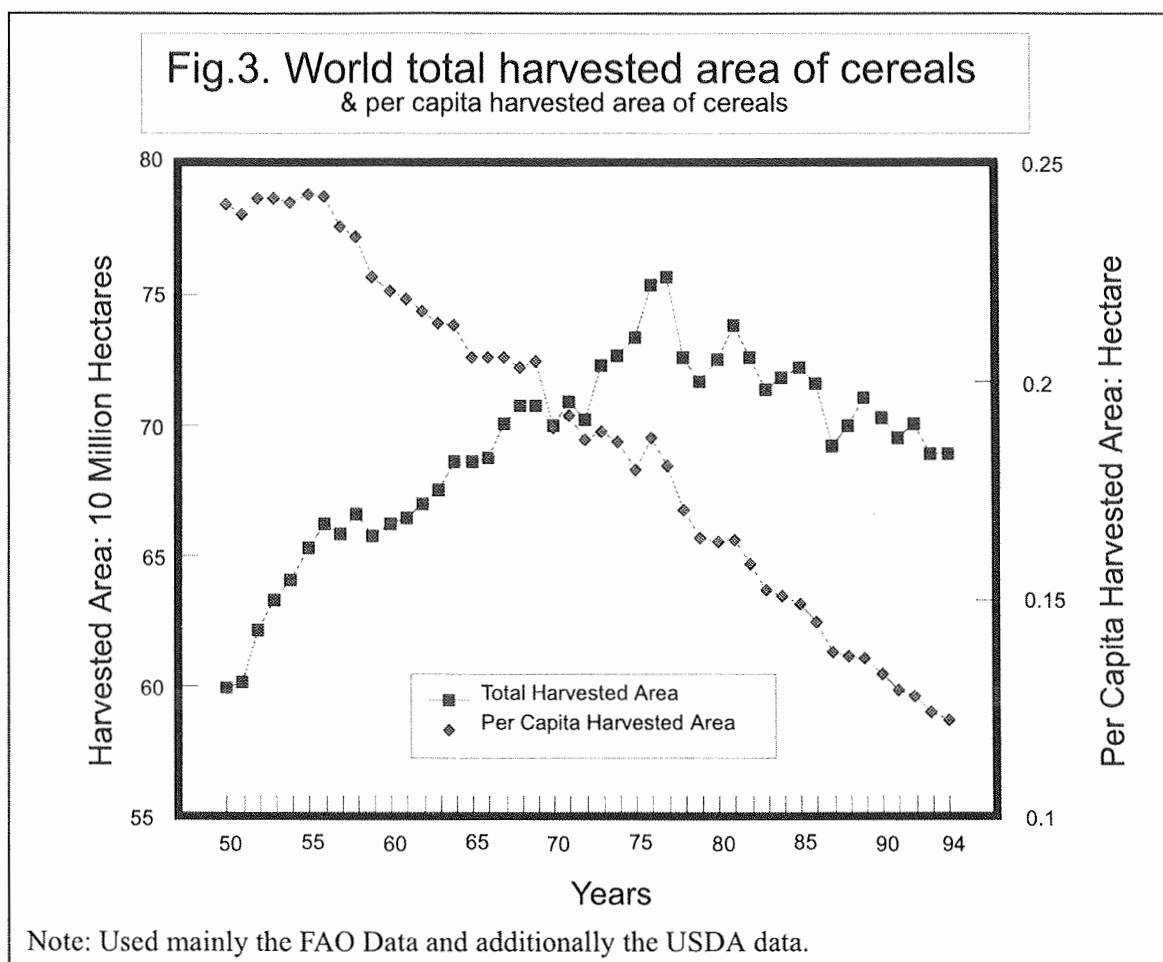


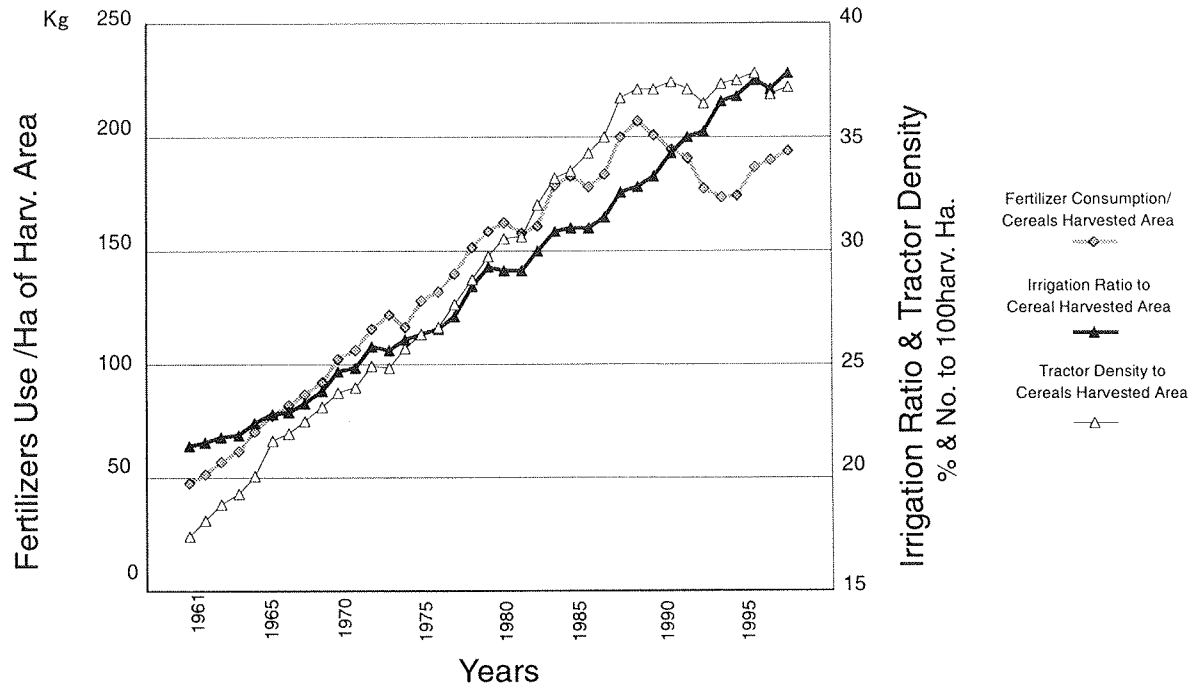
Table 1 Long run decline in the annual growth rate in the world average yields of major cereals

Unit: %

	All Cereals	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Barley
61/70	3.02	2.72	3.61	2.17	3.46
70/85	2.41	2.13	2.50	3.12	1.26
85/96	1.20	1.22	1.44	0.90	0.63

Data Source: FAO Production Yearbooks via FTP.

Fig. 4 Intensification of the World Agriculture
 Increasing Use of Fertilizers, Tractors and Irrigation



Statement: Mr. Zhang Huaixi, MP, China

Fellow parliamentarians, Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen

The Chinese delegation is very pleased to have this opportunity to come to Bangkok to attend the 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, and together with our fellow parliamentarians to review population and development related issues, and explore roles of parliamentarians. May I on behalf of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Public Health of the Chinese National People's Congress to express my warm congratulations to the convening of this conference and sincere appreciation to its organizer, Japan Population and Development Association and the host, the Thai Parliament.

This year is the last year of the 20th century. To hold a session at the turn of new century is of great significance. Now, I would like to make a few remarks on the issue of population and development.

1. Problems related to population, resources, environment and sustainable development will, in a rather long period of time, continue to face Asian countries and the world at large.

To achieve sustainable development is a key strategic issue in the present world and is attracting increasingly great attention. Population, resources and environment are 3 important factors closely related to the sustainable development. Although mankind made great efforts in the past several years, but the high speed of population growth, scarcity of natural resources and deterioration of environment are serious problems still facing mankind and constituting major disturbances to the sustainable development. In my view, among the 3 factors, the issue of population growth weighs heavier and constitutes the pivotal point. Because an excessively high growth rate of population will cause great strains upon both the resources and the environment.

Take the water resources as an example. The scarcity of water resources is closely related to the population issue. With the increasing population growth, the per capita possession of water resources decreases significantly. The water shortage is worsening. Some statistics show that about 1/3 of the world population (about 2 billion) is now living in the countries with high or mid level of water shortage. The water shortage will not only impede the economic development, especially the agricultural development, thus threatening the food security, but will also do harm to the ecological system and environment. The water pollution harms people's health. In the developing countries, 80% of diseases and 1/3 of mortality are attributed to the polluted water. Furthermore, the problem of water shortage will not be resolved in short term. With the continuing population increase and economic development, the contradiction between supply and demand of water resources will be more outstanding.

China is also plagued by the lack of water resources and the per capita possession of water resources is only a quarter of world average level. With the population increase and economic development, there will be more severe shortage of water resources. A better solution to the problem of water shortage will have a direct bearing on China's sustainable development, its economic and social development in the 21st century, the realization of its strategic goals for the modernization drive and on the future of the Chinese nation. Therefore, while deepening its reform and developing its economy, China will continue to strictly control its population growth and uphold the basic state policy of family planning. At the same time, China will pay equal importance to the exploitation, utilization, and protection of water resources. We will apply scientific and technological advances to the water conservancy and pollution control so as to strengthen the control and regulation of the water resources.

Population control, environmental protection and the conservation of resources are the common tasks

of mankind. We have only one earth to live on. Problems relating to environment and resources are beyond the limits of national boundaries. The settlement of these problems is where the common interests of all countries and regions lie. We must take action to strengthen cooperation and adopt strategies for sustainable development.

2. Population control is an essential way China must take to achieve sustainable development.

China's population accounts for 23% of the world's total, but the arable land, only 7%. China's actual conditions are characterized by large population, scarcity of arable land, a comparatively small amount of per capita possession of natural resources, an underdeveloped economy and social economic disparity among regions. Our strategic goals for national development are to realize the consistent economic increase and the sustainable development, to satisfy the increasing material and cultural needs and to improve the living standard of the Chinese people, and to achieve an all-round social progress. But excessively fast population growth severely restricts the economic and social development and the quick improvement of people's living standard. With this in mind, the Chinese government attaches great importance to the control over the population growth while making efforts to develop its economy. Beginning from the 1970s, the Chinese government practiced the family planning policy in an all-round way. The work of population and family planning was regarded as an important part of the national strategy to realize the sustainable economic and social development. It was planned and carried out along with those for economic and social undertakings. Family planning is a fundamental state policy of China. It is not only good for China's sustainable development but also for the improvement of the people's living standard. Through publicity and education, the family planning policy has, over the years, gained understanding and support from the people. In recent years, while emphasizing the control of population growth in its family planning objectives, the Chinese government has paid more attention to the improvement of the population quality. It makes an overall management, launches publicity, education activities and provides high quality pre-natal care and family planning services. In rural areas, the Chinese government pays close attention to combining population and family planning programs with other undertakings like economic development, poverty relief, popularisation of education, development of Medicare and Medicaid, enhancement of women's status and the provision of social security. Satisfactory results have been achieved.

But, China is still confronted with grave challenge in population and development. At present, the population on Mainland China is 1.259 billion, and around 11 million net will be added to that figure every year from now. It is estimated that in the coming decades, China's population increase won't come to a halt until it gains another 0.3 billion. Besides, China still has dozens of millions poverty-stricken people. So the huge population is still a major issue yet to be resolved in the course of sustainable development. Therefore, China will continue to carry out unswervingly its family planning program.

3. The important role the National People's Congress plays in resolving the issue of population and development.

As the highest legislative body and the highest organ of state power, the Chinese National People's Congress actively promotes and supports a better solution to the issue of population and development. Through legislation and supervision, it provides the basic law guarantees for the harmony of population and development and supervises the government on its implementation of population and development plans. The Chinese constitution stipulates that the nation pursues a policy of family planning and makes the population growth compatible with the economic and social development. Constitutional provisions are also made concerning education and public health, environmental protection, population migration and the social security for women and senior citizens. In line with the principles enshrined in the constitution, the National People's Congress has passed such laws as

Heritage Law, Environmental Protection Law, Adolescence Protection Law, Compulsory Education law, Law on the Protection and Guarantee of Women's Rights and Interests, Law on the Health Care of the Mother and Infants. These laws provided the basic legal guarantee for the coordination of population and development. Deputies to the people's congress at different levels, as representatives of their constituents and spokesmen of the public opinion, do their utmost to voice people's needs of subsistence, life and development. Proceeding from both the short and long term interests of the people, deputies commit themselves to ensuring the implementation of population and development programs at the grassroots and the people live in peace and contentment with full access to abundant food and clothing so as to be immune from illiteracy, diseases and poverty.

The National People's Congress actively supports and participates in population and development related activities in Asia and the world at large and promotes exchanges among nations and parliaments. For example, China has always actively participated in the activities of Asian Forum on Population and Development. Since the founding of the Forum, representatives from NPC have been serving as vice-chairmen successfully fulfilling their due obligations. We hosted in Beijing several conferences under the framework of the Forum, at which we engaged in wide exchanges and exploration on population and development related issues. Furthermore, the Chinese National People's Congress has conducted reciprocal visits to Indian Parliamentarians' Association for Population and Development, Japan Population and Development Association and Vietnamese Parliamentarians' Association for Population and Development. Throughout these bilateral activities, we exchanged views and experiences on population and development and explored rational ways to resolve the issue.

I believe, in the years ahead, the Chinese National People's Congress will as always continue to focus on the issue of population and development and is willing to play greater role in this area. While resolving its own problems, we will take an active part in the international exchanges and cooperation and make contributions for peace, stability, prosperity and development in Asia and world at large.

Statement: Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP, India

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Parliamentarians,

The issue of population and development poses a grave challenge to mankind. For most Asian countries, the national economic and scientific and technological basis is still relatively weak. So in a fairly long time to come, how to resolve this issue is still an important task facing us all. Arduous efforts are needed. Historic responsibilities and common interests make it imperative for all countries to take concerted and coordinated actions to strengthen cooperation, enhance mutual understanding, and conduct sincere cooperation.

Population growth and its consequences on development have been one of the main concerns of social scientists in developing countries which are beset with numerous socio-economic problems. Different scholars view the population growth in different ways. For a country with unexploited or rather less exploited natural resources, population growth is a welcome step and in otherwise case, it is undesirable. Some economists are of the view that population growth is not the sole cause of poverty. They cite the examples of the U.K., Japan and Belgium where there is an incidence of high population density but less poverty. On the other hand, there are other countries like Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Angola where lower density of population exists with higher incidence of poverty. In case of India, population growth has been considered a main impediment in achieving the goals of development. The population of the country has been growing enormously in past decades with exception in last decade when some decline in population growth curve has been witnessed. Average annual growth rate of population has been 2.22 per cent during 1971-81 and 2.14 per cent during 1981-91.

No doubt, India has made great strides in science and technology. Now we have surplus agricultural produce. We have constructed many big projects. Big industrial plants have been established to provide employment to thousands of people. Infrastructural facilities have been increased. Campaigns of total literacy and health for all have been launched with great ambitions. Every effort is being made to provide employment to the population of working age, but torrential growth of our population neutralises all our efforts.

Population Growth and Availability of Food

From 1951 to 1996, food grain production registered an increase of nearly four times - from 50 to 109 million tonnes but per capita food grain availability has increased by only 25 per cent (1951-85). Thus, despite a green revolution a large section of the population remains undernourished because of the high increase in the mouths to demand food.

Increase in per capita food availability is one of the indicators of the improvement in the standard of living of the people in developing countries, where per capita calorie intake comes largely from cereals and pulses and such calorie intake is unenviably low in comparison to developed countries. The following table will reveal per capita daily calorie intake of a number of countries(1978-81).

Countries	India	China	Japan	USSR	West Germany	USA	UK
Calories	2056	2426	2852	3641	3351	3641	3249

Further it is projected that the present increase of 2.3 per cent in food production will renew 1.8 by 2001 while population growth will be 2 per cent indicating high load of population on available food production.

Population Growth and its Effect on Environment

Population is an important resource for development, yet it is a major source of environmental degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support systems. Unless the relationship between the multiplying population and life support systems can be stabilized, development programmes, however, innovative, are not likely to yield the desired results. It is possible to expand the 'carrying capacity' through technological advances and spatial distribution, but neither of these can support unlimited population growth.

Our forest wealth is dwindling due to over-grazing, over-exploitation-both for commercial and household needs encroachments; unsustainable practices of shifting cultivation and developmental activities such as roads, buildings, irrigation and power projects. The recorded forest cover in the country is 75.01 million hectares which works out to 19.5 per cent of the total geographical area against the broad national goal of 33 per cent for the plain areas and 66 per cent for hilly regions. The loss of habitat is leading to the extinction of plant, animal and microbial species. According to the Botanical and Zoological Surveys of India, over 1500 plant and animal species are in the endangered category. The biological impoverishment of the country is a serious threat to sustainable advances in biological productivity. Gene erosion also erodes the prospects for deriving full economic and ecological benefits from recent advances in molecular biology and genetic engineering.

Our unique wetlands, rich in aquatic and bird life, are facing problems of pollution and over-exploitation. The major rivers of the country are also facing problems of pollution and siltation. Our long coastline is under similar stress. Our coastal areas have been severely damaged due to indiscriminate construction near the water-line. Coastal vegetation including mangroves and sea grasses is getting denuded. Our mountain ecosystems are under threat of serious degradation.

Compounding these human-inflicted wounds on natural ecosystems and life-support mechanisms, we are facing serious problems of pollution and unsanitary conditions especially in urban areas. Pollution arising from toxic wastes industries and other development projects and vehicle is causing irrevocable damage. This has resulted in the pollution of our water bodies and has adversely affected the growth of our aquatic flora and fauna. Thus, rapid consumption of natural resources and waste disposal by an increasing number of people has put a greater stress on the environment.

Conclusion

Population explosion in developing countries is a matter of international concern. For India with 16 per cent of the world's population and 2.4 per cent of the global land area, it is a problem of serious magnitude. Its current population in growth with an annual addition of 1.6 crore presents a formidable scenario.

India's population size has increased from 34.2 crore at the time of independence to 84.4 crore as per the 1991 Census. As such, there is tremendous pressure on our resources for providing even the basic needs, such as food, housing, education, health, to the country's large population. Indeed, population control has to be the foremost national priority.

Discussion

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu :

We will now open the floor for discussion.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu, MP, Malaysia:

First, I'd like to comment the four speakers Dr. Lee and Mr. Tsujii and the speakers from China and India for having given us the challenges that are facing the 21st century. This morning, Dr. Nakayama and Mr Sakurai gave us the issues that are related to population and development and several times we have been focussing on water issues. Other topics were food security, the increasing poverty, the aging population, the divides between the haves and have-nots and between the developed world and the less developed world. In general, in terms of quality of life, one section of the world population would be having more, compared to the other section. What I would like to ask or raise is two aspects to the problem: The challenges ahead and what are we supposed to do as parliamentarians? In the existence of AFPPD the awareness raising or sensitising of the problem has been quite high, but I should think that in terms of the impact on policy on individual governments we have not heard very much. So maybe from now, we should concern ourselves to the impact on policies. What have we achieved? What is there to be achieved. I think that should be a very useful proposition.

The other aspect would be is that we are losing what we have. That is, we are failing to protect the environment and the natural resources. An examples would be the water resources. Increasingly, our rivers our becoming dead, not able to sustain the marine life, the pollution is very high, because of the urbanisation process. People are not living in comfortable homes, but in squat areas. I would like to coin a word , "squaterisation" of the urban population. There are a lot of demands on water, electricity, homes, and so forth. These are some of the things that we'll have to look into. These are controllable areas and factors, if you have the political will. Conservation and management are important issues here. In fact, it has been the mismanagement of water resources that has lead to some of our current difficulties. Previously, we could congratulate ourselves that we could drink the piped water, but now in some countries we can not, because of E-coli. Therefore, we are turning to bottled mineral water. We have to decide what is controllable and what is not.

Lastly, I would like to raise the question of grain supply. I am not very clear on one part of Mr Tsujii's paper; When talking of land, but decreasing of cereals, a percentage of 1.3% is mentioned. In Malaysia the land is decreasing because of housing and industrial development and so on. Yet the increase in yield is higher because of irrigation, integration of small farms into larger farms, fertilisers, tractors, mechanisation, high yielding varieties, etc. So, I would like Mr. Tsujii to explain this point in more detail; the dilemma between increasing land, but decreasing yields. Thank you.

Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii:

I have shown in a table that the world average grain yield increase ratio per year has been declining very rapidly from 3% to 1%. This is an average per unit in square hectares in harvested grains. I believe that this is a severe situation because it is necessary to have a 3% increase in order to cope with the population explosion on the average. Harvested areas on the globe have been declining continuously for the past decades, reflecting the shortage of arable land. Combining those two I think we will face a trend of shortage of cereals and food in the early 21st century. However, as I discussed with Prof. Dr. Marimuthu during lunch, the Malaysian government is doing an exceptionally good job at enlarging the farm size, introduction of green revolution technologies, new varieties and thus increasing productivity. In addition, Malaysia is now following a policy of 70% rice self-sufficiency. I think, that wouldn't be possible for countries such as China, India or Japan to follow that kind of

policy. Rice is the essential staple food in Asia and therefore is a political good. In case of rice shortages, in many Asian countries political instability, coups or changes of government occur. This was true in the Philippines in 1955, in Indonesia during the later years of Suharto, Japan in 1994 and Korea in 1980. In Thailand in 1973, riots and mobs, followed by a coup was partly the result of high rice prices. Large Asian countries can therefore not follow this 70% self-sufficiency policy. Malaysia may be an exceptional country, possibly in the same category as Singapore and Hong Kong.

I'd like to add one thing; Although Malaysia has succeeded in that field, Malaysia may still face environmental destruction, like Japan. Farmers have done very much to increase rice production and to attain full self-sufficiency on the archipelago, but now having used too much fertilisers and chemicals we are facing environmental destruction and pollution in Japan. Malaysia may face similar problems.

Mr. Ermekkali Bigaliev, MP, Kazakhstan:

Natural disasters, contamination and pollution effect the living standards of people throughout the world. In this connection, I would like to mention a serious problem we are facing in our country, namely the drought in the Aral Sea area. This is a result of the planned Soviet economy and at time not enough attention was paid to environmental issues. This lead to drying of the area, reduction of production in the Aral Sea area and migration of people away from this area. This is still a very acute problem. I also read that polar ice is melting because of weed that flies from this area and lands on the ice. In Spring and Summer there's an increase of volume of water, adding to our problems.

I wish a very fruitful outcome of this conference and prosperity and good luck to all the participants.

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Japan:

I'd like to refer to a comment made by Prof. Tsujii. We are reminded we are born in different environments and conditions. The teachings of our ancestors, the heritage can be very valuable if we cherish and succeed this heritage we should be able to achieve higher agricultural production. However, the WTO rules are such that they disregard the set of natural conditions which are beyond our control and if these rules persist the consequence would be that areas which suffer from a serious set of natural conditions can no longer produce agricultural produce. Therefore, the members of WTO should appreciate the differences and write a new rule to allow all countries to whatever they can do to continue to produce. We believe that Asian parliamentarians should really speak up to this effect, so that the WTO rules are reviewed and revised. Due to concentrating agriculture in certain areas during the Soviet days, the former Soviet countries are now suffering from the ecological disasters in different parts. I'm sure we can be wise enough and be creative so achieve harmony world wide and a balance amongst different regions. Rather than the status quo we should be able to find ways for better harmony between all regions. The new century will be the challenge. For us parliamentarians, we should really get together and use our wisdom to find new and better ways for the betterment of the livelihood of human kind. I would welcome any reaction from the two prestigious speakers.

Dr. Lee-Jay Cho:

I would like to react to Mr. Sakurai's point raised on the issue of the value of the cultural environment that we have lived through and the free market ideology. The ideals of Adam Smith's Anglo-Saxon free market ideology would be: If you have any environmental problems or other problems, just give it some time; the invisible arms of competition and market mechanisms will resolve these problems. That premises is different from the Asian context of values which we have shared over generations. The collective value that we attach to family and community and larger areas requires us to take collective action, to balance what we do as a human being to the natural environment. Human beings are considered only a part of that environment. The free economy ideology is basically based on

individualism, the individual interaction between the Christian ideology of the individual person against God, whereas in an Asian context it is through collective structures such as family and community. The greater emphasis is put on the collectiveness, the welfare of the community. In Asian paintings (such as Indian or Chinese) historically human beings are depicted as part of nature, the balance between humans and the human habitat is much more emphasised than in the Western culture of conquering, overcoming, individualism, etc. They say over there: "Given enough time, the market will take care of it." Yes, it will, but the market moves from one moment to the other. By that time the human made disaster may already have impacted in such a way that it may be extremely difficult to return to the balanced nature between human beings and his environment. So, the free market ideology can not be imposed upon in areas with different cultures and values, which have been inherited over the years. Having made this comment I'd like to pass over to Mr. Tsujii.

Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii:

When discussing the benefits of the free trade hypothesis (the core principle of the WTO system) so called "externalities" are not considered. Economists define externalities as the value which can not be evaluated monetarily, such as beautiful, rural scenery, which all of us evaluate very highly aesthetically. Another example is food security. My studies on rice policies in Asia show that Asians attach high value to rice price stability. In market fundamentalism this kind of stability is not considered. Rural culture and environmental effects are also very important. Since these externalities can not be handled by the benefits of free trade or the liberalisation philosophy, pushed mainly by the United States, we should carefully reconsider the free market hypothesis.

Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP, Japan:

This morning I talked about the problems relating to water resources. We now see many people buying bottled mineral water. Piped water is no longer drinkable even in advanced nations. In addition to the water shortage issues in developing nations, advanced nations also face problems related to water. So water resources is a shared problem. Next week there will be a big international conference in the Netherlands on the major issue of water. We hope that APDA can take up this issue as one on the items on the agenda at the next meeting.

The chairperson's suggestion to do so was greeted with applause from the participants.

Dr. Lee-Jay Cho:

The water shortage problem is indeed is severe problem, as exemplified by the situation in northern China, where they face a serious crisis in the years to come. On the one hand there is an increase in population, on the other the intensification of agriculture and industrial use. To develop the western region of China a tremendous amount of water is required. There is a very delicate situation there, because by exploiting the scarce, existing water resources they certainly bring about imbalances. Even in Japan, because of overuse of fertilisers and maintaining golf course and cultivation, the salt content of the water throughout the nation is worsening. Also, in USA, despite their vast water resources, the West Coast with its increase in population is facing acute water problems in the decades to come. In the central Asian republics, including Kazakhstan, are beginning to feel the water stress, and finally water scarcity. Many years ago we could go all over the world and go into the villages, drink the water and you wouldn't get diarrhoea. Now, more and more we must resort to bottled water, even on aeroplanes. So, fresh water resources are limited and recycling it takes a tremendous amount of improvement in technology and heavy investment. In this sense water is a very important issue, in developing countries especially. As we say: you either famine or feast. In Africa, because of weather changes, there is too much water and people drown to death and then two years later there is a drought. These water issues are also connected to weather issues which in turn are connected to CO2 emissions

of industrialised countries, fertiliser use, land intensification, etc. We have to look at water issues in the context of a holistic framework, where one thing is connected to the other. It is all connected to the population issues; through the number of people and individual behaviour we are generating our own disasters. Parliamentarian's role is to interact and develop a common view of a larger framework instead of a national view with respect to the valuable water. We shouldn't be satisfied with our own domestic situation, but view it in the larger context of our neighbours or the region.

Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii:

During my extensive travels in China, India and Myanmar I noticed that all these three countries face severe water shortage problem, not only in the big cities, but also in the rural areas. For example: At the Deccan Plateau in India most big rivers are severely polluted near the big cities. Large populations can not use this water for drinking purposes. In many cities water supply is limited to a few hours in the morning and in the evening. In Mandalay, Myanmar water shortage in the houses also occurs. As mentioned before, the water level of Yellow River in China had been worsening for many years, despite great efforts by the government and the people. Such efforts include planting trees and grass in order to conserve water. The International Institute of Applied Systems Analyses, based in Austria, recently published a document forecasting severe water shortage problems in the Yellow Basin in the near future. So the government, the people and parliamentarians must put a lot of effort into solving the water shortage problem in Asian countries.

Rep. Luwalhati R. Antonino, MP, Philippines:

Water aside, can we also talk about the food that we take in, considering the latest developments in research and technologies, including biotechnology. The question arises how safe this newly developed food is, especially since we are importing and exporting it.

Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii:

Biotechnology cannot contribute to increase in food production.

Dr. Lee-Jay Cho:

Standards on import and export need to be set regionally. "Cultural dimensions" of food (e.g. rice) should be taken into account.

Mr. Ranan Shaekin, MP, Kazakhstan:

In Kazakhstan severe problems occurred after the closing of mines that were then filled with water, destroying the balance.

Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP Mongolia:

80% of the water supplied to Lake Baikal comes from Mongolia. So far, we have been supplying clean and unpolluted water to that lake. Ten years ago we in Mongolia started the market economy and other structural changes, so we can not guarantee that this situation will remain in the future. There are also concerns in Russia because of the pollution of the lake itself by the factories which are working on the shore of the lake. I think our next conference should also raise the issue of Lake Baikal.

Although the population of Mongolia is only slightly more than two million, still we have problems related to population and sustainable development. The fact that one third of our population is living in the capital city causes many problems that have never existed before, such water shortage, air

pollution, waste problems, etc. One third are still nomads, for whom protection against natural disasters is a crucial issue. The drought in 1999 was followed by heavy snowfall in winter, causing big losses for the agricultural sector, including the death of millions of animals. We are very glad and grateful for the support and assistance that the international community has shown, including Japan and Korea. Thank you very much.

Mr. Yoshio Yatsu:

So, as suggested the Baikal Lake could be taken up as we discuss water issues next year. Possibly the Mekong river and the other international rivers could also be included.

Mr. Shin Sakurai:

I hear, that over the last ten years in Bangladesh there is not enough surface water, so they depend on wells for drinking water. Yet, most of these wells are polluted by arsenate, which can cause cancer. All this water comes from the Himalayas, so I suppose the arsenate exists all over the area, not just deep down. Let us take up this question of arsenate poisoning next time.

To return to the question posed by Prof. Dr. Marimuthu: What can we do specifically to solve the problems of water and food? I think, if we come up with a conclusion, then we can ask our own governments to reflect that in their policies or perhaps it can be taken up in inter-governmental meetings. That is the kind of bridge making that we can do here as parliamentarians.

Mr. Imdadul Haque, MP, Bangladesh:

Bangladesh was liberated twice; In 1947 and in 1971. As a small country of about 54,000 square miles and a population of 127 million, population control is high on our agenda. The population of Dacca is as big as that of the continent Australia. Illiteracy remain problems in our country, yet with the decrease of illiteracy to 40%, the growth of population decreased from 2.5% to 1.6%. So somehow we are controlling our population. Our biggest problems remains water; We have many rivers and every year we have to face calamities such as floods and cyclones, at times causing 70% of the country being under water. Still, our food production rose last year and this year, despite these floods. The government is trying very hard, yet Bangladesh is a poor country, so foreign aid remains needed. From 1975 to 1990 there was no democracy, yet from 1990 parliamentary politics are trying to solve all these problems. In relation to arsenate, our rivers are polluted, in Dacca and most southern parts of the country water problems are always acute.

Thank you very much.

SESSION 2

Population and Health

-Infant / Maternal Mortality, Medical Progress and Population-

Speaker:

**Dr. Somsak Chunharas
Director, Bureau of Health Policy Planning
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand**

Session 2

Population and Health

Chairperson

Dr. Luwalhati R. Antonino, MP, Philippines

Resource Person

**Dr. Somsak Chunharas
Director, Bureau of Health Policy Planning
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

Traditionally, we tend to look at population issues and their relation to health in a negative manner. In this talk I will discuss this issues, in other words; should we look at this in terms of liability or in terms of assets.

This presentation consists of five parts:

- 1) The Changing of Demographics
- 2) The Changing Health Problems
- 3) System Perspective of Health
- 4) Health Services and Expenditure
- 5) New Paradigms for Health

1. Changing demographics

Changing demographics has a lot of implications, for example in politics the most constant voters in the USA are the elderly and they now constitute more than one quarter. It also effects business, because they might have to change what they produce, because of shifting demand. Also health and other fields are effected.

In 1950 in SEA region there was a very broad young base in population. By the year 2000 it has gotten a bit fatter in the middle, but still the higher age group is still quite small. In 2050 the structure will be very different from today. Also in Thailand we expect a lot of so called elderly, the working population is still quite large but the younger age group is shrinking. The working population age group (15-59 years old started to decline from the 1960s and I am sure you can find similar data in your country (from over 40% to below 25%)

This change is of course in part caused by the improved life expectancy. In developed countries the life expectancy went up from 50-60 in 1910 to 70-80 in 1998.

2. Changing health problems

Infant mortality which used to be a very common problem in developing countries, has started to change. It appears that for the same level of income the infant mortality rate has decreased between 1952 an 1992. When comparing different countries at the same time, it appears to vary according to income. In Thailand infant mortality dropped from 60 per 1000 in 1952 to only 15 or 20 in 1992, and probably about 10-12 at this time. There are many other factors (other than income) that determine the infant mortality rate of a country. It appears that many countries in the region have a higher infant mortality rate than would be expected on the basis of their income (e.g. Bangladesh, India, India). So,

still a lot of other things need to be done.

Fertility rate, or rather: population increase, used to be a major problem for both developing and developed countries. Health programmes such as family planning have resulted in a decline of fertility rate. In South-East Asia it fell from 6% to 3% between 1950 and 1998 and in the Western Pacific from 6% to less than 2%. As a result of that and other developments also the maternal mortality rate has decreased. In Thailand it fell from 375 per 1000,000 per live births to about 10 between 1962 and 1997. This is mainly the result of family planning efforts and improved service delivery. By now this rate has more or less levelled off, i.e. it can't go down much further, because of so called "natural death".

Another group of problems is infectious diseases. The most notorious ones are the immunisable diseases. With a vaccine coverage we could get rid of most of the vaccine preventable diseases. Other infectious diseases have also decreased compared to what it was years ago. Globally the coverage is quite good (80-90%) for diseases such as measles, diphtheria, tetanus, polio. In Thailand coverage against these diseases improved to levels between 75%-85%, starting with 20-35% in 1982 BCG against tuberculosis improved from about 70% to 90%. Incidence rates have consequently come down to very low levels, with the exception of measles. Tetanus Neonatorum dropped from 70 per 100,000 to almost 0% in 1996.

Changes in non-communicable diseases are also effecting developing and developed countries. Health burden can be measured in DALYs (disability adjusted life years). This focuses on the number of people getting sick, taking into account the effect this disease has on one's life. In low and middle income countries the "other (mostly infectious) diseases" account for 59%. This used to be 80 or 90%.. The remaining 41% are divided into neuropsychiatric conditions (10%), Cardiovascular diseases (10%) Cancers (5%) and Injuries (16%). The importance of these groups is increasing in our countries. These so called "burden diseases" decrease the number of productive years in somebody's life. Focussing on injuries, road traffic accidents form 16%, self-inflicted injuries 9%, homicide and violence 10% and war 11%. Obviously these percentages vary from country to country.

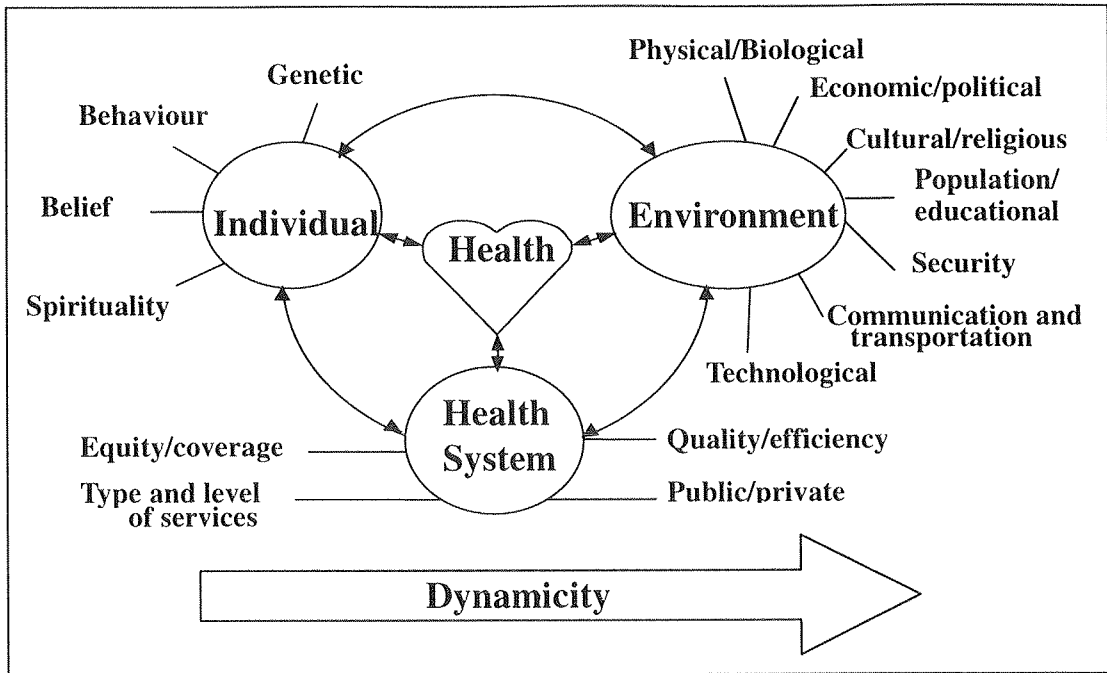
It appears that Thailand matches the global picture in that the proportion of non-communicable diseases has gained in importance, whereas child and maternal health has started to decrease.

The conclusion is that we have started to see fewer infectious diseases and more and more non-communicable diseases. You can conceptualise these diseases in different ways. They can be explained in terms of social affluence, i.e. we change our lifestyle when we are becoming wealthier, leading to a different kind of diseases. It is also explained in terms of social pathology, i.e. violence, accidents, lack of law and order/discipline, leading to such diseases. This is why it is very important to look at health from a system perspective.

3. System Perspective of Health

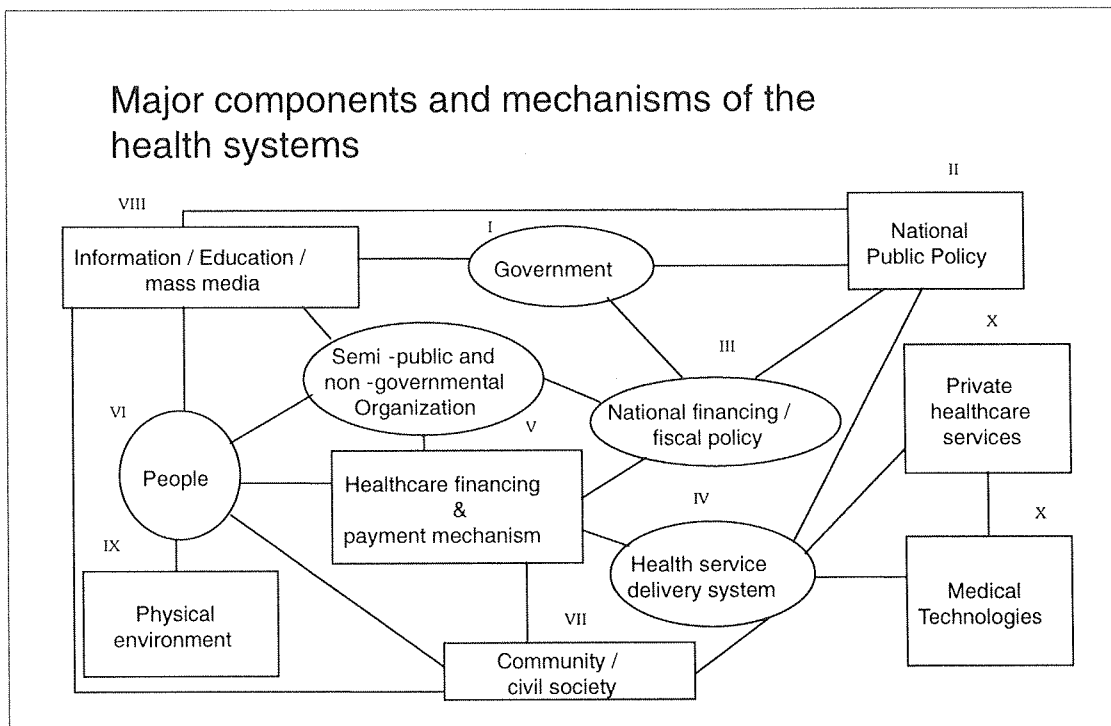
Peoples' health is no longer only effected by little microbes which we can do very little about except finding vaccines or drugs. Our health is effected by many other factors which could be influenced and controlled by ourselves and by the people collectively. Below is just one way of looking at health from a system perspective (see picture 1, below). Of course our health is influenced by individual factors, environmental factors and the health system. Environmental factors consist of many more than just biological factors. The health system is still there, but the interaction with the environment and the individual has become more and more complex. As an individual we could try to influence our genetic components, change our behaviour or improve attitudes.

Picture 1: The Factor Model



This factor model shows the complexity and interactions of the various determinators of our health. The actor model (see below) shows whose roles can be identified as contributors to health. As you can see the health service delivery system is only part of that.

Picture 2: The Actor Model



The ones who pay service providers is very important. Health insurance companies or so called “collective financing” are starting to play increasingly important roles. I.e. it’s not anymore only people interacting with service delivery, yet they usually go through some other system, which is decided on by the Government. It is also effected by the fiscal policy of the country, e.g. national medical care or health earmarked tax. In Nepal for example, part of the tobacco tax is used for health promotion and research. In the State of Victoria, Australia a Health Promotion Foundation was created out of tobacco taxes. Also, NGOs and semi-public organisations are playing a crucial role. People don’t just interact individually, they form groups and communities. In addition those dealing with medical technologies and the private healthcare services effect the health service delivery system. In addition, national public policies, including agricultural, communication, environmental and educational policies effect the health service. A fast emerging actor is the mass-media, the flow of information. This certainly effects the way we do our business. Picture 2 could be looked at as a way of mapping key actors, in order to identify those people we have to work with to improve our health service.

Picture 3:

Sources of mortality reduction, 1960-1990

Reduction	Percentage contribution of gains in		
	Income	Educational level of adult females	Generation and utilization of new knowledge
Under-5 mortality rate	17	38	45
Female adult mortality rate	20	41	39
Mal adult mortality rate	25	27	49
Female life expectancy at birth	19	32	49
Male life expectancy at birth	20	30	50
Total fertility rate	12	58	29

When analysing sources of mortality reduction between 1960 and 1990 it appears that generation and utilisation of new knowledge contributes highly to this reduction. Educational level of adult females also proves more important than the level of income. Contributions very depending on the indicator (see above). Although educational level is obviously important, the way knowledge has been disseminated and used plays an increasingly important role.

We conventionally think that better health services lead to better health. I would like to challenge that way of thinking, because we all encounter problems while trying to improve our health care systems in our countries. These include:

- rising health care cost (sometimes faster than the growth of the economy)
- diminishing returns (i.e. increased spending without proportionate increase in health outcome)
- Inequity of input (number of doctors and hospitals), access (of hospitals, medicine, treatment) and outcome (results throughout the country)

4. Health Services and Expenditure

When comparing health expenditures among some Asian countries it appears that the percentage in relation to the GDP as well as the proportion that the government pays on health vary per country as follows.

In Sri Lanka, for example, there is a relatively high proportion of health cost covered by the government whereas it is less than 2% of the GDP. Sri Lanka has been cited as one of the countries with good health, but low spending. Expenditures on health tend to go hand in hand with the GDP, i.e. the more money we have, the more we tend to spend on health care.

In Thailand the utilisation of services has changed over the last decades. There has been a gradual shift from the use of regional/general hospitals to health centres/community hospitals, as a result of the improved health service delivery; people have access to services closer to their home. This doesn't necessarily, though mean that you improve health tremendously in terms of mortality. The ideal utilisation structure is a structure where people go to the lowest level first and patients are referred when necessary.

When looking at "care-seeking behaviour" it appears that between 1970 and 1996 gradually people go to the professional facilities, as opposed to using traditional methods, buying drugs or self-care.

The national health budget and the Ministry of Health budget in Thailand appear to go hand in hand. When the economy was good, we used to have an annual increase of 15%, one year even 35%. The question is whether this has led to a proportionate increase in health. A lot was spent on hospitals and equipment, whereas those had possibly already reached the point of diminishing returns. MOPH increased its proportion from 4% to 7%. Looking back we found that we did many things that we shouldn't have been doing.

5. Three New Paradigms for Health

These are some of the crucial questions:

Can we have better health by spending more?

Do we have a mismatch between demand and supply?

Can we have better health with less services?

How do we look at inequity? How do we involve politics?

I would like to conclude by introducing three new paradigms

I: **HEALTH IS THE RESULT OF HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY**

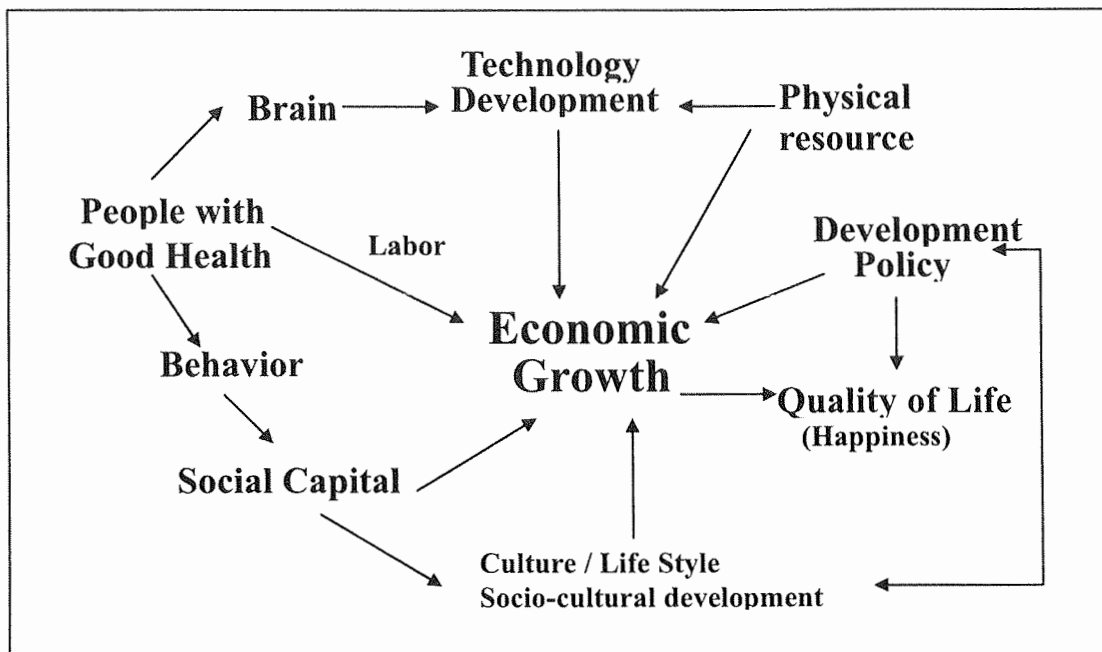
(not the result of improved health services ONLY)

- Environment (urban and rural)
- Nutrition (food supply and agricultural policy)
- Housing
- Working environment

An example would be a farmer that I met, who had changed from one crop farming to a more integrated form of farming. As a result he had been able to stop drinking, smoking, gambling, taking sleeping pills and he didn't have to quarrel with his wife anymore. He doesn't have to borrow money anymore to buy fertilisers and pesticides. So, his health had improved right away, not by providing better health services, but by them changing their way of life, realising that certain ways of living may not be compatible.

II: HEALTH IS AN ASSET (Thus, good health is the ultimate goal of development)

Improving health contributes to many other things, so it's worth investing in. You don't spend money to keep them alive. If people stay healthy, they can contribute a lot. (See picture below)



If we still look at economic growth as the ultimate goal, the left-hand side are what I would like to call “good quality human beings”. They contribute to technological development through their brain power and to what economics call “social capital”. Of course we also still pay a lot of attention to physical resources, development policy and technological development, but also in the latter two the human resource development point of view is increasingly important.

III: BETTER HEALTH NEEDS GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance will lead to:

- More equity
- More efficient use of resources
- Improved quality
- Improved responsiveness of the service providers
- Improved accountability of the providers

We can achieve better service delivery by improving governance. This includes national level politics, services management and civil society and the communities as well.

Discussion

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu, MP, Malaysia:

First I'd like to thank Dr. Somsak on his very comprehensive paper, giving us a broad sweep of achievement in the field of infectious diseases and especially the increasing health status and the quality of life. This status is very encouraging and the interactive model that was introduced is very educational.

My question is related to the fact that diseases that we thought we had already controlled, such as tuberculosis, malaria, cholera are coming back with a vengeance. What are the factors and why is this happening?

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

I think you have pointed out a very important matter that I indeed might have skipped. Public health workers and scientists are working hard to understand the "emerging diseases". The re-emergence of tuberculosis can be partly explained by the AIDS epidemic, because immunity tends to be compromised. There is still a so called "infectious pool", people who have tuberculosis bacilla in their bodies, because we can not kill them completely. Yet, diseases like malaria and the so called "new emerging diseases" have been viewed from an environmental perspective. It becomes increasingly clear that this is related to population movements as a result from development programmes. I.e. we move into another geographical area, that we are not adapted to. In addition, the microbes change; parasites are becoming more resistant to drugs. Malaria is not an infectious disease in the classical sense and people can live with the microbes inside them without getting sick. This, combined with drug resistance, can aggravate the problem. In conclusion, a combination of three factors is at work: (1) New conditions effecting people's health. (2) Factors influencing the microbes, including drug resistance and genetic changes. (3) People changing their living environment and their behaviour.

Dr. Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

Firstly, I'd like to express my appreciation to Dr. Somsak for his efforts not only in Thailand, but also for the rest of the region. I agree with the three paradigms Mr. Somsak introduced. I would like to share with you our experiences in Indonesia.

Indonesia is one of the most populous in the world with a population of more than 200 million people. This has brought many social economic and political problems. When the economic turmoil attacked East Asia in 1997, the economic impact was the largest in Indonesia; The currency increased from 2500 to 15000 per \$. Prices of goods increased sharply and unemployment rose. The crisis also had a political and social impact: President Suharto resigned his post and was succeeded by Prof. Habibbi and later President Wahid came into power through general election. Socially, there were many problem; poverty increased from 15 to 40%, school drop out rose, maternal and infant mortality went up and life expectation and birth rate possibly went down. To overcome these problems the national government and backed by the Parliament implemented a national policy named a social net security. This means more lending from the donors. 4 billion dollars are needed, to create a better life and better conditions for our people. We will keep the points you made in your paper in mind when further developing our policy especially with regards to health. Thank you very much.

Dr. Nereus Acosta, MP, Philippines:

I would like to ask Dr. Chunharas to elaborate on the concept of social capital, how do you operationalise it with regards to the way you have studied it?

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

Thank you. I will comment on the matters brought up by both former speakers. I think, it is pretty clear from a governance point of view, that the higher level we have good governance, the bigger the impact. Indonesia is a case in point. Yet, the concept of social capital should be seen as supplementary to the concept of good governance. We are looking at good governance from not only the top level, but from the lower levels as well. Social capital is not achievable by any good government. It is the result of the accumulation of people's attitude, culture, way of life, etc. Economists are very interested in social capital, because they have started to realise that, in addition to "hard input", the way people feel, the way people interact are also very important to determine economic outcome. An often cited example is the so called "transaction cost". When there is good social capital the transaction cost decreases. Trust becomes more important than the contract, thus decreasing the time spent on writing contract and on liability court cases. Also in health, trust is a very important element. Liability insurance in the USA is an important factor in the increase of health cost. Turning to the operationalisation of social capital, people often think in terms of improvement of the civil society, including health. Thailand's success in AIDS control used to be explained in technical terms (good sentinel surveillance system, 100% condom coverage), but then we realised that the good cooperation and organisation between various community groups and NGOs might well have been an important factor. So, no matter how abstract the concept is, we look at the actors and these we can find in active civil society. We have to look beyond the already organised groups, such as NGOs and local governments, and include the more informal groups that play a role in changing politics. Also religion and the way people organise their business play an important role. You could say that in Thailand things are not as bad as they could be after the economic crisis, because of the existence of a safety net at the family or community level.

Mr. Chay Wai Chuen, MP, Singapore:

In relation to this I would like to share with you our efforts in Singapore with regards to health care services. We are trying to improve our public education in health care so that people take direct, personal responsibility for their own good health. I think this is important, rather than referring this problem to good governance. We are also trying to shift to a medical insurance system that partly puts the responsibility with the people. "Co-funding" having part of the medical bill paid by the individual concerned, is part of this new system. This is to avoid the "buffet-syndrome" and also to free the employers of this responsibility.

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

Involvement of people is important in any health development effort. The health personnel tend to see the involvement of people in terms of taking care of their own health, educating them, bringing down the workload of the health personnel. Economists see people as paying for health services, e.g. through a free market system or co-payment. Whenever we create a system that introduces people's responsibility for their own health, we try to minimise the so called "moral hazard" or buffet syndrome which exists from both the demand side and the provider's side. In Singapore, interesting examples include the co-payment system, the providence fund (a personal savings system) and the medical savings account. These are all efforts which try to improve individual awareness. There are ways to make people take care of their own health as well as making people take responsibility for their health spending by making them work together. We could create groupings in work settings. When people (like in Singapore) are moving from a village to a work place, changing their way of life and in doing so going away from the community in the living environment, a challenge is to utilise the sense of community in the working environment. Health promoting schemes in the working place has become an emerging concept in this respect.

Ms. Kazuko Nose, MP, Japan:

In Japan, with a life expectancy for men of 76 and women of 84 we will have a very aged society. A problem we as parliamentarians are facing is the very low fertility rate for women of 1.38.

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

Global population policy might have to face a big challenge in the future. I think that government policy to deal with immigrant workers and demographic structure is quite important.

Ms. Anne Tolley, MP, New Zealand:

You showed us a chart that indicated that in reduction of mortality rates education of women was more important than income. Doesn't this mean that emphasis should be put on education for women?

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

Certainly education is a very important part, yet it is not enough. There are many other contributing factors, knowledge and usage of this knowledge, including empowerment of women being an important one.

Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP, Mongolia:

I'd like to highlight one issue; After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, a number of new developing countries emerged in Central Asia. These new members of Asia have some peculiarities, different from the ones in south-east Asia, highlighted by our speaker today. Before, health was a matter of competition between the two blocks. At that time we had a comparatively sufficient health system in those countries; the number of beds and doctors per capita was even higher than in some developed countries, according to the propaganda in those days. The transition to the market economy led to a lack of funds making the previous financing impossible. This led to new problems which are determining a lot of our work today.

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

Many countries believed that the transition to the market economy meant that the government should do less for health services, decreasing the government's role and increasing the private sector. Later many governments realised that the government should play an active role. Theoretically speaking, people are still fighting as to how much government should do with regards to health and health service delivery. On the one hand, government is seen as the protector of a "social good outcome", on the other hand it is seen as a slow bureaucratic and inefficient system of any kind. I'd like to go somewhere in-between, where the government plays an active, influential role in determining the health system without delivering the actual service. Different countries will have to find their own way, because of different political systems, historical backgrounds and capabilities of assimilating technologies and new ideas.

Mr. Ranan Shaekin, MP, Kazakhstan:

Could you describe for us the entire system in Thailand, including numbers of beds, hospitals and doctor, insurance funds, so that we can compare your statistics with ours. In addition, how much does your yearly budget provide for the support of the public health care system in your country?

Dr. Sumsak Chunharas:

In Thailand, the government still play an important role in the health care service delivery system. 70% of our hospitals are with the government, 30 are private. Because of the economic crises the private sector has a small share. You have already seen the respective expenditures. The Thai population is spending around \$126/year/capita, which is about four times as much as the government spends (about\$30/capita/year). 99% of this budget is with the Ministry of Public Health. In each province there is at least one public hospital, providing general, major medical specialties, 200-600 beds. In the 14 big provinces, "regional hospitals" have about 600-1000 beds with a staff of about 1000. District hospitals vary from 10-90 beds and for a population varying between 30,000 to 100,000, on average with 3 doctors, staff varying from 30 to 200. Health centres function at the sub-district level without doctors. On average 3 auxiliary personnel serve 5,000 people. 50% of the private hospitals are in Bangkok. 35% is spent on drugs, which is quite high. Within the public health system 20% of the population doesn't have to pay.

SESSION 3

Impact of HIV/AIDS

Speaker:

**Mr. Steven Kraus
Programme and External Relations Adviser
Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

Session 3

Impact of HIV/AIDS

Chairperson

Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn

Resource Person

Mr. Steven Kraus

Programme and External Relations Adviser

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn:

Steven Kraus was responsible for initiating parliamentarians' involvement in HIV/AIDS issues, which resulted in the first inter-country meeting of parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS & STDs in Bangkok in November 1999, organised by AFPPD in cooperation with UNFPA and IMPO. He is a real communicator and has been instrumental in several initiatives in the HIV/AIDS prevention area.

Mr. Steven Kraus:

Thank you and good morning. I'm delighted and honoured to be here with you and I feel privileged to be here to share some ideas and information and to encourage each of you and myself to spend time talking and strategising on how we can best work together on the issue of HIV/AIDS. I would like to thank three people in particular for my participation today. First of Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, whom I consider a good friend, a fine gentleman and a distinguished member of Thai society and of countries in this region. I'd also like to give my warm regards and appreciation to Mr. Shin Sakurai, the chairman. I appreciate the fine work that he has done to make this event possible. Also, I'd like to make a special note of thanks to Shiv Khare, the executive coordinator of the Asian forum. I'd like to thank him for his support today, but also for the support over the last several years in the fine work that he has been doing.

I would to share with you a bias, one of my beliefs, about HIV/AIDS and it has directly to do with you. My bias, my assumption is that: If we give good people, good information, these good people will make good decisions. So, I would like to share some good information to enable and to empower you and to encourage you to continue to make and to expand your good decisions regarding HIV/AIDS. There are three documents that all of you should have on your desks: First, the Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights on the role of parliamentarians and legislators on this issues. This is written specifically for people like yourself and I will not be able to cover it all, but I hope that you will take some time to read it and use it the way you think is best. The second document is a 20 page document called AIDS epidemic update: December 1999. It contains all the information that you will see today on overheads, so I would encourage you not to take notes unless you really want to. So please relax, listen and share your ideas. You may use the charts in the back freely. The third document is a very short pamphlet about UNAIDS, describing how the 7 UN agencies including UNFPA are working to together to come to a more effective, more animated and more appropriate, more expanded response to AIDS.

I will soon show an informative 10-minute video tape, produced by the government of Australia. Although it is a few years old, it is a very good tape to talk about the 1-2-3s, the A-B-Cs about

HIV/AIDS. It is clear, it's correct and just with a few small exceptions still up to date. I hope that showing this tape will help us to have a good discussion and dialogue on the issues of HIV/AIDS here in Asia.

I would like, now to share a little bit of information. I know that many of you are already active in your own constituencies on HIV/AIDS. For those who are, I hope that during the discussion period I hope you will talk about those experiences. For others, who are not yet convinced or not yet involved in HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health concerns, I hope that this morning's discussion will encourage you to be a brave politician, to show leadership and to be an advocate for openness and honesty about human behaviour.

Our number one problem in Asia and the Pacific is our failure or our inability to speak out, take our heads out of the sand and talk to one another. Putting our heads in the sand is very dangerous behaviour. It's not just neutral, it is dangerous. Some of you might say: "I don't have to worry about HIV, because I'm not gay or I'm not a sex worker or I don't inject drugs." I would encourage you to think of it like this: You don't need to worry about HIV, if you never expected to need good health care services. If you never expected to need a blood transfusion or go to a hospital and need clean and sterile procedures. If you're not sexually active, but if you are, it is a concern, OR if you have a daughter or a son, a spouse, a grandchild who may also today be sexually active or some day in the future become sexually active, then we have to be concerned about HIV & AIDS.

What I am suggesting here is that as parliamentarians we have to look at our own behaviour, but it is also important that we look beyond the edges of our own noses and think about our community, the people who elected us. Not everybody may have the same lifestyle as you or me or the person sitting next to you., so it is important that we all work together.

What is the current situation on HIV? Roughly speaking, in the year 2000 about 50,000,000 people have become infected with HIV, about one third have died. The epidemic is not getting smaller. In fact, in 1998 roughly 6 million new infections took place, in 1999 more than that. Roughly 70% of all the infections today are taking place in Africa; more than twelve countries are now looking at 30-40% adult population as being HIV positive. In many countries in Africa 60-70% of all the military and the police are HIV-positive. So, the epidemic is well established in Africa. As of now the end of 1999 nearly 7 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Asia. Right here in Asia we have one of the fastest growing epidemics in the world. In Asia we are close to where Africa was 10 years ago. For example in Thailand 2.5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, in Cambodia 3-4%, Myanmar and certain parts of China are highly effected. The largest number of cases in the world is found in India. Increasing numbers in Vietnam, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and worrying sign in countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. In Asia, more countries are becoming affected and higher percentages of the population are involved.

What can you do as parliamentarians?

- As political leaders you can influence public opinion and can increase public knowledge of relevant issues. If you remain silent, that does not only mean that other people won't speak, but it also means that you have wasted the powerful opportunities that you have to make a difference.
- As legislators you vote on acts of parliament and can ensure that legislation protects human rights, and advances effective prevention and care programmes OR you vote on acts that facilitate HIV transmission. In some countries present here there is recent legislation that prohibits young unmarried people from getting information and services regarding their reproductive health. Young people have right to good information and to good services.
- As advocates you can mobilise the involvement of government, private sector and civil society to discharge their social responsibilities in responding appropriately to the epidemic.

- As resource mobilisers you can allocate financial resources to support and enhance effective HIV/AIDS programmes that are consistent with human rights principles. This can include monetary and human resources. Many of our countries remain too dependant on external assistance for your national responses. After twenty years into this epidemic, many countries still remain unconvinced in terms of allocating resources that we need to invest in our people.

I'd like to end with a short 1-minute cartoon.

The message is clear, I hope: Today's time for action is today. We have to take action whether we are a majority member or a minority member. We have to find ways of working together for the good of the people, because the world doesn't stand still.

Thank you very much.

Discussion

Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP, India:

I appreciate this presentation by Mr. Kraus. I'd like to point out the following: My country India has been very vocal about this problem and for 5 years we have passed legislation to the lowest level to prevent AIDS. I am a little upset about one thing: We tried to reach UNAIDS in Delhi and we didn't receive the kind of response we should have gotten from them. Would you be kind enough to take up our case and help us with this problem? Thank you.

Mr. Steven Kraus:

I'm sorry if the UNAIDS secretariat hasn't been as helpful as we should. I'll be happy to speak to you at lunch time to see how we can resolve that. In case of India, the chairperson is UNICEF and in Indonesia it is moving from UNICEF to UNFPA.

Dr. Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

I'd like to express my greetings to Mr. Kraus and thank him for the handbook that I will read on my return to my country. I'd like to make one comment: I am very shocked at your estimate of 1.3 million people newly infected with HIV during 1999 in South & South-East Asia and 5.6 million in total. Also the 100% increase in HIV prevalence in Indonesia between 1994 and 1997 makes me extremely worried. We as parliamentarians have indeed an important role to play in the four fields mentioned by Mr. Kraus. We need to think about new laws concerning HIV/AIDS. Could you give us an example of such laws and how to improve cooperation between countries in this field?

Rep. Luwalhati, R. Antonino, MP, Philippines:

I'd like to share a law that the Philippines Congress has passed on HIV/AIDS. One of the provisions was punishing discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS, another included a mandate for education in public schools on these issues. In my constituency we have started young students groups to increase awareness on HIV/AIDS and we have received sponsorships from the civil society. The local government have initially distributed free condoms, despite the strong Catholic force in our country. Later on, vending machines in hotels and entertainment places have been put up.

Mr. Steven Kraus:

I am very pleased and grateful for this example. In fact, on page 20 of the book that you received the good work that has been done in The Philippines has been highlighted. It is an excellent example of a country and its political leaders coming together and creating a national legislative framework that is supportive of people's rights, that shares information and making sure that people have the opportunity to make informed decision. Very importantly, it combats discrimination against people with HIV. On page 38 you will find a good summary of the Philippino legislation that we promote as an example a Best Practice globally.

Dr. Doan Hong, MP, Vietnam:

I'd like to bring up three issues and would like to ask you to share information and experiences: People are increasingly afraid of immunisation programmes out fear for AIDS. Consultation for infected people is very difficult for us in Vietnam. HIV/AIDS infected people wanting to get married is a controversial issue, because of fear of spreading the disease.

Mr. Ermekkali Bigaliev, MP, Kazakhstan:

Mr. Kraus, thank you for your perfect presentation. According your information about 34 million people are now HIV-infected. Are their any vaccines or achievements of scientists to prevent this dangerous disease? Thank you.

Mr. Steven Kraus:

Starting with the last question; Regarding the development of a vaccine the message is still very clear; There is no vaccine for HIV and there is no cure for HIV/AIDS. We are moving forward on research; Phase III trials are being contacted at this time in Thailand and the USA, but even given very good luck, we are at least 5 to 7 or probably more than 10 years away from the development of a vaccine. The name of the game is still prevention; We will not have a vaccine any time soon. The triple-drug therapy now available for treatment costs about \$15,000 per person per year for the rest of their lives. In addition, some people will not be able to tolerate the drugs. It is no cure, it simply stabilises the infection. That's we encouraging countries to continue to put great efforts into prevention.

One of the best things we can do in terms of prevention is to prevent discrimination. Discrimination against people with HIV is a very powerful tool to encourage further transmission of HIV. For example, if I want you to be my friend, it would be more effective to reach out to you than to hit you in the face. I'd be much more like get your cooperation and your support in making a good response. So, like in the case of Vietnam, it would be better to make good prevention by making them our friends than by hitting them in the face through discriminating them. Both from a human rights perspective, but also from a public health policy it does no good to discriminate against people with HIV. We encourage people to look at people with AIDS/HIV as part of the solution, NOT part of the problem. Only through respecting them, you can reach them.

SESSION 4

Population and Social Development -Five Years from the World Summit on Social Development-

Speaker:

**Bienvenido Rola, Ph. D. Chief
Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups Section
Social Development Division, UN ESCAP, Bangkok**

Session 4

Population and Social Development Five Years from the World Summit for Development

Chairperson

Mr. Sri Lakshman Singh, MP, India

Resource Person

Bienvenido Rola, Ph. D. Chief

**Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups Section
Social Development Division, UN ESCAP, Bangkok**

Mr. Lakshman Singh :

Mr Rola was born in The Philippines 1940, the Year of the Golden Dragon, and holds a PhD in Economic Development from the State University of New York. He was a faculty member of the University of the Philippines at Los Banos. He worked with the United Nations on consultancies in the 70s and on a regular basis since 1978 when he joined the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and moved to Bangkok to join ESCAP. During the period 1980-1989 he worked in the field of trans-national corporations and foreign investments and from 1989 onwards he has been with the Social Development Division dealing with social policy issues such as quality of life, drug demand reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention, juvenile delinquency as well as with social issues related to disadvantaged, vulnerable social groups, including the poor, children and youth, older persons, disabled persons and women. He has been fully involved in the formulation of the agenda for action on the social development in the Asia Pacific region as well the Macao Plan of Action.

(Dr. Bienvenido presented the paper below highlighting certain parts of the paper with overheads that are included.)

Population and Social Development: Five Years from the World Summit for Development

Mr. Chairperson, Honoured Guests, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction

It is an honour and privilege for me to speak to you at this the 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. I will take some of your precious time and share some information and views about social development in the Asian and Pacific region, five years after the World Social Summit. Speaking of views, I should inform you that while practically all of the information in my presentation come from the various documents and material, published and unpublished, from the ESCAP secretariat, the views I will express do not necessarily reflect those of ESCAP or the United Nations.

Bearing in mind the present and future social challenges facing all of us and our respective organizations in this millennium, the present meeting offers a most timely opportunity to review and reflect upon past achievements and failures which contributed to the current social situation in Asia and the Pacific. More importantly, the meeting provides a valuable occasion to foresee and plan for the

future with an open and broad perspective.

Over the last few decades, the Asian and Pacific region, on the whole, has made substantial progress in almost all areas of social and economic development and has kept pace with most of the rest of the world undergoing a phase of global liberalization. The common indicators pertaining to income, education, health, life expectancy and other aspects of quality of life have shown clear improvements. The situation of women was enhanced. The needs of children and their rights have been given attention. Encouraging developments have taken place in many countries in the extension of democracy and people's participation. Accompanying most of these developments were technological progress and innovations, high rates of savings, investment, production, employment, trade and economic growth and the allocation of scarce public resources to strategic areas of social development.

But, among and within countries in the region, growth rates have varied considerably and progress has not been shared equally. There has been a wide diversity in income growth and distribution among sub regions, countries and specific areas and population groups within countries. As we are aware, alongside some of the greatest concentration of wealth in the world which are found in the region are some of the world's greatest concentration of poverty. Some of the world's economic powers are in this region. So are some of the least developed and the most marginalized countries especially the former whose number has increased from 7 in 1971 to 13 in 1991. Moreover, the high rates of economic growth achieved in some countries did not bring commensurate social progress to most of the people in those countries. While major advances have been made in some countries and in some issue areas, the situation has either been stagnant or has deteriorated in others.

The recent economic crisis in some countries in the region has worsened further the situation for many, especially the poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups including children, older persons, disabled persons, minority groups and migrants workers. Unfortunately, for some of these groups suffering heavily from man-made economic disasters, natural disasters have occurred and caught them in real states of unpreparedness. Thus, in most countries, emerging issues relating to disaster preparedness, crime and public safety, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, etcetera, are added on to the traditional problems relating to education and employment, health and environment, income and social security.

The 1995 World Social Summit was the first high-level conference of its kind but calls for action in the social field were being made long before 1995. Early responses to these calls came from the Asian and Pacific region. In 1991, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development adopted the regional Social Development Strategy towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. This was followed by the adoption at Manila in 1994 at the Ministerial Conference in preparation for the World Social Summit, of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region. Countries of the region went to Copenhagen with a regional Social Development Agenda which addressed poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration by identifying specific, time-bound regional social development goals and targets and called for concerted action for their attainment (See annex). In that Agenda, the governments of the region agreed to formulate an overall policy framework that will accord priority to social protection for all, in accordance with the prevailing standards of society and within available resources. The framework includes viable measures for social protection covering unemployment, illness, disability and old age. In June, these governments will join the rest of the world in reporting their achievements towards attaining set goals.

II. Review of Progress and Constraints in the Implementation of the Social Development Agenda in the ESCAP Region

Two reviews have already been undertaken by the region: one in 1997 and the other in 1999. The Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development was convened by ESCAP at Manila

in November 1997. The Conference reviewed and assessed the progress achieved in attaining the goals and targets of the regional Social Development Agenda, in the context of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. While acknowledging the progress and continuous efforts made by many countries in the region in poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration, it noted with concern the social challenges that remained to be addressed. The Conference recognized the social development repercussions of international economic volatility and agreed that it was necessary to monitor the impact of the current financial crisis in some parts of the region on the population at large and ensure that social development targets and goals were not adversely affected by the corrective economic measures being undertaken and planned. The Conference adopted the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

In its report to the Senior Officials' Meeting last November, the ESCAP secretariat reviewed the progress made and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Social Development Agenda in the ESCAP Region. Reproduced below, it casts the Agenda in terms of the three core issues identified in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), namely, poverty eradication, employment expansion, and social integration. After examining progress made on the three core issues, the review proceeds to scrutinize the means for achieving goals, namely, policy planning and legal and institutional arrangements, targeting, governance, and resource mobilization. It is followed by a discussion on the evolution of the regional perspective and recommendations for future action.

The most remarkable feature of social development in the ESCAP region was its unevenness across space and irregularity over time. Problems arising from poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and social conflicts were deep and extensive in some countries and much less so in others. From the early 1990s when the social development Agenda of the region was adopted to the middle of the decade, progress in overcoming problems was fairly rapid only to be slowed down and, in some countries, reversed in the last two years.

In the developing countries of the region, poverty remained an obstructive aspect of reality. The extent and depth of poverty varied, affecting more than 40 per cent of the population in some countries and less than 20 per cent in a few. Among the poor, large masses were hardly able to meet bare subsistence needs.

Substantial progress in the eradication of poverty had been achieved in almost all countries. This was particularly true in some parts of South and South-West Asia where, in the three-year period 1994-1997, poverty went down by as much as 10 per cent (Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan). However, there was an apparent reversal of trends in some countries beginning in 1997. In most of South-East Asia (Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam) some of the gains painstakingly made over many years were wiped out at least temporarily in the wake of the recent financial crisis.

The generation and expansion of employment proceeded only slowly in all countries. Agriculture was a declining sector in most of the countries and therefore could not absorb increases in the labour force while industry was as yet too small to pick up the slack. The result was a transfer to services, particularly the informal sector with its characteristic low productivity and low income. In sum, not only were employment opportunities slow in being created but conditions of work remained wanting.

Governments have been the principal agents for the creation of a "society for all"--the ultimate objective of social integration- where all members of the society are protected in their human rights and given fullest leeway in their participation in all significant political, economic and social processes. Perceivable progress has been registered in making government transparent, in eliminating discrimination, in promoting tolerance for diversity, social justice, responses to the needs of disadvantaged groups, and in addressing problems of crime, violence, and use of illicit drugs.

However, discrimination, political violence and drug trafficking persisted in many parts of the region.

Governments in the region have gone well past planning and targeting in the enhancement of their social development capabilities. Most have substantially completed the enactment of enabling laws and the establishment of appropriate institutional arrangements but many are still grappling with limitations in governance, institutional capabilities and financial resources.

In addition to internal difficulties, influences emanating from outside national boundaries impacted adversely on social development in many countries in the region. Most devastating of these influences was the financial crisis that swept the North and North-East and Southeast Asian sub-regions beginning in mid-1997. The adverse social impacts of this phenomenon have been extensively documented elsewhere and will not be described here. It is enough to say that the crisis destabilized the globally exposed among the countries - sharply devaluing their currencies, closing down hundreds of their business establishments, pulverizing thousands of jobs, and shrinking the incomes of large masses of people, workers and non-workers alike -- and in the process intensified poverty in these countries, reduced the levels of welfare of their populations, and disrupted and set back various gains in the social field. The impact was less harmful in the less globally open countries, particularly those in South and South-West Asia, but even here the diminution of capital flows from the developed countries and the decline in imports of the crisis-affected countries had a slowing down effect.

Thus, although substantial progress has been achieved, the tasks of social development in the region remain daunting at the start of the new Millennium. Poverty remains profound and endemic, with millions of people in the region still mired in poverty, with little access to health, education, and other basic social services. Unemployment remains a critical problem. The goals of social integration stand mostly unachieved. The instruments and means for overcoming problems remain far from being adequate.

A. Progress and constraints

1. Goals and Targets

a. Poverty eradication

In assessing progress in poverty eradication in the region this paper uses the UNDP's Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the indicators on which it is based. The UNDP defines poverty as 'human poverty'-- the deprivations of people in three essentials of human life: longevity, knowledge, and income as a means for attaining a decent standard of living. The first deprivation relates to death at a relatively early age and the indicator for it is the percentage of people expected to die before age 40. The second deprivation relates to exclusion from the world of reading and communication and the indicator for it is the percentage of adults who are illiterates. The third deprivation refers to the lack of a decent standard of living and the indicator for it is the percentage of people without access to health services and to safe water, and the percentage of malnourished children under five. The HPI is a composite of the three indicators.

The HPI for some countries of the ESCAP region for the years 1993, 1995 and 1997 is shown in Table 1. The statistics are incomplete across countries and across years: some countries apparently had only intermittent statistics while a number did not have the necessary statistics at all.¹ The unevenness of the

¹ The HPI appearing for 1993 (column 2) was taken from Human Development Report 1997 which shows that the statistics on which the HPI was based pertained to different years in the 1990-96 period. In the present paper this HPI has been given the date of 1993, the middle year of that period, for the purpose of providing a base period with which comparisons may be

extent of poverty across the countries in any single year is immediately evident and so is the irregularity of the time trend for any single country. In some countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Pakistan) poverty was deep and extensive, with the HPI running up to 40-50 per cent. In other countries (India, Myanmar and Viet Nam) poverty was somewhat smaller in scale, with the HPI ranging from 28 to 36 per cent. For the remaining countries, the HPI was less than 25 per cent.

Advancement over time was also irregular. It was clear and unambiguous for almost all the countries of South and South-West Asia. In this sub-region, some countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan) reduced poverty in their midst by almost 10 per cent in the period 1993-1997. Others (India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka) reduced it by a more modest degree. The story is different for East and North-East and South-East Asia. Here progress in poverty eradication was evident up to the middle 1990s only to be set back, at least temporarily, by 1997. The deterioration was worse in Indonesia (some 33 per cent) and somewhat less in Mongolia (some 20 per cent). The exceptions are the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines, where the improvement continued into 1997.

Table 2 shows the real components of the HPI in the sub-regions. It should be noted that the data in the Table for health services go up only to 1995 and do not reflect impacts of the financial crisis. In East and North-East Asia, there are useful data only for China and Mongolia. In China, improvement was evident in longevity and literacy but there is no change in access to safe water and the nutritional status of children under five. In Mongolia there was improvement in longevity and literacy but a deterioration in access to safe water.

In South-East Asia: There was no problem perceived in Singapore and Brunei Darussalam except possibly in literacy. In Thailand, there was improvement in literacy and the nutrition of children and an evident deterioration in access to safe water and health services. In Indonesia there was improvement in all areas except in access to health services. In the Philippines there was improvement in all areas except in access to safe water. For Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, there was improvement in all areas except in, respectively, access to safe water, literacy, and access to safe water and the nutrition of children. For Myanmar, there was improvement in all areas except in access to health services. The financial crisis that began in 1997 is critical in the appreciation of developments in South-East Asia. This region suffered the most from that crisis and the social situation can be expected to have deteriorated since then.

In South and South-West Asia: There was society-wide improvement in Bhutan and Pakistan. In India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sri Lanka gains were achieved in all areas except in access to health services.

In Papua New Guinea in the Pacific gains were achieved in all the three areas covered by the HPI. There were no data for the North and Central Asian countries.

In summary, the poverty eradication record is ambiguous. There had been progress in poverty eradication but only in South and South-West Asia and even here gains have been extremely modest. In South-East Asia gains have been reversed in most of the sub-region. By 1997 the picture was clearly worse than it was in the first part of the decade. Further, with populations in the region growing at some 2.3 per cent per year, the actual number of poor people in the region may have become bigger in the later part of the 1990s than in the earlier.

made. Some of the indexes shown as pertaining to 1993 may therefore actually pertain to different years between 1990 and 1996 inclusive.

b. Employment expansion ²

Of the countries of the region only Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore could be said to have achieved near full employment by the middle of the 1990s. Beginning in the early part of the decade these countries (Japan much earlier) had become net importers of labour. In these countries, however employment growth began slowing down as the decade came to a close. In Japan increasing production cost (wage) among others drove investments out to other countries and gave rise to a deceleration of industrial activity and employment expansion. In the Republic of Korea, the Asian financial crisis took an extremely heavy toll, negating much of the employment gains of the earlier years. (For the other countries, see the discussion for South-East Asia, below.)

In South and South-West Asia, employment creation proceeded evenly if slowly through most of the 1990s. The expansion however was not extensive enough to absorb the labour forces; as a result large masses of workers could only find remunerative jobs overseas. Available estimates indicate that temporary labour migration involved close to one million Pakistanis (more than 2 per cent of the labour force), 0.5 million Bangladeshis (about one per cent of the labour force), and 0.5 million Sri Lankans (about 6 per cent of the labour force).

The biggest problem in this part of the world was underemployment, not open unemployment. Regular wage employment accounted for less than 10 per cent of total employment in the sub-region. The rest of employment opportunities were in agriculture, self-employment and casual wage employment where the rule of the day was underemployment (because of, among others, seasonality in agriculture and fluctuating demand in self-employment and casual wage employment). The seriousness of the problem can be gauged from the statistics: about 35 per cent of the employed in Bangladesh and about 47 per cent of those in Nepal worked for less than 35 hours per week; about 25 per cent of those regarded as employed in India worked for only a part of the year; more than 36 per cent of those employed in Sri Lanka worked for less than 40 hours per week.

In the transition economies, there is reason to believe that underemployment was also extensive. The transition economies were also predominantly agricultural and the share of agriculture in employment in their economies was typically high (for instance, 53 per cent in China). In agriculture 35-40 per cent of workers had been thought to be 'surplus' in the sense that they could be moved out of the sector without reducing output. In the state sector, significant proportions of the employees were reported to be redundant, with some of them being idle and not paid regular wages.

The countries of South-East Asia fell victims to the Asian financial crisis. Employment creation proceeded at a fast pace up to the middle of the decade but the trend was reversed by 1997. Even strongly performing Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, and Singapore lost jobs and felt pressure to repatriate foreign workers, as their economies declined sharply. In Thailand, between February 1997 and February 1998, aggregate employment shrank by 3 per cent; the rate of open unemployment increased from 2.2 per cent to 4.8 per cent; and the share of self-employment in total employment rose from 53.8 per cent to 54.4 per cent. In Indonesia, government agencies estimated that the open unemployment rate would jump from 4.7 per cent in mid-1997 to around 18-20 per cent by the end of 1998, suggesting an increase in the number of the openly unemployed from 4.3 million in mid-1997 to about 18-20 million by the end of 1998. In the Philippines, where employment expansion proceeded slowly in the early 1990s and picked up tempo only beginning in the middle of the decade, the crisis made the situation worse. Between April 1997 and April 1998, while the labour force expanded by 2.4 per cent, aggregate employment declined by 1 per cent. The open unemployment rate was

² This section is based on ILO, "Towards full employment: problems and prospects in Asia and the Pacific", Bangkok, January 1999; and ILO "Follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development: Report on the Asian Regional Consultation", Bangkok, January 1999.

expected to reach 11 per cent by the end of 1998. Real wages declined by an average of 3 per cent during 1998.

In the Pacific sub-region, the employment situation was no less worrisome. In Australia and New Zealand, high unemployment had already become a feature of the labour market by the mid-1980s. From then to the mid-1990s, employment growth failed to keep pace with labour force growth so that unemployment tended to rise. The average unemployment rate in the 1985-95 period was 8.5 per cent in Australia and 7 per cent in New Zealand. In the island countries, the typical problem was underemployment.

To conclude, there is little doubt that the employment situation in the region fell far short of full employment.

c. Social integration

The social integration programs of Governments in the region covered a wide and diverse field -- (i) the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, (ii) the encouragement of full participation by people in all undertakings that concerned them, (iii) the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of tolerance and mutual respect for diversity, (iv) the promotion of equality before the law and social justice, (v) the enhancement of the welfare and rights of vulnerable groups (such as women, youth, people with disabilities, older persons, people with HIV/AIDS, ethnic minorities, tribal groups, displaced persons, migrant workers); and (vi) the prevention or provision of remedies to various social ills (such as family breakdowns, child abuse, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, violence and crime).

Government responses translated into a wide range of actions, including: the introduction of transparency in policy making and implementation, the enforcement of accountability in the civil service, the simplification of regulations, the dissemination of accurate data on which people could base decisions, the encouragement of the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the planning and execution of state programs, the establishment of social safety nets, the intensification of efforts to combat illicit arms trafficking, violence, violence against women, crime, the production, use and trafficking of illicit drugs, and the trafficking in women and children.

Hard statistics are difficult to come by and conclusions as to the successes or failures of efforts can only be judgmental. There is enough evidence to suggest however that, on the whole, the threats to social integration mentioned by the Heads of State in the WSSD are still clearly visible: social polarization and fragmentation, widening disparities and inequalities of income and wealth within and among nations, uncontrolled urban development, the degradation of the environment, the marginalisation of people, families, social groups, communities and even entire countries, and strains on individuals, families, communities and institutions. These threats to social integration at the national and international levels diminished only slightly.

2. Instruments and Constraints

The achievement of the goals and targets of social development set by the countries of the region required the formulation of appropriate processes, the establishment and strengthening of relevant instrumentalities, and the overcoming of constraints in human and non-human resources. The results of the efforts of the Governments in the region in accomplishing these tasks can be assessed.

a. Targeting

All countries had gone well past the stage of target setting by the close of the 1990s. Having set aggregate targets for poverty reduction in the WSSD in 1995 and in the Manila Declaration of 1997,

the countries refined these to the sectoral level in the years that followed. The approaches of the Governments were diverse. Some countries focused on the poor in general, some on the poor in specific geographic locations, still some on sectoral groups (i.e., poor fisher folk, poor farmers). A few Governments adopted an areal approach, focusing on “the most seriously depressed” provinces or communities.

As experience has shown, each approach had its own strengths and weaknesses. The concentration on the poor in general favoured no specific groups among the poor, no specific localities, and avoided creating inequalities or intensifying inequalities where these already existed. However, the approach was almost synonymous with tackling the “development” issue in general. It meant initiating action on too wide a front, pushing for just about all policies for development, i.e., increasing the social allocation in the budget, raising investment rates, adopting labour-intensive policies, etc. On the other hand, the focus on the poor in specific geographic locations or on specific sectoral groups permitted a concentrated attack on well identified targets and yielded easily measurable results but it failed to exploit benefits from scale; moreover it tended to give rise to inequalities. Lastly, the areal approach maximized benefits from scale but favoured no one in the target area, poor and non-poor alike.

As diverse as the approaches in targeting were, they improved the identification of target groups and facilitated the delivery of social services to them.

b. Policy planning, legal and institutional arrangements

The policies that the Governments pursued in order to accelerate social development were outlined in the various Conferences held in the 1990s. Critical among these were those that called for the promotion of a broad-based participation by civil society in the formulation and implementation of social development programs, the equitable distribution of the benefits of growth among social groups, an encouragement of market forces conducive to efficiency and social development, the establishment of a political and legal framework for the promotion of a mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy, development and all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the strengthening of political and social processes that avoided exclusion while respecting pluralism and diversity.

While the question of whether policymaking and implementation had been successful must ultimately hinge on whether the goals of policy were being realized, it seems nevertheless possible to pass judgment on the issue while processes are still unfolding by looking at the degree to which policies had been given operational content at any point in time. Answers to such questions as the following provide a basis for knowing how far a government has traveled on the road of implementing its policy commitments: (i) Have enabling acts and laws been passed by the legislature and duly pursued by the executive to achieve the thrusts of the policies? (ii) Have appropriate agencies been established and made operational? (iii) Have financial resources been allocated to social development projects and activities? Have these resources been adequate to the social challenge to which they have been addressed?

Most Governments now have the enabling acts, laws, and instrumentalities they need to push for social development. They will in due course pass or set up more laws and agencies as the need for these arise in the course of program implementation. Most Governments also have institutionalised the allocation of funds to social development projects; in most cases however they have found the scale of available funding far short of their requirements.

A fair assessment of progress here will have to conclude that for the most part Governments in the region are no longer constrained by lack of mandate, by inadequate implementing staffs but that, as one might anticipate, they still suffer from imperfect procedures and financial shortages.

c. Governance

On this point the agenda both of the WSSD and of the ESCAP Region called attention to the need for transparency -- the openness of public actions to public scrutiny -- accountability -- the submission of public officials and employees to the people's judgment-- cost-effectiveness --the collection of user fees, the minimization of graft-- decentralization -- the transfer of central government functions to local government units--and broad-based participation -- mainly the inclusion of people's organizations in the planning and implementation of social programs --in order to enhance public support for Government.

While it is not easy to pass judgment on transparency (how transparent is transparent?), accountability (are officials guilty of wrong-doing or innocent?), and even cost-effectiveness (has graft been minimized or eliminated?), there is little doubt that Governments have made substantial progress in decentralization and broad-based participation as means for improving the chances of success of social development programs, among other things. Almost all countries have decentralized, in one degree or another. Although there had been no studies to document past performance, there seems to be a consensus that with decentralization targeting had become more precise and the delivery of social services had been faster and better coordinated. Problems have of course been encountered including the persistence of the top-down mentality, the deficiency of capacity of lower level government units, and the lack of congruence between program sizes and financial allocations but these problems were being addressed.

More and more non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were coming into the consultation process in almost all countries and as a result, the review of macro programs at ground level has become routinary, introducing realism and specificity to plans and implementation programs. This has been contributory to the improvement of targeting and faster delivery of social services, as has been mentioned. Still the benefits from NGO participation have not been maximized due to the deficiencies in the technical capabilities of some of these organizations. In this regard, the Governments have been extending support to the NGOs in terms of training and other capacity-building schemes.

Beyond passing enabling laws, establishing appropriate offices and agencies, streamlining processes, and mobilizing mass support, the denomination of governance required massive capacity-building--the expansion of the bureaucracy's capacity for conceptualising, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national development including in particular social development. Capacity-building was one of the major concerns of the Manila Declaration of 1997. Towards this end, most countries of the region have established training programs for their staffs, national and local, in addition to the regular educational programs of the universities. Large segments of the civil service in these countries have been benefiting from these programs in the last few years.

One can conclude that Governments have not been remiss in building the capacity of their bureaucracies for good governance. The process of education and training is of course never completed and can be expected to continue in the years ahead.

d. Resource mobilization

The resource mobilization item in the regional Agenda called for an increase in the national financial allocation for social development through a number of measures: decentralization and grant of taxing powers to local government units, participation of the private sector in social development activities, increased philanthropic contributions from commercial enterprises, corporate leaders and business associations, and encouragement of NGO fund mobilization. The Agenda also sought the exclusion of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups from indirect tax liabilities, user fees and other payments for goods and services, including payments for primary education and basic health care.

That there have been substantial improvements in resource mobilization among the countries in the region can be seen in the fact that some of them have given taxing authority to lower level government units in the course of decentralization, enabling these units to augment their budgets with new revenue from real estate properties, business licenses, etc. This has resulted in the substantial expansion of the social development budget of many local government units (LGUs). Many Governments have also passed laws giving older persons the sought-after tax exemptions and substantial percentage discounts on their purchases of medicines, own food, entertainment tickets, among other things.

Some of the potentials of public-private sector collaboration for social development are now beginning to be realized. The policy of privatisation of state operated enterprises (SOEs) now being embarked upon by an increasing number of Governments can be viewed as an indirect mobilization of the private sector for social development since the process not only generates funds that can be channelled to social development but also liberates funds allocated to those enterprises for social development purposes. BOT (build-operate-transfer) schemes can also be seen in a similar light, i.e., as allowing Governments to direct their resources to social development instead of to public works. However there is as yet limited experience in the direct mobilization of private enterprise for social development projects. The possibilities of such incentives as credit and tax privileges to motivate the private sector to go into low-cost housing, and education and health services for the poor are yet to be fully realized.

Results have been more heartening with respect to the encouragement of fund mobilization among NGOs. Here, success revolved on the solvency and affluence of the sectors which the NGOs represented and the social-mindedness of the sectors with which they had links. In consequence, some NGOs were more successful in fund mobilization than others. All the same, though the impact of contributions from NGO fund mobilization had in general been greater than that implied by their physical values, because of the hard work and dedication of the NGOs, they had constituted a rather modest proportion to the total social development fund.

Altogether, notwithstanding all these efforts at resource mobilization, despite all the successes here and there, the financial constraint in the region remained tight. For most of the countries budgets at the national level were in deficit for most of the time and so were those at the local government level--these were barely enough to meet current operational requirements.

B. Regional Perspective and Recommendations

In order to prepare the regional input for the global review of the outcome of the World Social Summit to be held at a special session of the General Assembly in Geneva in June 2000, ESCAP was mandated to convene a Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. In preparation for the Senior Officials' Meeting, ESCAP convened the Expert Group Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region on 25-27 May 1999 in Bangkok. The expert group identified the social development problems confronting the region. The problems basically arose from the incompleteness, rather than the absence, of the processes and instrumentalities deemed vital to success. The strengthening and augmentation of these processes and instrumentalities were still underway in most of the countries. As indicated by the Expert Group Meeting, the problems consisted of (i) inadequate recognition that social development, or more specifically poverty eradication, is the responsibility of all sectors in society, not just of the Government alone; (ii) the slow pace in the establishment of government-community links, e.g., cooperation between Government and private enterprises, NGOs, universities and research institutions, and the poor people themselves; (iii) slow progress in the devolution of legal, administrative and financial powers from higher to lower levels of government; (iv) the inadequacy of documentation of work performed, including the absence of statistical indicators; and (v) the lack of efficient monitoring and evaluation systems for policy interventions, for various social development projects

and programmes.

The Expert Group Meeting strongly suggested that the success of social development in the region now required the immediate completion of the vital processes and instrumentalities. The Meeting recommended for the consideration of the Senior Officials Meeting, among other things:

- (i) the intensification of the recognition that the task of eradicating poverty is not the government's alone but is shared by all sectors in the society;
- (ii) the quickening of the pace of mobilization of the private sector, NGOs, universities and research institutions, and other stakeholders in social development;
- (iii) the acceleration of the devolution process, including the devolution of legal, administrative and financial functions to local government units;
- (iv) the improvement of documentation of social development work, including particularly the collection and systematic compilation of necessary social statistics and indicators;
- (v) the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems for all policy interventions, including systems that allow the target beneficiaries themselves to carry out the surveillance; and
- (vi) the review of the adequacy of resource mobilization including compliance with the 20/20 compact at the national and international levels. With the advent of globalization and the exposure of countries to its debilitating as well as energizing impacts:
- (vii) the establishment of a "social fund" that would provide income support to the poor to prevent them from sliding into even deeper poverty during emergencies; and
- (viii) the extension of support to the informal sector, including possibly unemployment insurance, for the purpose of ensuring social protection to the poor in the event of a crisis.

The Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region was convened at Bangkok from 1 to 5 November 1999. Members and associate members reviewed the progress made and constraints encountered in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in the context of the Copenhagen Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. It considered development trends and emerging challenges to the full implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda. It endorsed the report and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting mentioned above. Furthermore, the Meeting adopted a Regional Perspective and Recommendations for the Global Review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly at its special session in June 2000 (See annex). Finally, the meeting requested ESCAP to ensure the transmission, through channels, of its perspective and recommendations to the General Assembly, closely monitor compliance on both sides with the 20/20 initiative, and pursue any other initiative that would contribute to the full implementation of the Social Development Agenda in the countries of the region within the target dates the countries set down in 1995.

III. Development Trends and Issues

The preceding gives an overview of what the countries have done in the last five years in the social sphere. It would be worthwhile to consider those in light of what trends and issues are in store for all concerned. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifth-fourth session on 22 April 1998, had before it a secretariat document which summarized the theme study contained

in the publication, *Asia and the Pacific into the Twenty-First Century: Prospects for Social Development, 1998* (ST/ESCAP/1887). The Commission noted the emerging trends and issues in the region and in the rest of the world and observed that while the trends and issues were many and complex, they all had the capacity to affect social development prospects adversely unless they were addressed appropriately at policy and programme levels. The following presents an overview of the issues and conclusions discussed by the Commission at that session.

A. Current state of social development

As mentioned above, the region as a whole has made considerable progress in almost all areas of social development. All indicators of social well-being have shown significant improvements in the last few decades. Though substantial as a whole, however, social development progress in the region has been extremely uneven. A number of countries continue to make major advances while a few continue to struggle against stagnation and even deterioration.

In recent years progress has slowed down, suggesting the need for renewed efforts to attend to those issues that have remained largely neglected in social development programmes. The regional experience suggests that, notwithstanding the expressed commitment to social development, the action measures taken have not been as strong as the situation requires. There has been an inadequate focus on the creation of an enabling environment, capability-building, the strengthening of partnerships, and good governance for the acceleration of social development. The potentials of international cooperation have not been fully realized.

In evaluating their prospects for social development into the next century, countries of the region need to consider changes in the demographic, economic, and political fields in the region and in the rest of the world and be prepared to respond to these changes, in addition to using lessons of past experience to improve and strengthen their social development programmes.

B. Demographic trends

As both birth rates and mortality rates decline, the demographic structure will change in favour of increasing the proportion and absolute number of older people in the population. This will generate new demands on the communities which will not be met if preparations for them are not made earlier. As in other areas of concern however the regional decline in birth rates will not mask the reality that in some countries the rate of ageing will remain high. In these countries there will be a tendency to aggravate poverty and perpetuate other unwholesome social conditions.

The family will find itself under increasing stress in the light of these developments. The family will find it more difficult to perform the same roles that it had performed in the past -- to provide care for the elderly as well as socialization opportunities for the young. The family will need assistance to rebuild its strength. The State will also feel the strong demand for social protection by the disadvantaged social groups.

Partly in response to changing opportunities in the economic sphere, there will be increased migration and urbanization. This will give rise to increased labour mobility within and amongst countries. There will be a clear trend towards very large cities. Issues relating to older persons living alone particularly women in rural areas will emerge.

C. Economic trends

The trends towards greater liberalization and globalization will continue. As the economic environment becomes increasingly competitive, workers will find themselves under increasing strain to raise the level of their performance. The globalization process will serve to heighten this need for

greater efficiency from all participants in the work process. What the impact of this new development on the mental and emotional states of workers and their families, on their relationships with one another and with the rest of their communities, is difficult to predict at this stage but there is no doubt that it can alter the physical and mental state and stability of individuals and families.

Another phenomenon can intensify as a result of continuous liberalization and globalization: temporary labour migration, as already mentioned. The expansion of the area of economic interaction among countries and the dismantling of policy barriers between them will provide a powerful stimulus to people to move across international boundaries in response to differential opportunities.

D. Political trends

In the field of international relations, the end of the cold war has made it possible to expand the area of participatory democracy not just for the directly affected peoples but for all peoples of the world. Further, an historic opportunity has now emerged to utilize the new peace dividend for social development purposes. In the ESCAP region, this development can give rise to a heightened awareness among people in the region of the importance of social justice and equality for all people and the universality of their rights as human beings, of the right and obligation of people individually and collectively to participate in the making of decisions affecting their lives, and of their freedom to pursue happiness and well-being as determined by themselves. There may also arise an expectation to benefit from the new peace dividend to be able to accelerate the implementation of their social development agenda.

IV. Implications for Social Development Policy

The implications of these trends and issues to social development policy are both reassuring and worrisome, for they have the potential not just of yielding untold benefits to mankind but also of destabilizing social conditions and institutions. Carefully responded to or managed, they can raise all of humanity to higher levels of well-being but left to themselves to unravel as blind forces, they can severely slow down all meaningful progress in social development.

Social policy must continue to address the three major concerns identified in the regional social development Agenda and in the World Summit for Social Development, namely, poverty eradication, employment expansion, and social integration. In all instances however it must take into account the prospective developments in the various fields of human endeavour in the region and in the rest of the world as described above and address the implications they carry for individual countries and the region as a whole.

Demographic changes have implications for the family as a basic social unit, for housing, for education and health, for the built infrastructure, for means of transport and communication, for the internal organization of cities, among others. Social policy must come to grips with all this.

Changes in the economic arena have implications for worker education and training, for family support, for transport and communication, for urban planning and development, among other things. These too must be recognized by social policy.

Political trends have implications for political accommodation among various sectors of the population, for their reception of diverse and even conflicting views among themselves in the political process, for the speed of communication between peoples and their government, and for the existence of culturally imposed restrictions on the minds and bodies of women and men in society. Responses to these challenges must be incorporated in social policy.

The implications of these trends and issues for the disadvantaged groups in society, that is, the youth,

the older persons, the women, and the persons with disabilities, are still unclear at this point in time. Whether these can be dealt with adequately in social policy will spell the difference between succeeding and failing to enhance the well-being of these disadvantaged groups.

A. Prospects for youth

The youth constitutes one-fifth of the region's population but their importance is greater than this proportion suggests for the reason that the future of their countries will depend critically on their leadership. The youth need education, employment, and opportunities for social participation. In addition, the girls among them appear to suffer from pernicious social practices: incest, rape, trafficking, pornography and prostitution.

To improve the social condition of the youth and enhance their abilities for future leadership, their needs for various social services must be met. Offences against girls and women in general must stop. And then, the positive side of the prospective changes in the various spheres of human endeavour, as already described, must be accentuated and directed to the improvement of the welfare of the youth.

B. Prospects for older persons

As noted above, many countries in the region are experiencing rapid population ageing. Many countries have not been prepared to deal with this phenomenon. As a result the social status of older persons in many countries has declined. Older persons experience increasing social isolation and suffer from low levels of self-esteem. A key issue relating to older persons is how to care for them. Health maintenance is already a formidable task for many countries; adding the needs of an ageing population will make that undertaking even more daunting.

There will be need to formulate comprehensive programs for addressing problems of ageing. Further, there will be need to maximize the positive impacts of the demographic, economic, and political changes in the global environment and ensure that much of them are channelled to the direction of the older persons in the population.

C. Prospects for women

The situation of women has improved considerably in recent decades but problems remain in many areas. Women continue to suffer from inequality with men. A wide gender gap exists in education, employment, health, and legal status, among others. Further, with more women marrying late, outliving their husbands, and living alone with offsprings after widowhood or separation, the number of female-headed households is increasing. In the current social context, these households tend to be poorer, to be more vulnerable to any kind of social dislocation, than male-headed households.

There is a strong need to strengthen all the initiatives that have been launched in favour of women in order to redress the situation. Further, the trends in the various fields of human activity that are emerging need to be bent in favour of women so that women will have the same opportunities as men to grow and make their contribution to the communities in which they live.

D. Prospects for persons with disabilities

There are indications that the prevalence of persons with disabilities will increase as the twenty-first century unfolds. Persons born with disabilities will be more likely to survive; the high levels of stress and accidents that modern life generates will result in disabilities; an ageing population will add to the number of persons suffering from disabilities; and so will victims of wars and conflicts. Though much has been accomplished in the various countries in terms of providing persons with disabilities

with a caring environment --marked by appropriate technology, architecture, urban planning-- this remains short of its goals.

The first step in enhancing the well-being of persons with disabilities is to know and understand the situation of the disabled, then to view the person in a positive light, and finally to carry out those changes in society that will enable the person to enjoy a full life. In this light, current initiatives in favour of persons with disabilities must be pushed forward. Also, efforts must be exerted to ensure that the trends in the various spheres of human activity as already described make a positive impact on the well-being of persons with disabilities.

V. Overall Policy Implications

As the major executor of social development, Governments need to focus their policies towards specific initiatives and instrumentalities that contribute to the speedy realization of social development objectives, both at the sectoral level and at the level of the disadvantaged groups, taking into consideration the implications of current trends and issues emerging in the rest of the world. These policies must aim at promoting an enabling environment, building capabilities, fostering partnerships, promoting good governance, and mobilizing regional support as means for accelerating the attainment of the goals of social development at all appropriate levels.

A. An enabling environment

Governments must promote an environment that creates opportunities for all disadvantaged groups to overcome their limitations whether these are self-arising or imposed by external institutions or practices as well as develop their capacities to benefit from and contribute to the development of their communities.. Thus, the youth need opportunities for education, for skill development, and for social interaction that will enable them to grow, physically and spiritually, as adults. The women need opportunities to be treated as equals with men, to make gender-specific contributions to the growth of society. Older persons need opportunities not just to live in secured surroundings with their families and friends but to make further contributions to the enhancement of community life. People with disabilities need an environment in which their disabilities are accepted, understood, and accommodated, and where they are allowed to contribute productively to the society to the fullest extent.

At another level, Governments must promote an environment that enables various actors in civil society to pursue their own tasks and responsibilities in the complex process of social development. This environment must enhance the opportunities of the private sector to expand and flourish, of NGOs to improve their capacities for identifying the needs of people and delivering social services to them, and of other members of civil society to make their own contributions towards the uplift of the welfare of the people around them.

Above all, this enabling environment must widen the avenues of participation of the people themselves in the formulation and implementation of decisions affecting their lives.

B. Capability-building

Governments recognize the fundamental importance of capacity-building at all levels of society for the acceleration of the attainment of social development objectives. Capacity-building requires, at the simplest level, developing the ability to identify social needs and subsequently forming the capacity to formulate coherent programmes for meeting these needs and monitoring and strengthening these programmes. The capacity-building programme must be addressed at the bureaucracy, including bureaucracies of local government units, NGOs and, ultimately, the people themselves.

In the same context, capacity-building requires the formation and establishment of the capacity to generate and provide for the essential social needs at the community level.

This means encouraging self-help organizations, to produce social provisions, and assisting their members with such support as financing and credit. The encouragement can include training for technical and managerial responsibilities.

Governments must strengthen the various capacity-building programmes they have launched and implemented for concerned sectors in the past. They must pursue these programmes with greater vigour in the years ahead.

C. Partnerships

Governments realize that the active participation of various elements of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the business sector, trade unions, professional groups, community-based organizations, is indispensable to the successful implementation of social development programs. Governments must mobilize them for that purpose. While governments, through their auxiliary agencies, will continue to play the leadership role in policy making, planning and strategy formulation, these organizations can make vital contributions to resource mobilization and the actual provision and delivery of social services to target groups.

The media can also make a contribution to the successful implementation of the countries' social development agenda. They can do this through the dissemination of information and the heightening of awareness on various aspects of the social development effort and, as a consequence, the generation of enlightenment and motivation among the people to act on their own behalf in enhancing their lives and the conditions in which they live. In the final analysis, it is this enlightenment and motivation that will energize people to become not just the objects of social development but the means themselves for making it happen.

Governments must mobilize the various sectors of civil society, including the media, in the implementation of the social development agenda to ensure the success of this effort.

D. Good governance

Governments recognize the fundamental importance of improving and enhancing their leadership role in the whole social development enterprise. Not only should they embark on their own capacity-building to raise the efficiency and effectiveness of their people, as already mentioned, they must raise the level of government performance as a whole. Governments must raise the level of government performance through the introduction and maintenance of transparency in all government activities, the enforcement of accountability among civil servants, and the encouragement of popular participation in the making of vital decisions. Although they have observed these rules of behaviour in the past, governments must observe them with greater strictness in the coming days.

E. Regional support

Although firmly committed to principles of self-reliance and self-help in the formulation and implementation of their social development agenda, Governments in the region recognize the importance and centrality of assistance and support that can emanate from the international community. They are determined to obtain maximum benefits from cooperation amongst themselves and from the assistance of international agencies working in the interest of developing nations like themselves.

Governments in the region want to underscore the importance of ESCAP in the realization of their social development goals. ESCAP has long taken the leading role in the promotion of international cooperation for social development in Asia and the Pacific. It has firmly placed the social dimension

of development on the regional development agenda. Under its auspices, regional conferences have been held to forge a regional consensus on how to address the serious social ills that confront individual countries. First among these was the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Development in Manila in 1991, which launched the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. Next was the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development in Manila in 1994, which adopted the landmark Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, now known as the regional Social Development Agenda. The latest was the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila in 1997, which called for the accelerated implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda.

As the focal point of the United Nations in this region, ESCAP has cooperated with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Community in the analyses of social and related problems in the region and the formulation of action programmes for addressing these problems. It has disseminated information on progress and issues of social development and provided advisory services and technical assistance on various areas of social concern in the region.

Appreciating these contributions, Governments in the region must mobilize the special capabilities of ESCAP in finding support from the international community in the acceleration of implementation of their regional social development Agenda as they stand on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

Conclusion

This meeting is taking place before the Global Review of the outcome of the World Social Summit. Most of you therefore, will have the opportunity to pass on whatever is learned or decided from this meeting to the concerned persons or entities in your respective countries. Others might even have opportunities to make decisions which could decide whether or which laws are enacted, what implementation rules and regulations are formulated or which budgetary proposal will be approved.

I look forward to learning from you what more and what else need to be done by all of us in the light of social development issues and trends and “national circumstances” in your respective countries. I am confident that by working together to address common problems while recognizing diversity among countries your individual efforts will maximize enhancement of the quality of life of societies for all ages in your countries and in our region as well as the rest of the world.

Finally, I wish to thank the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for the honour and privilege they have accorded me by inviting me to participate in this meeting.

I wish you success in your deliberations and in your follow-up actions.

Thank you.

Table 1. Human Poverty Index (HPI) in Some Countries of the ESCAP Region, 1993, 1995 and 1997

	Real GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	Percentage		
		1993	1995	1997
	1994			
East and North-East Asia Hong Kong, China	22,310			
Japan	21,581			
Republic of Korea	10,656			
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3,965			
Mongolia	3,766	15.5	14.0	18.2
China	2,604	17.5	17.1	19.0
South-East Asia Brunei Darussalam	30,447			
Singapore	20,982	6.6	6.5	
Malaysia	8,865			14.2
Thailand	7,104	11.7	11.9	18.7
Indonesia	3,740	20.8	20.2	27.7
Philippines	2,681	17.7	17.7	16.3
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	2,484	40.1	39.4	38.9
Viet Nam	1,208	26.2	26.1	28.7
Cambodia	1,084	52.5	39.9	
Myanmar	1,051	31.2	27.5	32.3
South and South-West Asia Iran (Islamic Republic of)	5,766	22.6	22.2	20.4
Turkey	5,193			
Sri Lanka	3,277	20.7	20.6	20.4
Maldives	2,200			25.4
Pakistan	2,154	46.8	46.0	42.1
India	1,348	36.7	35.9	35.9
Bangladesh	1,331	48.3	46.5	44.4
Bhutan	1,289	46.3	44.9	41.8
Nepal	1,137			51.9
North and Central Asia Russian Federation	4,828			
Turkmenistan	3,469			
Kazakhstan	3,284			

	Real GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	Percentage		
		1993	1995	1997
	1994			
Uzbekistan	2,438			
Kyrgyzstan	1,930			
Armenia	1,737			
Azerbaijan	1,670			
Tajikistan	1,117			
Pacific Australia	19,285			
New Zealand	16,851			
Fiji	5,763			8.6
Papua New Guinea	2,821			
Samoa	2,729			
Vanuatu	2,276			
Solomon Islands	2,118			

Sources:

Columns 1 and 2: Human Development Report (HDR) 1997, Table 1, pp. 146-148 and Table 1.1, p. 21.

Column 3: HDR 1998, Table 7, pp. 146-147.

Column 4: HDR 1999, Table 4, pp. 146-148.

Note: The Human Poverty Index (HPI) reported in HDR 1997 (Column 2) is undated. Here it has been given the date 1993 to represent the mid-point of the period 1990-96 covered in that Report.

Annex "A"

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2000

I. REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

1. As they stand on the threshold of the third millennium, the governments of the ESCAP region reaffirm their determination to carry out fully the commitments that they made in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, namely, to eradicate poverty, generate employment expansion and promote social integration in their national communities. Until 1997, they had made substantial advances in lifting affected peoples in their countries out of poverty, giving them opportunities for employment, and reducing levels of social exclusion in their communities. However, they are fully aware that unfulfilled tasks remain daunting, because large numbers of people in their countries are still mired in poverty, unemployment remains a critical problem, and the goals of social integration stand mostly unachieved.

2. The governments note that developments in the international environment have affected the extent and speed of their social development work. The financial crisis that struck many countries in the Asian and Pacific region beginning in mid-1997 set back social development, particularly in East and South-East Asia, throwing thousands of workers out of employment, reducing their incomes, intensifying poverty, and at the same time severely diminishing the quantity of resources available to governments for counteracting the adverse consequences of the crisis. Not all countries in the region were affected to the same extent but even those spared from direct impact suffered as a result of a volatility of capital flows and the resultant economic slowdown. The intensification of the pace of globalization continued to expose the economies of the countries concerned to intense international competition, necessitating industry wide restructuring, resulting in the inevitable shifting of employment patterns in the economies. While the trend created new jobs, it also destroyed existing ones as the industries shed workers to improve competitiveness. This added to the magnitude of the unemployment problem in affected countries. The region also experienced a slowdown in the progress of social development programmes and projects, including those relating to health, education, family, environment and disaster management.

3. The governments of the region are firm in their resolve to address the problems posed by these developments and to incorporate in their social development agenda other challenges that may arise from the international environment in the days ahead. The governments commit themselves anew to the tasks of social development remaining in front of them. They are ready to accelerate social development in their countries with greater determination and vigour.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

4. To ensure the attainment of the targets of social development that they have set for themselves, modified in the light of prospective developments in the various fields of human endeavour in the rest of the world, the governments recognize the need to mobilize their own resources and seek the cooperation and support of the international community. They therefore need to carry out actions at their own national level and at the international level. These actions are outlined below.

A. At the national level

Governance should continue to be strengthened, including in particular the improvement of transparency in decision-making, the establishment of accountability among civil servants and the eradication of graft and corruption in the state bureaucracy.

The decentralization process should be accelerated, including the decentralization of the administration of justice and financial functions, to the lowest levels of government.

Partnerships should continue to be strengthened between government and civil society, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, universities and research institutions, and other stakeholders to maximize their contributions to the attainment of social development objectives.

Recognition should be deepened that the task of eradicating poverty is not the responsibility of governments alone but is shared by all sectors in the economy and society.

Support should be increased for employment generation in small and medium-sized enterprises, micro- and home-based enterprises and cooperatives in terms of restructuring technological upgrading and increasing competitiveness through institutional support; human resource development; knowledge and information; business development services; as well as collective efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises through clusters, networking and partnerships.

Income should be generated and social integration stimulated for a large part of the rural population, particularly the poor, including women, through the strengthening of linkages between industry and agriculture and improving agricultural productivity to ensure food security and safety.

Capacity-building should be accelerated at all levels, from high government bureaucracies to those at the local level, from non-governmental organizations to community-based organizations, from trade unions to professional groups, to make social development a self-sustaining process.

Society should be prepared to derive maximum benefit from advances in information and communications technology and to safeguard itself against unwelcome influences coming through this technology without impairing human rights and freedoms.

The media should be encouraged to play a more active role in the production, dissemination and use of information on social development.

Social services should be carefully planned and provided to take into account changing family circumstances, gender equality and changing responsibilities of women and men, mass migration and displacement of people, and shifts in population age structure, including the increase in the proportion of the elderly.

Gender mainstreaming activities should continue to be enhanced in national development to achieve gender equity and equality.

Documentation of social development work should be improved, including particularly the collection and systematic compilation of necessary social statistics and indicators.

Monitoring and evaluation systems should be established for all policy interventions, including systems in which the target beneficiaries themselves assist in carrying out the monitoring and evaluation work.

With the advent of globalization and the exposure of countries to its debilitating as well as energizing impacts, a social fund should be established that would provide income support for the poor to prevent them from sliding into even deeper poverty during transitions and emergencies.

Support should be extended to the informal sector, including possibly unemployment assistance such as micro-credit and public works, as well as education and training schemes, for the purpose of ensuring social protection for the poor in the event of a crisis.

B. At the international level

Technical assistance should be provided towards improving understanding of the social impacts of, and identifying the appropriate social policy and programme responses to, financial crises.

The effectiveness of international institutions in adapting to the new social challenges should be increased through relevant measures for improving the international financial architecture so as to prevent the recurrence of financial crises.

Technical assistance should be provided for the establishment, operation and strengthening of social protection systems, including unemployment assistance, education and training and protection schemes for the informal sector.

Medical and financial support should be extended to countries to fight the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other communicable diseases.

Progress in the attainment of the quantitative targets in the various social fields set up by the countries in the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and at the World Summit for Social Development should be monitored continuously. Technical assistance should be provided in conducting social assessments in linking social policies with economic policies to ensure the simultaneous achievement of social and economic goals, including the incorporation of social concerns in loans and in structural adjustment programmes.

Policy advice should be provided in strengthening the capabilities of the productive sectors of the economy, in industry, both formal and informal, and in agriculture, to contribute to social development.

Technical assistance should be provided for the strengthening of procedures and institutions for social dialogue, including procedures for encouraging participation and growth of independent non-governmental organizations.

Social development indicators should be developed and standardized.

Cooperation should be strengthened between countries of origin and receiving countries in the employment of migrant workers to ensure maximum benefit to both origin and receiving countries and adequate social protection for individual temporary labour migrants.

Efforts should be strengthened to reverse the current decline in official development assistance and reach the agreed international targets for such assistance.

The debts of the heavily indebted low income countries should be substantially reduced and resources channelled for social development purposes.

Regional and international cooperation and coordination should be strengthened in dealing with issues on drug trafficking, trafficking of women and children, refugees and displaced persons, trans-national organized crime and environmental problems.

Preferential interest rates should be provided for social development projects.

Social development concerns should be mainstreamed in programming and evaluating official development assistance.

Regional and sub-regional efforts should be encouraged and strengthened such as those by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in pursuing the goals of social development.

Discussion

Mr. Shri Lakshman Singh :

The floor is open for questions or discussion.

Prof. Dr. Marimuthu, MP, Malaysia:

I'd like to congratulate Mr Rola for having given us an overview. It would have been better if had had the paper, so we could have had a look at the statistics. I don't have a clear idea whether after the World Summit 5+ we have actually achieved our targets, but judging from what Dr. Rola has been saying, whatever gains we had made in terms of poverty have been reduced of the financial crisis. The question I would like to pose is: What would be the implications for social development if we bring down the trade barriers as enunciated by the WTO? How would that effect the targets? It is being said that this would negatively effect the poorer countries and benefit the richer ones. Is that an official view of ESCAP?

Dr. Bienvenido Rola:

This very pertinent question was also raised during the recent UNCTAD meeting here in Bangkok. All I can say that it is not very clear what the impact is. Some people say it is not good for developing countries, others say it is, if you look at the long run. Let us say that the one issue is being imposed by developed countries is that they are pushing for liberalisation, allowing capital to go in and out without much regulation. On the other hand, they are not allowing labour to move into and out of their countries and they want it regulated. So, it is not really liberalisation for everybody. If you look at trade barriers and barriers to movement as encompassing all capital and labour movement, then in the long run it will be good for developing countries. Yet, will all those barriers against labour movement still there, it won't work. The negotiations are on and that is what is important. My personal view is that if the developing

countries are able to gain some ground, then it would be good. Some kind of regulations will have to be put up, including close examination of genetically modified products crossing borders, because of possible health concerns.

Mr Jamgyrbek Bokoshov, MP, Kyrgystan:

Could you elaborate on the situation of the Central Asian states with respect to social development, population, education, health care etc.? We became independent 10 years ago and we still haven't passed the transition period. Do you agree with me that our problems have a special character, related to this transition period and does ESCAP consider this in her research? As far as I can tell, the interest in our countries is not very high, but probably I am mistaken. I would like to hear your opinion.

Dr. Bienvenido Rola:

In terms of this paper we also tried to study the social development in the transition economies in Central Asia, but we came up with a big problem of lack of data. In terms of the general problems ESCAP has given special consideration to the transition economies. ESCAP has already made consultations with the countries concerned, yet the problem is that the priorities of the countries are still in the field of economic development, e.g. transport, investment, trade. Social development is still at the low priority end. This is in a sense not a big surprise to us, because we have learned over many years that oftentimes social development gets a lower priority rating than the economic sector. Hopefully this will change very soon in your sub-region.

Mr. P.D. Elangovan, MP, India:

I appreciate Mr Rola for highlighting various aspects of social development. My concern is regarding women's reservation and other reservation ("quota") based on social status in employment. What would be the impact of this on social development?

Dr. Bienvenido Rola:

As probably will be brought up this afternoon on Women and Development there will of course be some hindrance in social development if there is no equal opportunity provided in terms of social status to all members of the population. The role of ESCAP is to try to bring forward the comparative studies that show that, generally, providing equal opportunity for all members of society in social, economic and other activities would be conducive to promoting social development and certainly also efficiency. ESCAP is not able to interfere with domestic affairs in this area.. All we can do is provide examples of what is happening in other countries. I think, the problem is not very unique. You can find parallels in areas relating to child labour, which has been receiving a lot of attention lately in WTO and UNCTAD negotiations. This is the same problem in terms of efficiency and international competitiveness of industries from developing countries employing children, below minimum wage, etc. There are of course social implications of children keeping out of school and have them work. Another problem might come up in this area, because some countries will have too many old people. The shrinking group of tax-payers might lead to later retirement ages or earlier voting ages and working ages to expand the workforce. Each country will use their own respective circumstances, cultural and religious traditions to help them adapt to the changing situation. ESCAP can only point out, what certain advantages and disadvantages of approaches to development might be and where certain pitfalls can be expected and can not interfere with domestic implementation or national goals and targets.

Dr. Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

I'd like to express my greetings to Mr. Rola. When the financial crisis hit East Asia, Indonesia was hit the hardest in terms of economic, social and political impact. I would like to hear from Dr. Rola what would be an effective policy or programme to overcome this multi-dimensional crisis in Indonesia?

Dr. Bienvenido Rola:

The IMF, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank all felt they had the solution in hand. Also, the people in the street had some solutions in mind. Order was needed but could not prevent the crisis. I will have to admit that it is very difficult to put your finger on the main causes of this crisis. It was very noticeable when the crisis arose that everybody's fingers were pointing somewhere else, saying: "Not me!" A lot of people in the social field were saying: "I told you so!", but the social planners were not really involved in the search for the solutions. They were being asked to provide safety nets, to ease the pain of the crisis. In terms of avoiding future crises, it is still very much the domain of the economists and national economic planners. Slowly, there is a dialogue and a growing recognition that everybody has something to do with it. Even the private sector, which has a lot to do with it, is slowly realising that they can not do whatever they want, because it also affects their business. I am afraid I will not be able to give you the solution. A multi-sectoral approach is very important, yet in the end the decisions will only have to be made by a few people. If a large group were to decide, the problem would already have engulfed everybody else. So it seems to me that there has to be some kind of dividing line between matters that can be dealt with by a small group of responsible and accountable policy-makers and matters that could be decided through a referendum. The whole idea of preventing or forecasting crises is very important. The market economy always rewards those who are good forecasters and it punishes those who aren't. In the end, those who get punished too much don't make forecasts anymore. There is always this combination of responsibility and authority. Solutions will eventually be more conservative in the sense of: Let's not allow too much risk taking and let there be some regulation. Later on, when everybody has forgotten about the crisis, pretty soon some people will start shaking things up again. I think, in this room there are a lot of parliamentarians who will be in the position to make sure that there is some kind of regulation without stifling initiative in the countries.

SESSION 5

“Five Years from the Forth World Conference on Women” -Women Issues in Asia, Progress and Constraints-

Speaker:

**Ms. Lorraine Corner
Regional Programme Advisor
UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

Session 5

“Five Years from the Forth World Conference on Women”

-Women Issues in Asia, Progress and Constraints-

Chairperson:

Mr. Zhang Huaixi, MP, China

Resource Person:

Ms. Lorraine Corner

Regional Programme Advisor

UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Mr. Zhang Huaixi :

Fellow parliamentarians. It is my great honour to chair this session, focussing on the problems of women. The 4th International Women’s Conference was held in Beijing. At that time I was in charge of women and children affairs. I received many delegations from our part of the world and this time is still a good memory for me. Today we are very honoured to have Ms. Lorraine Corner amongst us to give a speech.

Ms. Lorraine Corner:

I would like to query the title of the session, perhaps it was a mistake in the translation, but I don’t want to talk about the problem of women at all. I think we are part of the solution, not the problem.


I have been asked to speak to you today on the review process for the 4th Conference on Women which took place almost five years ago in Beijing, China. I am going to look at the progress that we have made in the Asia Pacific region, the constraints and the gaps that remain and the issues that are emerging from this review process in this region.

Since you are primarily concerned with population issues, I’d first like to highlight what the Beijing Conference actually had to say about Women and Population (1). Then, I’d like to talk about the progress that has been made (2). After that, I will discuss the constraints (Why we haven’t done better?) (3) . I will review the process that has been taken place (4) in the Asia Pacific to review the Beijing Platform for Action and at the same time, the progress that we have had over a somewhat longer period in implementing the Nairobi forward looking strategy. Sometimes we forget that ten years before Beijing we also had Nairobi. Finally, I want to look at what appear to me as the emerging population issues (5) that are coming out of this process for Asia.

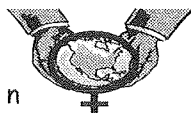
1. Women and Population (See slide below)

The Beijing Conference with regards to Women & Population highlighted the empowerment of women. One of the issues that came on the international agenda with the ICPD Population and Development Conference was the empowerment of women. Beijing very clearly highlighted and reaffirmed the importance of an empowerment approach to the inclusion of women in development. Sometimes people get a little bit confused as to why we talk about women’s rights and women’s rights, as if women aren’t

human. Or children's rights as if children aren't human. Of course women, children and men, are all human and human rights embrace the rights of men, women and children. Yet, when human rights first came onto the global agenda, there was a predominance of suits in the decision-making process. Very few women were present and it was the men who decided what were important human rights and they didn't really think about those rights that really are important to women, yet not so important to men. So, the early discussions on human rights were about torture, imprisonment political rights, etc. which were very important for men.



Beijing, Women & Population



- Highlighted empowerment of women
- Reaffirmed
 - ◆ woman's right to control her own fertility
 - ◆ interdependence of development & rights
 - ◆ women's reproductive rights are human rights
 - ◆ women's right to sexual & reproductive health
- Recognized the need of adolescent girls for sexual & reproductive services

UNEP & SEARO 3

Women's reproductive rights, which have always been very important to women were not even mentioned. The idea that children might have rights was certainly some way away from the agenda. So, we talk about women's rights and children's rights to try and get some balance back on the fact that the early debates on human rights were much more about the rights that were important to men and overlooked many that were important to women and children. Both Cairo and Beijing, and also Vienna emphasised women's rights are human rights. This is something that all of you in your countries need to keep in mind. We sometimes find that we have a human rights commission which still fails to recognise, or at least put into effect, the fact that women's rights are human rights and belong at the table of the human rights machineries.

Another issue which is still now in New York being debated at length is women women's right to sexual & reproductive health. That was a controversial issue in Beijing and it still is. Not so much women's reproductive rights, but sexual rights. This is part of ongoing discussions in the Preparatory Committee in New York.

A very important issue was the recognition of the special need of adolescent girls for sexual and reproductive services. This, of course, is also related to the growing discussion about children's rights.

2. The Progress

If we look at the progress in population in the Asian region in general, we see some rather impressive results, not just in the last 5 years, but in the last 50 years of last century. ESCAP's latest copy of their Asia-Pacific Population journal, (volume 40, #4, December 1999) really highlights the success of the region in terms of population. The opening article is entitled "The Asian Miracle". It is followed by an article on Asian's Demographic Miracle. 50 years of unprecedented change. Then there is an article on

Good Health for Many. So, in terms of population a lot of progress has been made. But what about the progress for women in relation to population? There we might see a somewhat different story. (See slide below)

Beijing +5 - Gaps & Constraints

- Populations continue to grow
- Impact of economic crisis
- High adolescent fertility
- High maternal mortality
- Poor reproductive health
- High son preference S & E Asia
- Population aging - poor services
- Inadequate, poor quality RH services

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3. The Constraints

Looking at the gaps and the constraints that have emerged out of the review process in the Asian region we can see a number of things that suggest that for women at least the progress has not been quite so positive as it seems if we ignore gender issues.

Populations are continuing to grow, although fertility has declined. The issues that result from rapidly growing populations are issues that particularly face women; urban overcrowding, lack of housing, etc. In some countries we have the potential impact of the Asian economic crisis on population issues itself. Lack of access to family planning services which were previously largely provided by government programmes. By the declining pressure on families to perhaps control their fertility and a change in the incentives, children might be seen as an advantage, particularly in rural areas where it might have become more difficult to send them to school. Issues of those kinds again very much affect women.

Another key issue that has emerged in the economic crisis, but that is also on the agenda in other countries looking at structural adjustment, is the fact that much of the burden of the adjustment process falls on women. This is true for both the prices and the perceived problems in national budgets, because women tend to derive more benefits than men from public expenditures on health, education and social services, particularly in the early stages when the IMF and the World Bank were emphasising cutting back of public sector budgets. Of course the people making those decisions are mostly men and they are not looking at the impact on women. From the macro perspective some of the recent developments in the region have not been particularly positive for women especially in those countries most affected by the crisis. There is an interesting example from Indonesia of what happens when you have decision makers who are mostly men, making decisions about things that in fact very much concern women. In the early period of the crisis a group of women actually got out on the streets and actually began to demonstrate, unheard of in Indonesia at that time, against the price of milk. In Indonesia there was a list of goods, especially food stuffs, for which the prices were protected. The list had been drawn up before by policy makers, probably all men. At the time the list was drawn up Indonesia

probably was to a large extent a full breast-feeding society. New-born babies and infants were normally fed breast milk. Yet, at the time of the crisis that was no longer the case; A large proportion of infant, particularly in urban areas but also in rural areas, in fact were no longer (fully) breast fed. They depended on milk, but the price of milk was not protected and it sky-rocketed, whereas incomes had remained the same or fallen because of unemployment. This is an example of problems that you get into by accident, because you don't have women in decision making processes. They would immediately realise that milk was a very critical product.

If we look at some of the other less favourable aspects of demography in the Asian region we again see things that are particularly of concern to women. We still have in many of our countries regrettably high levels of adolescent fertility. This is very much an issue for women and is very much related to the issue of the access of adolescent girls to information and services on sexual and reproductive health.

In most countries of the Asian region we also still have a regrettably high level of maternal mortality and that level has certainly risen in countries, like Indonesia, that are suffering from the crisis. It is proving to be a particularly intractable issue to deal with, perhaps because we have typically dealt with it as a health issue, rather than a gender issue. It is an issue of empowerment, not of health. An example from Indonesia might clarify what I mean here. About ten years ago I was in a rural area of Atjeh, looking at this issue of maternal mortality. We studied a death of a young woman as a result of protracted child birth. The baby had survived. According to the health centre the women in that part of Atjeh don't understand the need for delivery by a qualified midwife in a clinic: "What we need is more health education." A friend or neighbour at the village level where the woman had died, had a completely different story: The woman was extremely afraid of this child birth. She had given birth to a child two years previously and had had a very long and difficult labour and was very afraid of this birth. She desperately wanted to go to the clinic for delivery, but her mother in law and her husband said, there was no need. She began to have labour in the village and as she had feared it was a very difficult and long labour. After a day the neighbours began to say that she should be taken to the clinic, or otherwise she would die. The husband responded by saying that: "If she dies, then she must die here in the village. I don't want her to die in the clinic." So, indeed, she did die in the village. Health education for the mother would not address that issue at all. Health education for the father or the mother-in-law perhaps, but empowerment for the mother, so that, regardless of what her husband or mother-in-law thought, she have taken herself to the clinic would probably have saved her life. So, one of the issues that I see in high levels of maternal mortality is that in many ways it is not a health problem, it is an empowerment issue.

Related to that is, that throughout the region, particularly in rural areas, we still have depressingly low levels of reproductive health; High levels of STD-infections among both women and men, and particularly among women a great deal of ignorance about sexual health and reproductive health.

Another issue is the fact that in a number of countries in South & East Asia we have very high levels of son preference and very distorted sex ratios at birth. Mother Nature decrees that men are not the stronger sex at all, they are the weaker sex, and consequently she gives us about 106-107 male births for every 100 female births, because a higher proportion of boys don't survive the first few months of life. In a number of countries we have ratios of quite distorted sex ratios at birth of 119 to 120, because families are aborting female foetuses. In some cases, we fear, they are also engaging in female infanticide, either deliberately or simply by neglect. De death rate for infant girls in a number of countries are much higher than they would be if girls would receive the same standard of care and nutrition as their brothers.

These are all signs that on a gender front we are not doing nearly as well as we appear to be on a population front.

Another issue which is coming onto the agenda, partly because we have been so successful on the population front, is rapid population aging. I read lately that China might be about to review its one-child policy or the implementation thereof. One of the reasons for that is probably the recognition of the problem of population aging and that the majority of older folk in all our populations are women. This in itself creates a lot of issues; Women are the primary care-givers in our societies for children, for the disabled people and for the elderly. Gender role are changing in the region, but very slowly so. Social attitudes towards the elderly are changing, not always in the direction that we would like. So, we have this confusion, I think, in most of our countries about how we can deal with this growing problem of population aging, which certainly has an important gender dimension.

Some of these problems are related to the fact that we are not delivering very good reproductive health services to women, to adolescents, and indeed even to men. Reproductive health for men is an issue that probably should be coming on to the agenda, as we will see in a moment. It has very important implications for women as well as for men.

4. The Beijing+5 Asia-Pacific Review

First, I'd like to walk you through the process that has already taken place in this region to review our progress in implementing both the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies as well as the Beijing Platform for Action. It began with a request from the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the UN Secretariat in New York. They sent out a form to all governments globally to provide reports on implementing the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and the Beijing Platform for Action. The initial date by which these reports were due was early 1999. Of course, some of those reports were not in, even late in the year, but I believe many of them are now in and some of them are now posted on the DAW's web-site. As perhaps is often the case, NGOs were very organized, despite serious lack of financial resources. Early September last year near Bangkok we had the regional NGO forum for the review of the Beijing Platform for Action for the Asia Pacific. That wasn't the first NGO activity in the region by any means. I was very impressed at that meeting to find that virtually all of the NGO groups at national level and at sub-regional level had already prepared their own national and the 5 sub-regional reports on the progress made. Many of those reports were very impressively substantive. The output from that forum is also available on the web-site and copies would also be available through ESCAP.

Following the NGO forum we had the intergovernmental meeting to review the progress in October here at ESCAP. This too was a very successful meeting.

At the global level we have a related process; The first Preparatory Committee for the June 2000 Review took place last March during the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW). This year's session has just finished in New York. So, we are pretty much on track for the June 2000 meeting, which is called the "Beijing+5 Review" or "Women 2000" or "June 2000".

5. Emerging Issues (See slide below)

I wanted to step back to the review process that took place here in Asia, to highlight some of the emerging issues that were identified in this region at both regional meetings:

The issue of mainstreaming women was one that came out very strongly. I'd like to distinguish two levels of mainstreaming;

One is about ensuring that decision making bodies include both women and men, a rather higher percentage of women that I see here in this room. A minimum of one third begins to make a difference, because when women -or any other group- form about one third, you are no longer a minority and you no longer have to conform to the agenda of the main group. You can in fact begin to get your own items on to the agenda. Getting women into decision making is still a very difficult task in this region. Here in Thailand, we have just had the Senate elections and we see that despite the fact that some of the women elected were there on behalf of their husbands, we could still only get about 10% of women elected, not a very encouraging number. There have been gains in the region in women's participation in politics. We saw some very impressive gains in the last elections in the Pacific; in Fiji, for example, a concerted campaign by women's groups got eight women elected, five of whom went straight into the Cabinet and one became a Deputy Prime-Minister. Yet, this hasn't been the experience generally in the region.

The slide features a vertical bar on the left with a grid pattern and the UNIFEM RESEARCH logo at the bottom. The title 'Beijing + 5 Emerging Issues' is centered at the top. The list of issues is as follows:

- Mainstreaming women in decision making
- Mainstreaming gender in economic policy
- Rights-based approach to women's empowerment
- Violence against women & children
- Women & children in trafficking & undocumented migration
- Women & peace

A cartoon character of a woman with curly hair is pointing at a screen on the right side of the slide. The number '7' is in the bottom right corner.

The second component of mainstreaming is not about women specifically. It is about getting gender or a gender perspective into the decision making process. Even if you women in the decision making, they are not necessarily, automatically, any more gender-sensitive than men. And men can be quite gender-sensitive. So, we need (whoever the decision makers are) to have them to understand that their decisions might effect women and men differently, to analyse those differences and then make appropriate policy decisions which will help to create an equal effect for women and for men. This "mainstreaming gender" is clearly not happening globally and in this region in particular during the crisis in relation to economic policy. I was recently at the UNCTAD meeting here in Bangkok. It was somewhat depressing to see so little reference to the fact that this hotly debated issue of globalisation, trade liberalisation was not being considered from a gender perspective at all. This, despite the fact that UNCTAD itself in June last year had a very impressive seminar on gender and trade and globalisation in Geneva. The book was delivered to all the delegates here in Bangkok, but there was almost no discussion of the issue at all. So, we've got a long way to go. As I said earlier, there are a lot of aspects of economic policy which have very different effects on women and on men.

Another issue that came out, especially during the ESCAP high level meeting was the importance of this rights-based approach to women's empowerment, to recognition that women are not going to the negotiating table just because we'll get better decisions that way (although indeed we will). Women should be at the decision table as a matter of right. We don't have to debate whether it is efficient or effective, it is a right. If you don't have half or roughly half of your representatives at any level women and half men, then quite simply, you don't have democracy. Recognising that these are rights, rather than

things we have to argue and debate about, is a very important development.

Then there are these issues that closely related to population, although not usually posed in that way.; Violence against women and children is regrettably rampant in all societies, without exception. It is not specific to developing or developed countries, not to poor and not to rich people. Women at all levels, from Prime-Ministers down suffer from violence and some of you probably know of some examples. Violence is an issue which clearly is not consistent with empowerment. Physical violence or psychological violence are among the most dis-empowering experiences that you can have. When you fear for your life, or your sanity or your children, then you are certainly not empowered. You are not able to take part in decision making. This is an issue that effects all aspects of our lives, it also clearly effects reproductive decision making.

An issue that -to my surprise- hasn't really gotten onto the population agenda very much is the whole question of trafficking and (undocumented) migration. In this region, most of our countries sadly are involved one way or another in trafficked women and children, either as country of origin or country of destination. It isn't only women and children who are trafficked, but by far the greater percentage and the more horrendous aspects of trafficking involve women and children, not surprisingly because they are dis-empowered and vulnerable. Undocumented migration is something that blends at the borders with trafficking and again it is an issue that involves women and children, as well as men. In some countries official migration particularly involves women, for example Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines. These are issues of increasing significance in this region and globally. They really belong in this whole discussion on globalisation. Most countries are comfortable enough to talk about liberalising markets for goods, a little bit less comfortable about liberalising markets for services and very uncomfortable talking about liberalising of, what are in effect, markets for people. Liberalising the flow of human beings would have not only have economic implications, but also social and political ones which would be extremely difficult to deal with. Yet, whether we discuss it or don't, it is happening. In the population field we are looking at a paradigm shift; The issues in population for the 21st century are not going to be so much about How big is your population or How fast is it growing, but about issues of its distribution; Where is it moving to and from, globally as well as internally. Many countries in this region are also dealing with enormous shifts in population within the country. Internally displaced persons are becoming an increasing phenomenon in this region. So, I think these issues of population distribution are gaining importance. Those of us who have been working on population issues for many years, need to give ourselves a kind of shake and remember that migration is an issue we used to talk about a lot, then we kind of put it aside and let somebody else deal with it. I think, it should come back into the population debate in the 21st century.

Then, there is this emerging issue of women and peace or gender and peace. The theme for the Nairobi Conference was Equality, Development and Peace. The theme for Beijing was Equality, Development and Peace. Yet, if you look at implementation and debate it has mostly been about equality and development. We haven't talked very much about peace and I think it is high time that we did. It is particularly appropriate in this United Nations Year for a Culture for Peace. One of the things that has bothered me for some time is that we start to talk about peace, only when we have a conflict. We talk about peace in Bosnia, in Kosovo, in East-Timor and in Mindanao and that's it. Yet, peace starts a lot sooner than that. Peace starts in the family, in early childhood, in the community. If you have children who grow up to think that the way you solve problems is by bashing up your little brother, if you have families, in which husbands beat their wives when they get frustrated, in which mothers beat their children when they get frustrated and in which children kick the dog when they get frustrated, then you do not have a peaceful society. Peace starts with us and therefore women's role in peace is much more important than any of us have given credit. Since men are too busy doing other things, the mothers are primarily responsible for the socialisation of the children. It ought to be their fathers as well, but at the moment it is not. If we want

peaceful children who can sort their differences out without resorting to violence, women are clearly very important. Within the family, men and women together have to learn to live peacefully, to resolve their differences without resorting to violence of any kind, physical, emotional or psychological. So women are part of the solution and men are probably the bigger part of the solution for peace in the family. Again, in the community men and women together have to make communities safe places for women, for children, for girls and these days, increasingly and sadly, for boys. If we do not peaceful communities, then when there are tensions (as development almost inevitably creates) we will have violence in communities, as we are seeing in some of our countries. When those disputes spill over across borders, we will also have wars.

I was visiting the web-site for East-Timor to look at this aspect of gender in peace. The UN has been talking about gender in peace a little bit. I went to look at the web-site for the UN Temporary Administration in East-Timor and also for UNCTAD which was the Peace Keeping Force that preceded the temporary administration. In the photos, I could hardly find a woman; I found one photograph of two civilian police from Australia and one of them was a woman. Here in Thailand there was a great debate, because there was actually going to be one woman sent in the Peace Keeping Forces. Some not very sensitive men immediately said: "You can't send her, she will need five troops to protect her!" Her superior said: "What nonsense; She's there to protect me!" So, we are not accustomed to this idea of women being involved in peace. On March 8th it was International Women's Day and here in Bangkok at the Conference Centre, UNIFEM and the other UN agencies always have a big display for that occasion. One of the themes was Women in Peace and one of my assistants was putting together the display. She was having great difficulty finding any pictures to put up of women in peace. In desperation she put a panel in the centre elaborating on the very small number of women that is involved in negotiating peace processes around the world. Around it, she put photos of people who were involved and of course they were all men, including Mr Wiranto and Mr Habib. When I was asked why photos of "the old guard" were put up there, I had to think quickly and responded that, if we had had some women at the peace table, perhaps we wouldn't have the kind of conflict that you now have in Indonesia. This underlines that women have not been involved. Even in the UN very few Peace Keeping Forces are women. I think, they should be there; It would do a lot to make the environment safer for other women.

I will now focus on the population issues for Beijing +5 (see slide below).

Population Issues in Beijing +5

- Reproductive decision making
 - ◆ Individual decisions, men's roles
- Reproductive health (RH)
 - ◆ Quality of services
 - ◆ Technologies - women-friendly contraceptives
 - ◆ Impact of men's RH, HIV/AIDS
 - ◆ Life-cycle (UNFPA), rights-based (A-P) approaches
 - ◆ Adolescent fertility & RH
- Violence against women & children (VAW & C)

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Reproductive decision making is an issue. One of the policy issues that we have to confront in the demographic field and the public policy field is that we have in fact gone through another paradigm shift. The success that we experienced in those fifty years, where we did make a significant impact on fertility and mortality, was gained primarily through public programmes of family planning. We are now moving

into an era of open societies, of democracy and of free choice, so that kind of public family programming is probably not the way to go for the 21st century. We have to learn to deliver services to individuals in a demand-responsive, customer-oriented way. We still have a long way to go.

People themselves need information to make the right decision and providers need the right information in order to provide the right services.

In the family men's roles in reproductive decision-making are still not what they ought to be. It is often not a joint decision and we are still in our infancy in learning how to think about the whole decision making process. Sometimes I see people analysing family planning methods as if whether the method is male-based or female-based will tell us who made the decision. I know for sure, that is a very simplistic view. If I look at my own case, we have always used female-based methods of contraception, but my husband was always very closely involved. We decided that in our case a female-based method made more sense. We need to progress a lot more in terms of how decisions are made, how we think about them and how we monitor them.

When we look at UNFPA, Reproductive Health is a major component of their work everywhere and it reflects this paradigm shift towards their client and away from the programme. We are looking at the quality of services, particularly in developing countries and rural populations.

In terms of technology development, we still don't have very many women-friendly contraceptive methods, particularly in the context of HIV/AIDS. The female condom and microbicides are coming, but the incentives for commercial reproduction of women-friendly methods are perhaps not as strong as they are for male-oriented ones.

There is no department that deals with men's reproductive health. You can go to many kinds of specialists, yet we do not have medical specialists in this field. Men's reproductive health is a women's issue, because most women get reproductive tract infections from men and vice versa, so it is a gender issue. We need to make men much more aware and involved in RH decisions for themselves and for their wives, particularly in the context of HIV/AIDS. There are many respectably married women in this region who have no control over their exposure to risk of AIDS, because they have no control over their husbands. Many of them get AIDS from their husbands and die in a situation in which society does not empower them to even discuss the matter with their husbands who are the source of the infection.

In the latest publication from UNFPA, highlighting FPA's views of population issues for the Beijing+5 review process, a life-cycle approach to women's RH has been highlighted as one of the issues. In other words, RH for women has until now largely focused on the women's reproductive years, ages from say 13 to 49. Yet, women's RH is an issue throughout their lives, including old age. For that matter, so is RH for men.

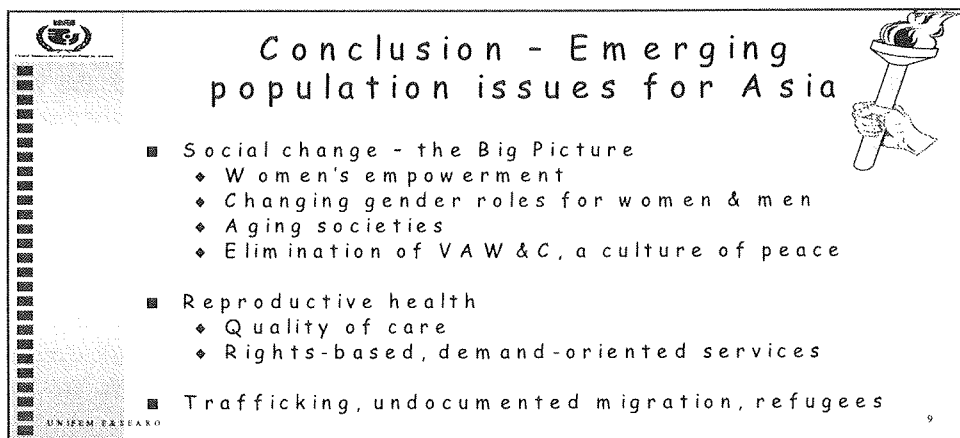
We have already discussed the other issues on the slide above.

In conclusion (See slide below), we have to look at population issues at two levels; the big picture is about social and economic changes within which population issues are situated. Women's empowerment; How do we actually help women empower themselves? At the end of the day we have to do it ourselves, yet there are external situations that make it impossible or at least very difficult.

Changing gender roles for both women and men is something many countries have failed to deal with. They talk about gender roles for women and fail to recognise that we are a partnership. If women's gender

role change, then men's gender roles have to change, otherwise we are definitely not going to live in a peaceful society.

Aging society is an issue which we all have to face and which has both population and gender dimensions. Violence and a culture of peace we have already covered.



The slide features a title 'Conclusion - Emerging population issues for Asia' at the top center. To the right of the title is an illustration of a hand holding a lit torch. Below the title is a bulleted list of issues. On the left side of the slide, there is a vertical bar with a grid pattern and the UNIFEM logo at the bottom left. The text 'UNIFEM 2004' is visible at the bottom left of the slide.

- Social change - the Big Picture
 - ◆ Women's empowerment
 - ◆ Changing gender roles for women & men
 - ◆ Aging societies
 - ◆ Elimination of VAW & C, a culture of peace
- Reproductive health
 - ◆ Quality of care
 - ◆ Rights-based, demand-oriented services
- Trafficking, undocumented migration, refugees

Reproductive health and the shift as I would see it from the focus of the size of the population to its distribution.

Trafficking and undocumented migration, refugees and internally displaced persons are issues which I think are going to be much bigger in this region in the 21st century than they were in the 20th.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Discussion

Mr. Zhang Huaixi, MP, China:

The floor is open for questions or comments.

Mr. Ranan M. Shaekin, MP, Kazakhstan:

Thank you very much for your very interesting report. Don't you think that the doctrine of violation of women's rights in the world is a bit out of date? Currently, I think the situation has changed. Let us look today at for example the proportion of men and women in prison or at alcoholism. It's all men, they are in prison, they are sick. Diseases and age are also in favour of women. Men are the providers; In order to provide for women, he himself is subject to stress at work and he becomes old. If we look at this audience we can not see fewer women than men, although we have come from far away. Women get less stress, they are at home, they are involved in the education of their children. Speaking of contraception, again, men are violated and abused, so today we should review this issue. What do you think about these views?

Ms. Lorraine Corner:

First of all, some of your points are perfectly correct in the sense that you are putting a man's perspective on the issue. Yet, I think we have to realise, there are two perspectives, so from your point of view, you are saying that women are protected and able to stay at home and look after their children and they don't have to go to work. I agree; many men suffer, because they that responsibility and it is a responsibility that, in fact, they can not meet. The vast majority of families in this region have both men and women earning incomes, because one income earner is not enough. Yet, we live in societies that have us believe that it is the man's responsibility to earn the income and it is the woman's responsibility to stay at home and look after the children. In fact, neither of them can perform those role. We are condemning both women and men by our attitudes to a kind of failure. I think, a gender equal world gives both men and women choice and that choice will relief men of some of the burden that they now carry. Let me take a personal example: My husband had the choice to retire after 20 odd years in the military and has embarked upon new things including a post-graduate degree, because I was earning quite well and could support the family. Had I not worked, he would have been a senior, very frustrated officer. Instead he is here in Bangkok, doing all kind so of interesting thing, developing web-sites. So there are gains for both women and men; this is not a zero sum game.

In relation to violence, I have to disagree. All the evidence we have suggests that there is increasing violence against women, I suspect due to an increase in reported violence as well as in actual violence. In addition, we have many examples in the courts where the treatment given out the women and men is not equal; There might be a lot more men in prison if it was. Women don't go to prisons to the same extent that men do in most countries and I don't think I want to see equality in the prison population, unless the level of men goes down. I think, most women don't share your perspective about their nice lives, because it is a life in which they don't have a choice. And many men are not happy, because they don't have a choice either. With gender equality we would both have better choices.

Ms. Datin Rahmah Osman, observer, Malaysia:

I agree with you presentation and am very glad that you came out with these points today. Overall, women are playing their role very well in society; It's just that the men don't want to see it. We can not deny women's right in this society now. I feel, though, that women NGOs should be more active trying to get female ministers or deputy ministers in relevant Ministries, such as Education and Consumption. Also at this forum, I don't think the organisers asked women to come in, whereas the topic today is very much a women's issue, indeed.

Ms. Lorraine Corner:

In my opinion, there is no issue that is not a women's issue, just as I can't think of any issue that isn't a men's issue. So the logical conclusion is that in all issues we need women and we need men. We are effected, usually, because we have different roles. Trying to get that to the political level of persuading governments to have quota is a much more difficult task. I have always been astonished at how few women there were in population organisations. They are dominated by men, yet this is all about women's business. Perhaps you have thrown out a challenge to APDA to think about very seriously.

Dr Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

I'd like to express my appreciation for your presentation and for the many examples about Indonesia. I'd like to share with you the following: In Indonesia right now we have a State Department for Women

Empowerment and the Minister is a 35 year old woman and our Vice-President is a woman too. Women are active in many fields, including the military and public service. Gender equality is an issue, yet there are so many challenges: for example social cultural opinions about women, especially in the villages. Other challenges include stereotypes and the economic crisis.

Mr. Imdadul Haque, MP, Bangladesh:

I must thank you for the long speech you have given. Our Prime-Minister is a female, our opposition leader is also a female. In Bangladesh we have one law for the protection of female rights, the Female Oppression Law. Under this law a man can not be bailed out for sixty days when a women files a case against him. In our religion there is a saying that both male and female have in equal share in our way of life. Traditionally, though, it was a male dominated society. There was some oppression partly because of illiteracy, but the situation has improved. My suggestion to you would be that these issues are somehow misinterpreted in our country and in some cases misused by the females, causing our family bondage to be disrupted. Every female can contest for the Parliament, moreover we have got 30 reserved seats for females. I suggest an interpretation be given, of what the particular rights of women in each society should be.

Ms. Lorraine Corner:

I'm afraid, we will have to discuss this issue maybe over dinner, because of lack of time.

SESSION 6

Globalization and Population Issues

Speaker:

**Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo
College of Population Studies
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand**

Session 6

Globalization and Population Issues

Chairperson

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu, MP, Malaysia

Resource Person

Dr. Vipan Prachuabmoh Ruffolo

**College of Population Studies
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand**

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu :

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This morning we have a very interesting topic, Globalization and Population Issues, and we have a very distinguished speaker to deal with that topic. I think we have entered the new millennium in a very exciting phase, because what the last century has given us is this thing called “globalisation”. The achievements of the last century have been many and some of the most of important has been the discovery of penicillin, jet travel instant satellite communication, the internationalisation of culture, some would call it the Coca-Cola culture., the reduction of trade barriers, and more importantly, the movement of peoples across international al borders. So much so that in the year 2050 more than 50% of the US population will be non-white. All this will have implications for language, culture and other aspects of living. I don’t want to steel the thunder from our very distinguished speaker, Dr. Vipan Prachuabmoh Ruffolo.

She is at present the Director of the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University. She obtained the 1st Class in Political Science at the same university, she received an MA in Sociology and the PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 1989 and 1991, respectively. Her graduate study was supported by the University of Chicago and later by the Population Council in New York. She went back to the Institute of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University in 1991 she became director in 1998 and organized the transition to the College of Population Studies later that year. She has performed research, including field work on the topics of maternal employment and child care, women status and fertility, international migration, human resource development and the impact of crises on reproductive health users and services. Without further ado, may I ask doctor Vipan to present her paper on Globalisation and Population Issues.

Dr. Vipan Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I feel very privileged to participate in this meeting. Today, I will talk about globalisation and population issues.

GLOBALIZATION AND POPULATION ISSUES

For the past decade, “globalization” has been a trendy word in all the world’s major languages. However, there seems to be no consensus definition for this word. One of the most familiar definitions comes from the economic perspective which refers to the globalization as a growing interrelation among countries in terms of goods, capital, financial and labour markets (Herrin, 1999).

In my opinion, globalization should be considered as set complex processes. Held et al. (1999) define globalization as a pattern of increasing world-wide interconnectivity in all aspects of contemporary social life, including politics, economics, the environment, technology, and culture. Globalization can have both negative and positive impacts and the level of the impact seems to vary from one society to another. One clear example of the negative impact of the globalised economy is the Tom Yum Kung economic crisis, which started in Thailand and spread throughout the region and also had a serious impact on the global economy.

This paper will focus only on the interrelation between some aspects of globalization and population issues. The population issues include demographic processes and human resource development, especially in Asia.

Globalization and International Migration

One of the clearest relationships between globalization and demographic processes is that for international migration. Recent data from the UNFPA (1999) indicate that approximately 125 million people or about 2 percent of the world population lived outside their native countries in the mid-1990s. There are four major types of migration flows: labour migration, family reunification, refugees, and illegal migration.

At the present, international migration is often not an easy processes because each country has limited quotas or sets some criteria for accepting foreign migrants. Therefore, those who decide to move may have to pass certain obstacles and take some risks. One of the questions usually raised is why people still migrate from one country to another and which factors help in facilitating such processes.

Globalization is usually identified as a key factor facilitating the recent trends in international migration. Globalization in aspects of technology advancement, i.e., modern transportation and communications, can reduce obstacles of space and time. People can travel farther and faster at reasonable prices. For example, the wide availability of air travel can facilitate people's movement from one country to another. In addition, advanced information technology can help in disseminating information, such as information about work opportunities in other countries, and the way of life there. Increasing information seems to help in the decision-making process for migration and it can reduce the uncertainty about a future life in another country. Moreover, advanced communication technology can help in facilitating the migrants' social networking. For example, the migrants can contact their family in their home country through various communication channels. This seems to reduce the psychological impact on international migrants who have to live far away from home. At the same time, such communication can help set up a channel for their kin or friends to move to the same place.

Increasing globalization and regionalization in the aspect of deregulation and liberalization of trade, investment, services, capital and labour not only relates to economic development but also increases the discrepancy in the wealth both within and among countries (Wongboonsin, 1999). Such a discrepancy is a crucial factor underlying trans-national migration. The receiving countries tend to be relatively better off in terms of economic, or social, or political opportunities than the countries of origin.

Recently, international migration has become an important policy issue for the Asian governments. Given the fact that migration and development are interrelated and that the linkages are complex, international migration has become one of the most salient problems of the Asian region.

Asia is a developing region experiencing varied and dynamic flows of international migration. Changes

in the international context during the past decade have resulted in a shift of Asian migration flows. This is particularly so for migrant workers. For example, in the case of ASEAN, the economic discrepancies among the member countries lead to huge flows of illegal, unskilled labour migrants within the region (Limanonda et. al., 1997 and Wongboonsin, 1998). The flows of unskilled immigrants pose health and social burdens to receiving countries. For example, the College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University has recently studied “The Impact of International Migration on the Situation and Human Resource Development of Migrant Labourers.” under the support of the Thai Parliament. We performed this study because Thailand is one of the countries in ASEAN that has been both a receiving and sending country of international labour migrants. The preliminary results of this study indicated that contagious diseases, i.e., resistant strains of malaria and elephantitis which have long been eradicated from Thailand, have been coming back along with migrants. The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the Asian region has also become apparent in recent years, and certain migrant groups such as fishermen have an unusually high HIV prevalence. Moreover, cultural conflicts and the difference in political, social, and economic status between the migrants and the natives are also issues of concern.

Since the status of international migration is different in each Asian country, their migration policies are different and sometimes conflicting. The policy measures of labour-sending countries address three concerns: to encourage emigration of their workforce as a source of foreign exchange and a measure to alleviate unemployment brought about by the economic crisis; to protect the rights of their migrants aboard; and to discourage undocumented emigration. At the same time, the labour-receiving countries seek to limit legal immigration and eliminate undocumented migration. They are launching strict policy measures against the foreign workforce, and enforcing their “nationals first” policy of employment. However, the economic crisis exacerbates the situation that demand for foreign labour, especially for the unskilled, still exists in many receiving-receiving countries.

Policies regarding international migration seem to be based on the premise that sovereign nation-states have the prerogative to decide who can reside in their territories and under what conditions. However, realistic migration policies and effective migration management are now urgently required on the basis of regional and multilateral cooperation.

The effectiveness of migration management policies depends on better information and understanding of the causes, nature, and processes of the flows of international migration. The significant role of networks in sustaining and developing migration flows should be identified. Policy considerations are also to be weighted against the varying costs and benefits of migration incurred not only at the national level but also at the level of the migrants, their families and their communities. This is due to the fact that migration both affects and is affected by the process of socio-economic and human resource development.

Globalization with regard to Mortality and Fertility

After the Second World War, a massive infusion of western medical and public health technology led to a rapid decline in the mortality rate in many developing countries. In the case of Asia, infant mortality has also improved. In 1950-1955, there were above 150 infant deaths per 1000 live births, compared to the rate less than 100 during the period 1985-1990. The average life expectancy at birth has been increasing from about 40 to about 70 years (Table 1). During the period of 1950-1970, the lower mortality rate in conjunction with fertility still at a pretty high level led to a great increase in the population growth rate, which one might call a “population explosion.”

Another important demographic trend is the fertility rate. In general, we may say that the fertility revolution from high to low fertility has been a global trend in the second half of the last century. The

fertility in developed countries has declined to very low rate as we can see from the total fertility rate or the average number of live births during women's lifetime which has dropped from 2.6 per woman to about 1.57 per woman. At present, the fertility rate in developed countries has fallen below the replacement level, where replacement fertility refers to the number of births couples need to have in order to "replace themselves" a generation later when their children reach reproductive ages. Presently, in developed countries, women would need to average slightly more than 2 child births over her lifetime (to allow for some children dying before reaching reproductive ages) if the current parental generation is to be exactly replaced by their children.

Fertility has declined in developing countries as well. Even though the TFR is still higher than in more developed countries, the percentage decline in the TFR is higher than in more developed countries.

In the case of Asia, the TFR for each sub-region has drastically declined during the period 1995-2000 when compared with the period 1960-65 (Table 2). East Asia and South-East Asia had the highest percentage of declines in the total fertility rate. Moreover, most of East Asia already faces a situation of below-replacement fertility, similar to that in developed countries. It is worth noting that Thailand is one of the countries in Asia that has had highest rate of fertility decline among those that are not newly industrialized economies (NIEs). The total fertility rate declined from about 6.4 in 1960-1965 to about 1.9 in 1985-1990.

What is the reason for such a global demographic transition from very high levels of both mortality and fertility to moderate or pretty low levels? Globalization is a factor that has had direct and indirect impacts on this transition.

Globalization, e.g., medical technology and knowledge, seems to help in reducing mortality, especially in developing countries, as we can see from the evidence that the infant and child mortality in most of developing countries has decreased after the massive infusion of Western medical technology after WWII. At the same time, globalization in terms of liberalization of the economy seems to lead to a change in consumer tastes and increasing material aspirations. People tend to seek better health care, and socio-economic development increases the affordability of access to preventive and curative health care.

In addition, the changes in economic globalization seem to have an indirect impact on the fertility decline. Rapid global economic changes have been accompanied by fundamental changes in society: couples may now feel that a large number of children is an unnecessary burden. In other words, fertility decisions are increasingly based on the self-fulfilment of parents (or individuals) rather than concerns for the family or children (van de Kaa, 1987). Easterlin (1975) explained such a transition as a change from social concerns to individual concerns. Simultaneously advances in medical innovation, especially modern contraceptive methods, can help couples to achieve their desire in family size. Moreover the market and mass media penetration has contributed to a greater awareness of the availability of goods and to the spread of consumer values affecting the aspirations of both parents and children for a whole range of products (Knodel, Chamratithirong, and Debavalaya, 1987). These factors lead to the increased need for money both to cover the costs of raising children and to meet a couple's other needs and desires which in turn lead to a desire for fewer children.

Moreover, in contemporary society, the investment in human capital, especially in terms of education, has become an important tool for achieving material aspirations. Those who have higher education are likely to have a good career, a better-paying job, more social recognition, etc. Modern education also has led to changes in the values of children. Mass education runs counter to the use of child labour. It also makes couples concern quality of their children rather than quantity. At the same time it can change the

fertility preference of people, especially women. The greater opportunity chance to receive education gives women other choices in their lives, such as labour force participation in the formal economic sector. Therefore, women tend to prefer to have fewer children.

In sum, lower child mortality in combination with the results of economic globalization leads to family size limitation. Couples no longer feel the need to bear extra children in case some of them will die young. Partly because of mass education, there is no longer an economic necessity for more children for their child labour. Couples seem concerned about the quality rather than quantity of children, as we can see in our Asian societies which place a very high value on a child's education. The higher educational attainment, especially for women, was also identified as a factor that leads to the transformation from traditional attitudes and practices them toward acceptance of new ideas and information, including contraceptive innovation.

Globalization and the Changing Age Structure of the Population

One of the major and inevitable consequences of the rapid fertility decline and improvement of life expectancy is the phenomenon of population aging and growth of the elderly population. This phenomenon has emerged since the 20th century and will continue to be a challenging issue in the 21st century. It is interesting to see that about 10 percent of the world's population is aged 60 or more. Within 2050, this proportion will increase to be 1 in 5. The data from the United Nations projections (1998) also indicated that the proportion of the older elderly or the population aged 80 years old and above will increase 8-10 times from 1950 to 2050.

The changing age structure occurs not only in developed countries, it has also started to happen in developing countries. According to the United Nations (1998) the proportion of the elderly in the total population is about 20 percent. The developing countries that have already passed the demographic transition to low fertility and low mortality, such as Thailand, also face the challenges of a shifting population age structure toward ageing population. Moreover, there is a trend that the growth of the elderly population will be much faster in developing countries than in developed countries. This is because of the rapid decline in fertility at the end of the past century. In case of Asia, the elderly population will nearly double from 8.8 percent to about 14.9 percent in 2025.

While population aging represents a success story of health and population policies of the Asian countries, it poses new challenges for individuals, families, communities and the government in terms of providing care and support to meet the needs of the increasing elderly population. In the case of Thailand, as in many other Asian countries, family and children are expected to assume the prime responsibility for taking care of their elderly relatives. A central feature of the family support system for elderly family members in Thailand is co-residence with one or more adult children.

In view of the rapid social and economic changes many Asian countries are undergoing, there are wide concerns about the prospects of erosion of the family support system, while state support in most of countries is currently at a relatively low level. The processes of globalization may make people accept modern idea of individualism and weaken the traditional family ties. In addition, the recent economic crisis in the region may have an impact on the family support system.

Another issue that also needs attention is the health of the elderly. In study after study in Thailand, we found that besides economic problems, health is another serious problem of elderly persons. The longer life of the population does not mean that they have better health. The data seem to indicate the longer the people live the fewer healthy life year. In this century, the steadily increasing percentage and rapidly

increasing number of elderly people will result in new demands on the public health care and social welfare system (Ruffolo and Chayovan, 1998).

Globalization, Population, and Environment

Recently, the global environment and sustainable development have received a great deal of concern. However, there is still controversy about the underlying cause of increasing environmental degradation. Is the rapid increase in the number of global population the main cause for environmental problems, or is it due to consumption patterns together with wrong policies and mismanagement.

A lot of environmental problems that occur are not exclusively within the borders of one county or region, but rather have a global impact. These problems include air pollution, global warming, scarcity of fresh water, etc.

The relationship among population, globalization, and the environment is quite complex. For developed nations, even though the population growth has been reduced to a very low level, and some developed countries even start to have a decline in the number of population, the demand for consumption of these countries is still very high. The more developed countries, which have about 17 percent of the world's population, consume more than half of the world's energy. Moreover, some of these countries are still heavily dependent on an imported energy supply. On the other hand, developing countries which contain about 76 percent of the world's population use only one-third of the world energy consumption (Population Reference Bureau, 1999).

Although the population in developing countries seems to consume less energy than those in developed countries, the rapid population growth in the past, in conjunction with the economic mismanagement regarding modern industrial and service sectors, lead to the exploitation of natural resources. Moreover, globalization seems to make people in developing countries increase their demand for consumption. All these factors seem to be the reasons for environmental degradation, which in turn may lead to problems for the quality of life of the population, such as hazards to health, and lead to exploitation of the resources at the expense of later generations, i.e. , lead to unsustainable development.

Globalization and Population Policies

The trends in increasing globalization also have an impact on population policies. There has been a tendency toward global or international policies rather than only individual national policies. The evidence of such trends can be seen from the World Population Conferences. There were a total of 5 world population conferences. The first two conferences in 1954 and 1965 were organized for professional demographers. Since the third conference in 1974, the World Population Conference were held every 10 years and were organized by the United Nations (Debavalya, 1999). From 1974 to 1994, the World Population Conference brought together policy makers, governmental delegate, and other representatives from related organizations, and the goal has been to expand and develop to something close to a global population policy.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo seems to clearly reflect the attempt to impose a global perspective on population policies. There were not only resolutions from the conference by participating countries, but also suggestions, a detailed plan of actions, and population indicators for measuring their achievement. Moreover, five years later, there was also a series follow-up meetings for the plan of action in 1999 called "ICPD+5." The ICPD+5 not only reviewed and evaluated the successes and obstacles in implementing the ICPD plan of action, but also clarified the quantitative

goals of some issues that were still ambiguous in the 1994 plan of action. Moreover, it also added more guidelines for countries to implement population policies in the next 15 year (Debavalya, 1999).

The approved program of action of ICPD 1994 marked global and holistic perspectives for population and sustainable development. It is worth noting that the political climate of liberalization has a strong impact on the issues of concern, such as gender equity, human rights, the role of civil society, human resource development, etc.

The objectives of the program of action of ICPD 1994 cover wide range of topics. There were 16 chapters of the plan of action about population and development. The topics covered: 1) relationship between population, economic expansion, and sustainable development; 2) gender equity, equality, and women's empowerment; 3) family; 4) population growth and structure; 5) reproductive rights and reproductive health; 6) health, illness, and mortality; 7) population distribution, urbanization, and migration; 8) international migration; 9) population, development, and education; 10) technology, research, and development.

ICPD 1994 has changed the character of family planning programs. These become issues under the topic of "reproductive rights and reproductive health." ICPD 1994 stresses the quality and quantity of reproductive health services, is concerned more about the client's demands and rights, and also stresses on women's rights and positive male role models in the family. Chayovan, Perreca, and Ruffolo (2000) stated as follows: "The concept of reproductive health arose partly in response to women's health advocates voicing their concerns about the implementation of aspects of primary health care, specifically family planning and maternal and child care. They argue that many programs were focused more on achieving targets rather than treating individuals. These criticisms, generally, coincided with observations that the distribution of contraceptives alone would not lead to further reduction in fertility and that there was a need for improvements in quality of care to ensure continued contraceptive use...."

"Reproductive health" was defined as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its function and process from birth to death. The components of reproductive health provision compose 1) family planning, 2) maternal and child health care, 3) prevention and treatment of infertility, 4) prevention and treatment of abortion complications, 5) prevention and treatment of STDS and HIV/AIDS, 6) promotion and provision of sex education, 7) prevention and treatment of reproductive tract malignancies, 8) information and services for adolescent reproductive health care and 9) a services for post-reproductive age health and old age populations.

Anyway, whether we like it or not "reproductive health" is becoming one of the global issues that has strong influence on national population policies. International organization have invested a large amount of funding to support the programs and research on this topics. As demographer, I fell that there are still other demographic dimensions that we should not neglect, including trends in demographic processes and the consequences of low fertility, international migration, human resource development in other aspects beside health, the interaction among the population and environment, etc.

Besides the Plan of Action from the World Population Conference that has an impact on national population policies, the international organizations such as the United Nations, and NGOs, have also increased their role in imposing and supporting the population policy implementation, especially in developing countries.

Conclusion

In this third millennium, globalization has more and more interrelation with population and sustainable development issues. Globalization seems to have both positive and negative impacts on population issues.

Whether we like it or not, the global population policies tend to dominate in the globalised world. The population problems of one country impact those of another. To cope with these problems we need more holistic approaches and more cooperation among countries. Sincerely assistance and cooperation is important. However, the global policies should not try to make a single recipe for all countries. Each country can share some global population targets, but they should be able to set their own priorities and have their own ways to reach such targets with the help and support of other countries and international organizations.

Thank you very much.

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Discussion

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu :

Thank you very much, Dr. Prachuabmoh Ruffolo, for your excellent presentation and also for staying within the prescribed time. We have about an hour for discussion on this paper. She has dealt with the global issues with regards to the transfer of diseases, the reduction of fertility and mortality and the problem of aging that all of us will be confronting. She has talked about women's issues and the challenges, environmental degradation and finally population policies. Now, I would like the audience to make comments and suggestions. If we can avoid speeches, then we will have more time for discussion. The floor is open.

Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP, India:

Doctor, you spoke about reproductive health care, the problem of aging and other problems connected with population. To deal with all these problems we have a large production of all kinds of herbs in Asia. Homeopathy has also been recognised form of treatment in the world. Don't you think it would be proper to propagate more herbal production and diverts herbs more into medical usage and do more research into homeopathy to tackle all these problems?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

In Thailand now, as the Ministry of Public Health we try to promote traditional medicine, because it is one way which can help. Yet, a lot of research in this field is still needed, e.g. Viagra might work in Thailand, but the ethical implications have to be researched first. If we reveal the recipe of these medicines, we might run into trouble regarding patents.

Ms. Kelly Hoare, MP, Australia:

Thank you, doctor, for your presentation. I was interested in your comments regarding globalisation and the effects on the environment. I am interested in your comments regarding the economic effects and benefits which come from multi-national corporations operating in developing countries, however the economic benefits sometimes turn into environmental disasters. Should there be international governance in relation to international corporations globally?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Indeed, multinational companies give some benefits, but also sometimes destroy the environment. It is important to have some kind of global organisation, e.g. the UN or an NGO to look after this issue, because only one country, and especially a developing one, cannot muster enough power in this respect.

Mr. Zhu Xiangyuan, MP, China:

This is a very interesting topic; Globalisation has a direct bearing on the population issue. Just now, you mentioned that international migration has a great impact on the environment science and technology and we are deeply impressed by your speech. I'd like to add that solving the population issue depends on the independent efforts made by each country. You mentioned that Thailand has made a great achievement in resolving population issues. I think, China also experienced some great results. China, while developing its economy and gaining social development has also made great efforts in resolving population related issues. In the past 2 or 3 decades, with our efforts, the fertility rate went down from 5.8 to 2.8. The birth rate has also decreased a lot, as well as infant mortality. 50 years ago 200 infants among 1000 births died, but now the rate is very low. Life expectancy rose from 35 to 70. The proportion of the world population has dropped from 25 to less than 20%, probably reducing further to one sixth of the world total. Yesterday, one expert said that in the next century the Chinese population will only account for 10% of the total.

In resolving the population related issues we must also notice the environment and we must promote the coordinated development among these factors, so as to achieve sustainable development. So, indeed, we must make a global point of view. At the same time, we must enhance mutual exchanges and cooperation among the countries, such as this one. Those activities will be conducive to the enhancement of the inter-governmental and inter-parliamental level exchanges and cooperation. So, I totally agree with you.

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Indeed, China can be proud of its results regarding fertility decline.

Mr. Timothy Higham, Regional Information Officer, UN Environmental Program (UNEP):

I'd like to add a comment in response to the question from Ms. Kelly Hoare from Australia. UNEP is the UN-agency that has been set up to provide a coordinated response on environmental issues, so in terms of agreement and policy responses, I would certainly be happy to inform anyone interested with further information on UNEP.

Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP, Mongolia:

I'd also like to thank you for the comprehension presentation you just gave and would like to ask a question about a remark regarding the development of the population structure, from a "pyramid-like" structure to a "bullet-like" structure. In the case of Mongolia with 2.4 million people, most of our policies are directed towards increase of our population. 10 years ago we started the transition from centrally planned economy to market economy. We see fewer children and less infant mortality, which is positive in some degree, but at the same time we don't have sufficient population growth. What should be our policy? Should we follow the global trend or which way do you suggest?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Mongolia is a special case; e.g. Maternal mortality is still quite high. As I said at the end of my talk, each country has to set his own target, because you can not have one recipe all over the world, but you have to think carefully about the quality of the population. You are in the fortunate position of not having too many people, so you can invest more into human capital for the people. I think, Mongolia will do pretty well in Human Resource Development and -with only one registered AIDS case- also in health. You have

to think clearly about feeding your people, if you have more people, because there are large areas in your country that are not suitable for vegetation.

Ms. Anne Tolley, MP, New Zealand:

Thank you, Doctor, for your very interesting and thought provoking speech. I'd like to talk to you about migration. New Zealand has a small population and we are a trading nation and very efficient producers of primary products which we export. Fewer and fewer people are now involved in that industry. We have a very well educated society and we are losing many of our highly educated people. We are finding it difficult to keep them in New Zealand, because we don't have a strong economy and they are going to developed countries, such as Britain, the USA, Australia, where the wages are much higher. This constitutes a huge drain on our country. We actually have negative growth, partly caused by that migration of our brightest and best. Is that a similar problem in some of the Asian countries? How do we attack this problem, given that many of the immigrants are unskilled, so you have a double education cost?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

This is indeed a very difficult issue. In Thailand we have similar problems, both receiving and sending people. Thais don't work in certain occupations (e.g. fishery) so we use Burmese migrants. One way to improve the human resource development might be to cooperate between the Asian countries, setting up a kind of training programme in each country before sending these people out. In Thailand the Ministry of Labour and Welfare is trying to do such. From my study it appears that migrants themselves would like to receive some training, because they tend to suffer in terms of language, culture, etc. It is an important and unavoidable problem, because a lot of countries need labour from other countries, international cooperation is called for, maybe instigated by an organisation such as the UN.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

International migration is a very important topic: Almost all countries present here have got migrants workers Malaysia has got 1.6 million. This can only be a short term policy. After a period of time, they would want better skills and better wages and they may not want to work in the unskilled positions of the occupational structure anymore. The same things happen in New Zealand and I agree with Dr. Vipin that internationally we'll have to look at some of the policies as well as solutions. It seems to me that there must be some countries with unskilled labour to export, but these can only be very short term. Can anyone else contribute to this discussion?

Princess Sisowath Santa, MP, Cambodia:

I am concerned about your comments on international migration. In your paper you state that it brings economic discrepancy, a flow of unskilled, illegal migrants and causes a lot of problems and social burden on the developed countries, especially HIV/AIDS. I feel that in Cambodia, which is a developing country, we have a large flow of international migration that chokes up our country, especially in the area of economy, health care and international culture. We are not ready to absorb all these new things. What is your recommendation, this being a reverse situation of a developing country receiving a lot of migrants also from developed countries?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

I think, every country in Asia has this kind of problem, if you want to call it a problem. Migrants from

developed countries usually become white collar workers, so actually they can contribute to the development of the country they move into. Talking about the labour migration between developing countries, in Thailand we also have that problem, including problems with HIV/AIDS and drugs. I believe, that at present we can not avoid that kind of issue,, because we can not close our country and the trend of globalisation means we have to be open to the rest of the world more and more. Solutions will have to be found in regional cooperation, e.g. ASEAN.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

If those coming in from developed countries are skilled people, that would be intellectual capital.

Princess Sisowath Santa, MP, Cambodia:

I can see more skilled and knowledgeable people are coming in to make more profit. My concern is that instead of helping social development, we are faced with more problems from the outside.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

I think, that when people come in for a short term to provide the intellectual and skilled labour there will be some positive and negative effects, but the benefits will be more than the defects.

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Indeed, every country should try to get the benefits. We can not stereotype based on where someone comes from. Maybe developed countries can think the same way: “The people from developing countries only want to get the income and don’t really want to contribute to the host country.” That may cause other kinds of conflicts. We should just look at migration as moving people and try to get mutual benefit from what is happening.

Dr. Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

I’d like to thank Dr. Ruffolo for her valuable information. For some countries it is difficult to protect the rights of the migrants, especially the unskilled workers. Could you clarify how Thailand has dealt with this, especially regarding female workers?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

We used to have a quite flexible policy for the immigrant labour, because we needed them to help us, e.g. fishery and construction. Yet, since the economic crisis we’ve started to have a stricter policy, putting priority on Thai workers who had lost their job. There is still need for migrant workers and we have to pay more attention to the welfare and human resource development of these people.

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta, MP, Philippines:

I’d like to make a brief comment on the section on globalisation and the changing age structure of the population. You mentioned, Dr Ruffolo, that the economic crisis that beset the region in 1997 and onwards had caused a negative impact on the family system. I take this to mean the extended family structure of Asian cultures in general. I would like to take a bit of an issue with this and say that perhaps it has even been the family structure that has served to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis. In effect, the

extended family system has functioned as a veritable, self-contained welfare system of sorts. In countries such as Thailand and the Philippines the impact of the crisis would probably have been more far-reaching in the absence of the extended family structure. Pulling of resources or having a great-uncle or grandparent in the family helped support the family and lessened the impact of unemployment and other crisis-related problems. Could you comment on that?

A related question would be that, given your arguments on the changes that will have to occur because of individualism, the weakening of traditional family ties, etc, how do you see that in terms of impact and planning for this century?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

In terms of the impact of the economic crisis, the family really helped in the short term to support the people and it strengthened the relationship between people. What I tried to point out was that in the long term a problem like aging will lead to a large number of people needing welfare and we don't have a welfare system ready. The family alone may not be able to go it alone, especially because of the economic crisis. When we ask people, who they think of first in time of trouble, people say the children. Not many people mention the elderly.

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta :

Despite the fact that the elderly are relatively revered and despite the familial obligations in societies like Thailand?

Dr. Viapan Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Yes, that is right, because it is starting to happen that people just don't have the money to support everyone. Now in Thailand, we have started to support the family system, trying to make the family responsible for the elderly first, but still I think the government needs to help in terms of health care or some kind of welfare system. Someone who loses his job can't afford even to send his child to a good school, so they have to cut deep into their budget, so the elderly will suffer.

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta :

How extensive is the homes for the elderly system in Thailand?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

In Thailand that is not popular; Most elderly like to stay with their children. This might change when the education level of the elderly increases over time. This generation with a different life style hasn't arrived yet.

Aging is a worldwide phenomenon due to lower fertility. This new age structure can not be avoided, because nobody wants to increase mortality. All we can do is accept the trend and try to solve the problems as well as we can. In Thailand we are trying to see if the fertility level is dropping far below replacement level or not. Most Thai people still want two children which is about at replacement level. Yet, the economic crisis might cause fertility to go below replacement level.

Prof. Tsujii, Kyoto University, Japan:

Regarding the role of the extended family in the economic crisis to stabilise the negative impact and the impact of globalisation, I would like to mention to you a book written by John Grey: “A Fallen Stone”, published in 1998. This was translated into Japanese, so it must be a very famous book. He was raising the negative effect of globalisation on family ties and says that globalisation destroys family ties and the social functions to put people together, because both father and mother have to work in the labour market.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

Thank you. I'd like to bring up the issue of trafficking of children across international borders. To what extent is this illicit trade going on and what are the economic implications nationally and globally?

Dr. Vipin Prachuabmoh Ruffolo:

Each country should adopt laws punishing trafficking of women and children. These laws should be effectively enforced and international organisations can help watching this matter.

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta :

We are currently debating the Anti-Trafficking Bill in Congress. I think, in many ways it is pioneering in terms of the penalties and the kind of legal structure that has to be put in place. The Philippines is one of the poorer countries, that is largely victimised by this kind of trade. Under the guise of “male-order-brides’ and “entertainment” they become vehicles for white slavery. We are really trying to put a grip to it, although we do realise how complex the problem really is. This trade in people is the dark underside of globalisation. We have 6 million overseas workers out of a working force of around 30 million, I think the largest percentage world-wide and a sad percentage of that are women. Maids in Hong Kong, Singapore and in the Middle East, construction workers in Saudi Arabia, along with professionals everywhere else. We have the highest per capita graduates in medical and legal professions, but most of them are not in the Philippines. We do supply the whole gamut of blue as well as white collar employment all over the world, including a growing percentage of illicit trading of women and children.

Mr Lakshman Singh, MP, India:

Also in India there is a Bill regarding the trafficking of children and we are also following it up very strictly.

Ms. Amy Kim, Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE), South Korea:

I would like to touch upon the rise of illegal immigrants. There is a large number of escapees from North Korea into South Korea, Russia and China, yet it appears to me that nothing is being done about these people, not by the countries involved, not by the international community. Only recently the United Nations is about to take action on this issue. These people are like “international wanderers”, not protected by anyone. I would like to hear your views on this issue.

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

I don't think we are in the position to make comments with regards to other countries. Maybe seminars and workshops would be able to sensitise people to this problem and then we can make an impact on policies.

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Japan:

I refer to the globalisation and the weakening of family ties. We should not confuse goals and tools. We only live once and we must try to make a happy life. Our efforts and rules should be aimed at a happy life, so we shouldn't make the economic regulations so strong that we are governed by them. We must look at all these issues from a holistic point of view. We can not look at each issue one by one, because then we will never achieve our objective. Our deliberations should look at this as a whole, as a total. The means and objectives are not clear and I think, that is the problem. The whole world is confronted with these issues, with competitive advantage, free competition, etc. and are governed by them. This is our world and we have technologies, science and all sorts of industry, but we are really causing our own destruction. We must analyse the situation and we must put in good, strong regulations. Can you put more work into this kind of research?

Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu:

With that last, very wise comment from Mr Sakurai, that we must look at the problem as a whole, in a holistic manner, rather than in a piecemeal manner, we come to the end of this session. I'd like to thank, also on behalf of you, Ms. Prachuabmoh Ruffolo for her excellent presentation and all of you for your questions and contributions.

SESSION 7

Population and Development in the 20th Century -Parliamentarians' Initiatives in the 21st Century-

Panellists:

**Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP, Mongolia
Mr. Jamgyrbek Bokoshov, MP, Kyrgystan
Mr. Chay Wai Chuen, MP, Singapore**

Session 7

Population and Development in the 20th Century -Parliamentarians' Initiatives in the 21st Century-

Chairperson
Mr. Collin Hollis
MP, Australia
Rapporteur General

Panellists
Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP, Mongolia
Mr. Jamgyrbek Bokoshov, MP, Kyrgystan
Mr. Chay Wai Chuen, MP, Singapore

Mr. Colin Hollis :

I will now summarise for you the presentations that have been made, not so much the discussions.

Summary

The 16th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development Review of Population and Development in Asia and Parliamentarians' Initiatives

Focus: To review the status of Population and Development-related issues in the 20th Century, and discuss parliamentarians' initiatives in the 21st Century.

Session 1: Population and sustainable development

1. Dr. Lee Jay Cho (Senior Advisor, East-West Center)

Mr Cho provided an overview of important developments; In 2050 the world's population will be around 9 billion, 90% of which will reside in less developed regions (now: 80%). 97% of that global population growth is projected to take place in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The combined population of India and China will be almost 3 billion. Half of the population in many large cities live in slums or squatter settlements. By 2006 over half of the world's population will live in cities. Urban populations in developing countries are growing more than five times faster than in industrialised countries. Global and regional environmental problems include: air and water pollution, water shortages, desertification and deforestation. We are facing two challenges: Minimise the projected population increases and find ways to meet future food needs.

Food for growing populations:

It is technologically feasible to feed the growing global population, but the burden for poor countries might be too heavy. The solution lies in the combination of: enhancing agricultural capacity, preserving the natural resource base and stabilising the population.

Environmental Constraints: Air and Water

The size of the population is the single most important factor in environmental deterioration. Carbon emissions from fossil energy in Asia will grow from 25% to 30% of the global total in 30 years. About half a billion people in 29 countries are effected by water stress or water scarcity.

Slowing population growth can buy time needed for the success to preserve the environment and alleviate poverty. The essence of sustainable development is that natural resources must be used in ways that will not limit their availability to future generations.

2. Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii, (Kyoto University)

Stock ratios for grain have shown a tendency to fall since 1987. The free market fundamentalism under the current WTO framework will keep these stock ratios at a low level. In order to cope with the population growth the grain yield must grow at 3% annually, but in fact the actual growth is currently about 1%. Several developments need to be considered: Water shortage for agricultural production has been worsening especially in Asia. Arable land and planted area of grain have been decreasing the last two decades. Population growth and changing dietary patterns. The WTO liberalisation will lead to more food production in sparsely populated countries. This in turn will lead to variable prices and less concern for the environment. The Asian hungry will be at great risk. Locally produced rice and self-sufficiency, rather than the WTO agricultural trade liberalisation, can minimise environmental destruction, stabilise prices and reduce poverty.

3. Mr. Zhang Huaixi, China

Problems related to population, resources, environment and sustainable development will, in a rather long period of time, continue to face Asian countries and the world at large. China will, while deepening its reform and developing its economy, continue to strictly control its population growth and uphold the basic state policy of family planning. At the same time China will apply scientific and technological advances to the water conservancy and pollution control

4. Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP , India

In India population growth is considered a main impediment in achieving the goals of development. India faces many environmental challenges; deforestation, pollution of wetlands, rivers, coastal destruction, toxic waste, etc. Rapid consumption of natural resources and waste disposal by an increasing number of people has put a greater stress on the environment.

In the discussion it was decided to put water supply high on the agenda next year. When discussing self sufficiency “cultural dimensions” of food (e.g. rice) should be taken into account. The free market approach of the WTO might be counterproductive especially for the poorer nations. Food production close to populated areas is to be preferred, also because of environmental considerations.

Session 2: Population and Health by Dr. Somsak: (MoPH)

Based on changing demographics and changing health problems a system perspective of health was introduced. In bringing down infant mortality rates educational level and knowledge of adult females appears to contribute more than improvement in income. Health is seen as the result of the interaction between the individuals (genetic, behaviour, belief, spirituality), the environment (economic, biological,

population, educational, security, communication, technological) and the health system. Concerning the health system important issues are: equity/coverage, type and level of services, quality/efficiency and public/private. Some main questions were raised: Does a better health service lead to better health? Do healthy public policies lead to better health? Does spending more on public health lead to better health? Is it possible to achieve better health with fewer services? Health is the result of healthy public policy (not the result of improved health services ONLY) Health is an asset and should be the ultimate goal of development "Social capital" is more and more recognised by economists as an important asset. Good governance is needed. This includes: equity, efficiency, quality, responsiveness and accountability.

Session 3: AIDS & HIV by Mr. Steven Kraus: (UNAIDS):

With the help of statistics and an informative video it was argued that HIV/AIDS is still very much an issue that needs to be addressed by parliamentarians. Good information for good people leads to good decisions. Parliamentarians have a role to play at four levels:

- 1) As political leaders they can influence public opinion and can increase public knowledge of relevant issues.
- 2) As legislators they vote on acts of parliament and can ensure that legislation protects human rights, and advances effective prevention and care programmes.
- 3) As advocates they can mobilise the involvement of government, private sector and civil society to discharge their social responsibilities in responding appropriately to the epidemic.
- 4) As resource mobilisers they can allocate financial resources to support and enhance effective HIV/AIDS programmes that are consistent with human rights principles.

Discrimination intensifies the impact of the epidemic on people living with HIV/AIDS, on those presumed to be effected and on their families and associates.

Session 4: Population and Development by Dr. Rola (ESCAP)

A paper was presented. It provides some information and views about social development in the Asian and Pacific region, five years after the World Social Summit.

Progress and Constraints

The most remarkable feature of social development in the ESCAP region was its unevenness across space and irregularity over time. Problems arising from poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and social conflicts were deep and extensive in some countries and much less so in others. From the early 1990s when the social development Agenda of the region was adopted to the middle of the decade, progress in overcoming problems was fairly rapid only to be slowed down and, in some countries, reversed in the last two years.

Although substantial progress has been achieved, the tasks of social development in the region remain daunting at the start of the new Millennium. Poverty remains profound and endemic, with millions of people in the region still mired in poverty, with little access to health, education, and other basic social services. Unemployment remains a critical problem. The goals of social integration stand mostly unachieved. The instruments and means for overcoming problems remain far from being adequate.

Instruments and constraints

- a. Targeting: As diverse as the approaches in targeting were, they improved the identification of

- target groups and facilitated the delivery of social services to them.
- b. Policy planning, legal and institutional arrangements: A fair assessment of progress here will have to conclude that for the most part Governments in the region are no longer constrained by lack of mandate, by inadequate implementing staffs but that, as one might anticipate, they still suffer from imperfect procedures and financial shortages.
 - c. Governance: One can conclude that governments have not been remiss in building the capacity of their bureaucracies for good governance. The process of education and training is of course never completed and can be expected to continue in the years ahead.
 - d. Resource mobilisation: Altogether, notwithstanding all these efforts at resource mobilization, despite all the successes here and there, the financial constraint in the region remained tight. For most of the countries budgets at the national level were in deficit for most of the time and so were those at the local government level--these were barely enough to meet current operational requirements.

An overview of the current state of development, demographic, economic and political trends was provided. Implications for social development policy include: Social policy must continue to address the three major concerns identified in the regional social development Agenda and in the World Summit for Social Development, namely, poverty eradication, employment expansion, and social integration. The implications of these trends and issues for the disadvantaged groups in society, that is, the youth, the older persons, the women, and the persons with disabilities, are still unclear at this point in time. Whether these can be dealt with adequately in social policy will spell the difference between succeeding and failing to enhance the well-being of these disadvantaged groups.

Overall policy implication include: Governments need to focus their policies towards specific initiatives and instrumentalities that contribute to the speedy realization of social development objectives, both at the sectoral level and at the level of the disadvantaged groups, taking into consideration the implications of current trends and issues emerging in the rest of the world. These policies must aim at promoting an enabling environment, building capabilities, fostering partnerships, promoting good governance, and mobilizing regional support as means for accelerating the attainment of the goals of social development at all appropriate levels.

**Session 5: Five years from the Forth World Conference on Women
by Ms. Lorraine Corner (UNIFEM):**

Ms Corner presented an overview of the situation, problems and emerging issues concerning women and population.

Main achievements of Beijing conference include:

- Empowerment of women was highlighted
- Reaffirmation of woman's right, interdependence of development rights, women's reproductive rights as human rights, women's rights to sexual and reproductive health.
- Recognition of the need of adolescent girls for sexual and reproductive services

Some results include declining fertility, family planning programme successes, falling infant mortality, increasing life expectancy, health improvements.

Gaps & constraints include population growth, Impact of the economic crisis, High adolescent fertility, High maternal mortality, Poor reproductive health, High son preference in S & E Asia, Aging population, Inadequate, poor quality RH services

Emerging issues include mainstreaming women in decision making, Mainstreaming gender in economic policy, Rights-based approach to women's empowerment, Violence against women and children, Women and children in trafficking & undocumented migration, Women and peace

Population issues in Beijing +5 include:

- Reproductive decision making (individual decisions, men's roles)
- Reproductive health (quality of services, technologies)
- Impact of men's RH, HIV/AIDS, life cycle, rights based approaches, adolescent fertility and RH)
- Violence against women and children

Session 6: Globalisation and Population Issues by Dr. Ruffolo

The following topics were covered:

- Globalisation and internal migration
- Globalisation with regard to mortality and fertility
- Globalisation and the changing age structure of the population
- Globalisation, population and environment
- Globalisation and population policies

It was concluded that globalisation seems to have both positive and negative impacts on population issues. The global population policies tend to dominate in the globalised world. The population problems of one country impact those of another. Holistic approaches and more cooperation are needed. Countries can share some population targets, but they should be able to set their own priorities and have their own way to reach those targets with the help and support of other countries and international organisations.

The papers presented during the last two and a half days covered a very broad range. Our conference was to review the status of population and development related issues in the latter part of the 20th century. From my perspective, I think the presenters presented some most interesting papers and as always there was a lot of interesting discussions here.

Of course we have to look at the future and we have got three presenters here who are going to talk for about 5 minutes each on the role they see that we as parliamentarians can play in our own parliaments or societies. After that we will open for discussion.

Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold, MP, Mongolia:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly delighted to share the floor with the prominent speakers in this dialogue on the issues of population and development, which has been in the centre of attention of the Asian parliamentarian's community for the last two decades. And it is my privilege and honour to be able to address you today and voice a few thoughts about the important issue discussed in depth by us last two days.

Using this opportunity, let me express our deep gratitude to the organizers of the meeting, people and

parliament of Kingdom of Thailand hosting this significant event and its distinguished participants.

I believe this Asian Meeting of Parliamentarians is an important contribution to continuing intergovernmental and international efforts to bring about a timely and lasting solutions of population and development issues.

The present conditions of democratisation, liberalization and globalization of a new turn in the world history reinforced significantly the role of parliaments in the international politics, especially through exercising and encouraging parliamentary diplomacy, which is a reality of this new century. It is clear that any policy of a state is not sufficiently real if it is deprived from the contribution of the Nation's elected representatives.

Indeed, achieving the common goals for population and sustainable development will necessary involve a process of democratisation. Democracy, a concept that was born in the Mediterranean, implies the institutionalisation of tolerance. It finds expression in the establishment of institutions which are representative of the diversity of the human components of society and of the plurality of opinions. It requires that the problem of society be solved by dialogue, not by confrontation.

There are several ways in which Parliaments and parliamentarians can contribute effectively and significantly to this process.

Firstly, by having more parliaments and more effective parliaments, at the national as well as at the local level. Strengthening the representative institution is at the very core of the parliamentarian's action. Part of parliament's authority derives from capacity to reflect faithfully the diversity of all components of society: political trends, gender, race, ethnic groups, minorities, etc.

Secondly, democracy also requires achieving a genuine parity between men and women, which means fully incorporating women in all sectors of political life and in the institutions of all our states. I fully agree, the principle that democracy can only have real meaning if women take part in all decision-making bodies and particularly in parliament, on a basis of strict equality with men, which has been the backbone of yesterday's presentation of the distinguished speaker on that issue.

Thirdly, we need to ensure that democracy and the rule of law transcend our national boundaries and become a reality in international relations, in our region and on the world scene.

It is also necessary as a result of globalization. Indeed, today no problem is confined exclusively to the territory or affected population. Every problem has causes and effects that transcend frontiers, which are themselves becoming more unreal with each passing day. As a result, they are increasingly the subject of debate in international forums and it is becoming imperative for parliaments to participate in those discussions if they are to be able to effectively fulfil their function also at the national level.

The United Nations Charter starts off with the words "We, the people". Let us not forget that within a democratic perspective, parliament is the legitimate representative of society as a whole. Indeed it is the institution that embodies the very sovereignty of the people. Members of Parliament have been elected by people to represent them.

I believe this meeting was an excellent example of fruitful cooperation between UNFPA and AFPPD and APDA. We also believe that it is the interests of the United Nations to provide itself with a parliamentary dimension. After all, the implementation of much of what the United Nations does or decides requires

parliamentary action at the national level. Such action can take the form of ratification of international instruments, harmonization and adoption of legalization relating to such instruments, allocation of financial resources through the national State budget, not to mention raising the level of popular understanding and support for UN action.

Democratisation, means above all the establishment in the very heart of the UN system of a parliamentary representation, in the same way as there already exist on the regional level.

If I have elaborated so much on the role of parliament and democracy in international cooperation, it is because of a firm belief that it is only through democratic conduct and dialogue that solutions can be found to problems.

Let me conclude by reaffirming the belief in the virtues of dialogue and exchange of opinions. I am convinced that through a continuous dialogue between members of parliaments they may, through what is often referred to as parliamentary diplomacy - achieve breakthroughs, where others have failed. At the very minimum, through the much less official discussions that members of parliament have with each other, they can play a pivotal role in helping to identify possible avenues for solutions. And let us not forget, as opinion makers, members of parliament also play a crucial role in informing the public and ensuring that public debate remain focused on issues of such fundamental importance as population and development.

Last but not least, we understand that globalization has gained the irreversibly accelerating character because of free flow of private capital, trade, liberalization, new technologies, the World Trade Organization's new rules and requirements, and as a result of these global processes the world is becoming more open and interdependent.

Thus today more than ever we can not afford the situation when after all words spoken and actions taken, that situation remains unchanged. Any critical issue is a complex process, particularly the one which brought us together this time, but let's bear in mind the fact that if a question is elaborate to settle today, then for sure that it will become even more elaborate tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Mr. Jamgyrbek Bokoshov, MP, Kyrgystan:

We have been discussing the very important issue of population and development. I personally, being the representative from Kyrgystan, have been taken part in the work of the Asian Forum since 1996. In 1997 we set up the National Committee which became a member of the Asian Forum. Considerable changes have been made in the way of thinking of the parliamentarians. 10 or 15 years ago under the USSR we were sure we were close to reaching the ideal society. Today, we have been thinking of a more global picture. 15 years ago we believed we didn't have any problems with education. Yet, today, certain categories of children do not go to school, because their parents are not able to provide them with the needed clothes. Also, we didn't use to think about gender issues. Yet, today we can feel the content of these issues very vividly. Also, nowadays we have a very high level of unemployment and among them a lot of women. Today, 65% of the people is living below the poverty line, according to international sources. I would like to focus your attention to the fact that in our Asian region in the post-Soviet stage, the situation has a very specific character with its transition into a new social-political system. However, I cannot but conclude that the population problems in these newly independent states have a lot in common with other countries. The experience of other countries, including Asian countries, in addressing these

problems will depend much on the exchange of information and experience. We should try to seek ways together to solve this severe situation. I would like to highlight one more problem; For the near future we need to identify new mechanisms of interaction between different entities and structures in society. This includes between the Parliament and the Executive Body, between the Parliament and the private sector, between the Executive Body and the NGOs. In our society NGOs play an important role in population issues. Finally, I'd like to thank the organisers of this forum and I am sure the outcome will be very useful to all of us.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Chay Wai Chuen, MP, Singapore:

First, I want to confess that I am not an expert on population. By training I am an economist and have been working for the last 20 or 30 years in the private business sector and also in Parliament. I like to approach this issue on two levels: the national and the global level.

This morning we saw the presentation on globalisation and I can say we in Singapore saw the whole gamut of change from very high birth rates in the late fifties to the present TFR of 1.5. In Singapore, we are now addressing the issues about aging, migrant workers, the general state of health care, etc. I can assume that many of you are facing similar problems, so I will now share with you some of our experiences:

Our population grew from a base of about 1 million in late 1959 to about 4 million. About 7% are older than 65 and this percentage is expected to grow to 19% by 2030. The government has proposed a series of actions that we will embark on to address this issue. We, independent Singapore, have no problem with gender equality. From 1963 we've had a Women's Charter and women have been employed under equal opportunities and pay right from the start of our development stage. Today, the female participation rate is about 40%. As was pointed out, many women are very happy to stay at home and not work. In terms of health care, we are trying to restructure medical health care system to promote personal responsibility, rather completely relying on the government. So we have devised medical insurance and savings schemes so that the people will have to co-pay part of their medical cost. In these restructured government hospitals the medical bill will still be largely subsidised. The private hospitals cater for the better off. We are trying to educate the people to take responsibility for their own health care, including diet, exercising, stress relieve, etc. One of the recommendations regarding the aging was to provide more community-based activities for the senior citizens, including social, recreational, educational activities. We also try to teach and train the older part of the work force new skills in order for them to function better in the changing society. In terms of foreign migrant workers, we depend highly on foreign migrant population; 700,000. Since we are a small island country, for us it might be easier to contain certain problems, such as illegal migrants. For us, skills training and economic development to facilitate them staying in the country are more serious issues.

Our problems are not contradictory to the global problems. As parliamentarians, whatever policies each country adopts has an impact on other countries in the region, but the priority must lie with your own country. An increasingly important issue is that of the export of talent. We are all grappling for the solution to this brain-drain, but I feel, that we as developing countries should adopt appropriate policies, apart from just containing population, to really address employment prospects and raising the standard of living. To do all this, economic growth is necessary. Population as an asset is possible when they are well trained and skilled and continually trained. Where to start to get this surplus? Developing countries will start from the primary sector, yet I believe that tourism also offers large possibilities. "All human actions can be reduced

in two words: “abstain and sustain”. You abstain from the bad policies and you keep trying and sustain going for the good ones. Thank you.

Discussion

Mr. Colin Hollis :

I'd like to open the floor now. What we are look for in particular would be initiatives that parliamentarians should take to create this awareness of population and development in the 21st century.

To start this off, I would like to mention an initiative that the Australian government has taken with respect to the cooperation between the United Nations and members of parliament. The Australian government sends two serving members of Parliament to every session of the United Nations' General Assembly as full participating members of their delegation. They go there for the full session (in New York from September to December) and report back to the Parliament, thus creating a much better appreciation of the work of the UN and its specialised agencies. It is an expensive programme, but it is an initiative that some of you might consider suggesting.

Dr. J.R. Nereus Acosta, MP, Philippines:

Apart from the Anti-Trafficking Law, we have initiatives on AIDS, population and development initiatives seem to be very high on the legislative agenda in general. What we are trying to do in the legislative committee is to ensure that the advocacies that we have, are transposed into a wider scale, and that involves public education and media campaigns. To do that we have to have a, very detailed, comprehensive resource base on subjects such as waste, generation, water, air, agriculture, broken down to the local level, giving us a sense of where we are going. For example: How much garbage will we be expecting at the current rate in this particular city. Metro Manila is the fourth most polluted mega-city in the world. I am the author of the Clean Air Act which was passed recently in Congress. We have to look at these issues as well in light of urbanisation, industrialisation and environmental stresses. These have to be collapsed in very specific, precise statistics, so that they become a base for policy making. This is still lacking today. Perhaps this area off collecting national and regionally comparative data is something we can all try to move forward in the AFPPD and APDA. That could lead to more sharing and to insight as to where we are going and where the particular issues are going to hit us. Otherwise it becomes just motherhood statements. Once you get it down and put it in the media, then you might also get more solutions.

Mr. Ermekkali Bigaliev, MP, Kazakhstan:

I would like to thank the organisers, because we have learned of very problematic issues, including AIDS prevention, women's issues, environment protection, etc.

I'd like to share with you some positive examples from our republic. By the decision of the President of our Republic a Ministry was established that is involved with women and children. The Parliament is drafting a project on the protection of children's rights. We have established shelters for women in difficult situations and also for street children and abandoned children, who receive education there as well.

Ms. Anne Tolley, MP, New Zealand:

I would also like to congratulate the organisers, I too have learned a great deal. I think, the interesting thing is that even a small country like New Zealand, that doesn't seem to have any population problems, still shares on a different scale the changes in our populations. Certainly the aging and the "brain-drain" we do have in common with our Asian neighbours. It has been very beneficial for me to have come here and find that those problems are so common. I will take back to my government some of the issues and some of the suggestions that have been made here.

Dr. Paturungi Parawansa, MP, Indonesia:

I would like to share my experience and especially to commend the panellists. We have about 500 parliamentarians from 27 political parties, representing about 200 million people, living on 70,000 islands. According to our Constitution our main task is to endorse Acts and Laws, to set the annual budget and to control the executive policy. Our task in legislation and the role of this forum is very important.

I would like to stress that some regulations need to be strengthened, such as Human Rights, women's right, equality in labour as well as the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Japan:

I take note that issues of trafficking in persons have been discussed both yesterday and today. It is obvious that there is no country in the world that approves of such practices. I feel it needs to be taken seriously by the parliamentarians that these practices cannot be acceptable and that serious action needs to be taken. I would like to suggest we take concrete actions to help confront these flourishing illicit activities. I believe it is important to collaborate internationally to tackle these problems. I would therefore suggest to the chairman that the issue of human trafficking be taken up for discussion.

Mr. Colin Hollis:

We will obviously take note of this suggestion at pass it on the Chairman of the Committee.

Ms. Musurmanova Ayrisq, MP, Uzbekistan:

This conference has shown that most problems are really common problems. We also became aware of problems that we do not experience, but we now realise that we have to work on prevention, including the water problem. In my country I am going to emphasise on programmes to preserve everything we have. With regards to the women's issue I would like to say that special concern is given to this issue and women's participation in governance is increasing. Concerning health and family planning, 1998 was declared Year of the Family, 1999 was Women's Year and this year is the Year of Healthy Generation. The health and life expectancy issues raised were very interesting for me. Thank you very much for the information and I hope that similar studies will also be done in our country. Thank you for having invited us.

Mr. Lakshman Singh, MP, India:

I appreciate the views by all the member and support the views of all the members who said that the free market approach of WTO will be counter-productive for developing nations. I think we should take up this

issue seriously.

Issues of poverty alleviation and providing employment need a lot of attention. In our respective countries we should try and bring new legislation in these matters and see to it that these programmes are implemented forcefully.

Another issue which concerns population growth, environment and development is the production of non-conventional energy. Most of the Asian countries have agro-based economies and if we promote non-conventional sources of energy we promote our own agricultural income, we reduce pollution and we increase our energy production. In India we sun for about have 200 days per year, so solar energy is an aspect we can all concentrate on. Japan has done great work on solar energy and we would like to share their views on this.

Regarding empowerment of women, I am glad to announce that we reserve 33% for women in our local bodies. In future we wish to bring a legislation to Parliament which will provides the same at the Parliamentary level, which would be a first world-wide.

The problem of depleting groundwater reserves needs to be tackled. We can have a rain water harvesting system which had prevailed in many of our countries for many years. Lastly, I would like to stress that legislation and supervision are the main role for parliamentarians in the 21st century. Thank you.

Mr. Colin Hollis:

Concerning women's empowerment in national Parliaments, I think, the real challenge is how many men in Parliament are willing to give up their seat to women.

I would like to thank the panellists and all of you for you contributions. Thank you very much.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Address

**Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Secretary General, AFPPD**

Address

**Mr. Shin Sakurai
Chairman, AFPPD**

Address

**Dr. Raj Karim
Regional Director
East & South-East Asian and Oceania Region
International Planned Parenthood Federation**

Address

**Mr. Collin Hollis
New Secretary General AFPPD**

Address

Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Secretary General
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Our chairman, Mr. Shin Sakurai, dear friends,

The 16th Asian parliamentarians seminar is now coming to close. In the last two and a half days, we deliberated the population and development and related issues such as environment, food security globalization, and HIV/AIDS. Several of you took active part and some of you even made commitments as to what you will do when you return to your country. Tonight before going to bed or abroad the plane, you should just reflect and visualize if the population of your country or your constituency was half of the current population. Then what would be the situation of the civil facilities you have and would the life of your people be better? The answer may indicate to you that population overgrowth is the root core of many problems. Unfortunately, when IMF, World Bank and other financial institutions talk about poverty alleviation, they do not mention population or even health issues. How you can solve the poverty of South and South East Asian countries without talking about population and development? Another thing, may I give you a warning to watch out for “water”. This is the first commodity which is going to be scarce, and this is because of every growing population either using it or polluting it.

Now I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Taro Nakayama and Mr. Shin Sakurai for not only organizing the 16th Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Population and Development in Bangkok, but also other meetings during my 20 years in Asian Population Programme. I would also like to thank my Executive Director, Mr. Shiv Khare as well as the staff of the Secretariat in Bangkok. For all of you who come to this city, I hope you enjoyed the seminar as well as the city. Those who are staying one more night, enjoy your day and night life, and life of the city of “Angels”. I cannot guaranteed HIV-free, but tax-free will be alright. Those who are staying and those who are staying behind in Bangkok, life in Bangkok is very bright. I wish you all a great success in your deliberation for good deeds. Believe me my friends: “Goodness is the only investment that never fails”

General Mac Arthur said in the Congress when he retired: “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away” and he said goodbye. For me: Old senators never die, I just sit in a chair for a happy, long life. With all the best wishes from you, friends, ABDA, Asian Forum it looks like I will live not less than 100 or 120 years.

Just a short message to you: Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value, value to mankind. Finally, once again I say to myself: I do the very best I know how, the very best I can. And I mean to keep doing so, until the end. Good Luck, my friends.

Thank you.

Address

Mr. Shin Sakurai

Chairman

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Dr. Prof Ratanakorn, Mr. Kunio Waki, Dr. Raj Karim, colleague members, the experts who have given such wonderful lectures,

Due to your very keen discussion and your participation we are able to close this 16th Parliamentarians' meeting on Population and Development with a lot of fruits that we have harvested. I would like to thank everyone of you for your participation and unfortunately our host, Dr. Taro Nakayama, the Chairman of APDA, had to rush back to Japan yesterday in a very pressing official matter. It is very unfortunate that he can not attend this closing ceremony, so I am speaking on behalf of the host to thank you deeply from the bottom of my heart for your very keen participation. The APDA conference has great significance for AFPPD. Once a year for the past 16 years under the sponsorship of APDA we have been to hold this conference of AFPPD to discuss the Asian issues on Population and Development with the members as the core participants. It has played a very important role in the promotion and continuation of our activities. At this conference as well, we had three days in which everyone participated in a very enthusiastic discussion to give upon us the questions as to what we should do this new century, looking back on what we have done in the past century. Human kind with so much technology and science must take care to make sure that this is not used to destroy our civilisation. We should use it to protect our future, not focussing on this endless desire of human kind or on free competition. We should take harmony as the starting point of human peace. We feel that this is where our responsibility lies. We must act upon our aspirations, we must actively look at the future, at our vision and we must spread that awareness. As the chairman of AFPPD I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the activities of APDA and we would like to work together under close cooperation to resolve the issues of population and development.

In developing the AFPPD activities we have one big driving force, Dr. Prof. Prasop, who will be retiring as senator of Thailand. We had to look for a successor and I am very proud to announce to you the assignment of our long term friend and long term leader, our honourable colleague Collin Hollis from Australia. As you know Mr. Collin Hollis has had very important responsibilities as the Executive Member for Financial Affairs and Vice-Chairman for many years. As the activities of AFPPD expand there is no one more appropriate than Mr Hollis to fill this position. I would like to ask you, Collin for your very valuable advice and guidance. Please, support us strongly in our activities, as we go into the future.

The chair of the Vice-Chairman that became available has been filled by Mr. Lakshman Singh, parliamentarian from India. I would like to introduce him now to all of you.

Dr. Prof. Prasop whose personality has been loved by all of us for so many years will be retiring and also another person who has supported us from a practical point of view, Dr. Ando. He will be retiring from UNFPA as well. It is very unfortunate that we are to lose these people, but we would like to express our deepest gratitude for all their support that they have given us over the years. Dr. Prasop has been a member of this association ever since its initiation. Last night at our Executive Committee Meeting we

made the decision that he will be a Honorary Founding Member of our organisation, so that every time we hold a meeting we will extend him an invitation. We have had a number of Executive Members retiring in the past, but we feel that for the continuation into the future, the presence of Dr. Prasop -as the only founding member who is still with us- is very important.

Mr. Waki has taken up the position as Deputy Secretary General, succeeding Dr. Ando. We would like to ask Mr. Waki for his efforts to as much Dr. Ando has given us, so that this forum will effectively move forward in contributing to international issues of population and development. I would like to ask you, Mr. Waki, for your greatest support.

AFPPD and APDA will be celebrating their 20th anniversary. Under this new organisation we hope that AFPPD will grow as never before and to this end we ask for your further cooperation. When we meet next time we will be in the 21st century. We would like to as all of you -whether you are leaving soon, or whether you can stay in Bangkok for some days- to enjoy the remainder of your stay and are looking forward to meeting you at our next conference. Thank you very much for your participation.

Address

Dr. Raj Karim
Regional Director
East & South-East Asian and Oceania Region
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman AFPPD, Sen. Prof. Prasop, Secretary General AFPPD, Mr Kunio Waki, Deputy Executive Director UNFPA, Mr. Hirofumi Ando, Former Deputy Executive Director UNFPA, Honourable Collin Hollis, New Secretary General AFPPD, distinguished parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour for me to address this distinguished gathering on behalf of IPPF. Ms Inga Bruggeman, The Director of IPPF sends you her your warm greetings and looks forward to receiving your recommendations. The organisers of this meeting, The APDA and AFPPD, deserve to be congratulated for yet another call for action and continued commitment to further support the attainment of the goals of the ICPD. As a supporting organisation together with UNFPA, IPPF is privileged to be part of this initiative. Although I am new in IPPF, having assumed the post of Regional Director of this region in October last year, as a previous Population and Development Manager in my own country Malaysia, I have followed the important and valuable work and contribution you have undertaken before and after ICPD at The Hague and onwards to ICPD+5. It is encouraging to see the leadership role APDA and AFPPD continue to take in keeping the dialogue open and alive through fora such as this. As we cross the threshold of the 21st century, we bring with us both old and new challenges and with it the expectations of our people for a better quality of life and health for all. Over the last two and a half days we have discussed a wide range of issues surrounding population and development; its relationship toward environment, the critical situation of save water, health and survival, poverty, gender, child labour, trafficking, HIV/AIDS and so on, within the framework of globalisation, changing population structure and dynamics and advances in information and biotechnology.

Ladies and gentlemen. As we leave this room and return to our countries and place of work, let us carry clear messages and renew our commitment to action each one of us will take. Let us get over the hurdle of talking about language and terminology and let us now talk about action. We need to be strong advocates of what we do, we need to harness support, we need to mobilise resources and to find the necessary finances for our programmes and activities. As parliamentarians you are in privileged positions to influence and advocate for a favourable and enabling environment for the necessary legislative policy and funding adjustments within a framework of good governance, social justice and accountability. Political will and commitment is a major ingredient to success, especially so when we are dealing with very sensitive, delicate, personal and confidential issues. Reproductive and sexual health, sex education, abortion and family planning remain taboo and embarrassing subjects in many societal circles, including that of politicians, even though considerable progress has been made since ICPD. In the final analyses, what we really need is a series of programmes and services for all our people that will prevent and protect our youth, men and women from unnecessary and preventable tragedies and suffering. We have the means to do so. We can prevent more than three quarters of the 500,000 women who die each year from complications of pregnancy and child birth. We can prevent to 2.8 million youth, who were infected with HIV last year before they reached the age of 25. We can avoid 200 million unsafe abortions each year due to unwanted and unplanned pregnancies and we can prevent the deaths of 3 million children who died last

year due to diseases caused by unsafe water. You have the power to influence these changes and you can make that difference. In this respect, I would like to introduce to you the role of IPPF as the largest NGO working in the field of reproductive health through our national affiliates which are the family planning associations or the reproductive health associations. Use them to complement the role of your governments in carrying out services and programmes which may not be so easily done by the government sector. IPPF supports affiliates through core grants and for this we are grateful to our donors, to the government of Japan, to UNFPA, and individual governments whose contributions and support we deeply appreciate. We look upon you to help mobilise more national resources as we brought in the scope of our work for adolescents and youth, for prevention of STDs, HIV/AIDS, for safe motherhood and others. IPPF will continue to work closely with APDA, AFPPD and UNFPA in carrying out the parliamentarians' 21st century initiative.

As in Dr. Prasop' s words: Let us all join hands, so that together we can keep the light glowing. IPPF also joins you in according its appreciation and gratitude to our two distinguished leaders who have committed themselves tirelessly in their contribution and dedicated services in the field of population and development. To Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop and to Dr. Ando, your work is truly inspiring and will serve as an example for those who follow after you. We wish you both a very happy retirement and success in your new roles. On behalf of IPPF I would also like to congratulate Mr. Waki on his recent appointment as Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA an honourable Collin Hollis as the new Secretary General of AFPPD. We look forward to working with you in the future. Finally, I wish all of you the very best in your tasks ahead and a safe journey home.

Thank you.

Address

Mr. Collin Hollis
New Secretary General
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Thank you, Chairman Shin Sakurai, Dr. Prasop, Dr. Ando, Dr. Waki, Dr. Karim, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to have been selected as the incoming Secretary General of this important organisation and it is a great challenge for me to follow the outstanding leadership work that Dr. Prasop has done for us all. My association with the organisation goes back to the days when Mr Sato, the Japanese Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries was there along with Dr. Prasop. In that time I have seen the work in population expand. It now encompasses all parts of society and this has been very much reflected in the debates that we had here, including women, food, etc. Two or three meetings ago we started to talk about water and this time it became quite a dominant issue. This time was the first time, I think, we talked the challenges surrounding HIV/AIDS. So, what we are finding that the issue of population is in fact a whole series of connected issues. How we, as parliamentarians, respond to those issues, will be the challenge for each of us. We as group have worked very closely and are responsive to our two main donors UNFPA and IPPF. We appreciate their support very much, yet, we have to earn that support. Our programmes and our work should be responsive to them and should be transparent as to how we use the funds that are so generously supplied by those two organisations. That is a commitment that I make here.

I have known many of you for a long time, some of you I have met at this meeting for the first time. What I need very much is your support and guidance to help me in the challenges ahead, but also most importantly your friendship. Population is an important issue for each of us, it is important to the Executive, but it is also important to each and every Member of Parliament. How we respond to that challenge will enable us and show us the way to achieve the higher ideals and the high goals that this organisation has set.

I appeal to you for your support, for your friendship and for your help in the challenging time ahead.

Thank you very much.

List of Participants

Australia	Mr. Colin Hollis	Member of Parliament New Secretary General, AFPPD
	Ms. Kelly Hoare	Member of Parliament
Bangladesh	Mr. Imdadul Haque	Member of Parliament
Bhutan	Dasho Jingme Zangpo	Member of Parliament
Cambodia	Princess Sisowath Santa	Member of Parliament
	Mrs. Im Run	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Eng Vannak (observer)	Assistant of the Delegation
China	Mr. Zhang Huaixi	Member of Parliament; Vice Chairman, AFPPD; Member, Standing Committee NPC; Vice Chairman, ESCPH
	Mr. Zhu Xiangyuan	Member of Parliament Member of Standing Committee, NPC Member of ESCPH Committee, NPC
	Mr. Li Honggui	Member of Parliament Member of ESCPH Committee, NPC
	Ms. Li Ying (observer)	Division Chief, General Office, ESCPH
	Mr. Ding Wei (observer)	Deputy Division Chief Population, Health and Sports Office
	Mr. Zhang Chuansheng (observer)	Interpreter, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Fiji	Mr. Leone Tuisowaqa	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Deo Narain	Member of Parliament
India	Mr. Lakshman Singh	Member of Parliament
	Mrs. Jagriti Singh (observer)	wife of Mr. Singh
	Mr. P.D. Elangovan	Member of Parliament
	Dr. K. Dhanaraju (observer)	
	Mr. Manmohan Sharma (observer)	Executive Director, IAPPD
Indonesia	Dr. Paturungi Parawansa	Member of Parliament
Japan	Dr. Taro Nakayama	Member of Parliament Chairman, APDA, Chairman, JPFP
	Mr. Shin Sakurai	Member of Parliament Chairman, AFPPD Executive Director, JPFP

	Mr. Yoshio Yatsu	Member of Parliament Deputy Executive Director, JPFP
	Ms. Kazuko Nose	Member of Parliament , Director, JPFP
	Mr. Kazuhide Cho (observer)	Secretary to Mr. Sakurai
Kazakhstan	Mr. Ermekkali Bigaliev	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Ranan M. Shaekin	Member of Parliament
Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Jamgyrbek Bokoshov	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Mukambek Alykulov	Member of Parliament
Laos	Mr. Saythong Keoduangdy	Member of Parliament
Malaysia	Mr. Shaziman Bin Hj Abu Manso	Member of Parliament
	Prof. Dr. T. Marimuthu	Member of Parliament
	Datin Rahmah Osman (observer)	Executive Director AFPPD, Malaysia
Mongolia	Mr. Gerelchuluun Yondon-Oidov	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold	Member of Parliament Chairman of the IPU Asia-Pacific Div.
Nepal	Mr. Narendra Bahadur Bam	Member of Parliament
	Dr. Ram Hari Aryal (observer)	Joint Secretary, Parliamentary Committees
New Zealand	Ms. Anne Tolley	Member of Parliament
Philippines	Rep. Luwalhati R. Antonino	Member of Parliament
	Dr. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta	Member of Parliament
	Mr. Roberto M. Ador (observer)	Executive Director, PLCPD
Singapore	Mr. Chay Wai Chuen	Member of Parliament
South Korea	Ms. Amy Kim (observer)	General Director, CPE
Tajikistan	Mrs. Mukhitdinova Raisa	Member of Parliament
Thailand	Hon. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha	President of National Assembly, Thailand
	Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn	Former Secretary General, AFPPD
	Sen. Prof. Dr. Vitura Sangsingkeo	Senator
	Sen. Prof. Dr. Arun Paosawasdi	Senator
	Dr. Tarnthong Thongswadi	Member of Parliament
Uzbekistan	Mrs. Gulandom Bakieva	Member of Parliament

Vietnam	Mme. Nguyen Thi Than	Member of Parliament
	Dr. Doan Hong	Member of Parliament
	Mrs. Nguyen Thi Chat	Member of Parliament
	Dr. Nguyen Van Tien (observer)	Executive Director, VAPPD
IPPF	Datuk Dr. Raj Karim	Regional Director, East & South-East Asian and Oceania Region
UNFPA	Mr. Kunio Waki	Deputy Executive Director
UNFPA	Dr. Hirofumi Ando	Former Deputy Executive Director
East-West Center	Dr. Lee-Jay Cho	Senior Adviser
Kyoto University	Prof. Hiroshi Tsujii	Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture
Ministry of Public Health	Dr. Somsak Chunharas	Director, Bureau of Health Policy and Planning
UNAIDS	Mr. Steven J. Kraus	Programme and External Relations Adviser
ESCAP	Dr. Bienvenido Rola	Chief, Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Group Section
UNIFEM	Ms. Lorraine Corner	Regional Programme Advisor
Chulalongkorn University	Dr. Vipap Prachuabmoh Ruffolo	Director, College of Population Studies
Observers	Dr. Sheila Macrae	UNFPA Representative, Thailand
	Pornchai Suchitta	UNFPA, Thailand
	Ms. Midori Shimizu	Programme Officer, UNAIDS, Thailand
	Dr. Nibhon Debavalya	Director, Population and Rural and Urban Development Division, ESCAP
	Ms. Hiroko Tanaka	Social Affairs Officer, HRD Section Social Development Division, ESCAP
	Ms. Yuki Hori	Associate Social Affairs Officer, Women in Development, SDD, ESCAP
	Ms. Mariko Jitsukawa	JICA Expert on Women in Development Women in Development Section SDD, ESCAP
	Mrs. Lueille C. Gregorio	Specialist in Science and Technology Education, UNESCO

	Ms. Ane Fernandez Gomez	Gender and Development, UNESCO
	Mr. Timothy Higham	Regional Information Officer, UNEP
	Dr. Ms. Revathi Balakrishnan	Regional Rural Sociologist and WID Officer, FAO
	Mr. Shogo Kanamori	Programme Officer, UNDCP
	Mr. Kenji Iwaguchi	Resident Representative, JICA
	Mr. Takashi Saito	Minister, Embassy of Japan
	Mr. Dudar Zhakenov	Permanent Representative to UN ESCAP Deplomatic Mission of Republic of the Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of Thailand
	Mr. Paul Tight	Minister and Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Australia
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	Ms. Kanae Hirano	Japanese-English Interpreter
	Ms. Yoshiko Takeyama	Japanese-English Interpreter
	Mr. Murataliev Djodotbek	Russian-English Interpreter
	Ms. Mironova Elena	Russian-English Interpreter
AFPPD	Mr. Shiv Khare	Executive Director
	Ms. Vipunjit (Jackie) Ketunuti	Programme Associate
	Ms. Achara Harawee	Administrative Associate
	Ms. Anyarat Seemarat	Administrative Associate
	Ms. Sumittra Boonklung	Volunteer
APDA	Mr. Osamu Kusumoto	Senior Researcher
	Ms. Chiharu Hoshiai	Manager of International Affairs
	Ms. Yuko Kato	Deputy Manager of International Affairs



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