

The 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting
on
Population and Development

Population and Sustainable Development
— Towards the Next Twenty-Five Years —

February 22-23, 2007

Tokyo, JAPAN

THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(APDA)

CONTENTS

PROGRAMME	5
OPENING CEREMONY	9
OPENING ADDRESS	11
ADDRESS	13
ADDRESS	15
ADDRESS	19
OPENING DECLARATION	24
SESSION I : LOW FERTILITY AND AGING POPULATION IN ASIA: JAPANESE EXPERIENCE AND THE FUTURE OF ASIA	27
SESSION II : INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS GLOBAL ISSUES AND HUMAN SECURITY	47
SESSION III : FUTURE OF HUMANKIND: WATER, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT	67
SESSION IV: POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION UNDER GLOBALIZATION	85
SESSION V : ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PARLIAMENTARIANS' MOVEMENT ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT: ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, SIGNIFICANCE AND FUTURE STRATEGIES	101
CLOSING CEREMONY	123
CLOSING ADDRESS	125
ADDRESS	127
ADDRESS	129
CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS ON APDA 25 TH ANNIVERSARY	131
ADDRESS	133
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	135

PROGRAMME

The 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

Tokyo, JAPAN
22nd and 23rd February 2007

Population and Sustainable Development — Toward the Next Twenty-Five Years

21st February 2007 (Wednesday)

Participants' arrival

19:00~20:30 Welcome Dinner hosted by Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairperson, JPPF

22nd February 2007 (Thursday)

09:00~09:30 Registration

09:30~10:30 Opening Ceremony

Address of Organizer

- Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairperson, APDA/ JPPF

Address

- Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chairperson, AFPPD

Address

- Ms. Pamela DeLargy, Chief of the Humanitarian Response Unit, UNFPA
On behalf of Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

Address

- Dr. Gill Greer, Director-General, IPPF

Opening Declaration

- Ms. Chikage Oogi, President, House of Councillors

10:30~11:00 Collective Photograph / Tea Break

11:00~12:30 Session I

11:00~11:45 **Low Fertility and Aging Population in Asia: Japanese Experience and the Future of Asia**

- Chairperson: Dr. Sang Guowei, M.P., China

- Resource Person: Dr. Makoto Ato, Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences,
Waseda University

11:45~12:30 Discussion

12:30~14:00 Lunch hosted by Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairperson, APDA

- 14:30~16:00** **Session II**
- 14:30~15:15 **Infectious Diseases as Global Issues and Human Security**
- Chairperson: Dr. Prat Boonyawongvirot, M.P., Thailand
- Resource Person: Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe, Director, Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases
- 15:15~16:00 Discussion
- 16:00 End of Day 1
- 16:00~17:00
- 18:00~20:00 APDA 25th Anniversary Reception

23rd February 2007 (Friday)

- 09:00~10:30** **Session III**
- 09:00~09:45 **Future of Humankind: Water, Food and Environment**
- Chairperson: Mr. P.J. Kurien, M.P., India
- Resource Person: Dr. Zenbei Uchijima, Professor Emeritus, Ochanomizu University
- 09:45~10:30 Discussion
- 10:30~11:00 Tea Break
- 11:00~12:30** **Session IV**
- 11:00~11:45 **Positive and Negative Impacts of International Labor Migration under Globalization**
- Chairperson: Ms. Steve Chadwick, M.P., New Zealand
- Resource Person: Ms. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Visiting Professor, Bunkyo University/ Former Director, ILO Office in Japan
- 11:45~12:30 Discussion
- 12:30~13:30 Lunch hosted by Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chairperson, AFPPD
- 14:00~15:15** **Session V**
- 14:00~14:30 **Roundtable Discussion: Parliamentarians' Movement on Population and Development: Its Achievements, Significance and Future Strategies**
- Chairperson: Mr. Shin Sakurai, Director, APDA/ Vice Chairperson, JPPF/ Former Chairperson, AFPPD
- Resource Person: Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Professor, Advanced Research Institute for the Sciences and Humanities, Nihon University
- 14:30~15:15 Discussion
- Panelist: Dr. Ahn Myoung-Ock, M.P., Korea
- Panelist: Dr. Malcolm James Washer, M.P., Australia
- Panelist: Dato' Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadzlah, M.P., Malaysia

- Panelist: Dr. Donya Aziz, M.P., Pakistan
- 15:15~16:00** **Recommendations-Toward the Next 25 Years**
- 15:15~16:00 **Discussion**
 - Chairperson: Mr. Shin Sakurai, Director, APDA/ Vice Chairperson, JPFP/ Former Chairperson, AFPPD
- 16:00~16:30** **Closing Ceremony**
 - Closing Address
 - Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chairperson, AFPPD/ APDA
 - Address
 - Ms. Kayoko Shimuzu, Vice Chairperson, APDA/ Secretary General, JPFP
 - Address
 - Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Secretary General, AFPPD
 - Address
 - Dr. Gill Greer, Director-General, IPPF
 - Congratulatory Address on APDA 25th Anniversary
 - Dato' Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadzlah, M.P., Malaysia
- 17:30~** **AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting (AFPPD Executive Members only)**

AFPPD: The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
APDA: The Asian Population and Development Association
JPFP: Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

Opening Ceremony

Opening Address

by

Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP

Chairperson of APDA

I thank you warmly for joining us at the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. We have decided on the theme "Population and Sustainable Development — Toward the Next 25 Years", as we mark the 25th anniversary of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA).

At the time of the founding of APDA twenty-five years ago, most countries in Asia were experiencing a rapid increase of their population and coping with it was an urgent necessity. Indeed in 1982 the total fertility rate for the whole of Asia was 4.0. Today it has been reduced to 2.5.

Today the environment surrounding Asia's population has taken a sudden and unimaginable change, with Japan and Korea experiencing a decline in birthrate and aging. While low birthrate and aging are serious matters, we must not forget that compared to societies that continue to increase their population, the situation allows for a more hopeful society with possibilities. No bright future is possible while population continues to increase.

Today, as a result of the Asian region progressively experiencing a demographic transition, the situation surrounding population has become quite diverse from country to country. What is needed is to find an appropriate solution for each situation.

Also, the other concern that the founders of APDA identified twenty-five years ago was the need to achieve sustainable development. On this issue, their concern has increasingly become a reality. The frequency with which we have experienced abnormal weather makes it difficult to call it abnormal. Super-computers, such as a global simulator, have revealed a critical future regarding the global environment.

Our activities as parliamentarians in resolving Asia's population problem have been highly successful. We must build on this outcome and realize sustainable development to ensure a bright future for our children and their children. That means we must make greater efforts and better partnerships given the diverse nature of the situation surrounding population.

The next twenty-five years are going to be crucial in deciding the future of humankind. I am confident that you will review the successes of the past and deliberate on the challenges we must address from now.

We, elected representatives of the people, are responsible for the future of our countries. We owe it to our people and to ourselves to seriously grapple with both the population and sustainable development challenges. I am confident that each of you will be actively engaged. Thank you.

Address

by

Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP
Chairperson of AFPPD

I thank you most heartily for joining us at the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. As you may know, APDA was founded as the parent body of AFPPD. It is clear from the dates of their establishment, APDA in February 1982 and AFPPD immediately following, that AFPPD and APDA are as inseparable as the two sides of a coin, and the two have collaborated in supporting the parliamentarians' activities concerning population and development in Asia.

The founding principles are summarized in the words of the honourable Takashi Sato who had tirelessly worked to create both APDA and AFPPD: "There should be no child born just to die from hunger". "To build a world so that humankind can live in dignity on this earth" is I believe the objective of our population and development activities as elected representatives of the people.

Your genuine efforts to establish laws and fund population and development activities in your countries have resulted in a huge reduction of the total fertility rate (TFR) so that Asia as a whole is heading towards population stability. This achievement is the result of the committed efforts of the Asian governments and people.

In promoting their efforts, we have appealed, along with AFPPD and APDA and with the support of UNFPA, IPPF and other international organizations and governments, for the establishment in each Asian country of a national committee. And by organizing regional meetings, international conferences we work continuously to enlighten our colleagues, strengthen alliances between us so that the necessary laws and budgets are put in place. Through these activities, I secretly feel proud that AFPPD has been able to make a certain contribution to reducing the birthrate which is essential to restraining and stabilizing the population in Asia.

Also, AFPPD activities have become global. We have inspired the establishments of the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD), which is now called European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF). In fact, there are regional parliamentarian forums in all regions of the world, creating an international network of parliamentarians such as International Parliamentarians Conference for the Implementation of the

ICPD Programme of Action.

The theme of our meeting is “Population and Sustainable Development—Toward the Next 25 Years”. While Asia’s population problem has seen an enormous advance, the other objective going back to the time of the establishment of AFPPD/APDA of “achieving sustainable development while maintaining our global environment” stands before us with serious and concrete challenges in the form of global warming and climate change. We must confront them head on.

In marking the 25 years, we must review the outcome of our efforts, check the states of fresh water resources, energy and food production and supply essential to meet the diversifying objectives of population and sustainable development and chart our activities for the next twenty-five years.

Choices we make today are extremely important to cope with the population challenge, realize sustainable development and usher in a bright future for the humankind. Let us work earnestly on our dual objective of managing population and sustainable development. I am confident that our meeting will bear sumptuous results. Thank you.

Address

by

**Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Executive Director of UNFPA**

Read

by

**Ms. Pamela DeLargy
Chief of the Humanitarian Response Unit of UNFPA**

I have the pleasure to deliver a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid. She extends her regrets that she cannot be here in person and wishes us much success in our deliberations.

I would like to congratulate the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. For the past quarter century, together with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), APDA has played a pioneering role in cultivating and strengthening the global movement of parliamentarians on population issues.

I would like to thank Dr. Taro Nakayama, Chairperson of APDA and the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF), for hosting this important meeting. It is worth noting that JFPF was the world's first national parliamentary group to be created on population, in 1974, with the leadership of then Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi and strong involvement of the first Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Rafael Salas. I would also like to thank Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chairperson of AFPPD, for his leadership and for chairing the 2006 International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, this past November in Bangkok.

As we look back over the past 25 years, there is much cause for satisfaction. In all regions of the world, governments have acknowledged the strong interrelationship between population and development. They have devised policies and strategies to factor population dynamics and demographic trends into development plans. Progress has been made in raising awareness and in instituting laws, policies and reforms to improve human well-being and foster sustainable development.

Parliamentarians have played a vital role. You have kept population and development concerns in

public policy debates, championed the implementation of international agreements, and brought the concerns of your constituents to the attention of your governments. As parliamentarians, you have ensured the passage of forward-looking and equitable laws and policies, and advocated for budgets to make these laws and policies register a positive difference in people's lives. UNFPA is proud to be a partner with parliamentarians.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, I believe we would do ourselves a service to focus on human security. As human beings, we are not secure when confronted with widespread poverty. Today half of all people live on less than \$2 a day. There is a gap between rich and poor that needs to be addressed. And global solidarity and a commitment to international development are essential.

As human beings, we are not secure when confronted with environmental destruction. The pollution of air and water, climate change, and increased pressure on natural resources are urgent issues that deserve priority attention. Together we must find ways to ensure that our consumption and production patterns do not destroy the Earth. We need to protect our environment.

As human beings, we are not secure when confronted with discrimination and violence. Yet today at the beginning of the 21st century, women continue to face widespread discrimination and violence and daily violations of their human rights. We have to understand that gender equality is not a women's issue. It is an issue of human dignity, human rights and human security. Together, we must take steps to guarantee equality for women and change discriminatory attitudes, institutions and market forces. We must take stronger steps to prevent and address violence against women and to stop human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

As human beings, we are not secure when confronted with poor health and the spread of disease. Yet the AIDS epidemic continues to claim millions of lives. Malaria and tuberculosis are taking a terrible toll. And in some cases, mortality rates are increasing, life expectancy is falling and past progress is being negated. Together we must ensure the right to health is made a top priority.

This includes the right to sexual and reproductive health. Today poor reproductive health is a leading cause of death and disability in the developing world. As a result, one woman dies every minute from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Three million people died of AIDS last year, and 5 million were newly infected with HIV. And some 200 million women who want to plan and space their births do not have access to family planning information and services.

If we are serious about human security, we have to guarantee universal access to reproductive health

by 2015, as 179 governments agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development, and as world leaders agreed at the 2005 World Summit. And we have to promote and protect human rights.

When women and couples can exercise their right to family planning, families become smaller and population growth slows down. Over the past few decades, slower population growth has in many countries bought more time to adjust to future population increases. This has increased those countries ability to attack poverty, protect and repair the environment and build the base for future sustainable development.

Today, there is a great demographic divide between rich and poor nations. While nations such as Japan are concerned about low birth rates, population ageing and population decline, the population of poor countries continues to grow and remains relatively young. The youngest populations are found in the least developed countries, where prospects for social services and employment remain limited. And it is clear that the opportunities and choices young people have and the decisions they make will shape our common future. Today, 95% of all population growth takes place in the developing world and population in the poorest nations is expected to double by mid-century.

As I alluded to earlier, this country, Japan, is among 51 nations in the world, including Italy, Germany, the Baltic States and most of the successor States of the former Soviet Union, where population is expected to be lower in 2050 than it is today. Women are having fewer children, which raises concerns among politicians of how to pay for increasing pensions with income from a shrinking workforce and how to ensure economic growth.

There was an interesting article about this in the magazine, *The Economist*, last April. The headline read: Forget China, India and the Internet, Economic Growth is Driven by Women. It said that the increase in female employment in the rich world has been the main driving force of growth in the past couple of decades. The article said that while some people fear that if more women work, they will have fewer children, the countries where more women do work, such as Sweden and the United States, actually have higher birth rates than Japan and Italy, where more women stay at home. The article concluded that, if female labour force participation rose to American levels in countries such as Italy, Germany and Japan, which are all troubled by the demographics of shrinking populations, it would give a helpful boost to these countries' economic growth rates. The main point is that, if higher female labour force participation is supported by the right policies for women's empowerment and equality—such as childcare and work-life balance to manage employment and household responsibilities, it need not reduce fertility.

The other main point I would like to make is that population growth is still an issue of major concern. Studies show that countries with large youth populations living in poverty are more prone to civil conflict. Poor countries with rapid population growth are less likely to achieve development goals. Added to pressures are reduced supplies of farmland and water, rapid urban population growth, and refugee movements.

Another trend we see today is rapid urbanization. As of this year, half of all people are living in cities for the first time in history. And many urban residents are poor. Urban slums are growing and the conditions are appalling with residents denied decent housing, water and sanitation. In Africa, there were 200 million people living in cities in 1990, and this number is expected to reach nearly 500 million by 2015. The urban population of Pakistan is expected to double in less than 20 years as well.

Given these trends, the 2007 State of World Population Report of UNFPA will focus on urbanization. One of our main messages is that governments and people must come together to enable all people living in urban areas to live in dignity with the basic services they need.

In closing, I would like to thank you for inviting UNFPA to participate in this meeting. We remain committed to advancing the ICPD agenda in international development, humanitarian response and peace-building. And if we work together to advance human security and human rights, we will go a long way in creating a world that meets the needs of current and future generations. Thank you.

Address

by

Dr. Gill Greer

Director-General of IPPF

It is a great honour to be invited here today to address parliamentarians and members of civil society in Japan for my first time as the Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and on the occasion of APDA's 25th anniversary.

Over the past 25 years, the Asia Pacific region has made remarkable progress in reducing hunger and extreme poverty, increasing access to health and education which are the cornerstones of development and increasing economic growth. The current situation is one of dynamic population change and diversity, which provides many challenges in our region.

In some countries, inequality continues to rise as the very poor have made little progress and new groups have become impoverished. Even in countries with booming economies, there are areas of deprivation and increasingly marginalised and vulnerable populations.

Issues of population and development are linked in many complex ways, and sexual and reproductive health and rights are critical to both, as poor reproductive health, including HIV, erodes the chance of the poor to escape poverty and erodes hard-won development gains.

For over five decades IPPF has worked with parliamentary groups around the world to promote access to reproductive health services and advance policies that protect and support reproductive rights. This rights-based approach does more than promote sustainable development by slowing population growth, it also helps improve the quality of care, and also the quality of life, as well as women's ability to participate in governance and community building — all of which help to address environmental change.

Parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in the interplay between population and sustainable development. I believe there are some strong similarities between parliamentarians and civil society organizations like IPPF and its 151 Member Associations working on the ground in your countries and others. While you are the formal representatives of the people, the bridge between the people and the legislature, we, as civil society, are in many ways their informal representatives, providing services and supporting them to express their concerns, or at times speaking on their behalf if for

some reason they can not. As such, we can be your allies, especially as we can sometimes deal with the more sensitive issues including those linked to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and we are able to reach out to the poorest, most marginalized and excluded.

So, an alliance between the formal and informal representatives of the people is of crucial importance in moving the sustainable development agenda forward and this was clearly recognized in the ICPD Programme of Action.

So what makes IPPF different from, say, the United Nations Population Fund, with whom we often work in partnership? It is our world-wide grassroots network of 151 Member Associations and the thousands of volunteers and the provision visits a year. Their remarkable diversity and the country contexts in which they work mean that we have both an unparalleled global overview and the ability to respond locally to the realities of people's lives. While we can think and speak globally as I am doing today, we act locally. In many countries our constant local presence makes us a symbol of continuity, and hope, in volatile, dangerous times.

We are, for instance, one of the few NGOs currently working in both Palestine and Israel, and speaking to each other about their shared concerns. Each of our Member Associations grew from a need in their community, led by volunteers, and they remain there, even at such times.

Over these 2 days, you will contribute to the parliamentarians' plan of action for the next 25 years. In this region alone, for some of our Member Associations, the priority like some of your governments', in assisting sustainable development, will be combating the high fertility rates which are still so integral to the poverty cycle, and shortages of food and water, and environmental impacts.

For some, priority will be needs of young people who make up one third to half of your countries' population, often unemployed without a vision of future, or the information that will enable them to make the choices that are so important for their well-being and the planet.

For some, priority will be migration; for others the impact of falling birth rates and aging, or the battle against HIV and AIDS will be increasingly urgent. For others, issues related to unsafe abortion, or high rates of maternal mortality, globally the main cause of deaths to 15-19 year old women, will be the priority.

Whatever the primary focus, what should be consistent is that in each of these varying population situations the principle of choice, not coercion or control of human rights, must remain central for

legislators, policy makers, NGOs and the individual men and women and young people whom we serve. That was the crucial message of ICPD that we must move away from a “focus on human numbers to a focus on human lives”.

We follow APDA’s founder and UN Peace Award holder Takashi Sato in wishing “to create a world in which each person can live in dignity as a human being”. Sustainable development means a reduction and ultimately the elimination of poverty. But of course, poverty is not just about economic indicators but also about denial of opportunity, and access to resources. So eliminating poverty is about the right to lead a life that is beyond mere existence, a life which is all too often denied by the accident of geography —and that is true injustice. IPPF believes that, in order to live a life with dignity and meaning, sexual and reproductive rights should be guaranteed for everyone because they are internationally recognized human rights.

Parliamentarians have a central role as champions, advocates, and legislators, in creating the political will necessary to fill the gaps in law, policies and funding to make these rights a reality in our region and globally.

In Strasbourg, at the 2004 International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, over 130 parliamentarians and ministers reaffirmed their responsibility to uphold the right of individuals to decide the number and spacing of their children, to empower women and to eliminate all forms of violence against them. The 2004 conference called for leading parliamentarians to commit to improving sexual and reproductive health in your countries in this region, and around the world. Firstly, mobilizing resources. Secondly, working on legislative and funding initiatives that will improve services and information for young people —the largest generation in history; reducing the recourse of women to unsafe and life-threatening abortion; and more effectively engaging the reproductive health community in HIV/AIDS control efforts. And thirdly, by pressing your governments to ensure that the Cairo goal of universal access to reproductive health services achieves its rightful place among the Millennium Development Goals.

I congratulate you for rising to the challenge. Thanks to your advocacy we have made progress in delivering these commitments, and now we have a new target of universal access to reproductive health for the MDGs. This will require countries to report their progress towards this, the goal of ICPD. Measurable and promising progress has been achieved —notably at the Millennium Development Goal review. We know that much more has to be done, but we also know that it can be done.

The Japanese government has seen the link between infrastructure development and the risk of HIV/AIDS and funded IPPF's Member Associations in the Mekong delta to provide construction workers and communities on the "Bridge of Hope" project with access to reproductive health services to information.

One recent example of IPPF's work in this area: the Cross Border Communities Project in the 'Golden Triangle' encompassing parts of Myanmar, China, Lao PDR, and Thailand. Drug and human trafficking routes dissect this region. Another factor which makes this population especially vulnerable is mobility —both within and between countries in the region. Political instability and displacement have uprooted thousands of families and individuals —for example, refugees from Myanmar in Thailand.

At both the Cairo conference and its five year review, the global community affirmed that greater equality between men and women is an essential component of sustainable development, including environmental protection. Boosting the status of women is now accepted as a prerequisite for lowering fertility and ensuring sound management of natural resources.

At the community level, our Member Associations are making a very direct contribution to address environmental change. Let me give you an example. The Family Planning Association of New Zealand, where I used to be Executive Director, supports projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life in i-Kiribati and ni-Vanuatu people. Both communities are experiencing depletion of natural resources and pollution and reproductive health issues, such as unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. Thanks to these projects we are seeing real improvements in both reproductive health and sustainable environmental management practices.

As I indicated earlier reproductive rights apply equally to countries where fertility is falling as well as where fertility is high and where governments are anxious to stem the so-called 'birth dearth'. Some Asian countries —Japan, South Korea and Singapore for example— have seen their working-age population decrease and many people fear that this demographic decline goes hand in hand with economic decline. Not surprisingly many governments are searching for a solution.

In the context of these policy shifts, it is worth emphasizing that women's ability to choose the number and spacing of their children is a positive and hard-won development, which benefits their health and their children's as well as enabling them to be involved in non-domestic activities, which contributes to the economy by freeing them from a life of ongoing pregnancies. In the debates around falling birth rates and pro-natalist incentives, we should not lose sight of what has been

described as the “Fifth freedom” alongside freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from want and fear. And we should hold our governments to account for upholding those rights enshrined in ICPD, whether fertility rates are rising or falling.

There are conservative forces inside and outside the region that will resist this, but in spite of this opposition, we, parliamentarians and civil society together, must continue to fight to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are understood to be imperative for both the reduction of poverty and sustainable development. I call on you to debate these issues and then to implement the vision of Cairo, Beijing, Strasbourg, Bangkok and Tokyo.

Opening Declaration

by

Ms. Chikage Oogi, MP

Speaker of House of Councillors, Japan

Today, I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations on the holding of the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development by inviting representatives from respective countries of Asia. I would also like to extend my best wishes for the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Asian Population and Development Association.

I have also been involved in Asia's population problem for many years. I had the honour of participating in the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development which was held in Beijing in 1981 in addition to serving as the secretary of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) which is a non-partisan group of parliamentarians formed in Japan for the population problem before any other country in the world. I have also participated 3 times in the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development since the second conference. That is why I am one of the persons deeply moved by the 25th anniversary of the conference this year.

Population problem is an issue involving survival, dignity and peace of humanity in addition to being an issue of global scale related to global environment as well as food, resource and energy issues. It is very important for parliamentarians representing the people of respective countries to engage in active exchange of opinions and conduct activities beyond national boundaries.

The theme of this year's conference is "Population and Sustainable Development –Toward the Next Twenty-Five Years". It is a very meaningful theme that explores the direction of activities for the next 25 years by taking the opportunity of APDA's 25th anniversary to verify the achievement we have made so far and examine numerous issues in connection with diversifying issues of population and sustainable development.

Turning our attention to the situation of the world and Asia, the world population exceeded 6.4 billion in 2005 and is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. Asia is one of the most populous regions in the world. There are many countries with large populations in Asia as of 2005 such as China and India with populations of 1.32 billion and 1.1 billion, respectively.

Looking at fertility from the level of Total Fertility Rate, Laos has the highest rate of 4.7 followed by

4.1 of Pakistan and 4.0 of Cambodia. On the other hand, there are countries and regions that are experiencing super low fertility such as 0.97 of Hong Kong, 1.08 of Korea and 1.26 of Japan.

When we turn our attention to the “aging rate” which is the percentage of population aged 65 years and over in the total population, the rate has increased from 5.2% in 1950 to 7.4% in 2005 and is estimated to rise to 16.1% by 2050. In Asia, Japan already stands out at 19.9% in 2005 while the figures for the Philippines and India stand at 3.9% and 5.3%, respectively. In 2050, however, setting aside the exceptionally high rate of Japan at 35.7%, the rates of the Philippines and India are predicted to approach 15%. Thus it is predicted that aging will advance rapidly in the Asian region as well.

Solving the population problem is not by any means easy. Rapid population increase is giving rise to problems of poverty and starvation while dwindling birthrate and aging population are exerting a broad range of impacts, on the society and economy in countries such as Japan. Methods for addressing this problem will naturally differ from one country to another depending on tradition and the historical background of that country. It will be important to exchange wide-ranging information among countries through this conference and make decisions to willingly incorporate any effective measures. It is also necessary to have the courage to discontinue measures that are considered to be ineffective.

It is no exaggeration to say that Japan is the country where dwindling birthrate and aging population are most advanced in the world today. We have faced numerous problems and issues. But we also have a wide range of experience in various policies to address them. I believe that such “Japan experience” can serve as a guidepost for measures against dwindling birthrate and aging population which is predicted to occur in the Asian region in the future.

I also think that the roles of us parliamentarians will become increasingly important in solving these issues. I would like to declare the opening of this conference by expressing my expectations for further efforts that will be made by those of you involved in these issues and my hope that these efforts would be fruitful. Thank you.

Session I

Low Fertility and Aging Population in Asia: Japanese Experience and the Future of Asia

Chairperson:

Dr. Sang Guowei, Vice-Chairperson, AFPPD

Resource Person:

Dr. Makoto Ato, Professor of Waseda University

CHAIRPERSON:

We will start Session I on “Low Fertility and Aging Population in Asia: Japanese Experience and the Future of Asia” for this meeting. Let’s welcome our distinguished speaker, Dr. Ato to deliver his speech entitled “Demographic Transition and Population Aging in Asia”. Dr. Ato is a professor and a faculty member of Faculty of Human Sciences, Waseda University in Japan. He received his PhD degree from the University of Michigan in the United States. He was the Director General of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (NIPSSR) from 2000 to 2005. He was an Associate Representative of Japan for the UN Commission on Population and Development from 1993-2004 and served as Chairperson (2001) and Vice-chairperson (2002). Please welcome Dr. Makoto Ato.

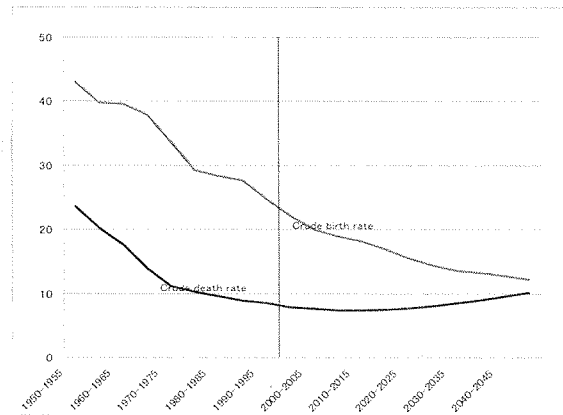
Dr. MAKOTO ATO:

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations for the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Population and Development. I also would like to extend my congratulations for the 25th Anniversary of APDA.

The 20th Century, the last century, was a century of population explosion. It was first, as it is well known, caused by demographic transition in the whole world. But since the 1960s or 70s, differences among regions and countries widened in the timing and stages of demographic transition. Some countries had already completed the transition, but others are still in the first stage of transition. They are therefore facing various demographic issues. Today, I would like to give you an overview of the demographic situation in 4 regions of Asia by going through the steps of demographic transition.

First of all, demographic transition in Asia is a transition from high fertility and high mortality regime to a low fertility and low mortality regime. Asia is expected to approach its final stage during the first half of this century. However, large regional- and country-level differences exist.

Demographic Transition in Asia



Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects, 2004 Revision.

4

The birth rate has sharply declined in eastern Asia, including China, Japan and Korea, so the gap between the birth rate and the death rate will be zero by 2030. In South-eastern Asia, their fertility is also declining moderately and will complete their transition in the middle of the 21st Century. In South-central Asia, the birth rate is still high, and according to the United Nations Population Prospects, they will not complete their transition until the middle of the 21st Century. In Western Asia, the situation is as serious as South-central Asia.

Japan completed its fertility transition a long time ago in the 1950s. Eastern Asia as a whole has also completed its fertility transition, which means that average number of children given birth to by a woman was down to about 2 by the 1990s. Fertility is less than 4 in the other 3 regions, so they are already in stage 2 or 3 of fertility transition.

And of course among regions there are many country-level variations. In South-eastern Asia, Singapore and Thailand have completed the fertility transition. In South-central Asia, Sri Lanka has already completed fertility transition. In Western Asia, Iran is close to completion of fertility transition. Once fertility transition starts and accelerates, it is not easily reversible. So we have much hope for Western and South-central Asia.

Due to fertility transition through family planning program efforts, population growth in Asia has already begun to decelerate. But some countries require more efforts to spread reproductive health services including family planning. When we look at the annual rate of population growth, eastern Asia already has a low rate of less than 1% while the other 3 regions have rates ranging from 2.5 to 3.5%. So there is still room for improvement.

Demographics say that once you have mostly completed the fertility transition, the population will start aging. In Japan, after we completed the fertility transition in the 1950s, our population started aging in the 1960s. However, the first stage of aging is not a problem; it is a bonus, or a demographic dividend. Countries that succeeded in demographic transition will be able to enjoy a “population bonus”, which refers to the highest proportion of working-age population (i.e. population aged 15 to 64) and the lowest level of the burden of supporting children and elderly.

In the case of Japan, we completed the fertility transition in the 1950s; and we enjoyed a 70% level of working-age population from the 1960s up to 2005. For Eastern Asia as a whole, mainland China has already completed the fertility transition, so they are now enjoying the population bonus with working-age population accounting for almost 70% of the entire population. So the burden of supporting children and the elderly is very light. For other regions, they will also enjoy a demographic bonus or demographic dividend in the first half of this century after they have completed the fertility transition.

Total dependency ratio shows the number of children and elderly that each 100 persons of working-age have to support. In 1950s to 60s when the population had a large number of children and elderly, 100 persons in the working-age population had to support 80 to 100 children and elderly. So the ratio was almost one to one. But after fertility transition is completed, 100 persons of the working-age population have to support less than 50 children and elderly only. This trend continues for 20 or 30 years, and for the working-age population, it is easier to support their dependents.

The period of population bonus offers an opportunity for economic development for many countries, as exemplified by Japan which achieved high economic growth after the completion of fertility transition at the end of the 1950s. This is also taking place in Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and other so-called Asian NIES countries. Large countries such as Thailand and China have also completed the fertility transition and are currently enjoying, or will be enjoying, the population bonus. They therefore have an opportunity for economic development under a beneficial demographic situation.

When fertility transition has completed, the first stage of population bonus is a good period. But eventually, aging of population will continue and the so-called greying of the population will occur. This will require different policies. In some regions and countries of Asia, population has already started aging and will eventually start aging in other countries. In East Asia as a whole, the percentage of elderly population has already surpassed the level of 7%. The United Nations Population Division has said that once the percentage of elderly population surpasses the 7% level of

a country's population, that country will enter into aging society. So the East Asian region as a whole has entered an aging period. The other 3 regions have not entered an aging period with elderly population accounting for less than 5% of the entire population, although they will eventually enter into aging society by 2020 or 2030.

The number of older people will increase very rapidly because of increased longevity and the percentage of those aged 80 years and above will increase more conspicuously than the young people. And the people aged 80 years and above who are more vulnerable to senile dementia will require long term care, so the issue will become increasingly severe.

In Japan, we have many centenarians. In 1980, the statistics recorded about 1,000 centenarians. But 25 years after, in 2005, we had 20,000 centenarians. So in 25 years, the number of centenarians increased twenty-fold. It is very symbolic of population aged 80 years and above growing considerably.

Along with aging process, financial, physical and emotional burden on the working-age population supporting elderly population will increase dramatically.

In the United Nations' data, age dependence ratio, that is, the number of older people supported by 100 persons in the working-age population, in Japan, the percentage in 1950 was about 10% which was same as other countries. But now we have 25 elderly being supported by 100 persons in the working-age population. In East Asia as a whole, the percentage has surpassed the 10% mark. And it will increase very sharply to 40% in 2050 with other regions following suit.

The late Dr. Kuroda, a very famous demographer in Japan and Asia, said that aging is the evidence of success in demographic transition. Evidence of success was expressed by himself, and he boasted the aging society in Japan, and he boasted his longevity. This is a very good sign but aging issue has a different aspect.

As is well known, the gender difference in longevity will be widened with a female advantage. In Japan, in the 1950s, male life expectancy at birth was 60 years and female life expectancy at birth was 63 years. So the difference was 3 years. But now, in the year 2000, male life expectancy at birth was 78 years and female life expectancy was 85 years, with the difference increasing to 7 years. So we have rising longevity and a widening male-female gap. This is also observed in other countries. The aging issue is therefore more conspicuous among women and therefore should be recognized more as women's issues.

In Japan, as for those aged 65 years and above, there are 70 males for every 100 females. For those aged 80 years and above, there are 50 males for every 100 females. So as aging advances, the gap between male and female population increases. The same pattern will also occur in other regions.

Then how to deal with the aging issue? The principle is very clear. We had 2 world assemblies on aging on an international level; one in 1982 in Austria and one in 2002 in Madrid, Spain. There were 6 goals adopted at the second World Assembly on Aging in 2002. The first goal was to promote the employment of older people who are willing and able to work, i.e. securing the employment of older people. The second goal was to attain income security for older people through not only employment but also through other channels. The third goal is to secure the healthy independent life with dignity for older people. Older people are naturally vulnerable to illness, so the society must make facilities and services for cure and care available to the older people. The fourth goal was to secure adequate health, medical and long-term care services and the fifth goal was to provide older people with adequate living conditions. The last goal was to recognize the positive roles of older persons. Usually, people retire at age 55, 60 or 65 but usually they do not have any social roles after that, to contribute to society, which, in turn, gives them a sense of abandonment from society. So the society needs to provide them with social roles.

There are various aging issues but regarding care for older people, we have a long history of families taking care of older people and weak people through their family kinship network. In Asian societies, families have been taking on those roles for a long time although the society must prepare policies and measures as their roles change in the future.

Asian societies are different from Western societies in that extended families have been providing older people with economic security and necessary care, physical or emotional. This is household composition of the elderly, i.e. type of household for elderly.

Middle one is the so-called extended family. In the middle of the 1990s, in the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, more than three-fourths, sometimes 90% lived with their adult children's families. There were very few among the elderly that lived alone or with spouse only. Also in Japan, 87% of the older people aged 65 years and above lived in an extended family in 1960. They usually lived with their eldest son's family.

**% Distribution according to Household
Composition for the Elderly People**

(%)

Household Composition	Philippines (1996)	Thailand (1995)	Taiwan (1993)	Singapore (1995)	Japan (1960)	Japan (1995)
Alone	5.5	4.3	9.7	3.3	4.3	12.1
Spouse only	7.9	11.9	16.1	5.9	7.0	27.8
Children/children-in-law and/or grandchildren/other kins with or without spouse	86.5	84.6	74.2	90.8	87.0	56.0
Institution	-	-	-	-	1.1	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: (Hermalin et al., 2002: NIPSSR, 2004)

This type of extended family will be an important social asset for the Asian countries where population aging will advance with the development process. Usually, young people have to work harder than in traditional societies and they are concentrated in urban areas while elderly are left by themselves in rural areas. But still some children live with their parents. Even during the harsh period of development process, older people can enjoy support from their family members. So this is very good strategy for developing societies to support their elderly during the development process.

As Asian countries become more urbanized and more industrialized, their household type may be transformed into nuclear family household as exemplified by Japan. As I said earlier, family structure in Japan was very similar to that in other countries. But in 1995, the figures had changed completely with only 56% of elderly living with their family (mainly their eldest son's). Among those aged 65 years and above, 12% lived in single household, and 27.8% lived with their spouse. This means that 40% of older people lived by themselves.

In 35 years, Japanese families have changed very dramatically. We do not know yet whether these changes in family structure will also occur in other Asian societies. But in Taiwan, in 1993, the figure for cohabitation was already 74% which was lower than other countries. I therefore predict that other countries will also experience similar family changes that took place in Japan.

In such changing societies, families gradually lose their function for elderly support as have been observed in the Japanese society. I have discussed the type of living condition, but in the changing Asian society, even the normative attitude towards elderly care will or may change as exemplified by Japan. In Japan, a series of surveys have been conducted on elderly care from 1981 to 1992, only

about 10 years. And the question was “Who should take care of bedridden elderly parents?” In 1981, 79.7% of older people and 72.6% of younger people supported the answer “Mainly such family members as spouse and children”. It was a kind of social norm or value to offer family support to the elderly. But the percentage of those supporting this norm declined in only 10 years to just 67.2% and 55.7% among the elderly and younger people respectively. The second question was “families are central, but should support be complemented by welfare measures?” Those supporting this view increased in 10 years.

Measures of social support for older people cost a lot of money and it is not so easy to expand the social policies for elderly care. For countries that have economically advanced to a certain level, then the so-called family norms that give respect to elderly and offer long-term care for elderly parents will or might change as happened in the Japanese case.

Then we have the development of the so-called universal welfare system for the elderly including the public scheme for old-age pension, medical care, and long-term care which will eventually be needed. In addition, training of professional and managerial staff will also be needed. For the time being, in the development process, families can play a very important role for the elderly, although if lifestyle changes, as it did in the case of Japan, then the society will have to take care of the elderly, especially those that are disadvantaged. This will be done through measures for the poor people, but usually in developed societies, they have developed a universal welfare system such as public pension, public medical insurance, or public long-term care insurance covering the entire population. It costs large amounts of money but if we are going to have a relatively equal society, we will have to have such universal welfare system for older persons.

In the case of Japan, the Japanese Government started the so-called universal public insurance for pension and medical care in 1961. Public insurance for long-term care started in the year 2000. Usually, public measures for medical care starts very early even during the developing process. But in the second stage of development, public schemes for pension will have to be developed. Meanwhile, public schemes for long-term care are difficult, and even among the developed countries, only 2 countries, Japan and Germany, have this kind of insurance for long-term care. And they were introduced only recently.

To summarize, the aging process in the Asian region will or may be different from most developed countries, i.e. the western society, in terms of the following 3 points. The first is that their aging speed is much faster. This is because in western society, it took a long time to complete the fertility transition; up to 100 years in some cases. In the case of Asian countries, Japan, Korea, Singapore,

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and China completed their fertility transition very fast compared to western societies. Asian countries therefore have to cope with aging issues without a long time for preparation. Western societies fortunately had a long preparation time but we in Asia must hurry in coping with our aging issue.

The second point is that aging process may start before Asian countries are fully developed economically. This means that they will have to integrate aging policies with development policies. It applies in particular to pension schemes. Young people in the development process will feel it more difficult to support elderly parents and will want to have public pension schemes to take care of older people. Even in China, they are already discussing the introduction of huge pension schemes. Of course, Asian NIES and other countries have already introduced their own specific types of pension schemes in their development policies.

The third point is that the extended family system in Asian countries will be an important social asset for older people in their development process. As I said before, in the development process, the government may not spend on social policies, especially to take care of the elderly. In that case, they have to support with an eye on extended families to take care of the elderly. In the Japanese case also, up to the 1980s, the Japanese Government had relied on extended families to support long-term care of the elderly. But eventually the tide will change.

At the last stage of demographic transition, among most developed countries, fertility declines below replacement level; this represents a challenge for the Asian countries. Fertility declined below replacement level in the 1970s among the developed countries as a whole, and there is a large variation in fertility among them in 2000.

In most of the selected countries, Japan reached the lowest level in this graph in 2005. But other developed countries are also suffering from low fertility in this year. In some countries and economies in Asia, fertility also sunk below replacement level in 1970s or 80s and continued to decline to one of the lowest levels in the world in the year 2000. Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand have total fertility rates below the level of Japan at 1.3. So these countries are the so-called most economically developed Asian countries but on another level they are suffering from low fertility rate.

If low fertility continues in the future, Japan will be a hyper-aged, rapidly shrinking society. According to the latest population projection, Japan's population as of 2005 was 127 million. After 100 years, however, total population will be one-third. This is the official population projection, not

a projection by an economist or some specialist. So Japan will have a rapidly shrinking population in this century. And also we will, because of low fertility, we will continue to have aging population at higher levels. The percentage of people aged 65 years and above is currently 20% in 2005. After 50 years, however, their share will exceed 40%. We will have a large number of older people to be supported by fewer persons in the working-age population in 2050.

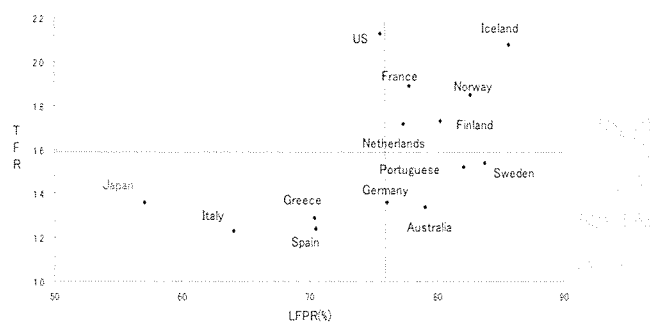
This is the Japanese case. We are not sure if Japan is an exception among the Asian countries that have completed the demographic transition. In such countries like Japan, the economy will deteriorate due to the shrinkage of the national consumer market and insufficient labour supply. A high level social security system cannot be sustained because of higher aged dependency ratio. Many local communities in remote areas are destined to disappear. According to an estimate, 200 to 300 small local areas will disappear in the near future in Japan.

Although the causes of low fertility are complex, its major cause appears to be the emerging conflict of family life with work life in an era of women's emancipation. Some argue that women's economic aspirations have been enhanced due to their higher educational attainment, and their increased employment opportunities. They are placed under demand to fulfil their traditional family roles as wife and mother if they are married and have children. As a result, some women have to give up the idea of having a family. They stay single and pursue their careers. Others give up their careers and devote their energy and knowledge to house care.

The Japanese government has strengthened policy measures to reconcile work life with family life, such as the legalization of parental leave and the expansion of public nursery facilities and services. It may not be easy to change the tide of baby bust, because childcare issue is closely intertwined with traditional employment customs and gender norms, which are resistant to change. But, through reconciling its social and economic system with women's emancipation, Japan has to recover work-family life balance and achieve both higher women's labor force participation rate and higher fertility.

It has already been mentioned in the address by IPPF Director-General that in developed countries, women's labour force participation rate and TFR will coexist and so will lower women's labour force participation rate and lower TFR, as seen in Japan, Italy and Spain. Scandinavian countries, France, U.S. and Netherlands have higher rates in both areas. We do not have to be pessimistic in Asian countries. If we can change our system or adapt to women's emancipation in affluent society, we can reach the first corner of this graph like France, northern European countries and U.S.

The Relationship between Women's Labor Force Participation Rate (for 30-34 years old) and Total Fertility Rate among Developed Countries:2000.



Source: ILO, Yearbook of Labor Statistics, 2001; Council of Europe, Recent Demographic Development in Europe, 2001; Others.

41

So this is maybe a bad lesson from Japan, but I have to say that we do not have to have not only good lessons in the demographic transition but also bad lessons. And I hope that other Asian countries learn from good parts of the Japanese experience. Thank you very much.

<Discussion>

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much Dr. Ato for your very interesting and comprehensive lecture. Now the session is open for discussion. Any questions or comments are welcome.

MALAYSIA:

I must consider Malaysia is very lucky. Our total fertility rate is 2.76, and in addition to that, life expectancy has increased for males to 76 years and for females to 76.4. However, the Department of Statistics has estimated that by the year 2026, 10% of population will be over 60 years old. In view of that we have put into place various things that you mentioned just now. With regards to employment opportunities for older persons, the government is providing incentives to companies that employ people above 60 years of age and at the same time offer rebates for travelling on air and rail of 50% discount. At the same time, we provide a mobile buffet unit for the elderly community.

On the overall issue of the challenge of low fertility and population aging, I have 2 points to highlight. Firstly, on the economic factor; I believe that this is most important because you need to have the funds. We should provide reserve funds for the elderly to use later for institutional and social support. With regard to this, I hope, and I am sure that Japan is continuing its effort to enhance its economy; it is now the second largest behind the U.S. Maybe you have to look at your

productivity because decreasing productivity should not affect the productivity and growth of your economy. Secondly, the issue of war, I think it should be part of our policy matter. Asian countries at any cost must avoid war. When I hear in the media discussions about neighbour problems, I really worry because I noticed that when a country prospers, the period of conquest will be greater, and I hope it will not happen within us. Thank you.

Dr. ATO:

Fertility, of course, is influenced by economic factors. It is said that it is affected by 3 factors. socioeconomic factors accompanied by structural change and modernization. The second one is social policies. Even if the government is not so rich, you can spend much more money for those basic human needs including education, especially primary education, primary health care, gender equality. Third one is to provide reproductive health services including family planning. Fertility will change with these main 3 factors.

But the situation is more complicated in the case of Japan and Asia. When we have high fertility, we feel that it is difficult to lower fertility through human efforts. But now we think it is more difficult to increase fertility from very low level to a certain level. Because if young people in affluent societies are content with their own lives, it will be very difficult to change their attitude. So it is closely intertwined with attitude change, value change. It is also connected to traditional values and norms. It is very complicated. So I am not saying that economic factors are not affecting fertility, but I am not so optimistic about the future of our fertility based on the long-term economic prospects. It is a complicated matter.

SINGAPORE:

First of all, let me congratulate Professor Ato for his excellent lecture as well as the organizers for inviting me here. I think Singapore is in many ways following Japan. We have the same issues in terms of aging population as well as a very fast decline in fertility rate. The key matter now is that because of aging, demographics have been the key driving force behind Singapore's social policy. We had a fertility rate of 6 per woman in 1957 which dropped to 2.1 in 1975, and now we are at 1.24. This drop is attributed firstly to the government's very aggressive stance in the 1960s and 70s to ask the families to stop the number of children at 2. The second point is that mindset has changed among the young people to shift to smaller families. They have late marriages and increase in singlehood among the females as well as the males. Aging population in Singapore is attributed to an increase in life expectancy. Current life expectancy is 83 for females and 79 for males. Currently, 10% of the population is age 65 and above, and by 2050 about one-third of Singapore's population will be above the age of 65. So in many ways we are very similar.

The government is trying to address that through social policy. First of all, there are 3 major constraints of demographic aging. Number one, of course, is public spending on pension schemes as well as health care and whether the economy will be overburdened. Second is the high dependency ratio. Currently, we are at 10 working adults for 1 elderly, but this will drop down to 1.78 adults for 1 elderly by 2050. That, of course, will cause a slowdown in consumption because of increased number of elderly. But I think all of this can be addressed by policies, if governments take steps now, to fine tune the economy now. So Singapore has moved away from the pension scheme. About 20 years ago, it moved to each generation supporting their own burden. As a result, it encouraged savings among all working adults to the Central Provident Fund. So every month about one-third of salary is put into the Central Provident Fund to keep it for retirement.

Second, the government supports it through our MediShield system. This is a public, countrywide health insurance system: low premium but spreads out its resources so that the entire nation can support its elderly. The government has also reviewed the cost from the parliamentarians to increase the retirement age. Previously it was 55 and was moved up to 62. Currently, we are reviewing it again to see if we should move it up to 65. We have also taken steps to encourage employers to employ older workers. We changed the mindset and attitude of employers.

And as for policies in response to low fertility rate; I think the first and foremost is to promote knowledge to decrease singlehood. Number two is to make childbirth affordable and to offer financial support for parents to raise their families, easy access to childcare facilities and mainly subsidize childcare facilities. And of course, the government is putting funds to encourage employers to move the work and life balance. So there are incentives for companies to have good work and life practices.

Last of all for aging. The government has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Aging because it is not a single ministry's problem, and involves many ministries. And the four key strategies the Singapore Government is developing are: first, develop elder-friendly housing; second, create barrier-free access society. We are now reviewing infrastructure in society so that elderly in wheel chairs can move easily across the entire island. Third, of course, is to provide holistic and affordable health care and elder care through our medical system. And last of all is to promote an active lifestyle and well-being for the elders. So these are some of the things I would like to share with the members. As parliamentarians, we are always pushing the government to do more, to avert disasters that may be coming.

INDIA:

You said that as aging advances, the gap between men and women will increase. And I found out that in Japan it is much more than other countries. What is the reason behind women living longer in the same country, when the conditions are the same? And in the aging process, what is the reason for increase in that difference? And is it a phenomenon throughout the world or only in this part of the globe? The second question is that you said that as the process goes on, some groups in remote areas will disappear. How could it happen? Again, in the same country, same policies, and conditions are the same. Then why should certain groups disappear? If that is so, I think it is a very dangerous trend. And what are your remedies for that?

Dr. ATO:

The gap between men and women's longevity is happening in almost all developed countries. So Japan is not an exception. It is not clear, but some say that the male population is more vulnerable to degenerative diseases than women. So you control infectious or communicable diseases, then it is said that the gap between men and women will become greater after that. So it is a normal trend to which Japan is no exception.

As for your second question, disappearance of communities has not yet occurred in Japan, but according to the report from the government, very small communities will eventually disappear because of declining population and fewer children being born. But according to a Newsweek report, in some areas of Germany, wolves have reappeared in remote areas after disappearing a long time ago. This was due to sparseness of population. Similar things will happen in Japan and other countries, if population declines rapidly.

PAKISTAN:

I have one comment and one question. As far as emancipation of women goes, and you said that many times women are faced with the choice between family and work. I think that this imposes on the government to institute policies where they recognize that a woman can be a mother and work productively in the workforce. I think that the U.S. has done very well in exemplifying this; that women are given the time they need to take off from work. Many times they do not suffer the promotion trap because they have taken the time off to have that child and raise that child for a few months before they rejoin the workforce. So I think that falls upon the society to recognize that, "yes, women do have children and at the same time they can be very productive in the workforce". Many times, the entire generation of women have had to compromise and make sacrifice for the family to prove themselves in the workforce, so that subsequent generations of women can have the choice of doing both simultaneously.

My question for you is on Japanese immigration policies. I read an article in Newsweek a few months ago about how Japan has, because of its declining fertility, had to open up immigration policies to bring in people to do the jobs that there isn't anyone to do anymore. So I was wondering if you could elaborate a little more on that.

Dr. ATO:

The Japanese Government faced an immigration issue in the latter half of the 1980s for the first time in history. Before that, we were an emigration country. But in the end of the 1980s, when we made the transition into the global economy, foreign people suddenly started entering the Japanese labour market and the Japanese Government was very shocked by that event. But the Bubble Economy busted and we experienced what we call "the lost decade" of economy in the 1990s. So the discussion about how to deal with the immigration issue subsided and the Japanese Government is still very cautious about policies to encourage or integrate foreign labour force in the Japanese society. Of course, Japanese society especially needs professionals such as technicians in soft science and technology, but they are not increasing.

On the other hand, Japanese Government is very cautious about the so-called simple labour, unskilled labour. So officially, they do not accept unskilled workers, but through some mechanism, unskilled workers have already been entering and staying in Japanese society for the last 10 to 15 years. Most common are the Brazilian Japanese descendants. This is legal so they are entering in large numbers. The number of people staying illegally in Japan is estimated at 200,000. There are also those who came for training of skilled work, but actually they are doing unskilled work. Those people are increasing. There are also language students and they are also permitted to work part-time. But they spend less time learning the language and devote more time to unskilled work in the Japanese labour market. So the number of unskilled foreign workers in Japan is increasing, although not to the extent of many western countries. I am a demographer so I am focused on the Japanese population trends. In my opinion, Japan will have to make a choice of accepting more foreign labour, especially in areas of women's jobs such as care workers, nursery workers and maids, as well as factory workers.

KOREA:

There are demographic problems in Korea, so I would like to talk about the Korean experience. In terms of low fertility rate, in the 1960s and 70s, we experienced super-high fertility but we were so successful in family planning. Last year, we experienced 1.08. In order to solve this problem, 2 years ago we passed a legislation called the "Rainbow Act". From that moment we encouraged marriage as well as pregnancy. Last year, we celebrated our first "Pregnant Women's Day" by approaching this

problem culturally. Last year in lunar year we had 2 “Coming of Spring Days” which meant that couples marrying in that year were going to be very affluent and be successful in every way. So we used that in order to promote fertility in Korea. This year in lunar year was the year of Golden Hog. The children of those that are born in this year are said to be rich and successful. So next year we will have to make a new story to promote fertility. Last year when we celebrated Pregnant Women’s Day, pregnant women were so happy. So we use this cultural approach.

Secondly, we have the economic approach. We are experiencing economic growth without employment. We are promoting technologies in terms of economic labour force and using migrating labour as well. Thirdly, I have to talk about the problems of elderly people in Korea. Even though we have a very well-established national health insurance system, we passed an act on long-term care for the elderly in December. This is not a small problem. On the presidential governance, we have 17 ministers only focusing on this issue, i.e. low fertility and aging of society in Korea. We are experiencing chaotic and complicated issues in a short period of time. So if you have some problems, we are willing to share our experience in the future as well. Korea has the fastest aging- and lowest fertility-society in the world, so we have lots of problems. But at the same time, we have put lots of effort into solving this problem quickly.

NEW ZEALAND:

Just wanted to thank you very much for an incredibly stimulating discussion and this overview is very interesting. We in New Zealand, of course, have similar issues that you were outlining. But the issue I wanted to discuss was flexible working hours. One of the key policies to encourage women into the workforce, and indeed retired people into the workforce, is to have much greater flexibility around working hours and to encourage hours of work which better suit family life or whatever circumstances. In the United Kingdom, they have legislation which enshrines the right to request flexible working hours for people with young children or elderly dependents. And we are seeking in New Zealand to introduce similar legislation which would enshrine it for all employees. This would solve the problem because when you have young children, you do not necessarily want to work 40, 50 or 60 hours a week.

Similarly, particularly with the elderly, we are seeking to encourage the elderly to return to the workforce, but they do not want to work these incredibly long hours. I would like to suggest that one of the reasons men in Japan have a shorter life span is because of these incredibly long working hours. So flexible working hours would solve so many problems including congestion because it is completely ridiculous that we all rush to get to work exactly at the same hour and create all that chaos and congestion in our cities. So it would solve that and many other social problems as well.

And of course if we all are encouraged to work at home that would help global warming and carbon emissions. So I would like to urge that the whole issue of challenging the rigid 40-hour week and introducing much more flexibility in working hours is one of the key solutions to the problem that we've been discussing.

Dr. ATO:

First of all, I have similar ideas and I am talking about that in newspapers, but the government and Prime Minister have not listened to it yet. Maybe your voice can be raised and it will be heard by the Prime Minister and those parties that are in power. I hope that Japanese employment customs will change. There are 2 approaches among developed countries; one is French and Swedish style. They are advocating benevolent childcare facilities and services to reconcile work and life. Meanwhile, English-speaking countries do not have such kind of family policies, but they have advantage in terms of flexible labour market. You can change your position or retire 2 years from work for childcare, but it is easier to re-enter into the labour market without any huge cost. But in the Japanese case, lifetime employment system has become an obstacle to that. If you retire from the labour market when you marry or have a child, it is very difficult to return to a full-time job in Japan.

NEW ZEALAND:

Could we just add that productivity in the workforce increases with part-time flexible working hours? Workers are happier, and it has the concern of what people are frightened of, that we are going to lose productivity and lose our grip on the edge. It has quite the opposite effect.

AUSTRALIA:

Australia now has a fertility rate of 1.7, and we've increased that. A little bit of bribery and corruption helped. You get \$4,000 per person per child. And also excellent childcare, bed opportunity and flexible working hours. The problem that we face is not just aging population; it is epidemic, and I mean epidemic of young people with their obesity epidemic caused by 3 lifestyle things such as poor diet, lack of exercise and smoking. We anticipate a fall in our life expectancy by at least 5 years. That means some people may die 15 to 20 years earlier than my population or my age group. We anticipate by 2020 or 2030, we will have 70% of our younger population suffering from lifestyle illnesses that are chronic and untacklable. So we have this double-edged sword of aging population; like me I will be 81 if I live that long in 20 years. But a population of teenagers now may be chronically ill at the same time. And I thought you might want to comment on that but we are extremely concerned and we need to actively engage to reverse this trend of lifestyle disease in Australia. Thank you.

CHINA:

In China, population is rapidly aging with old people accounting for about 10%. But on the other hand, more and more agricultural population is moving to the manufacture and service industry. We need well-balanced national policies for such demographic changes.

Dr. ATO:

Low fertility is an issue, but rising longevity is also an issue. In Japan, 50 or 60 years ago, many people were engaged in agriculture or self-employed work. These people have no retirement age. They can engage in their work as long as they are healthy. But nowadays 80% of the entire population are employees and only 20% are self-employed. For employees, retirement means having no work. It is not only an income issue but also an issue in terms of motivation for life in an affluent society. But in the case of Japan, working-age population is declining so we have to give more and more room for expanding work for the elderly. Not only employment but also various informal social work can be performed by the elderly. Of course, flexible work hours are important.

PHILIPPINES:

I am a little bit envious because most of the participants here are talking about how to increase fertility, and you have been enjoying the population bonus following the transition. It is very different in my country. The discussion today by the professor is one of the strongest arguments used by the Catholic Church against drafting legislation to curve our population. The trend to picture negative scenario about population aging is called “demographic winter” in my country. But I am thankful to your presentation that it is not as difficult as it is. I was impressed that it could easily be led by rationalization or reconciliation of women’s emancipation, plus the extended families.

As pointed out in the opening address by Dr. Nakayama. He says here that “While low birthrate and aging are serious matters we must not forget that compared to societies that continue to increase their population the situation allows for a more hopeful society with possibilities. No bright future is possible while population continues to rise”. The Catholic lobby in my country is very strong. It can even intimidate the government. For 15 years, we have been working on how to draft legislation on a national level. We cannot succeed. And I think in this last Congress prior to our election in 2 months, it will die a natural death again. How can you help neutralize the lobby of the Catholic Church? Of course, population issue is not about sex, not about religion. I think it is a social issue. In our country, it is even an economic strategy. How can you help? Thank you.

Dr. ATO:

It is a very tough and difficult question, but the late Dr. Anthony Cole in Princeton University said

that there are 3 conditions for fertility transition. The first one is legitimacy of utilizing family planning. The second one is attitude change that is beneficial for families, which means structural change of society. The third one is availability of family planning. I think that the first condition, the legitimacy, is closely related to moral values, social values and religion. And if it is not supported by major religion or values, it is very difficult to implement family planning programs in the society. For example, in Japan, fortunately, our religious mind is not so strong, so it was easier for us to introduce family planning without any strong resistance from cultural or religious groups. However, when we look at the case of Iran, they were initially antagonistic against family planning, but they changed the policy within the same government. Family planning therefore spread very easily, and I think they have almost reached the replacement level. So I think we need to collaborate among major stakeholders in the society. I cannot say anything about the Philippines, but you have important stakeholders on this issue and you will have to reach some consensus and secure legitimacy of those family planning activities in your society. That is all I can say.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you everybody. In closing, we all trust that the population issue will remain in sustainable development for the next 25 years. Meanwhile, it has been recognized that one of the most important, and the potentially urgent population problems, will be the population aging accompanied by fertility declining, as Dr. Ato mentioned in his lecture. Another point I want to mention here is that, I think that a big problem for developing countries is that the speed of population aging seems to be exceeding the modernization and internationalization. There are obviously regional variations, country variations, cultural and religious variations and so on and so forth. So from that point, we, as parliamentarians, should pay attention and take strong steps to consider and regard aging population as a very serious population problem to make arrangements as early as possible. Again, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our speaker, Dr. Ato. I would also like to thank all the participants for your very active participation, questions and comments.

Session II

Infectious Diseases as Global Issues and Human Security

Chairperson:
Dr. Prat Boonyawongvirot, MP,
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Resource Person:
Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe, Director, Infectious Disease Surveillance Centre,
National Institute of Infectious Diseases

Dr. PRAT BOONYAWONGVIROT:

It is my great pleasure to be the chairman of this session entitled “Infectious Disease as Global Issues and Human Security”. Our resource person is Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe, Director of Infectious Disease Surveillance Centre, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan. He is a Medical Doctor, and also a Visiting Professor of International Health, Tokyo Metropolitan University of Health Science, as well as of Pediatrics, Jikei University School of Medicine. May I invite Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe.

Dr. NOBUHIKO OKABE:

I am very much honoured to be able to come here and talk in front of distinguished delegates. I actually started out as a paediatrician and started my practice as an infectious disease doctor. From 1990 to 1994, I was at the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office as Regional Adviser for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention.

Today’s topic is going to be “Infectious Diseases as Global Issues and Human Security”. Many of the slides in my presentation have been provided from various colleagues since I was working at WHO. Therefore, those who belong to health institutions may have seen some of the slides I will be showing to you this afternoon.

Infectious diseases sometimes are not marginal to a particular region or country. I think this is somewhat universal and worldwide, so I would like to focus on my topic on those aspects. The difference between infectious diseases and other types of diseases is that if you leave it as is, it is likely that this infection transmits from one person to another and permeates widely. But so long as you know the measures, you will be able to contain the range of transmission. That is one of the major features of infectious diseases. If the disease is not known, it could spread widely. So if you lack information, you sometimes get infected not knowing that you are infected by such diseases.

When it comes to prevention of infectious diseases, indicated measures are already known. One is to

isolate infected patients from other non-infected patients. All the materials contaminated by the infected patients should be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected. From medical and scientific standpoint, there is vaccine that can be provided. You will first need to know the type of infectious disease in order to create a vaccine, but this is very effective. But personally, and publicly, maintaining clean condition is very important especially from the standpoint of prevention of infectious diseases.

A long time ago, people never knew the word “infectious diseases”. However, people portrayed were incinerating all of the clothes and materials that had been used by infected patients. In a way, that was disinfection, and by incinerating them, they were trying to prevent infectious diseases from spreading. They knew what they needed to do from experience, although it was long time ago.

Back in the 12th Century or the 13th Century. That was the time when the plague had spread widely in Europe. People never knew the cause, but they utilized a huge wall to isolate the infectious diseases from non-infected patients. However, you cannot isolate people unless you know the disease clearly because if you do not know the cause, whether it is infectious or not, sometimes isolating people will take away people’s rights. So you need to understand the nature of the disease.

Vaccination and inoculation have contributed greatly to scientific prevention of infectious diseases. A long time ago, many people died from smallpox, sometimes 50% of the population infected by smallpox died. But in 1796, Jenner created the vaccine and prevented the spreading of smallpox infectious diseases. That was more than 200 years ago. Then 50 years later, smallpox first came to Japan. It came to Japan from Africa via India, Thailand and the Philippines according to the records. There is an old picture in which a young prince getting vaccinated for smallpox in Saga in Kyushu, Japan during the feudal era.

Smallpox could be prevented at the time through immunization. Other than that, the only way they could keep themselves from getting infected was to pray because no effective means of inoculating the people were available. In Japan, there were major outbreaks of measles every 20 to 40 years among those who were not immunized. When they were infected, it almost meant death. So people were fearful of this type of disease. And they believed that praying to god was the only way to prevent infection. That was the only simple means they could resort to at the time.

In the 1940s, it was a peak of poliomyelitis that had come to the United States. It was 50 years ago, and there were many patients infected by poliomyelitis. Many people had to combat this disease not too long ago in the past. In the 1960s in Japan, there were 4,000 to 5,000 newly infected patients per

year, but there was not any domestically-made vaccine. Therefore, it had to be imported on an emergency basis from Canada or Russia (then Soviet Union). With the inoculation in place, the number of polio patients diminished drastically, and since 1980, the so-called wild polio has been eradicated.

The world trend at the time was to bring the polio to zero which meant eradicating polio from the face of the earth. So many countries were inoculating their people, but you needed to have money and cooperation from various institutions. In North and South Americas, polio was diminished in 1991. In Asia, in Western Pacific region, in 1997, the last polio patient was observed in Cambodia and now it is nullified. In the European region, the last polio patient was observed back in 1998 in Turkey and now it is nullified.

Looking at each and every region, there are regions that have succeeded in nullifying the patients infected by polio. However, there are still about 2,000 people being affected by polio annually. Even if polio has been fully eradicated, some other countries do suffer from polio. And since there are so many comings and goings of people as a result of travel, polio has been exported from African countries to polio-free countries. I am not trying to point a finger at Nigeria, but 16 polio-free countries had importations from Nigeria. What I am trying to get at is that every country would have to go hand in hand and cooperate in order to fully eradicate polio.

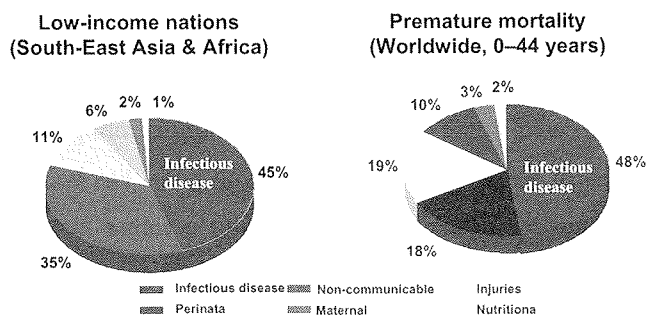
Now let me talk a little bit about the situation here in Japan. Back in the 1950s, which is almost 50 years ago, the leading cause of deaths was topped by tuberculosis which is another infectious disease. Secondly, brain vascular disease, third pneumonia, which is another infectious disease. Fourth was gastroenteritis followed by malignant diseases such as cancer. But when we look at recent trends, the largest cause of death are malignant diseases such as cancer followed by brain vascular disease, cardiovascular diseases and pneumonia. So in the case of Japan, maybe not just in Japan but in other countries as well, there is a decrease in the number of patients that die from infectious diseases. Medicine, hygiene and sanitation have improved dramatically. Many people will be able to feel much more secure in living their lives in such countries. However, you still need to be cautious because infectious diseases have not been nullified completely.

Please let me show you another case in Japan. In 1996, in Sakai City of Osaka, there was a huge outbreak of O157. More than 10 people lost their lives as a result of this and many hospitals went into panic with children suffering from diarrhoea. In the case of Japan, if you are not careful, food poisoning could sometimes occur and O157 outbreak is one example of that. In terms of measures against O157, we did not have an efficient surveillance system. Therefore, we have learned greatly

from this situation and are trying to deal with infectious diseases more proactively.

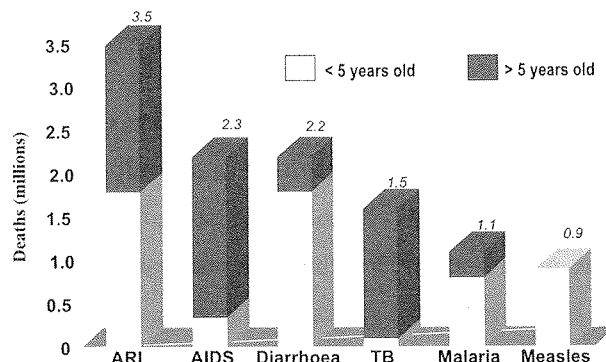
It is true that infectious diseases are no longer the main cause of death in many countries. However, according to the report of WHO in the year 2001, when it comes to low-income nations, infectious diseases account for 45% of all deaths. While higher age groups tend to be affected more by non-infectious diseases, infectious diseases become more a prominent cause of death for younger age groups. You need to have some measures in place in order to counteract and eradicate infectious diseases.

Leading causes of mortality, 2001 Total = 53.9 million



Among infectious diseases, one is acute respiratory infection (ARI). Both adults and children are vulnerable to ARI. The recent outbreak of epidemic has more to do with AIDS. Adult cases account for a majority, but small children are more and more affected by AIDS as well. Third is diarrhoea. Many people of smaller age tend to be affected by diarrhoea. Fourth, tuberculosis (TB), fifth, malaria, and sixth, measles. These diseases are the cause of headaches for those countries where there are many victims of these diseases.

Leading infectious causes of mortality, 2001 estimates



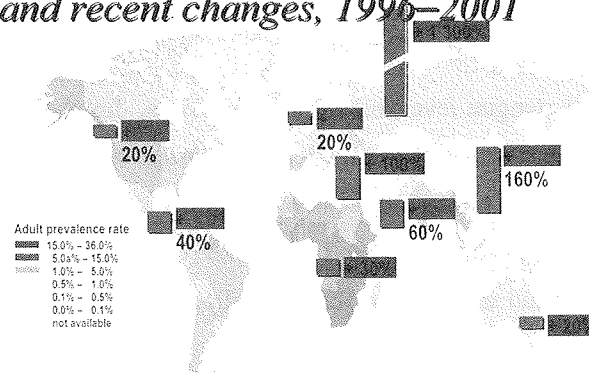
Let me introduce you to some of the major diseases in the Asian region. One is the so-called dengue fever. Compared to the past, the number of dengue fever patients is increasing rapidly, especially in Asian countries. In the past, it was only limited to Southeast Asia but it has expanded gradually and now there is a whole coverage of Asia and some has currently been observed in Australia and African countries. Since dengue fever is caused by mosquito bites, it is difficult to control this disease.

Another disease worthy of note is tuberculosis. In Japan, young doctors and general public are no longer fearful of tuberculosis. However, if you look at African countries and Eastern Europe, the number of tuberculosis patients is increasing. I can say that when it comes to tuberculosis, there are still some incidents in Japan and we are not proud of the number of tuberculosis patients in our country. There are types of tuberculosis that have become resistant to drugs. Usually, we can use tuberculosis drugs if patients take them regularly, but there are those that are resistant to these drugs. On top of ordinary treatment, you have to look at the cause of tuberculosis so that you can give proper medicine. Instead of using the drug for a long time, you have to look into cause or type of the disease so that proper treatment can be offered.

And there are other multiple drug resistance issues. Especially in Asia and Africa, there is malaria that has resistance to drugs. Treatment has to be developed for those patients so that malarial issue can be solved. If you believe that the disease could be treated only if you took the medicine, you may not survive. This is not just an issue limited to Asia but is also becoming an issue in African and Latin America.

As you know, the number of HIV/AIDS incidences is growing in all countries. In the United States and Latin America, the number of incidences is growing but the rate of increase is slowing down. It is surging in some other nations such as Russia and those in the Eurasia Continent and Asia as well. It is not just a health care issue as it also involves people's conduct and requires you to work in the realm of

*HIV: current prevalence
and recent changes, 1996–2001*



education, daily life and the environment. Unfortunately, in Japan, the number of patients is growing; we have to put our efforts together.

The number of cases of rabies in the world is very small. Wild dogs and feral cats, wild foxes or wild bats carry those rabies viruses. Most of rabies came from dogs in Asia. Dogs have to be registered and as a result of being bit by dogs, children under 15 years of age are victimized, and the number of such victims is growing. Fortunately in Japan, Australia and New Zealand, rabies incidents are very small. In Japan, it had been zero up to now, due to our control over inoculation of dogs as well as control of wild dogs. For the first time in 40 years, there were 2 cases of rabies detected in Japan. Actually, they did not get infected in Japan and they were bitten by a dog when they were living overseas and returned to Japan before they had their symptoms. So for 40 years we have had zero rabies cases but were able to diagnose this disease because we had some cases in the past.

Once you develop rabies, the death rate is 100%. So you have to be able to control wild dogs in addition to being able to prevent this kind of disease. The number of patients is growing in India, Indochina and the Philippines. All countries have hospitals that are designated for rabies treatment, but vaccines are quite expensive to this day so it cannot be given to most people, unfortunately.

We have guinea worm, smallpox, poliomyelitis, measles and leprosy. The number of incidents for these diseases is plunging, although they may go up if we neglect to take measures against them. AIDS, SARS, Ebola, Nipah, cholera, typhoid, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue fever, influenza. They are newly emerging diseases. There are also diseases that may surface again if we do not contain them. From the definition of these diseases we call them “emerging infectious diseases”.

There are also those that you think that the number of incidences is going down but still they are re-emerging. We call them “re-emerging infectious diseases”. Typical examples of emerging infectious diseases are SARS, Ebola and AIDS. Re-emerging infectious diseases could be tuberculosis, malaria and dengue and they are very hard to stamp out because they re-emerge after they are forgotten. And those emerging infectious diseases and re-emerging infectious diseases that surface after you forget to contain them are not found only in limited number of countries but are ubiquitous.

Especially in Asia they have dengue fever, bird flu, Nipah virus, diphtheria, e-coli O157. And not only Africa, Latin America, but also North America and Europe will always be plagued by these infectious diseases. WHO believes that an outbreak of infectious diseases can happen in any country and that it is a common issue for all countries. It does not necessarily happen only in developing nations so we need a common and shared counterattack policy to contain these diseases.

There are reasons for outbreak of these infectious diseases. Collapse of public health infrastructure is one such reason. In Ukraine during the demise of the former Soviet Union, children of Ukraine were not able to receive DPT (diphtheria pertussis tetanus) vaccine and the outbreak of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis took place. Similar examples can be found in other countries as well. Even if the number of incidents has plunged, you still have to have the children go through vaccination. General public may feel at ease but public health professionals and specialists should always pay attention to the fact vaccination always has to take place, no matter how small the incidence becomes.

When poverty, acute urbanization and population increase happen, a single outbreak of infectious disease spreads very quickly and expands in leaps and bounds. So you should contain that at an early stage to prevent it from spreading. You therefore need to constantly watch for the outbreak of these infectious diseases. If it is something that can be circumvented using inoculation, it should be provided to as many children and grownups as possible. Even if there is no outbreak, there should be a program for periodical mandatory inoculation.

The environment serves well for the people but the environment could also harm the health of the people. There was a tsunami incident last year. These natural disasters can always wreak havoc and bring the outbreak of infectious diseases so you should always be on the alert for the natural calamities as well.

In some cases, drugs are not as effective as they used to be as viruses develop resistance against them. Some viruses are also transmitted from animals to people and give rise to newly emerging diseases. So we will have to work on measures to contain such diseases. For example, BSE, which is mad cow disease, started out as a sheep's disease. However, because we want cheap milk and cheap beef, cows were being fed sheep bones instead of grass. That's how a sheep's disease was passed on to cows, and eventually to people. Incidents of mad cow disease are small, but pigs gave Nipah virus infectious disease to humans. As for bird flu, whatever the pathogens that animals had were transmitted to people. We cannot really separate humans and animals, but we have to deal fairly with this situation.

Globalization increased travel. You came here on a quick flight and in a couple of days you will go home. This is the increase in international travel. It is not just people and goods that are travelling; the pathogens are also travelling with these people and goods. There are many exchanges of people between countries, across borders. Not just people but also products, such as agricultural products, are travelling, which means that micro-organisms are coming and going with these food products.

Acute encephalitis and Nipah virus are just examples. If there is a representative from Malaysia, allow me to use this example. It all started in 1998, right next to Kuala Lumpur; there was an outbreak of acute encephalitis at pig farms in a state called Perak. It was first diagnosed as Japanese encephalitis, but there were symptoms that looked different. There were also people who had been inoculated for Japanese encephalitis that still got this encephalitis. So an epidemiological study was performed and found a new virus called Nipah virus because it came from a village called Nipah. Now, how did such new virus get transmitted to people? Malaysian Government made relentless efforts to find out about it. It was found out that this virus came from pigs and was transmitted to people that were taking care of these pigs. And pigs got this virus from bats. There was a lot of pig raising going on in Malaysia and they were cutting down forests to make pig farms. So there was a new virus that had never been transmitted from bats to pigs before, and the virus was eventually transmitted from pigs to people that were taking care of the pigs. It was not the pig's fault or human's fault. We have to be very careful about the virus that is transmitted from animals. So Malaysian Government killed 100,000 pigs and it was a major economic damage for the country. But after that, Malaysia stepped up its measures to contain infectious diseases.

There was an outbreak of similar disease in Bangladesh. Also, there was SARS outbreak in 2003. All of you here must have been very concerned. That actually happened in 2003. The infected people travelled from Hong Kong to other countries. In the beginning, since it was such a new disease, nobody knew what was going on. But when the incidences started soaring, each of the countries collaborated and shared information; they did the check-up, and international medical team was dispatched to do the investigation. So that was a major thing that happened. SARS has been eradicated, but again this is not something we can be neglectful of. We have to keep our eyes on it and see to it that this virus is contained so that there will not be more outbreaks. Even if there is an outbreak, we can minimize the impact. In order to contain it within that locality, we need governments' cooperation. We also need local community to work together to contain the disease.

In addition to natural diseases, we are exposed to the risk of bio-terrorism. People could intentionally spread the virus. Right after 9/11, there was an anthrax incident. There has not been any bio-terrorism since then, but we should try to circumvent bio-terrorism. Even if bio-terrorism occurs, we should be able to check it and give proper treatment to the affected patients. We should also setup a system that would allow investigation to take place.

We are afraid that bird flu could be transmitted to humans. Unfortunately, bird influenza is spreading among birds. If it is only spreading among birds, it is a birds' issue, but if we have increasing number of affected birds, we are afraid that it could be transmitted to humans. We have more than

200 people that have contracted bird flu, and 60% death rate. This is bird flu but it could go through mutation and if it changes into forms that are easily transmittable to humans, it could spread widely.

This year, bird flu occurred at chicken farms in Miyazaki Prefecture and Okayama Prefecture in Japan. We were able to contain it at a very early stage and we were able to terminate these birds. That is applicable to other nations as well. It is now not a rare disease among birds. There are numerous explanations as to its cause. Migratory birds are one of the carriers, carrying the virus from north to south, south to north, east to west and west to east. But this is a natural course of nature, so you cannot prevent migratory birds flying, from one place to the other. You therefore need to think about preventive measures. Poultry is a very cheap way for getting proteins.

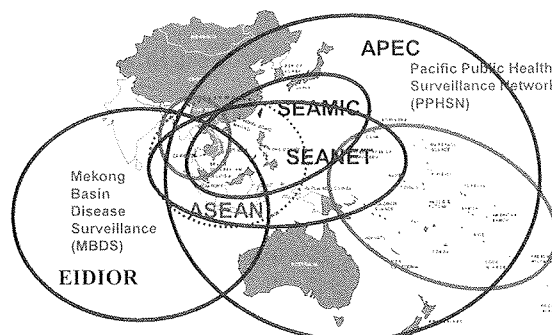
The diseases that are specific to children such as polio, measles, hepatitis B, neonatal tetanus. These types of diseases have been decreasing more than ever and, Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) is the program that contributed to this decline. But by lowering the infection rate of polio, this has made many of the countries relax their guard and not take any vaccination for infectious diseases that had peaked in the past. Maybe they are off grad or short of funding. One of the reasons some infectious diseases are decreasing is the extensive research that has been made by spending money from the government to eradicate those diseases. As for measles, European countries and mid-Mediterranean aim to eliminate measles, and their target years are 2007 and 2010 respectively. The Americas succeeded in fully eliminating measles in 2000.

Infectious disease control is obviously very important in that it prevents people from being infected in addition to dealing with hygiene and immunizing people. Diagnoses, including clinical diagnoses and microbiological diagnoses, are also very important aside from treatment and surveillance. But the basis of this, first of all, is to understand the magnitude of these diseases and you will always have to set the baseline for how to go about defining the disease. If you do not have this in place, you could oversee the re-emergence of some of the infectious diseases.

When a country does not take any specific measures and leaves things as they are. When it gets too high, even if you try to take measures, you could only do certain things in order to effectively overcome such diseases. Then you will always have to keep an eye on certain baseline level so that once the disease surpasses that level you can immediately take the containment measure for controlling infectious diseases. This could prevent a huge outbreak. Although you cannot lower the peak down to zero, you can still minimize the peak. If you are not paying attention to the spread of these infectious diseases, the peak could naturally and immediately surpass the baseline and reach a level that is totally uncontrollable.

This is a survey conducted by an international institution. If you focus on Asia, you see various surveillance networks with many networks overlapping one another. But the idea is to minimize the number of people that are infected.

Surveillance networks in Asia



This is a phrase that I really like: “No single institution has all the capacity”. But if you cooperate with one another, you will be able to combat infectious diseases even though you still have to be cautious. Now it is time so I would like to end my presentation here. Thank you very much for your attention.

<Discussion>

CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Okabe, thank you very much for your excellent presentation. Now the floor is open for discussion.

KYRGYZSTAN:

I am from Kyrgyzstan and I would like to thank the very detailed and very interesting presentation on infectious diseases. My question is what is the benchmark for controlling the specific rate of the disease? Do you have any benchmark level or indicator level we should try to fight against our disease? Thank you.

Dr. OKABE:

Benchmark is set by targeting certain diseases. Sometimes it is 10, sometimes it is 100. Sometimes the benchmark is set at ten thousand. But if you have the baseline, someone has to monitor whether you have gone beyond the baseline. For example, in any country, you have people register a report

on people catching certain diseases and have the idea, but just getting the report is not enough. You have to always have the correct number of patients and give a feedback to the frontline. And I think that is the best way of benchmarking.

SINGAPORE:

In fact, we would like to hear a little more about Japan's response to bird flu. Is it supposed to break out into a pandemic? Is it something of a concern? I think many scientists around the world have been forecasting that this will become a pandemic. I think I shall just share some comments about bird flu and what we had gone through with SARS in Singapore.

It was quite a frightening experience. Although the total number of mortality is not high, the psychological impact on the entire society is huge. So far, I think only 3 influenza pandemics have occurred in the last century. There was 1918 Spanish flu, 1957 and 1968. The ongoing pandemic of avian influenza has prompted many countries to prepare themselves for an influenza pandemic. As of 12th of February 2007, we know that there is an accumulated total of 272 human cases of avian flu with 166 fatalities, which signifies 61% mortality. This has been reported from 11 countries. The problem now is that if avian flu acquires the ability to transmit efficiently between humans, then there is a high probability this would lead to the next influenza pandemic.

In Singapore, we have been very worried and we have pushed the government from the parliament to make sure we develop a pandemic-preparedness plan to detail actions to be taken before and during a pandemic. Our influenza pandemic-readiness and response plan was first published during last year in 2005, and this can be found on the website of Ministry of Health in Singapore. The key objective is to mitigate social and economic impact of a pandemic in Singapore and to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the pandemic. Using the fluid model produced by the U.S. Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, 25% will result in half a million cases in Singapore. And that calculates to 11,000 cases requiring inpatient care, as well as 1,900 deaths in the first week. As a result, we know that our health care system will be overwhelmed.

Domestically, there is a national strategy now to establish an efficient surveillance system to detect any importation of bird influenza as early as possible, as Dr. Okabe already mentioned in your lecture. And to mitigate the consequences when the first pandemic wave hits, and as well as to achieve national immunity as soon as possible once the vaccine is available. We know that during the first wave, we have to sustain the country through the first pandemic wave which lasts about 6 weeks. And this is by minimizing mortality and morbidity to effectively control infection, isolation, health care management, chemoprophylaxis, as well as measures to increase social discerning. We

will then vaccinate the entire population once the vaccine is available.

Current pandemic response achieved 3 outcomes. Number one is to maintain essential services in Singapore to limit social and economic disruption. Especially in SARS, we have learned the hard way. To limit the impact on essential services such as health care and utility, certain segments of these services will be provided with the antiviral prophylaxis Tamiflu. Number two; to reduce morbidity and mortality through treatment, we have stockpiled enough Tamiflu in Singapore to treat all persons requiring antiviral treatment in the first wave. So that's about 1.05 million boxes. Number three is that additional measures will be taken to slow the spread by, number one, using community-wide social discerning. Key message to the public is to distance themselves from one another to prevent further spread of the flu through personal hygiene as well as being socially responsible in their behaviour. Number two is to protect health care institutions. Through protection and control measures, isolate initial cases to 1 or 2 hospitals at first. If not, later on you open the rest of the hospitals.

Vaccination will remain as the key strategy to any response to influenza pandemic. But we know that vaccines will only be available 4 to 6 months after the outbreak. So the key point still goes back to the national strategy that I have just outlined. The other thing is that Singapore is still working actively to proactively provide technical assistance to some of the regionally affected countries, so as to enhance the regional capabilities in dealing with a potential flu pandemic.

Dr. OKABE:

Singapore, of course, is a very advanced country among Asia because you have experienced SARS, but no country can be perfect and no country can be sufficiently prepared because the new type of influenza has not occurred anywhere yet. We do not know what sort of form it could take, what situation would come. So it is a challenge, unknown challenge, for most of the countries.

In the case of Singapore, as our friend said, I think many countries have prepared themselves in the same way here in Japan too. What we should first do is to control the bird flu influenza in order to minimize the infection of other birds, and then prevent the infection from coming to humans. Those were done in these places in Japan 'Miyazaki and Okayama Prefectures' but we do not know how long that would last. During the same time, as the delegate from Singapore said, we should do something else. One is to have a Tamiflu stockpiled; not just Tamiflu but there are other developments on the drugs, alternatives to Tamiflu. So we should develop those and we should have a stockpile. But nobody knows if Tamiflu is effective, but if you can reduce the number of people whose disease becomes worse, it can be a tool.

The other is the development of vaccines. Japan can develop influenza vaccines so we are developing new vaccines. Pre-pandemic vaccines have already been developed on a trial basis. Of course, it is not enough in numbers, but they will have to be used when there are new viruses.

This is not the opinion of the government and is my own personal opinion, but if you develop the vaccine, many of the raw materials can come from different countries. I think you cannot just keep it to yourself. And you have to be able to communicate with these countries. So if a country has the raw material it must offer that and the country that receives the raw material must help these countries in return. I think we need collaboration on a global level. And that's not just medical and I cannot say more. Maybe it is more political but we need a global strategy. Japan is doing its best but it is not enough. It is always step by step and we are prepared to adopt new thoughts. So we are groping the dark.

IRAN:

I have 2 points to make; one on bird flu and one on AIDS. With regard to bird flu, we are surrounded by countries that are affected by this disease. Having said that, the Ministry of Health of Iran has managed the national borders and we were able to stop the bird flu at our borders. In Turkey, 80% of the bird stock died because of bird flu. In other neighbours of Iran such as Iraq and Azerbaijan, the degree of bird flu infection was quite high. In spite of the situation, Iran's Ministry of Health has worked with other ministries to succeed in preventing bird flu. So we had not a single case of patient in Iran infected by bird flu. Our experience is hopefully effective and useful to others.

On the question of AIDS, I would like to present one report. In Iran, a certain drug has been developed for HIV/AIDS, and it is called IMOD, immunity moderation drug, and it increases TR4 which is resident in blood tissues. We have used this on 200 patients through clinical trial and we have been very successful. By using this drug, the bloodstream is protected. If you are interested, I can show you the efficacy of the drug. There is no secondary side effect of using this drug. The cost of this drug is not high, compared to other drugs and you take it over a very short period of time. And if you use this for 90 days, you do not have to take anymore. And this drug is made available to the rest of the world by the Ministry of Health in Iran. Hopefully this can be used worldwide to control HIV/AIDS. We have about 14,000 AIDS patients in Iran at present. But unfortunately, 70% of these patients have been infected by the HIV virus through the use of drugs. And 7% of the patients have been infected by sexual transmission. This ratio is somewhat low because of the Islam religion in Iran. If you are interested in the drug IMOD, I would be happy to introduce this drug to you. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON:

I would like to give some information about avian flu in human. Up to now, we have about 11 countries where this has occurred in humans but in poultry it has occurred in 58 countries of the world. The 11 countries are Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. These 11 countries have been affected by avian flu in humans. I think there should be a strategic framework for influenza pandemic preparedness. In Thailand, we have important activities up to now. We have had many activities since January of last year, such as protection of animal to human transmission through provision of information and knowledge to the public using television, radio and newspaper for health to the people. Also, through education for health volunteers and organized training programs for health volunteers to improve knowledge. We have a hotline and website for the people as well.

The second is the disease surveillance control. In the event of uncommon illness or death of poultry it is reported by the village health volunteer. In Thailand we have about 8,000 village health volunteers. As for other programs, we have approved SRT, Surveillance Response Team, to monitor the disease. Third is increasing the capacity building of care management and infection control. We have prepared many kits as well as vaccine equipment for treatment. Fourth, we have developed a sustainable and integrated management system. Fifth, we have developed and prepared for vaccine and also for treatment of avian flu. Sixth, we have international cooperation, which is the certificate planning in Thailand.

MALAYSIA:

I would like to discuss the Nipah Virus because it was mentioned by Dr. Okabe and it started in my constituency. I will mention some of the measures taken by the government. As mentioned by Dr. Okabe, the government has undertaken effective countermeasures. Firstly, the government established a surveillance section at the Ministry of Health. This was followed by the establishment of Infectious Disease Research Centre and Bio-Safety Laboratory at the Institute of Medical Research and previewed the list of notifiable infectious disease under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Disease Act 1988 and 2002, including mandatory notification of occurrence of these diseases. They also enhanced organizational and human resources including implementation of epidemic intelligence training.

And most importantly, enhancing the regional cooperation. As you know, the Malaysian Government initiated ASEAN+3 Ministers of Health Meeting in Putra Jaya with regard to the Nipah virus and SARS. The other important element is community participation. We could see it during the outbreak of both Nipah virus and SARS. Especially with Nipah virus in my constituency I could see with my

own eyes how the community participated in doing the surveillance and also helping to control the outbreak of this disease. So what the government has done, basically, is to strengthen the community knowledge and skills on this matter.

VIETNAM:

First of all, thank you for your presentation. This is a more specific medical issue. The first question we would like to ask you is what you would recommend to parliament to deal with the control of infectious diseases? Secondly, recently in the Parliament of Vietnam, we have been debating the law on effective control. But the most critical issue is what is suitable for national budget for infectious disease control? In every country now, most of national budget for health issues is to buy new equipment, to buy the medicine for treatment. So please tell us what percentage of national budget is suitable for preventive medicine. In Vietnam, we have a plan to set 30% of national budget for preventive medicine. What do you recommend for that? Thank you.

Dr. OKABE:

I've never been a member of parliament, so it is a very difficult question. But in this light, I have listed medical items for preventing infectious diseases; hygiene, public health, individual health. Public health is the responsibility of the government. The government has to put in place the system, not just for infectious diseases, but also water, cleanliness, and environment are related. That's the government's responsibility. And if it is a disease that can be prevented by vaccine injection, it is much cheaper to prevent the disease than to treat it after people catch the disease. That means initial investment is not small because you have to create the immunization system, you have got to buy the medicine. When you have to examine infectious diseases, you have to examine micro-organism by such means as radiation diagnosis. And the hospital itself has to be kept clean, which is very important in avoiding infectious diseases. Many people should also have access to hospitals and receive treatment without costing too much. That is important for general health.

Then I want to focus on the importance of surveillance. I said that you have to have the baseline. But creating the baseline doesn't involve just the physicians; you have to involve nurses and all the support people. And you have to have correct health data. And having correct health data is important in putting together a strategy. So it is not just patient care, but you have to have a support group to collect data, to survey, to report, and then to share the results of that report. I think that's the national strategy.

NEW ZEALAND:

We have to prepare a SARS preparedness strategy. As politicians, we passed a law called the SARS

Preparedness Bill. That states the level of authority and accountability and also states what part of the workforce would be protected, how we get the supply of supply that we require medically. So that's a law that we've got ready along with our strategy. I think every country will have to do this.

Dr. OKABE:

I would say, New Zealand and Australia are most advanced when it comes to preventive measures. They have many quarantine measures in place that are very advanced and controlled. I do not know whether other countries will be able to take the exact same measures, but I think that taking such steps is very important, and I am very much interested to know more.

CHINA:

In China, we already prepared a response to a potential risk of human infection of avian influenza. The guideline for prevention and containment of avian influenza epidemic among humans and guidance for diagnosis and treatment for human infection with avian influenza have been prepared. And also from the country level to the provincial level, a network system for epidemic information exchange has been set up. We believe that this is very essential and important. According to my knowledge, about 10 manufacturers have been licensed to produce seasonal flu vaccines. The total capacity for vaccines is around 45 million doses per year. And for pandemic influenza vaccine, we have 5 manufacturers developing the vaccine. One of them just finished the study last December and antibody determination is ongoing.

And also we have already prepared the chemical drug, Tamiflu. This one has serious side effects. I do not think this will be helpful for avian flu on the onset. As a parliamentarian, I agree with the comments that the most important thing is to emphasize that the government and parliamentarians should bring the task of avian flu and other infectious diseases' prevention and cure into their project of commitment regarding the economic and social development, according to their related project. And it is also important to try to establish an international coordination mechanism to perfect the regulation on disease circulation, exchange information and carry out joint action if necessary. I think we need to emphasize that the latter is more serious than the first. I am a medical doctor, but I think we have to pay more attention to government and parliamentarian commitment.

Dr. OKABE:

Thank you very much for the comment from the Chinese delegate. It is very important to create the vaccine for that seasonal influenza. Pandemic influenza is also important as well, but the bottom line is the countermeasure against seasonal influenza. Another point I would like to convey is that when it comes to the side effects of Tamiflu, you have pointed out the serious side effects resulting from

the intake of Tamiflu. Tamiflu is being prescribed to many people in Japan, and I think that this is a very unique area of study. I think it would be very helpful if we can push forward a further study on the Tamiflu case. I would like to emphasize that China has very unique traditional medicine and that it is necessary to research and develop such traditional medicine.

SINGAPORE:

Can I make a comment regarding other diseases that were mentioned in the lecture, namely dengue and tuberculosis? These are the diseases of poor countries. As a result, rich countries are not so interested. Medical doctors would know that treatment for tuberculosis has been the same in the last 10 years. So the issue now is that, as parliamentarians, how can we ask the parliament or go to the government, especially in the richer countries, to pull in more resources for research into drugs that are more effective in combating both dengue and tuberculosis.

PAKISTAN:

I have a quick comment to follow up on the parliamentarian from Vietnam's point of view. I happen to be a medical doctor and a parliamentarian, so much of what the professor said to us, I can grasp. But I understand that sometimes it becomes technical. But I think also that when you become a member of parliament, you are forced to become a jack of all trades, so to speak. As a member of the parliament with a constituency, you are really an important opinion leader. And to bring some of this information to your constituents when you have a political rally to spend 5 to 8 minutes on health care which, for some countries like Pakistan, makes a big difference. Simple things like you have to wash your hands before you eat as a method to control infectious diseases. It enhances the importance in the minds of the people of that simple act. So I think that health care is something that if parliamentarians take on with a vengeance it can really change a lot of behaviours that lead to infectious diseases that are killing many of us, especially the children. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

I think that we should follow the primary health care approach. I think many countries know the strategy. I think primary health care is the key to success. One is community involvement. Second is central coordination. Last one is appropriate technology. So every country can use this. We have every element of primary health care approach. One is nutrition for the local people. Second one is health education. The third is water supply and sanitation. Fourth is the surveillance on diseases such as avian flu, dengue fever and many other diseases. Other elements include: basic immunization, treatment, especially early treatment, maternal and child health and family planning, including mental health and dental health. In Thailand, we use this strategy. Thank you very much to Dr. Okabe for his excellent presentation and other countries for sharing their experiences in this forum.

Session III

Future of Humankind: Water, Food and Environment

Chairperson:

Prof. P.J. Kurien, MP, Vice-Chairperson of IAPPD

Resource Person:

Dr. Zenbei Uchijima, Professor Emeritus of Ochanomizu University

CHAIRPERSON:

Now we will have the third session of “Future of Humankind: Water, Food and Environment”. The resource person today is Dr. Zenbei Uchijima, Professor Emeritus, Ochanomizu University. He has received numerous awards and has written a large number of publications, international journals and major books. We welcome you, sir, to this important session. Now I ask Dr. Uchijima to deliver your presentation.

Dr. UCHIJIMA:

Thank you very much for your introduction. The theme assigned to me is a huge one. It covers the environment, food and water. I feel very honoured to be able to present this paper before you. I would like to explain by using slides that you see on the screen.

As you may know, we Homo sapiens started from Africa 200,000 or 300,000 years ago, and we spread to other regions of the world. With superior cerebral cortex that we have, we were able to speak and we have invented letters. Because of those abilities, we have been able to record skills and knowledge, accumulate them, make them systematic, and develop them into science and technology. Then we benefit from the products of our invention. Because of that, we can investigate space in 13.7 billion light years and learn about them. Including humans, we are now able to analyze the way life is structured. And you might say that we now sit on the throne of god by using science and technology.

We now use all the resources for ourselves; we have the technology to develop and use resources just for ourselves in aiming for a better life. As a result of that, we now see before us the destruction of the global environment and collapse of global ecology. If this current trend is not altered or changed, in the very near future, I am afraid we will face a very critical period. It would involve biological creatures that have inhabited this planet for a longer time span than the humankind and they would incur a great deal of damage.

In the planet, every society is driven by energy. The sun, which is 150 million km away, radiates tremendous amount of energy of 12.18×10^{23} GJ. Of that only 55.7×10^{14} GJ reaches the outer

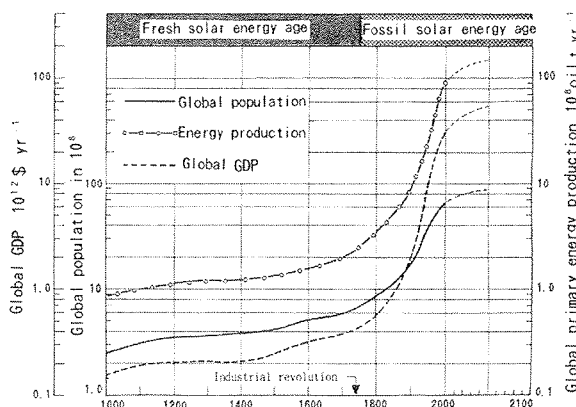
surface of the earth's atmosphere, and that is only 1 out of 2.2 billion. Since there is atmosphere comprised of cloud, dust and tremendous air molecules that reflect the sunlight, the surface of the earth receives only 28.5×10^{14} GJ.

This energy that comes from the sun drives the climatic system which is necessary for us to sustain life, and 57% of that is used to evaporate water and 32% is radiated as infrared rays. Through turbulent transfer, 10.9% of solar energy also escapes as sensible heat.

I said that planet earth is a planet of life. The most important is the green atlas that supports this planet earth, and it is only 0.1% of energy that is fixed by photosynthesis. This 0.1% of energy is used not only by humans like ourselves but by all other creatures.

About 10,000 years ago, we learned to plough the land and invented agriculture. Through agriculture, we acquire 34.4×10^9 GJ of what you call food energy—the energy that supports and sustains human life. You might say this is your livelihood energy. That food energy is supplied to the noosphere, the human sphere. We cannot just sleep and we cannot just eat; we have other activities like coming to meetings like this. So we also need energy for our civilization, and that energy as of the year 2000 was 35.5×10^{10} GJ. Out of this 93 % is what we know as fossil solar energy and the remaining 7% comes from nuclear energy.

Humankind and other creatures are separated by one major factor. We use both fresh solar energy and fossil solar energy, while non-human creatures use only fresh solar energy. That is the major difference. This difference was due to the fact that we were able to invent science and technology with our superior cerebral cortex. But that has given humans the power to threaten the existence of other creatures.



Comparison of trends in global population, global GDP and global Energy production during the last Millennium

Figure 1

Figure 1 is the development of humankind based on the study by Dr. Lucas who received the Nobel Prize in Economics.

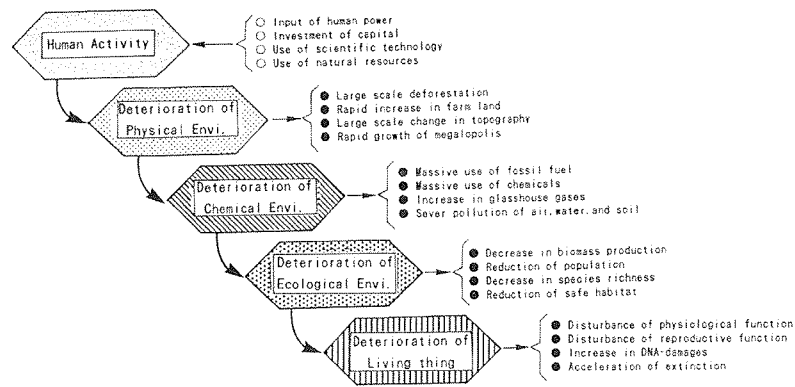
Before the Industrial Revolution which took place in England in the 18th Century, around 1760, population, energy production and GDP were more or less parallel to the time axis. But after the Industrial Revolution, you note that everything has changed. Everything took off, you might say. This take-off enabled humankind to liberate themselves from hunger, disease and other yoke that limited human life and activities.

Dr. Lucas was able to calculate from this how global GDP has expanded and said that GDP growth rate was 0.33% in the 18th Century, 1.0% in the 19th Century, 2.4% up until the mid-20th Century, and 4.0% for the latter half of the 20th Century. Beyond the late 20th Century, we have continued to develop as you have been experiencing. But we must not forget that by using science and technology, we are consuming a great deal of global resources.

The data from the year 2000 shows that we are consuming, for example, about 2 billion tons of cereals, about 200 million tons of peanuts and soy, 700 million tons of potatoes and sweet potatoes, about 142 million tons of marine products, 3.3 billion tons of forest products, 630 million tons of iron ore, and 130 million tons of other mineral ores. Coal, crude oil, and natural gas, what we call fossil energy, amounted to 9 billion tons of oil equivalent. This is the amount we are consuming every year. The iron ore that we mined was accumulated in the bottom of the ocean 2.3 billion years ago. It took 100,000 years to accumulate. And we are using every year the amount that took 100,000 years to accumulate.

Annual crude oil production which is 3.4 billion tons was accumulated over 100,000- 200,000 years during the Cretaceous period, about 200 million - 300 million years ago. This is just one example of how our productive activities surpass the natural capacity to produce. It is against the natural order.

In this way, we enjoy a rich life by consuming a great deal of resources and we emit waste gas into the atmosphere. What is the impact of human activities on the environment? I argue that human activities have a cascading effect. Human activities are comprised of input of human power, investment of capital, use of scientific technology and consumption of a great deal of natural resources that support our life and activities.



Cascade of Human Impact on Environment and Living Thing

Figure 2

So what is the first impact? It is the impact on the physical environment —deterioration of that physical environment. Physical environment means changes in landform patterns. Then the next stage is the deterioration of the chemical environment. Because we use massive amounts of fossil fuel and chemicals, we emit enormous amounts of the so-called “greenhouse gases” into the atmosphere. We pollute air, water and soil, the most essential environment needed for sustaining all forms of life. The next cascade down is the impact on the ecological environment. As a result of human activities, there is a decrease in biomass production and there is a reduction of many populations of bio-life as well as a decrease in biodiversity. The most important is the reduction of safe habitat for other creatures, the life of non-human creatures.

At the bottom, we are deteriorating living things. First of all, we are disturbing the physiological functions and there are abnormalities of reproductive functions of many of living things. Moreover, we may have increased our impact in damaging DNA, which controls the survival of our human species. We may be accelerating extinction in such a way that we will not have prosperity. All of these are happening on different parts of the earth at this point in time as we sit here at this meeting. You may feel it physically, or you know at least through media reporting.

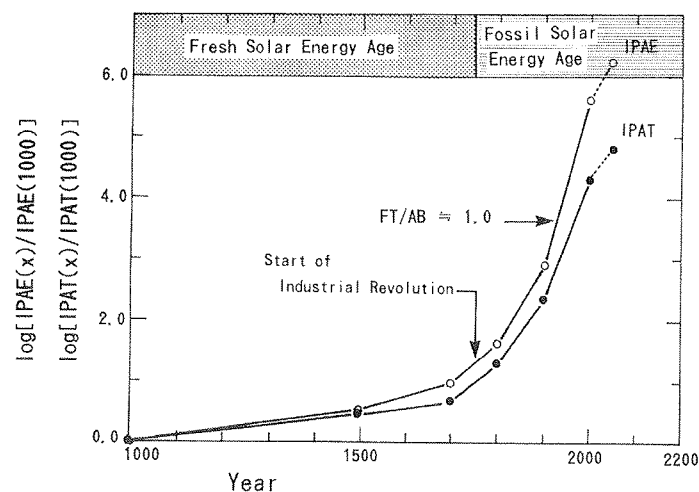
Why has this taken place? Mr. Hidetoshi Kato has worked on the analysis of that kind of question. This originally comes from “Ethics and Environment” of the U.K. School Council Project Environment, a report compiled in 1975. It states that mankind on the earth has five beliefs.

1. Material living standard of all people must rise continuously.
2. The material living standard will continue to increase without any limit
3. All global environmental changes could be overcome by utilizing highly-developed scientific technology by the advancement of science and technology.

4. The rise of material living standard should bring about human happiness to the entire population.
5. The principal purpose of the government is raising the material standard of living.

These are the 5 beliefs or dogmas as the driving force for rapid development of human society, or as the driving force for intellectual activity. "Ethics and Environment" points out that these could be the 5 driving forces that have brought about advancement of our civilization. However, another important aspect concerning human activity is that, around the time when it was within the available bio-capacity of the earth, it could have been the most appropriate driving force and the guiding principle for the society. But currently, human activities have far exceeded the bio-capacity of the earth's environment. In an era, against such backdrop, things are totally different from the time that we could live within the means of available bio-capacity. So the basis of our intellectual activities and social advancement, these five driving forces or the five beliefs, have to be rectified at certain point. That is my strong belief.

Now if we evaluate human impact on global environment, of course there are environmental conditions, such as CO₂ concentration, that can be measured. By doing that, we can understand the conditions of degradation. But how are we to look at how much of human activities? This is called IPAT and IPAE. "P" stands for "population", "A" stands for "affluence", and "T" stands for "technology" that brings forth this affluence. In the case of IPAE, instead of "T", we use "E" which stands for "energy production".



Changes in Human Impact (HII) during the Past Millennium

Figure 3

Figure 3 is based on the diagram by Dr. Lucas. We look at the year 1000 as the starting point and we

use the XY coordinates to show the period of raw solar energy prior to the Industrial Revolution when energy consumption was very low. But after the conversion was made to fossil solar energy, energy consumption has risen in leaps and bounds. Around the year 2000, in terms of IPAE, it was about 250,000 times greater. And 50 years from now when our entire population will reach 9 billion, our global GDP will reach \$50 trillion, energy consumption will reach 15 billion tons, and then IPAE in 2050 will be 1 million times greater than 1000 years ago. This signifies the major impact of human activities. We have to give a thorough consideration to whether the ecosystem or the global environment can survive that kind of phenomenon.

As I mentioned earlier, we consequently have to look at our resources. I believe that global resources have to be shared among the bio-system and humankind, and when we talk about resources, we have to think about other members of the bio-system as well.

Then how are our natural resources distributed? General thinking is that it exists in the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere. Within the atmosphere, we believe that it is infinite —there is no boundary, there is no end to it. However, we have come to believe that atmospheric resources are finite because of the extensive acid rain as well as global warming due to the greenhouse effect. Also CFC emission and destruction of the ozone layer has brought us home to the fact that atmosphere has been impacted negatively by human activities.

It is said that this greenhouse gas is causing global warming. Every year, about 26 billion tons of carbon dioxide is being released into the atmosphere. In 2030, it would reach 40 billion tons. Naturally, CO₂ concentration can be higher and greenhouse effect will be strengthened. I am sure everybody knows that by now. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an institution that offers reports, enlisting all the researchers of all nations. And they are giving this forecast that by the year 2100, temperature will rise by 2 to 3 degrees centigrade. This is a rather moderate forecast.

When we say 2 to 4 degrees centigrade higher than in the past, if we look at the historical patterns of global temperature increase in the past, about 100 million years since the time of Cretaceous era to now, which I cited from the book by the Soviet scientists called “Anthropogenic Variations of Climate”, the temperature record says that we are returning to the temperature of 10-20 million years ago. In other word, we are re-experiencing a very rapid temperature change. Unless we put an end to our greed for affluent life, it will continue.

The environmental changes have occurred often in the past, but they went back to an ancient situation or went into a newly emerging situation. The man-made changes in the environment being

caused by human activities will continue unless we put an end to our quest for affluent life. That is totally different in nature from its natural course of events of environmental changes.

Moreover, we live in a small planet that is only 6,380 km in radius. It takes only 6 hours by the newest jet plane. The surface area of our earth is only 51 billion ha, or 51 Gha, and out of that, land accounts for 14.5 billion ha, or 15 Gha, and the ocean surface is 36 Gha. Our earth is small.

We have the Sahara Desert, and we have North Pole and South Pole. There are many regions that are not suitable for survival of plants and animals. It accounts for 52%. We only have 42% of area that is favourable for sustaining life with adequate temperature and water resources. There was a German scholar named Köppen, who studied the climate conditions. If you look at the per capita land space suitable for sustaining life, up until the year 1000, there was not much change because there was not much growth in population. But from the year 1500 onward, there has been drastic decrease. Total land area per capita in the year 2000 was about 2-3 ha and suitable land area per capita was 1.5 hectares.

In the future, the area where climate conditions are favourable for living beings will be less than 1 ha. One ha is 100m by 100m. It is about the size of a grade school playground. All animals will have to fit into that hectare, and we have to mine the resources, and we have to throw away all kinds of waste. Can we lead an affluent lifestyle in that kind of condition? If all of mankind wants to pursue an affluent lifestyle, the earth has become too small. So the physical size has become finite and presents a major barrier for the entire mankind to go forward.

Vegetation is essential to humans and animals. It serves as food energy, construction material, fuels, medical materials and maintenance of the environment. For wild animals, vegetation brings food and safe habitat. It also serves the purpose of conserving the ecosystem. These are the main roles that vegetation plays.

How much landmass and land resources are we using? The earth has the surface area of 14.89 billion ha of land and 36.11 billion ha of ocean. Out of the land area, 1.37 billion ha for arable land, 0.13 billion ha for permanent crops and 3.11 billion ha for grassland. What can we produce on them? They include wheat, barley, maize, rice and sugar. Out of these resources various powdered food is given to cows and other animals.

As for the ocean-driven lives, we catch 140 million tons of fish, 30 million ton of crustaceans, 10 million ton of seaweed to support 6.05 billion people. How much of these resources are being taken

by human beings? We have calculated in the various formulas and as a result, it amounted to 14 billion tons altogether. If you look at the primary net production of terrestrial vegetation, which amounts to 140 billion or so, the amount of intake by human beings is almost 10% of the total available on the land surface.

So now the question would be partition of terrestrial biomass resources between human beings and wildlife. The green atlas refers to the vegetation on earth. As a result of various research and studies, annual green atlas production, meaning the net productivities available from the earth, amounts to 120 billion to 130 billion in dry matter. Among them, humans and wildlife are sharing these biomass resources in order to sustain themselves. By referring to various outcomes, in the year 2000—I said that total production was 120-130 billion ton, but 25-35% of that is being utilized by human beings and the rest of 65% to 75% is being utilized by wildlife.

There is a biomass bypass. What this means is that various biomass resources that are being utilized here are not all used as is. We sometimes leave it in mountainous areas without utilize those resources, and they go downstream to the wildlife area. Therefore we call it biomass bypass. They are more like humus, organic materials for the forest, or green areas so that fertility of those land areas would be improved.

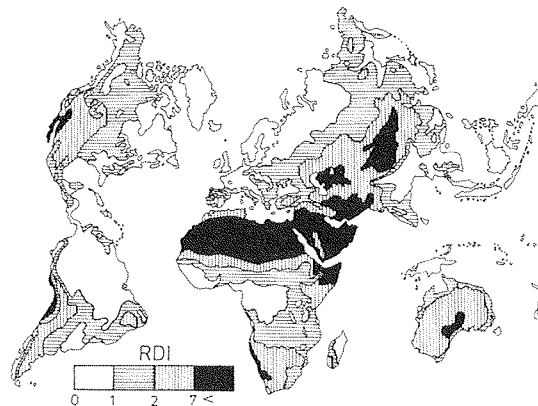
In 2050, with 9 billion population, \$50 trillion of the world's GDP, it is estimated that 55% or 65% of 120-130 billion ton of net productivities available from the terrestrial vegetation is going to be utilized by human beings. This means that the percentage left for wildlife will be reduced to 45% to 35%.

Another thing that is not indicated here is the so-called biomass fuel such as bio ethanol. Many people must have heard of that energy source. This means that human beings are utilizing to some extent the biomass bypass that was originally sent in to nature. Again, human beings are going to bypass the biomass for their own use. As a result, productivity of various lands, forest, green lands, and arable land, would decrease over the long term. Therefore, the biomass fuel, which has been the topic of discussion among many people lately, could degrade some of the natural balance and needs to be reconsidered.

Next is the water-related problem. Precipitation is basically 800mm per year on land. In Japan, the average of precipitation is 1,700 mm and nearly 60 % is evapotranspiration, meaning that it goes back to the atmosphere. It appears like some loss, but this plays a very important role when it comes to vegetation and ecosystem.

Runoff is approximately 44%. Sometimes, maximum available use is called “runoff.” In most cases, these are more of drained water. At the time of the year 2000, human beings used 3.9km³ per year of that runoff. Its breakdown is 69% for agricultural use, 21% for industrial use and 10% for civic use. Human use to date is 3.9km³, but this could double in the year 2030 or so. Out of a population of 6 billion, 500 million people are living in very dry regions with lack of water. By the year 2030, 2040 or 2050, 4 billion out of 9 billion will end up living in very dry regions with scarce water resources. They are going to struggle to obtain fresh water and their agriculture will be devastated. This is because of unsuitable distribution of climatic conditions.

Figure 4 is the “Global Distribution of Radiative Dryness Index (RDI)”. This shows a comparison of annual net radiation with annual precipitation multiplied by latent heat of vaporization. When it is between 0 and 1, it means that vegetation will grow very well. If it is 1 to 2, that means there is shortage of water, but agriculture is possible with irrigation. But when it goes to 2 to 7, it means that the area is extremely dry. When it goes beyond 7, then it is 100% desert.



Global Distribution of Radiative Dry Index(RDI)

$$RDI = \text{Net radiation} / (L \times \text{Precipitation})$$

L:Latent heat of evaporation

Figure 4

If you look at the white areas, in between 0 and 1, they are in the Amazonian basin or eastern part of North America, Siberia, Congo in Africa, Bengal, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Indonesia, the southern part of China and Japan. Those are the areas that are in between 0 and 1. But in some of these areas, because of inadequate temperature, trees and vegetation will have difficulty growing. Therefore, there is only a limited area where the climate is appropriate for those greeneries to grow. When it comes to India, South Asia, Middle East, Arabic Peninsula, and African countries, these are

areas where expansion of population is predicted and there is lack of water, which means that production level tends to be low. So, out of 9 billion almost half of the people are going to struggle by not having access to fresh water or not being able to produce agricultural products.

Taking all of these aspects into consideration, we can derive some main conclusions. The first one is related to human physical and mental activities. Their origin is driven by photosynthesis, meaning that it is solar energy brought by green atlas. No matter how much science and technology advances, this fact remains the same. Human beings must coexist on the globe together with wildlife.

Secondly, as human activities on earth have developed exponentially and consumed a great deal of natural resources, the planet earth is already way too small to live on even to date. In the year 2050, population is going to grow to 9 billion, and GDP will amount to \$50 trillion. Then per capita land area will be 1.7 ha, and the fitted land area will be only 0.9ha. Therefore, it will be very dense on the earth.

When it comes to the impact of human activities on the global environment and natural ecosystems, this has grown exponentially especially after the Industrial Revolution. At the end of the 20th Century, 10 years at the end of the 20th Century, we have already surpassed the sustainable level, meaning that we have already exceeded that of sustainable development. This means that we are never going back to where we were.

If human activities keep affecting the capacity of the earth as well as the cleaning capabilities of the natural ecosystems, we are causing tremendous damage to other lives as well as other living things. We are turning the earth into a place that is very difficult for us to live in. A very renowned poet Ms. Misuzu Kaneko wrote this poem.

*It's dawn and they have a bumper catch
A bumper catch of sardines
People are celebrating on the beach
But there must be tens of thousands of funerals
Taking place under the sea*

Human beings are living on the earth and a large number of wildlife coexists on the earth. I hope that we do not need to be alarmed by what the poet has written.

<Discussion>

CHAIRPERSON:

I would like to thank Dr. Uchijima for his excellent and enlightening presentation, giving us sufficient warnings about the future. This is the time for questions. We have 30 minutes at our disposal. Those who would like to ask are invited to do so.

PAKISTAN:

It was indeed a very wonderful presentation. Knowing nothing about physics, I think we have gained a lot. My question is that for any developing nations, 2 things are considered to be very important. One, industrialization, and two, agriculture. So according to this presentation, we should not do a lot of industrialization as to spoil the atmosphere and we should be very careful in the agriculture sector also. Is that so?

My second question is that we have been bound by international laws. There are certain rules and regulations laid on the weapons of mass destruction. In view of what you said, if we do not control the situation of environment and energy, aren't we going to face the same problem? Don't you think certain rules and regulations should be laid internationally on all the countries to follow the rules so that we can conserve our energy sources and protect our environment? Thank you.

Dr. UCHIJIMA:

I think you have said something that is right on the ball. I was explaining about the globe as one unit. But as you know, on our globe, there is a great deal of differences between north and south, among nations and countries. Globalization appears to be widening that gap. So given that as the background, how do we protect the global environment? It is easier said than done. And it is, I believe, the major challenge facing humanity. What I would like to say, is that if you are going to protect the global environment, if you are going to protect the ecosystems, we can use science and technology, the powers at hand. We, only humans with the knowledge and reason of science and technology, can do that, and we must make the decision to move towards that direction and that means living that way every day.

I have an agricultural background. I spent 20 years at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; agriculture was my expertise and I studied a great deal about it. But as I said, we humankind, between 1950 and 2000, multiplied agricultural production by 5 times, from about 500 million tons to about 2.0 billion tons, thanks to high-productivity agricultural technology. High yield variety crops that we developed are something we can be proud of. And this technology means that you

have environmental resources, biological resources, technological resources and energy resources—this whole array of resources are used in a balanced way, as cheaply as possible. This development of high-yield varieties was a brilliant outcome. But because we were successful, we are facing another challenge. After the 1980s, because we had these high-yield crop varieties, production rate has decreased by one half. That is probably from the weakness of such high-yielding technology. And due mainly to the degradation of the soil, we have about 1.4 billion ha, but one-third are experiencing a great deal of soil degradation especially in the arid areas. That depletes and reduces the production level.

Global warming, I think, will have another adverse impact on agricultural production. We now have cereals of about 2.2 billion tons, but when we have 9 billion people on earth, they would require 3.5 billion tons of cereals even at the present level of consumption. In order to increase the agricultural production level, it is going to be a tremendous amount of difficulty. So that is another challenge—whether we have enough food to feed this 9 billion people. We need a new, innovative technology that would enable us to produce much safe food, without burdening the environment too much. That, I think, has to be the first priority for us.

MALAYSIA:

They say that supply of food is enough to feed the population of the world, but not enough to satisfy the greed of humankind. I've got 2 issues I would like to focus on here. Firstly, deforestation issue, in the case of Southeast Asia, as you know, palm oil is an important industry, and in certain countries they cut the forests and replant them with palm trees. Is it not causing the same effect? In the Netherlands, for instance, the bio diesel project has been shelved because EU requires sustainable economic development. By “sustainable”, it means you must not cut forest even if you replace it with palm trees.

Another point is that in your lecture, you mentioned about the change in land area per capita, the size of the land which now has been reduced because of human activities. It is not suitable for human settlement. Would recovering deserts affect global warming?

You mentioned earlier about human greed. Some superpowers do not want to submit to the Kyoto Protocol. In the international trade area, you have WTO which has the power encompassing the sovereignty of a country. The rules of WTO would impact everybody worldwide that submits to it. Do you think there should be another body that would have similar effect like WTO, which imposes certain rules on all countries, irrespective of their sovereignty? As you mentioned, we already predicted that we have surpassed the critical level, so it is important now for human beings to take a

positive action. Thank you.

Dr. UCHIJIMA:

I talked about the 5 beliefs that we have adopted for ourselves. The second belief says that “our living standards will continue to increase without any limit.” And that’s what we wanted to believe. Today, in many of the countries, rich class in a rich country have limitless greed. And their greed is material greed. But as a human being, we must know the limits of our greed. I do not know where that limit should be set because each country may have different traditions and beliefs. There must be a natural law, or natural order, and we should limit our activities within what nature has set for us. That’s one thing I wanted to say.

And there are many trade rules even in free trade. Very often, those rules have never defined impact on smaller countries and agricultural people working in the agricultural sector because most of these trade agreements are aimed at reducing the import tax of industrial products. A flux of inexpensive food from huge food producing countries can destroy small farming households in some countries. So in the name of free trade, I do not know whether we can say free trade is all good, and I think there is room for discussion if free trade should be permitted without any restriction.

You’ve also talked about the destruction of forest in Indonesia. As I said, about a third of the Amazonian basin, the world’s largest rainforest, is going to disappear by the middle of this century. It is being converted into soybean and corn fields. Because of human consumption, primeval forest and rainforests that have preserved natural resources for over many centuries are going to be lost. It is not only a loss for our generation but a bigger loss for generations to come.

The other important matter is the fact that deserts have a great deal of solar energy. So if we have freshwater, deserts have good agricultural production. The greatest bottleneck, of course, is that desert does not have freshwater. In most cases, in arid and desert areas, freshwater has a very high concentration of salinity. If you use that saline water without proper management, you are going to salinize the soil. Tigris and Euphrates civilization was destroyed because of wrong irrigation and salinization of the soil. Soil can produce by use of water, but if you use that water with a high concentration of salt, you are going to make it unusable. We therefore need proper and careful water planning. Water, not just for agricultural use, but you also need water to eluviate the salt in soil. That means you need 2 times the amount of water if you use water for irrigation purposes.

SINGAPORE:

First of all, let me congratulate you on the very philosophical and global picture that you presented

to us. Sounds quite gloom and doom at this stage. But I think as parliamentarians, I am just wondering what else we can do. Singapore is a party of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. We are not an agricultural country, and we are basically a very urbanized country. At a small country level, we are doing our best to conserve water, we recycle our water, and we have desalination plants, although we are still dependent on Malaysia for imported water. Currently, we will achieve self sufficiency by 2061. That is our target.

The second thing is on energy. How to solve the energy saving problem. On our part, we can only hope to reduce energy use by encouraging conservation of energy. And with that I applaud my Australian counterpart who has just banned all filament bulbs in Australia. So today we are seeing above us filament bulbs which are emitting 80% heat and 20% light. So I think this is a good move that we should follow. What are your views on this United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and how we, as parliamentarians, can help in the work to preserve our environment for our posterity. Thank you very much.

Dr. UCHIJIMA:

Thank you for your comments on the energy conservation issue. We have great energy conservation technology in Japan. When we calculate how much energy is needed to get \$1, for Japan it is one. Then China and India would be ten times as much as Japan. It is 3 or so for South Korea. So there is a wide gap between countries in terms of energy efficiency. In order to conserve energy and still maintain our affluence, we need to develop technology and new lifestyles. That is indispensable. Otherwise we can never overcome the energy crisis or the environmental crisis. We cannot survive the crisis of the bio-system either. We have to take a look at the lifestyle of individuals and think about what our desirable lifestyle should be. How organizations and companies should be in the society. And I think this should be assigned to you parliamentarians. I believe it is the duty and role of parliamentarians to ponder good consideration and discussions of that.

And we have the principle of this “sustainable development” as a keyword. Is this a correct premise to begin with? Sir John Houghton in U.K., who is the former chairperson of IPCC, says in his book that sustainable development is transforming itself into “sustainable destruction” of natural resources and natural environment. So he thinks that this is coming to a major stumble and it is even flawed. When we say sustainable development, we are only focused on human beings. Human beings, as opposed to other animals, are responsible for the survival of other animals, so there has to be a sustainable coexistence between humans and the rest of the ecosystem. Now we will have to have a conversion of paradigm; that is something the bio-system of the earth keeps challenging us. And we

will have to successfully be able to manage this conversion of our mind frame concerning artificial or manmade climate changes.

It has already been pointed out in 1979 in Geneva where the first World Climate Conference was held. But we never really listened to what they had to say and time has just passed. Recently IPCC's fourth report for policymakers was issued. Even in that report, it is pointed out that we have to take the current situation seriously and act righteously. I believe that you parliamentarians gathered here will bear in mind that the crises of environment and ecosystem of the earth is the result of our infinite greed for good lifestyle and to go back to your own areas of activities to take actions.

NEW ZEALAND:

Just a quick question on the relationship of parliamentarians with civil societies, academic circles and NGOs, we met at the Institute of Global Environment Strategy that the professor here in Japan held informally before the conference. He had some difficulty engaging with central government politicians. Have we set up the right environment in our own countries, to listen to the experts in order to find out priorities that we connect on in our own countries?

Dr. UCHIJIMA

Sir John Houghton points out that global warming is a weapon of mass destruction. Of course, nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction, but there is this major difference that with global warming, each one of us is contributing to this weapon of mass destruction and at the same time each one of us is a target. So nuclear weapons and global warming differ in that sense. We have to reconsider our lifestyle and it has to be improved incrementally. By incrementally changing it, we can form a political voice. You should start with your own lifestyle and disseminate and spread that good deed as grassroots movement. Then parliamentarians need to come down from a high level to present and share ideas for an ideal system. When these 2 are combined on the grassroots level and the higher up, then I believe it will demonstrate good competence.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you Dr. Uchijima for your wonderful and informative presentation. This subject is very important. Remember that the earth is not just for us but is for our future generation. Our duty is to preserve and keep it for our future generations. You have reminded us that it is our duty to see that environment is protected; ecosystems are protected; so that earth will remain liveable for a longer time in the future. Thank you again for this wonderful presentation. Thank you to all of you who have participated in the discussion and for your diligence.

Session IV

Positive and Negative Impacts of International Labour Migration under Globalization

Chairperson:

Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP, Chairperson of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women

Resource person:

**Ms. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Visiting Professor of Bunkyo Gakuin University/
Former Director of ILO Japan Office**

CHAIRPERSON:

It is my honour and privilege to introduce Prof. Horiuchi to us all who has a wonderful background on International Labour both in Japan and United Nations. Prof. Horiuchi served as Former Director of the ILO Office in Japan and at the moment is a Visiting Professor of Bunkyo Gakuin University. Thank you very much for coming.

PROF. HORIUCHI:

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be here this morning to share my thoughts on some of the migrant issues which are becoming an increasingly important topic in the international community. I would like to address today 6 important points of migration, focusing particularly on advantages and disadvantages of international labour migration.

First, employment in the global economy and employment situation is very sober. Maybe I can say that there is a job crisis in the world. The second point is the driving force of international labour migration. Third, the most interesting and important aspect of international labour migration is the feminization of labour migration and emigration of skilled workers. Fourth is remittance. Fifth is illegal migration, which is also a very thorny issue right now in the international community. I am particularly involved in the trafficking issue here in Japan. Sixth is the challenge that international migration presents. I hope that you can find the advantages and disadvantages of international labour migration.

Today job crises are present. The situation is that unemployment remains quite high despite robust economic growth. You can see in 2006, last year, the GDP growth was 5.2%, and this year the world expects that GDP growth will be 4.9%. However, when you look at the unemployment rate, the figure for 2006 is 6.3% and the figure for 2005 was 6.4%. So despite the high economic growth rate, unemployment rate remains quite high. We could say that this is historically a high rate of unemployment. In addition, unemployment most severely affects the young workers. Job prospects for young people has declined. You can see that in the world, youth unemployment is increasing.

In addition to that, the number of the so-called working poor, who are living on US\$1-2, is increasing, especially in Africa. The figure shows that in 2006, half of the workers were in the category of working poor living on US\$2 a day. From these statistics you can see how severe the employment situation is, particularly in developing countries.

I showed the employment situation first because this situation affects the flow of migrant workers. You can see that almost half of migrants are migrant workers. According to the year 2000 estimate of ILO, the number of migrant workers excluding refugees is 80 million. In terms of region, they are mostly in Asia, Europe and North America. Migrant workers of the world are found mostly in these regions. The share of Oceania is only 2.9 of all migrant workers. Traditionally, however, New Zealand and Australia are the countries that hosted many migrant workers.

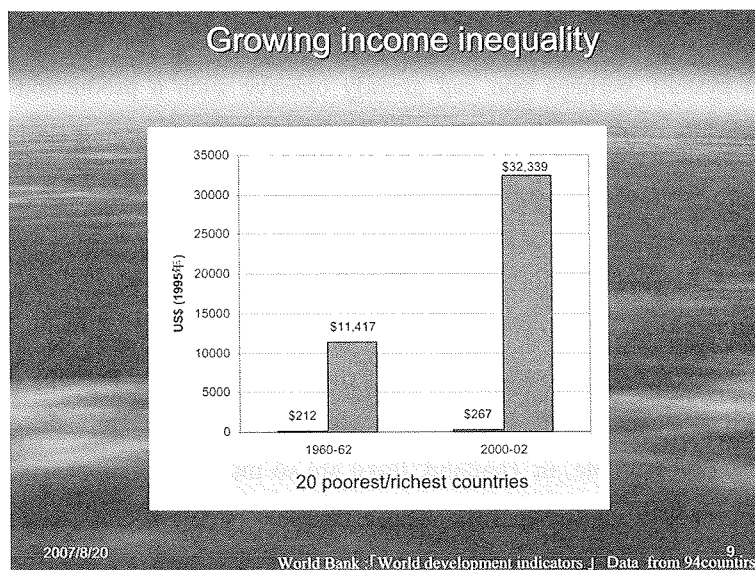
Migrant workers by region, 2000 (ILO estimates)

Region	Migrant including refugees		Migrant workers Excluding refugees		including refugees	
	millions	% dist.	millions	% dist.	millions	%dist.
Africa	16.3	9	5.4	7	7.1	8
Asia	49.9	29	22.1	27	25.0	29
Europe	56.1	32	27.5	34	28.2	33
Latin America & the Caribbean	5.9	3	2.5	3	2.5	3
North America	40.8	23	20.5	25	20.5	24
Oceania	5.8	3	2.9	4	2.9	3
Total	174.9	100	80.9	100	86.3	100

Now, we call this the age of growing migrant pressures. Migration as a whole comprises 2.9% of the total population, which means that the number itself is not so big. However, the number is increasing because there are much more pressures which force the people to migrate or emigrate to other countries. Driving forces are so many and very complex. However, I can point out some important processes.

First, you can see in my presentation that the employment situation is not so good or even difficult. In developing countries, jobs are not being created fast enough to absorb new entries into the labour market. So we call it “Decent Work Deficit” in sending countries. That is one of the main forces behind international labour migration. Most new entrants are young workers, who are suffering from the present severe employment situation.

Second is economic disparity. In the course of the globalization process, income inequality is increasing. This shows one of the statistics.



The black bar shows the 20 richest countries and the left bar shows the 20 poorest countries. Per capita income for the 20 poorest countries in 1960 was US\$212. Forty years later, you can see still, the 20 poorest countries register US\$267. That means that the situation of those poorest countries has not improved for the past 40 years. Whereas per capita income of the 20 richest countries in 1960 was US\$11,417, forty years later, the figure increased by 3 times to US\$32,000. This quickly shows that income disparity is widening, not narrowing. That is one of the serious questions of the present course of globalization. So globalization needs social dimension, which means globalization needs to be fairer.

The third is population density. Professor Ato already talked about the population issue yesterday, so I do not want to repeat the population aspect. I am not also an expert on population, although I have to deal with population because the labour issue is closely related to population. So I will skip the population issue, but the important issue is that developing countries have population pressure with high fertility rate. On the other hand, developed countries like Japan are experiencing declining population or low birth rate. So population density is another issue that results in pressures of migration.

The recent phenomenon that I would like to talk about is that technological changes that have drastically reduced the cost of information and communication are also the cause of migration because people can easily collect information on other countries and that might be encouraging

people to immigrate or emigrate to other countries. Thus, information technology has an impact on facilitating the movement of people. That is the factor that I would like to add.

The last one is the changing patterns of the world's work in the global economy. The rise of the global production system, perhaps you can already observe such a production system, but that transformed the world's work drastically. One of the issues is the emerging skill shortage that has been observed worldwide.

Another issue when it comes to foreign investment is that people are moving from developed country to developing country to do some work in relation to foreign investment. So intra-company transfers that had become very universal in more dynamic regions, and perhaps Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world, but you can see people moving from developed country to developing country. For example, in Thailand, there are so much investment from other countries, and many Japanese people are living there. Those business people are consequences of transfers within companies. This is a kind of a global enterprise system. Global production system certainly changed the pattern of work, and certainly facilitated or certainly caused the migration from developed country to developing country. That is another phenomenon you can observe recently. Although the number is not so big, I would like to add this as a recent trend.

Now I would like to quickly show you some of the overall pictures of labour migration. In total 86 million people are moving in the age of globalization. Freer flow of goods and capital is the characteristic of a global economy. But compared with the flow of goods and capital, movement of people is not as free as goods and capital. Each country has its immigration policy so people are not moving like goods and capital.

The third point that I would like to address is that, it used to be that country of origin, country of transition and country of destination may be very clear distinctions of a country. However, many countries now fall into 3 categories. Perhaps in Asia this is more obvious. If many countries fall into these 3 categories, maybe we deal with migration policy more internationally, not just domestic policy.

Another important issue is that now, globally, the contracts of migrant workers is moving to temporary rather than permanent contracts. This phenomenon is very clear in Asia. That means that there are so many migrant workers staying in one country without expectation of permanent residence. So the people are living there temporarily. That is now a very clear global phenomenon in international labour migration. Therefore, we are discussing how to manage, how to administer the

rules of temporary labour contracts because temporary labour contracts have so many problems. There are challenges because there is huge gap between expectations of workers on one side and expectations of employers on the other. That is one of the questions but perhaps we can see more how to deal with temporary labour contracts in the future.

The final point that I would like to make is the majority of migrant workers in the world are still dominated by unskilled workers. More precisely, I can say that migrant workers hold unskilled jobs that have been vacated by native workers. That means that migrant workers are taking the work that native workers do not want to take.

I can point out just 2 more important emerging trends of international labour migration. One is feminization. Increasing female workers are observed in particular in Asia, and globally, female migrant workers constitute nearly half, 49.6% to be exact. Many female migrant workers are taking domestic work which is the most vulnerable work. Domestic workers most often suffer abuse, even sexual abuse. Many female migrant workers from Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka are working overseas as domestic workers.

The second issue is that now there are highly skilled workers are migrating. Good examples of skilled workers are doctors and nurses. In England, one-third of doctors and 13% of nurses are migrant workers. So you can see that there are many migrant workers in these health professions in developed countries including the U.S. Another typical example is information technology. Brain drain was very popular in the 1960s but we are seeing a revival of that. Small economies are most vulnerable to brain drain.

We'll quickly move to disadvantages and advantages of migrant workers. I will skip all the figures because of the time limit but this should be the main issue of my presentation. You can see the 3 slides which tell you the potential advantages and disadvantages of emigration and immigration. I will show you that people themselves, enterprise and country as a whole, those 3 have potential advantages and disadvantages. This was analyzed by the ILO.

First, emigration. In addition to potential advantage of emigration related to employment or income-generation, i.e. economic reason and cultural reason. For example, new cultural experience and more social issues. This is an advantage, I believe that migrant workers are agents of change because they bring new culture into other countries and other countries meet new cultures through migrant workers. So these 2 types of advantages can be identified.

Disadvantages in relation to employment include loss of seniority, discontinuity, poor working conditions, lower status of work and less skilled work. This is because migrant workers are regarded as secondary workers, or as I said, the work of migrant workers is predominantly unskilled labour, which means that, migrant workers are working low-paying jobs or precarious types of jobs.

In addition to the issue related to employment, another issue is discrimination. It is more of a human rights question that involves racism or discrimination, resulting in disadvantage. Another disadvantage of migrant workers is the separation from family which may have an adverse impact on the children.

These are the advantages and disadvantages on the emigration side. On the immigration side, the receiving country side, it is clear that the receiving side enjoys the services offered by the migrant workers, and the cheaper goods or services. The question of the receiving country's potential advantage is, in addition to the advantage related to the employment issue, or the living conditions issue, the receiving country enjoys the advantage in the cultural realm, a richer cultural life. That is the advantage on the immigration side. And learning about other cultures. So learning of other cultures is one of the potential advantages for the receiving country.

One of the disadvantages of the receiving country that many workers sometimes criticize is the lower local wages. They are a bit in fear about the inflow of migration which might affect the level of wages, wages going down. So that is one of the questions. A job may get competitive because many migrant workers are coming, and marginalization of less-skilled workers. They are potential disadvantages. In addition to that, potential disadvantages of the receiving country is crowding of schools if migrant workers send their children to schools. The school system may not be well-prepared for receiving those children that accompany their parents who are migrant workers.

The second one is enterprise because most migrant workers are working in enterprises. Migrant workers who go back to their countries may take improved skills back to the home country enterprises. This may allow business in the sending country to grow. That is the potential advantage.

And one of the disadvantages for the sending countries is perhaps losing a skilled workforce. The second is labour shortage which raises the wages. For the immigration side, the receiving country's side, it is clear that the enterprise in the receiving country may enjoy cheaper, more flexible labour. The second one is workforce diversity. Diversity is very important for the survival of companies in a very competitive global environment.

The third one is a larger market because of the addition of more workers. The potential disadvantage is a less stable workforce. Then the second one is dependence on foreign workforce for certain jobs.

Finally, for a country as a whole, the potential advantage of emigration, first is the release of population pressure. Second is lower unemployment, third is foreign currency remittance, fourth is the knowledge and skills of the returnees, and the final one is the building of transnational community. And then the potential disadvantages include losing young people, or coping with sudden returnees. Loss of potential source of tax revenue. The fourth is brain drain or loss of better workers and you see social disruption over the culture of emigration and increasing inequality.

And then for the receiving country's side, the advantages include rejuvenation of the population, larger workforce, higher GDP, or brain gain, more diverse and energetic population, tax income for the young people. And then the disadvantages consist of social friction or social tension. Delay of technology upgrading if migrant workers that are taking up skilled work, if those people are not there, the technology may be improved to fill in that kind of job. So because of migration, technology upgrading may be delayed. And increased income inequality, this is the same for sending countries. And more social stratification, or migrant ghettos, may see a crisis in the social services.

In summing up, you can find on both sides of the sending countries and receiving countries advantages and disadvantages. So this means that labour migration has, historically, been beneficial to most migrants themselves, as well as both countries of origin and destination. First of all, you have to recognize how much those migrant workers contribute to development. The second one, you can see also that migrants are a part of development. I do not think that until recently international migrant labour and development were linked. But now we recognize that; the great contribution of migrant workers for development in both sending and receiving countries. So it is very clear now, the linkage between migration and development.

Thirdly, it is also clear that a contribution of diversity of migrant workers is an agent of change in both countries of destination and origin. The final point is that even in relation to the environment, it is clear that migrant workers in both countries contribute to formation and mobility of human capital. We can understand that when we analyze that advantage or disadvantage of labour migration, the question is a very serious one. One is vulnerable to abuse, exploitation or discrimination. And then the social exclusion, or the social tension or the social costs. How we address these issues is quite a challenge.

Remittance is important to the country but also important in empowering migrant workers

themselves, how to use this remittance for migrants themselves. Migrants, after coming back to their country, build or start their business. Perhaps you can see that World Bank or Development Bank look at remittances to empower the migrant workers. In the case of Bangladesh, remittance comprises 6% of GDP. Now the issue is moving towards how to empower migrant workers to use the money they earned overseas.

I have 2 final questions. One is a serious question right now, the irregular flow of migration. What need is there for a multinational regime to manage international labour migration? Labour migration, traditionally, is governed bilaterally. But now, a convergence in ideas is increasing and something should be done internationally. People do understand that international labour migration is international in nature, not domestic, because of that nature people come to generally understand that international migration should be governed internationally. So the common objective of ensuring that migration takes place not by necessity but by choice. People need to choose their own destiny and not be forced to do, or obliged to do, anything against their will. So that is one of the common objectives.

Then in order to have good management of international migration, a core set of rules or goals have to be agreed upon. These points were addressed by the World Commission on Migration, which was established by the United Nations. That report was published in late 2005. The core set of migration-related goals are firstly the development impact of migration. The second one is that migration occurs mainly through legal channels, not outside of legal channels. The third one is protection of the rights of migrant workers. Already the United Nations as well as the ILO have developed conventions and under the conventions you can see a number of principles of human rights for those workers. The fourth one is preventing the exploitation of migrants. And then the final one is combating the crime of smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons. I can't explain about the trafficking issue because of the time limit, but smuggling and trafficking are facilitated by international criminal networks that make a profit. Therefore, it is important to combat the crime of smuggling of migrant workers and trafficking of persons. I quickly reviewed some of the important issues in relation to the migrant workers.

Finally, I thank you very much for inviting me to this very important policymakers' meeting. I am certainly very happy to be here. I apologize that my presentation was a bit long. I wanted to end my speech within 45 minutes. But nevertheless I thank you very much for your cooperation and I thank you very much for your attention.

<Discussion>

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much Professor Horiuchi. I think it raises lots of issues for us when we are looking at the population and development framework and environmental issues today. The role and place for migrant workers are being questioned. We've got lots of questions on the floor.

KYRGYZSTAN:

Thank you very much for your interesting and detailed presentation. I have the following questions about Japan. First, I want to ask about the immigration policy of Japan. Second, what is the percentage of irregular workers according to statistics in Japan and what programs do you have to support the families of migrant workers in Japan? Also I would like to ask which countries are sending the largest number of immigrants to Japan.

Ms. HORIUCHI:

Thank you very much for the question. I just prepared for international migration and do not really focus on Japan's issues. So I do not really have any papers or references here. However, I will try to answer your questions as much as I can.

Your first question was on the percentage of irregular workers in Japan. In Japan, it is said that there are 300,000 irregular workers, although we are not quite sure. Irregular or illegal workers are those who have illegally entered in Japan, that's the first category. The second category is people that have legally entered the country by using their passports but their visas have expired. We referred to it as "overstay" and we have many illegal migrants who have overstayed.

You also asked which country is sending large numbers of migrant workers to Japan. Right now, I believe that Japanese migrant descendants who are coming back from Brazil. We call those people "migrants with Japanese blood". There are 270,000 of those people. So perhaps they account for the largest portion, followed by many people coming from Asian countries. For example, there is an EPA agreement between Japan and the Philippines that allows a certain number of nurses to come to work in Japan. The same agreement is also being discussed with Thailand. In addition to that, many people that are overstaying are from Asia. So I say they are mostly from Asia but since I do not have the figures here, I cannot point out particular countries.

MALAYSIA:

Firstly, you mentioned about freer flow of services, capital and goods. Perhaps we can ask our

leaders in the multilateral negotiation like WTO and also bilateral negotiation. We must not focus only on these 3 items, goods, services and capital. We should also include labour as import and export.

I agree with you on the importance of movement of labour. We have 2 sides of economy, manufacturing and agriculture base, especially, in plantation, construction and manufacturing. The labour we get from migrant workers, we benefit from that.

Secondly, on the issue of brain drain. It depends on the type of economy. If you are at highest level, the condition will be different. But on higher level, we have to compete to get the best quality. This is where superior economy would definitely eliminate the strength of inferior economy. How do you balance this? Because there is more money, they attract the best grade and we can't. In other words, for a developing economy, at advanced stage, those with more money will be at an advantage compared to those with less money.

Third one, based on your experience and networking, what is your belief? Do you believe in a melting pot? People going to U.S., and U.S. absorbs these minority cultures, or do you believe in multi-culturalism? In our country, we've got Malay school, Chinese school and Indian school side by side. We have no problems there. We believe in cultural diversity. Based on your experience, which is best for this world?

Ms. HORIUCHI:

All are very important and perhaps very difficult to answer. First question, you said about the movement about world trade. Goods and services are much easier to move because there are so many different aspects. If people are moving not by choice but by force, then we have to see why people are forced to move. And we must first make the effort to remove those fundamental problems and difficulties. Maybe my presentation was not clear but I tried to tell you how important it is to make the link between development and immigration. If people are forced to move because of their poverty, then perhaps you can think how to help the people to eradicate or reduce poverty so that people will not have to move from one place to another. So I think we have to ask ourselves why people are moving.

Your second question was related to the brain drain. It is very difficult because of a globalized economy. Global economy is not national economy. You have to compete globally. Therefore you can see that even that reflection on the inequality, widening inequality between rich and poor countries. Rich countries are becoming richer because they have the economic power. Economic

power could attract skilled workers. Maybe we need to think of more equitable distribution of wealth, a kind of fair competition.

Brain drain is also the choice of people because of the attractive conditions the developed countries offer. In developed countries you can see more doors open to highly skilled workers. And this attracts highly skilled workers. But for developing countries, they are losing highly skilled workers because of the competitive situation. I am not quite sure I answered your question but that is the reality.

THAILAND:

This is a big issue, really, and very important. Concerning migration, in Thailand, it is a tough question. We face a lot of problems with migration from neighbours especially concerning infectious diseases. We have an emerging disease coming up, such as malaria, filariasis, tuberculosis and syphilis. We have to consider how to protect people from these diseases. Even though the prominent secretary of public health has done a lot, we still cannot combat the diseases, especially those related to illegal people. Do you have any scheme that you can do for us?

Ms. HORIUCHI:

It is a very important question that you raised. I did not include it in the list of disadvantages of migrant flow. And one of the issues may be HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases that are spreading because of the movement of people. And that is really clear but there is no answer. You are the politician and you are the one who tells us what the best policy that international committee should take. Actually, I want to hear from you how best an international committee can address that issue.

CHAIRPERSON:

That's the population and development network.

KOREA:

Thank you Professor Horiuchi, for your really excellent presentation. You did not touch on the international marriage or the intermarriage issue. There are many different kinds of migration, and intermarriage is very imminent. Would you briefly summarize the impact or the consequences of international marriages and education of their offspring in the different countries? I would also like to comment on Dr. Malinee's comment. Not only infectious diseases but also all kinds of diseases are going to be changed in different countries because, usually, genetic disorders and other things are going to be so mixed in international global society these days. Could you comment on that? Thank

you.

Ms. HORIUCHI:

I do not have much knowledge on intermarriage, what kind of action and impact. I do not really believe that ILO or other organizations are dealing with that.

KOREA:

Because of labour migration. International marriage is going to be imminent.

MS. HORIUCHI

I do believe it is a very important issue but more or less it is a social issue, and starting from cultural gaps, and also schools and families and all of those kinds of things. Perhaps I would like to hear from you what kind of action should be taken for intermarriage and other policies, the policies related to international labour migration. Thank you very much for picking up a very important issue, which is a kind of consequence of international labour migration.

IRAN:

Thank you very much for the wonderful lecture. In your lecture, there was one issue that you did not touch upon. It has to do with coercive migration resulting from war. Especially in Iran, in the last 20 years, there have been more than 5 million displaced people among the migrants. And this has not necessarily had anything to do with an economic boost of Iran. And during this time, more than 200,000 Iranians or Afghanis have been born outside of Iran. At the same time, international marriages occurred a lot. I would say that this is one very important issue that need to be addressed. Unfortunately, diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS have been brought by immigrants as well. And during this time, the labour market in Iran was not in a good state so there was increasing pressure imposed. Dr. Horiuchi has touched upon international organizations, but how do you think these institutions could be responsible ?

Ms. HORIUCHI:

As you have pointed out, the immigration issue resulting from war is a very important and serious issue. I myself have visited Iran in the past and I was responsible for Afghanistan as well. However, they were accepting a lot of immigrants and I was very much impressed about the policies of the country. I think that international organizations are providing support to those immigrants, and ILO, the organization I used to work for, has conducted vocational training for all the displaced people. However, one basic importance here is to build peace, so that displaced people would be able to go back to their home country to work and live in that country happily. So I think such effort has to be

made for the happiness of those displaced people. So the international committees as well as organizations are required, I think, to play such a role. When wars and sometimes civil conflicts occur, the neighbouring countries are burdened by that. And I do understand very well that those countries are put in a very difficult position. Under those circumstances, I am aware that neighbouring countries are faced with very serious immigrant issues as a result of such conflicts and wars.

PAKISTAN 1:

I have heard that some countries that are destination countries for workers have started putting restrictions on the percentage of remittances that can be sent back to the home country. I was wondering in human rights or international law's sense, is that legal when these migrant workers, who never have the opportunity of getting citizenship in that destination country, and yet they are forced to keep 50% of their money in the destination country and can only send home another 50%?

PAKISTAN 2:

My question is that what should be the ideal situation; should labourers migrate or not because I do not agree with the point that labourers migrate by choice in my part of the world. They migrate due to necessity, due to the needs. Recently, in UK, they have passed a law in the parliament, which led to the unemployment of 114 doctors, because, first of all, you should be a British passport holder, and number two, you should be European passport, and the third comes Asian. So that means that migrants who go there, they will face racial discrimination.

Number two, in your statistics, have you counted the number of students who go there for studies, to the countries abroad, and they do not come back and permanently settle there?

My third comment is that, you've talked about irregular immigrants. Due to the advancement of technology at different airports, still, is it not possible to control irregular immigrants?

Ms. HORIUCHI:

The issues of remittance and citizenship are really separated. When people of foreign origins do not have nationality in their living country, which is a purely domestic policy. Second issue is that irregular flow of migrant workers. This is really difficult to manage because it is often coordinated by receiving country or the country of destination. Once some people detect that kind of device those irregular flow of migrants use, but again they develop some new mechanism or new route or whatever. But however, I really think it is important to regulate those irregular migrations. I think that it is one of the challenges that we are facing.

And when we count the population of migrants, those children are included. All the people are included who are born outside of their country. As I pointed out, migrant workers are everywhere. They are not in just one country. And everywhere they are suffering some kind of discrimination. Therefore it is important to extend protection of human rights to migrant workers. That is the real issue, I do think.

NEPAL:

As far as protection of migrant workers is concerned, we understand that there is an international labour law and agreement, as well as bilateral law. But why is it that the implementation part is very weak? My point of view is that, as a member of parliament of a receiving country, if we can find sometimes to go to the companies where the workers are, and if we try to listen to them, then I think we can have a greater impact on those people who are really violating the human rights of the workers and who are not taking much care of them. So for me, as a member of the parliament, I think this is perhaps the greatest challenge for us. And if we really find some time to go see them and talk to them, the people who are behaving in a wrong way can start dealing fairly with the migrant workers.

My second point is about remittance. Of course, remittance is one of the major sources of income for many countries. But what I see is that, whether it is the receiving country or the country of origin, they are not using this remittance to empower the migrant workers. I think, as a member of parliament, this is also a challenge for us and how we are going to think of this very deeply and how we are going to tackle this seriously and sensitively from the perspective and the point of view of migrant workers' human rights. Thank you.

Ms. HORIUCHI:

I fully agree with you. Important things you have pointed out. You are right that the international committee already developed a number of rules and regulations in the international law, but the question is really the implementation. I am very happy to hear from you that policymakers are seriously looking at those situations because one of the issues of why the implementation of human rights, the international rules, are weak is because the migrant workers are vulnerable. They do not speak out, so therefore I do think it is important that we go there. We listen to them. Thank you very much.

Session V

Roundtable Discussion: Parliamentarians' Movement on Population and Development: Its Achievements, Significance and Future Strategies

Chairperson:

Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Director of APDA/Vice-Chairperson of JPPF

Resource person:

**Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Professor of Nihon University/
Former Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA**

CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Hirofumi Ando has his doctorate from Michigan University. After he worked for ESCAP he was involved in UNFPA for very many years. After retiring as Deputy Executive Director, he is now a professor at Nihon University, training young people. Dr. Ando worked with Mr. Rafael M. Salas who created UNFPA and realized the importance of parliamentary activities on population and development. He has really been committed to the cause. When I was serving as the chairman of AFPPD in 1994, he helped me set up the parliamentarians' meeting on ICPD. And he has supported very many parliamentarian meetings that I wanted to put together. We worked together for very many years and I know that he will be speaking from his experience, sharing with us his thoughts on the role of parliamentarians.

Dr. ANDO:

Thank you very much for your very kind and generous introduction. It was also my great honour and pleasure to have worked with you, to promote the parliamentarian activities in the field of population and development over the last 20 years.

First of all, I would like to congratulate APDA and AFPPD on their 25th birthday. I would like to pay tribute to the founding members of the parliamentary movement in the field of population and development. They include Prime Minister Kishi, Prime Minister Fukuda, Senator Kato, Minister Sato, Minister Sumi and Mr. Sat Paul Mittal of India. I would like to pay tribute to those parliamentarians who sustained the work of the pioneers. They include Dr. Nakayama, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi of Malaysia, Madame He Liliang of China, Senator Sakurai, Senator Ohgi, Senator Shimizu, Senator Nohno, Mr. Colin Hollis of Australia, Mr. Yatsu, Mr. Fukuda, the new chairman of APDA, and Senator Prasop of Thailand. My list is by no means comprehensive. I am sure I have missed many other important people.

One of the most important individuals who recognized the critical role to be played by parliamentarians and supported their movement in the field of population and development was Dr. Raphael M. Salas, the first Executive Director of UNFPA and my mentor. As Mr. Sakurai mentioned,

he firmly believed that population issues require support and involvement of not only the executive branch of the government but also their legislative body as well as media and academia. UNFPA was the first UN agency to work with the parliamentarians. I single out UNFPA partly because I have worked for them for several years.

I would like to thank APDA, the organizer of this meeting for inviting me to discuss with you the contribution you have made over the last 25 years, and future strategies you may adopt to deal with the emerging population issues and development issues in your respective countries and in the Asia and Pacific region. I understand that my role is not only to review your activities but also to challenge you to help solve remaining and new population and development issues, as you are the representatives of the people, leaders in your respective communities and countries. I would like to do so by confining myself to only a few major population issues, since you have already had comprehensive discussion on a large number of issues in the earlier sessions including population growth, resource, environment and migration.

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION: Reproductive Health including Family Planning

As you have already examined, your contribution to the field of population and development is commendable. It is borne out by the fact that population growth rate in the Asia and Pacific region has declined considerably. One of the key demographic indicators, TFR (total fertility rate) has declined from 5.7 in 1970 to 2.5 by 2000. Another key indicator, CPR (contraceptive prevalence rate) has increased from about 20% of the reproductive age women in the 1970s to over 60% by the year 2000.

These are remarkable achievements which no developed countries have ever accomplished through nationally organized reproductive health, especially family planning programs. So you should be very proud of that. You have worked hard to promote reproductive health service including family planning within your respective countries. Thus the population growth rate has been declining globally, but most significantly in the Asia and Pacific region, from about 1.9% annually in 1970 to 1.1% in 2005. The contraceptive prevalence rate, with regard to all methods, is more than 60% on the average for the Asia and Pacific region, although there are some variants between the sub-regions.

FURTHER COMMITMENT

However, I am afraid we cannot be complacent about the present population situation. For instance, population is still growing in absolute terms. The population in this region was about 1.4 billion in 1950 and 2.4 billion in 1975. It has grown to 3.7 billion in 2000 and is projected to increase to 4.9 billion by 2030, less than 30 years from now, when APDA celebrates its 50th anniversary. This

requires additional resources and political commitment to provide necessary social services to the people including reproductive health service, education, housing, employment and food while protecting the environment.

And the reproductive health services including family planning, the New Paradigm of Population and Development Strategy adopted by ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) in 1994, also requires further political commitment from you. As the total population in the region increased, the number of married women in reproductive age also increased from 334 million in 1950 to 546 million in 1975, and expected to reach almost 1 billion in 2000. As we observed, you have helped provide reproductive health services to these women to a significant extent in terms of contraceptive prevalence rate. But the number of women who would need reproductive health services will further increase to 1.047 billion already in the year 2005, and to 1.185 or 1.12 billion in less than 25 years. That means an additional 140 million, which is bigger than the total population of Japan.

In addition, we have to recognize the fact that, although CPR in the region on the average is respectable: at about 60%, it ranges from as low as 24% to as high as 80%. We also have to recognize that there is a wide variance of CPR within the country. I urge you therefore to help meet these unmet needs as soon as possible through actions beyond advocacy; namely, increase budgetary resource allocation through your legislation.

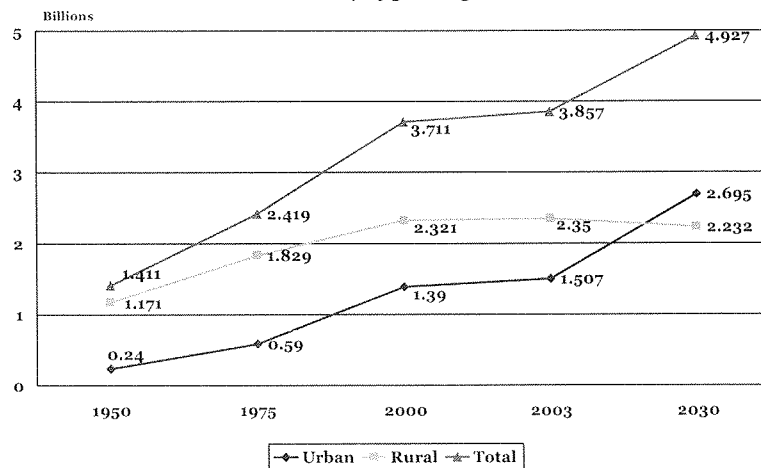
BROADER PERSPECTIVES

There is another recommendation I would like to make in dealing with population growth. While expanding the reproductive health service continues to be an important task for you, not only because of its intrinsic value but also because of its contribution to fertility rate. We have to recognize that its contribution is rather limited. According to some studies, its contribution is about 30% of the fertility decline. The rest comes from other related socio-economic factors such as education, status of women and improved living standards in general. This means, as indicated by the ICPD Programme of Action, that we have to look at population issues from a more comprehensive perspective than from the reproductive health perspective alone. This also implies that you need to hold increased policy dialogues with those responsible for other areas rather than just the reproductive health field.

There are still other emerging population issues in the region. I would like to name a few which need your immediate and sustained attention. One is the rapid urbanization. The increase of urban population in Asian countries is unprecedented. It increased from 240 million in 1950 to almost 600

million in 1975, to 1.4 billion in 2000 and to 1.507 billion in 2003. It is projected to reach almost 2.7 billion by 2030. In contrast, rural population increase was rather moderate, peaking at 2.4 billion in 2003. As a matter of fact, according to the U.N. population projection, the proportion of the urban population is going to be 50% this year. The remaining 50% is rural population. Urban population is growing, and now we have about 1.5 billion, but it is going to go up to 2.7 billion.

Figure 5 : Total, Urban and Rural Population in Asia, 1950-2030



Urban population and urbanization can be a valuable economic driving force. They often require different and additional social and economic services from the central and local government. For instance, they require much more natural resources such as water and energy. Urban population tends to have considerably large number of poor people including migrant workers, as we learned this morning, the youth and adolescent who do not benefit from the traditional safety net. They require special public support including reproductive health services conducive to unique urban settings, especially in peripheral areas, geographically and socially speaking. In addition, in part due to concentration of population in urban areas, they are often vulnerable to infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS included, and quite often to natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis.

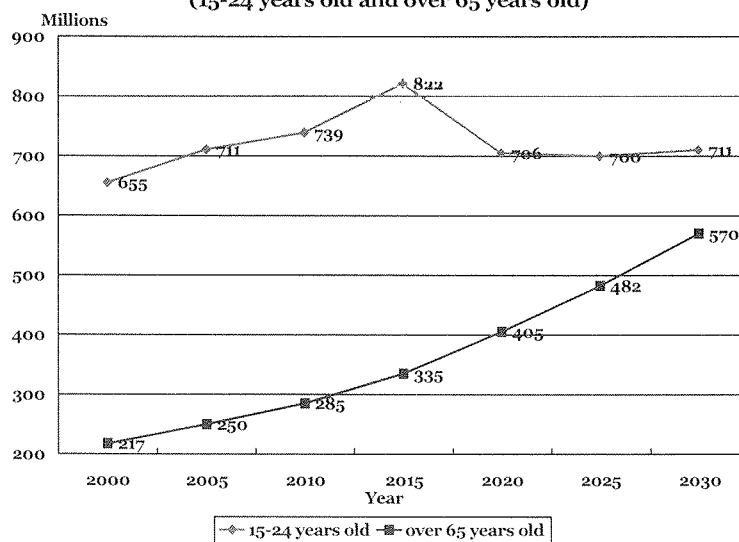
Now, as we learned from the presentation by Dr. Ato yesterday, Asian countries have recently gone through, or are going through, demographic transition in part due to their effective reproductive health services including family planning. On the one hand, it will mean that you will be facing rapid population aging, as Professor Ato explained to you yesterday. On the other hand, it will mean that if you are able to invest properly in the increasing number of young people, you will benefit from the so-called demographic bonus or demographic dividend. However, as my colleague Professor Hiro Ogawa of Nihon University argues, the window of opportunity is rather small. You

have only a few decades to make an effective investment in the young population in terms of education and employment.

Let's examine this issue further. While the population growth rate is now decreasing, the absolute number of the population is increasing rather rapidly, especially the young population. As I mentioned, a well-educated and healthy young population is a great economic asset, provided there is sufficient opportunity for employment and political participation. As Dr. Gill Greer aptly mentioned, the denial of such opportunity to the young people can be most serious. The young people can be the cause of political instability, even leading to terrorist activities domestically and internationally as we observed recently. They can induce demographic chaos, rather than demographic bonus or dividend.

The population of young people aged 15 to 24 in Asia, which is the core of the working population, has increased from 455 million in 1975, to 655 million, a 200 million increase over the last 25 years, and to 711 million in 2005 in just a few years. It is projected to increase to 822 million in 2015 before declining to the current level of 711 million in 2030. That means we will have an increase of about 100 million young people. If these young people are properly educated, fed, clothed, housed and allowed to participate meaningfully in productive socioeconomic activities and political processes, they will make a significant contribution to your respective societies. These young people are indeed a critical and precious asset for all of us. However, they can also be very vulnerable and explosive unless they are well nurtured, especially when compounded by rapid urbanization and population aging.

**Figure 9: Population :Young and Old
(15-24 years old and over 65 years old)**



One of your main tasks is therefore to pay attention to this population group with a sense of urgency before the window of opportunity is closed, depending on the speed of their demographic transition. You have about 30 years to invest in this young population. Now at the same time, as we learned from Professor Ato, the number of old people, population of over 65 years old, is slowly increasing. We only had about 100 million old people, who were older than 65 years old in 1950. Now it is going to increase to 250 million in 2005 and it is going to increase to almost 290 million in less than 3 years, and 405 million in 2020, and 550 million in the year 2030.

What does it mean? Again, the window of opportunity is very small because you have to prepare for the increasing number of aged people in terms of social security, pension schemes, medical insurance, and medical services. In terms of population structure in the Asia and Pacific region, we will have about 822 million young people who need to be educated, who need to be housed, who need to be employed. But at the same time, the number of old people is gradually increasing. Up to the year 2020 or 2025, that's the so-called window of opportunity where you have to be making adequate investment in young people. Unless you do that, you'll have undesired international migration at work as you learned from Professor Horiuchi this morning. If they are willing to go out of work on a voluntary basis, that's fine, but if they are forced to, that's going to be one of the factors for insecurity within the country, within the region and globally.

So again, I urge you to look at the population issues, not only from the growth point of view but from the point of view of population structural change, and with a much broader perspective, taking into account the socioeconomic changes within the region, within the country, as mentioned in the Programme of Action of ICPD, International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. In order to invest properly in the growing young population, and also in aged population, I suggest that you would also use United Nation's Millennium Development Goals as the basic framework. It deals with a lot of socioeconomic indicators related to population issues including the status of women, gender issues.

In my challenge to you, I am requesting you to look at the change in the population structure in the region, within your respective country, and try to invest as much as possible in the young population now.

I would like to summarize what I have made recommendations for. One, please try to mobilize enough resources to meet unmet reproductive health needs opted to meet increasing number of women of reproductive age, especially for young adults, especially those in urban areas. Two, I would like to request you to have a broader perspective on population issues than simply

approaching the problem from a reproductive health perspective. Population issues require a much broader perspective to solve the emerging issues. Third, please try to invest in the young population now. And later on, aged population. Otherwise, we may have serious political instability and possibly international terrorism in the region.

I hope I have provoked enough thought and I hope you were provoked enough to take actions rather than continue discussions on population issues. And finally, I would like to wish you all the best, now that you are undertaking a new journey to the next 25 years. Thank you very much.

<Discussion>

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you very much Dr. Ando. It was very informative. As secretariat, we as parliamentarians are very much grateful that you have been very supportive. Now, we would like to begin the panel discussion. Australia, Malaysia, Korea, Pakistan. Please come forward.

AUSTRALIA:

I think the conference has been an excellent conference and I would like to thank the host for guiding us through this. Some uniqueness of Australia is slightly different from what you see here. But to start from where we begun in terms of this journey, I think the introductions were fabulous. I think the low fertility that Japan and some areas of Asia have suffered is certainly a problem. In Australia, we have improved our fertility from 1.2 to 1.7. I won't go into all the reasons why—some of those things are associated with what we call a “little bribery” perhaps, where we motivated people by money to have more children. That has worked and we have increased our population.

As for diseases in Australia, we have HIV/AIDS. In fact, in parts of Sydney, the drug-abusing and homosexual population rate of HIV/AIDS is worse than sub-Saharan Africa. And it is also prevalent in the indigenous population. In terms of water, Australia is the driest continent on the planet. We are the driest habitable continent. We are very clear on the uses of water. But we've got a long way to go. We do not recycle water, for example.

Third, we are self-sufficient but the drought that ravaged the southern three-quarters of western and eastern Australia has done a lot of damage to food crops in Australia. In the northern quarter, however, we have floods. So rain is in the wrong place. Environmental degradation in Australia has been a major problem. We have lost many species.

In terms of labour migration, we have an interesting problem. I was listening today and, I am just talking from Australia's point of view, we import about 120,000 per annum on a skill basis. We also have the highest per capita movement in the planet of refugees. Australia takes in 13,000 refugees per annum, surpassing the second contender which is Canada. We've had some problems with that, and I do not want to go overtime, but we've learned as a government we need to engage these populations, we need to create employment for people, we need to educate them in our language, we need to involve children in international languages, and make sure that they are well schooled for future investment in our country.

While we have experienced in Australia two-thirds of the next generation of Australians are married outside of their own culture of growth. So I guess it is the success of multiculturalism. And it now brings us to the future. Australia has got some difficulties. One of the odd things is that we are an aging population. Not only do we have the problem of an aging population but we've also got a young population with investment in education being good, we are scaling people up in education. But health is a problem. Lifestyle, because of Australian affluence, now we have obesity. One in every five of our children is obese. Many young women smoke. All of these things affect fertility as you well know. And the problem we have is that we now anticipate a reduction in average life expectancy, of my grandchildren's generation of some 5 to 10 years across the board, over mine. And that is very sad. So we need to engage in this. Australia won't take any longer than this, actively in the health of your young community. And we are not doing it, in my opinion, actively enough. Thank you very much

MALAYSIA:

I know that you are acquainted with most of the issues, about the population and development dimension. I will only touch on 3 aspects. Firstly, the concept of a global village, the idea of cultural pluralism. I ask Islam, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, "Created by who?" And they say, "By God". That means the same hand of God in Islam we call "Allah," in other religions called "God" or other names. But the same "God". The problem is how can we coexist? This is one of the issues.

Secondly, the concept of a better world. How is this concept of creation shared by people? With the establishment of nation states, it becomes difficult for people to move from one area to another area. In Malaysia, we achieved independence in 1957. Before that, we were able to travel. There was no passport, nothing. Malaysia and Indonesia, we are the same people. But with this concept of nationhood, we have got the gatekeepers, the gunman and the people of that country. They never open the gate wide enough.

The other is a social factor, issue of modernization or modernity. Modernity is quite new to us. And we have this gap. Citizens want to embrace modernity but do not understand the concept of modernity. So they take the lower end of modernity, and they do not benefit from the maximum understanding of the concept of modernity, in terms of knowledge, skill, in terms of accountability, transparency and so forth.

And lastly, on the issue of society. The concept of institutional family in the modern world. It has lost its strength. Families are not playing that kind of role. In my country, I noticed as a result that we can still solve social problems among the young. So these are the main issues I would like to discuss this afternoon. Thank you.

KOREA:

Korea was one of the poorest countries after World War II, especially after the Korean War. At the time we were so poor we could not feed our children or get educated. But at this moment, as you know, after 30 years, we have been successful in terms of development. Even in population issues as well. We are so developed in terms of population issues that our fertility rate dropped from 5 to 1.08 in 2005, less than 2 years ago. So probably you can see a model here of an intensively condensed development and population transition in Korea.

So what I would like to tell you is that during the 25 years of APDA's history, everything has been working, and everything has been going on in a condensed way. Probably in the next 25 years, we are going to experience intensively condensed solutions to improve our life, human life as well as the environment and population issues. Probably in the future, women will be the key issue and key people to solve the problem. What I mean by that is with population transition, decision-makers, in fact, eventually are going to be women in terms of reproductive rights. So we have to be very concerned about women's movement, women's empowerment and women's development in every sector. In Korea, at this moment, women make decisions in the family. Even though you might know that Korea is a very traditional society, which is much of society still. But women are growing so fast and they have the power to get married, to have children, and to have economical power in the family. So women's movement and empowerment of women, as well as migration issues, are going to be important. The keyword is "women" in terms of the population and development issue and should be very considered as the main issue. So I would like to, in the next 25 years, see women as a focus in APDA's issues.

The other thing I would like to comment on is that, in Korea, because of our rapidly changing society—we even say that nothing is predictable in Korea because everything is moving so fast —It

is therefore difficult to make accurate predictions. However, we are doing health care reform and welfare reform because of transitional population change to prepare for aging society in Korea. In 2050, we will have the same trend as now. Korea is going to be the most aging society in the world. We are preparing for it in terms of health care reform and welfare reform.

I would like to emphasize that even an aging population does not mean a pessimistic future because we encourage people in Korea to save money for their future by themselves as well as the government to save money and wisely use the money for the future as well. There are many medical doctors here including myself. So I would like to emphasize that in terms of health, the very ideal health is not merely the absence of disease as declared by WHO, but also includes physical, mental, social, intellectual and spiritual as well as economical well-being. So we are going in a bad direction, in terms of MDGs and ICPD issues as well.

Lastly, I would like to add one more thing. I would like to add cultural well being as well. That means that we are a global family and we are all part of a global village. As the delegate from Malaysia said, "We are one family". So we would like to keep those 6 or 7 aspects of well being and health and that's going to be our rainbow, that's going to be our happiness in the future. Thank you.

PAKISTAN 1:

It is been a very interesting couple of days and a lot of subjects that aren't usually covered in population meetings such as the environment and labour movement, but I feel a need for them to be covered more and more because population is not just the numbers game. There are many human lives involved, there is quality of life that must be insured for the people. And to discuss the various issues of environment, of labour movement, of young people really helps us as politicians to move forward with policies that would ensure that younger generations will have a world that's worth being born into, I think.

In terms of Pakistan's perspective, we have a very young population, half of our 160 million people are under the age of 18, so that's about 80 million people. Our population increased very sharply throughout the '70s and '80s, and has only now recently in the past five to 6 years begun to stabilize. We've moved from a total fertility rate of 6, which was recorded in our last national census in 1998, to about 4.1, which, in a 10-year time period is quite a sharp drop. However, in Pakistan we come from a background that is very rich in terms of population programs. In 1958, Pakistan was one of the first Muslim countries to have a program run by the government for family planning, and unfortunately, there were decades in between where our program lapsed and that's how we ended up with such a large population.

However, being a young parliamentarian, I think the future is bright. The government has invoked many programs that concentrate on young people — education, vocational training, job generation, stabilization of the economy. All of these things are being done now to ensure that generations to come would not face the problems we have faced in the past. However, with such a young population, there are certain issues that need to be addressed. We come from a conservative background, and yet the tools of the media with the Internet, there is a lot of information that is now available to young people, that perhaps wasn't available 15 years ago. Unfortunately, we have seen that it is leading to promiscuous behaviour. It is leading to risky behaviour. Unfortunately, young people do not have access to the right healthy kind of information that they need to make right healthy choices. This has become an issue taken up by the Ministry of Population in Pakistan, and we are starting adolescent sexual and reproductive health/rights programs where young people can access information in a healthy manner, rather than typing in certain words onto an Internet search engine and coming up with what I feel is grossly inappropriate behaviour for a very young and curious mind. So these things are on track.

As the gentleman from Malaysia mentioned, we also in Pakistan are looking towards modernization. We are looking towards enlightened moderation, but within the ambit of our eastern values. We are trying to show our Muslim brethren that you can be modern in the world without having to give up those values that are enshrined in religion. And actually take parts of the religion that promote modernism, promote education and understanding the world around you. Parts of religion that actually requires Muslims to be environmentalists, to conserve, to live and let live, and bring the world in a harmony where everyone can benefit from each other.

So I would have to say in conclusion, although we are struggling a little bit in some of our Millennium Development Goals, such as maternal, infant and child mortality, we are on track if not ahead of track for some of the other goals for which we are very proud. But nonetheless, there is a lot of work to be done, and realizing this, the government of Pakistan had included in its own indicators for the country MDGs report, population and reproductive health indicators that had not been given by the U.N. in the year 2000. It was only in the last Millennium Meeting in 2005 where some reproductive health issues were brought onto the table at the U.N. level.

Pakistan being a strong supporter and, actually feeling the necessity to do something about reproductive health, we added the indicators ourselves in the year 2000. Indicators on population growth rate, on contraceptive prevalence rate, on total fertility rate. So we are very proud in that population has now come onto the radar in Pakistan with a vengeance. The Prime Minister and President are both very kind to actually mention the subject of population and family planning in

their speeches, which is politically very brave since for 15 to 20 years, no one wanted to even think about population and it was considered a political suicide to do so. So as I said, the future is bright, and I am proud to be a part of that future and I hope that all of the parliamentarians over here and your colleagues back home will be able to work together to ensure that some of the disastrous scenarios that were presented to us, especially on the environmental front, do not become a reality, and that we can leave for our future generation a world that is really worth being born into.

I am going to close with a very favourite saying of mine, it is from American Indian culture and the saying goes something like this: “We have not inherited this earth from our parents but we have borrowed it from our children”. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you so much. Now we can invite back the 4 panelists to answer questions. Go ahead New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND:

I question about what we can do as politicians and I wonder if we can encourage every country to have a youth development strategy and a positive aging strategy. There are 2 major pieces of work our government has undertaken in our country, and now we are looking at resources and financing both strategies. I think if we could encourage that as parliamentarians, then they would be quite interesting to share at future forums when we are looking at both youth and aging, and we could get some ideas from each other.

Just following up from that, I think we also have to think about New Zealand as we have this gap that is growing between, on one hand the big bulge in the aging population and on the other hand of the young people. We have to be careful so that we do not develop generation gap, a breakdown in communication between the aging and the young people. We have to be thinking of ways of bridging that gap and including the young and the old so that it is not seen as though there is a big gap between them.

And the other point that I just want to take up is the challenge from the delegate from Australia with respect to one aspect of modernization which I hope that developing countries would not embrace. And that is the western diet and the huge implications for our healthcare. We are just looking in New Zealand, doing an inquiry into obesity tied into diabetes, and unless we change our diet in the West, we are going to bankrupt our health system and our nations. So I think it is absolutely critical for those of you who haven't gone down this path, that you take steps now to avoid it.

PAKISTAN 2:

I would just like to give you an appraisal of what is going on in my country. As far as the younger generation is concerned, if you see the present parliament, that is the national assembly, we have about 10 to 15 very young parliamentarians under the age of 30 who are sitting there, and my colleague sitting to my left is an example of that.

Number two, I believe that the women of Pakistan have to struggle on many fronts. First, on the religious front, on socio-culture, and on family front. But if you see now there are about 17% of women parliamentarians that are sitting there and 33% are there in the third lowest tier, that is at the provincial level. So this is how we have fought. The policies are made such that these women have been empowered and enlightened and they are being brought to the limelight to work as that. As have been told, the present government is working on them. For example, we have increased 2% quota for women in government jobs.

And in every quarter of life, there are women being inducted. As you know, lack of jobs is a problem in all the underdeveloped countries. To give jobs or opportunity to have jobs, we have introduced a new program in the Ministry of Women's Welfare and Youth, that is, to give thousand and thousands of jobs to the youngsters. In the beginning, they come and take internship. Later on, they will be inducted based on the principle of survival of the fittest. The Government of Pakistan is facilitating and taking its population in the right direction. I believe that in the development of population, what is the keyhole is education. And the Government of Pakistan is paying a lot of attention, like providing free education from grade 1 to grade 10. And not only education but right type of education which is suitable to the environment. That is what is being required because you cannot change things in a moment. You have to have certain sustainable policies which will give you food for days to come. Thank you.

PHILIPPINES:

We would like to know more about how Pakistan was able to solve the problem of discussing population openly in the country. I was surprised when the lady panelist said that 15 years ago it was political suicide to even discuss population issues in her country. But this is exactly what is happening in our country when parliament cannot even begin to legislate any measures toward national population management because the church is so strong and blocks any effort to legislate and much less provide reproductive health services or even commodities. That is why we aren't able to curb our population. And I would like to know how Pakistan succeeded in this area. Thank you very much.

PAKISTAN 1:

It is a very interesting question. Islam, I think, differs from Catholicism in the fact that family planning is 100% permitted in the religion. There were some misconceptions in which people assumed that it wasn't. So the way we tackled the problem in Pakistan is that in 2005, we had an International Conference of Muslim Religious Leaders. And we invited top religious leaders from 23 Muslim countries, including Iran and Tajikistan, and Indonesia and Malaysia. And what we did was we had this big 2-day conference in which we had invited our own religious scholars also, at the end of which everyone signed what is called the Islamabad Declaration which reaffirms the fact that Islam not only permits family planning but to some extent even encourages family planning. Once that declaration was signed by all of these religious scholars, politicians like myself, my minister who wanted to talk about these issues gained this seal of approval from the religious scholars so no one could really then refute what we were saying in terms of permissibility of family planning. The declaration also states that it is everyone's right to have access to both products and services. Therefore again we were able to step up our distribution of products and grassroots service delivery.

I see what you are saying about the Philippines and I think that it is much more difficult task for you because the Catholic Church does have a very stated stand on family planning. But I think if you get the kind of confidence we had, and invite people from Catholic countries that have alternative points of view and learn from them how they were able to have commodities available to their citizens despite coming from a very Catholic country. Best of luck to you on that.

IRAN:

In the Iranian Parliament, we tried to speak to religious leaders. We talked about infectious diseases and population. We tried to solicit understanding from our citizens. And also, for the past couple of years in the Diet, we tried to pass some bills that would improve the lives of the people. One bill was about population control. And another law was passed in 1982 when population increase rate was high. As a result, in 2006, it was brought down to one point some percent. With different legislation, we decided that we would provide education to female citizens. Thanks to the legislation in 1980, literacy rate of women was raised from 15% to 80%.

In our country, primary education and also secondary university education contributed to curving of population increase. We also made it obligatory to learn about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Last year, we passed legislation for a social safety net for the women who do not have families and need financial support. A law was also passed to allow contraception among those who are ill and are forced not to conceive to prevent pregnancy. We also passed a bill for the refugees and their children, those who need protection. We also raised the minimum marrying age from 14 years to 18 years. By

doing so, the Diet is playing a major role in population control and development.

MALAYSIA:

Some of the issues we discussed earlier, one is by New Zealand on bridging of generation gap. From my understanding, generation gap during the first stage of development, especially when people move from rural to urban areas, and development will be levelling at that time, and the generation gap will be reduced. This is based on our experience in Malaysia through media. Generation gap is not an immediate issue there.

Secondly, on the issue of modernization. Nobody can get away from it. The issue that I raise is in regards to the understanding of modernization. Some people think westernization is modernization. As a result, there will be a part of people in society who will not benefit from modernization in its true sense.

Thirdly, on women's issues. Do we want to impose on the government to put women in positions, or do we want to practice meritocracy? Which one? I could see in the past that women did not have access to education. It was only after independence. I believe in the concept of organic evolution. Now in Malaysia, as far as the members of the parliament are concerned, the percentage of women is still low at about 15%. The Beijing Convention requires 30%. In the future, women will occupy all posts in Malaysia because through the course of education, 70% of students are women and only 30% are men. Based on organic growth, in 10 to 20 years they will occupy the posts. Now we have 2 female ministers and the governor of our central bank is a lady, at 2 universities the chancellors are ladies. In the future, I am sure, based on meritocracy, 10, 20 or maximum 30 years, 70% of all important posts will be occupied by women. Thank you.

KOREA:

Concerning New Zealand, delegates are questioning the generation gap. In Korea, we are campaigning "7 generations get togetherness". In Korea, every year 500 people are reaching the age of 100. "7 generations get togetherness" is based on family values and respect among generations. And we would like to learn from old people's wisdom. In order to promote this, it is going to be harmonized in terms of the generation gap.

In terms of diet, in Korea we have been experiencing lots of junk food from western society. In Korea, everything was well-prepared in vegetarian style, but not these days. As parliamentarians, we have strong legislation in terms of regulating diet and some kind of nutrition facts. So we are educating in the primary school and secondary and tertiary schools. This is a kind of joke: "When

SARS is pandemic, we promote Kimchi, which is wisely fermented vegetarian style traditional food in Korea. Lots of people from Hong Kong and China, at the time, pandemic areas, but no patient had occurred in Korea. In that sense, we promoted very healthy food through traditional cooking style”. So that’s the answer to the delegate from New Zealand.

CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you. This is a good opportunity and everyone would like to speak, but we actually have to save time for the closing ceremony. Professor Ando would like to say something so let us save time for him.

Dr. ANDO:

I would like to make a comment on a few issues. One I am gratified to learn from the delegate from Pakistan that your government has concrete programs for the young people in terms of education and job creation, and also facilitating young people in the political process. That’s really encouraging. Two, as the Korean participant mentioned, I think that empowerment of women continues to be an important task for you to promote in the region. And in this connection, it is not a diplomatic thing to do but partly because of the success of family planning over the last 20, 30 years in the region, but also because of cultural emphasis on males in many of the countries of Asia, there will be 20 to 30 million young men who cannot marry because of the shortage of young females in the region. As you saw in the International Herald Tribune yesterday, international marriage, Korean men visiting Vietnam to look for brides—I think this will happen more and more in the future. For this kind of issue, the Asian Forum can play a very important role to provide better processes and legislation to facilitate, not necessarily to control, the protection young people in the future. Thank you very much.

<Discussion on the Recommendation>

Under the chairpersonship of Mr. Shin Sakurai, Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA Secretary-General/ Executive Director, led a discussion on the recommendation. After active discussions, the recommendation for “The Next 25 Years” was adopted based on the stocktaking of parliamentarians’ activities on population and development for the past 25 years in heading towards the next 25 years.

Recommendation

The Next 25 Years

In the progress of demographic transition and development effort in respective countries, the Asian region as a whole is heading toward population stability. On the other hand, such development has created complex and diverse situations among various countries. Some countries are still experiencing population increase and high birth rates, while others are facing extremely low birth rates and aging population. We are now in a new stage to tackle population and sustainable development issues. To further invigorate our activities related to population and development, we, members of national parliaments, who have participated in the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, hereby record our achievements of the past 25 years, reiterate the facts on which our efforts are premised, and determine to implement the measures below.

Achievements of the past 25 years

1. We have been successful in lowering the total fertility rate in Asia from approximately 4.0 to 2.5—a fundamental requirement for the stabilization of the population.
2. The incidence of extreme poverty in Asia has been greatly lessened due in large measure to the population stabilization.
3. Active parliamentary programs on population and development have not only permeated throughout the entire Asian region but have contributed to the establishments of African and Arab as well as Inter-European parliamentary forums and the creation of a worldwide parliamentary network.

Facts

1. The earth is finite. Resolution of the population dilemma is an indispensable precondition for achieving sustainable development that enables people to continue living on this finite earth.
2. Without the stabilization of population, the stability of international society cannot be attained. The stabilization of population is thus a fundamental prerequisite for achieving human security and world peace.
3. The purpose of dealing with the population issue is to build societies in which all people can live in harmony, equity, dignity and none in scarcity.

4. The global scale of the issues forces us to face up to the reality that we are all ultimately a single community, joined by fate on a small planet.
5. Today's growing population and expanding human activities place an enormous load on the environment, so that ever stronger measures are required to cope with such environmental catastrophe as global warming.
6. Population growth and changes of its structure is one of the major factors that have a fundamental effect on these global issues.
7. The solution to the population challenge can only be achieved by creating a living environment in which human rights including that of choice are protected, and all people can live in dignity.
8. Sexual and reproductive health/rights and services are an essential building block to sustainable development. Accessible sexual and reproductive health/rights and services, particularly to avoid maternal death and unplanned pregnancy, can help stabilize rural populations, slow urban migration and balance natural resource use with the needs of the population.
9. The promotion of family planning allows couples to choose and space their families, and reaps personal, social and economic benefits. It will slow the speed of HIV/AIDs, help to reduce poverty and encourage women's empowerment. Reproductive health and rights offer women greater choice and opportunities, and increased ability to be active in their communities and governance.
10. Now we are facing the threat of pandemic of newly emerged and re-emerged infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDs, SARS, Avian Influenza, TB and Malaria, and large-scale natural disasters.

Based on the foregoing facts we will undertake appropriate measures, reaffirming the importance of the International Conference on Population and Development –Programme of Action, “Preamble” and “Principles”. As parliamentarians, we are responsible for the policies of our respective countries. We pledge to carry out the following in order to brighten the future of human society and improve the lives of all our peoples.

Actions

1. One of the most effective means of improving the living environment is to disseminate sexual and reproductive information, and provide accessible services. Mindful of the commitments made in the Bangkok Statement and commitment, we will act so that all people can obtain the benefits of sexual and reproductive health as a part of their rights to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
2. We will promote income creation programs through sustainable development - that is, through creating industry and employment that are consistent with environmental protection - and thereby contribute to the eradication of poverty.
3. We will mobilize our government to support the adoption of indicators by member states of the UN to monitor the target of universal access to reproductive health care and service by 2015.
4. We will create and promote networks and coalitions with our partners in civil society to address population, sexual and reproductive health and sustainability issues.
5. We will promote global co-operation and research to address the issues of food and water shortages to ensure adequate food and water security for all.
6. Recognizing the diversity of the Asian region, we will adopt and implement policies to address the impact of population aging and low birthrate on domestic policies such as social security, pensions and the vulnerability of older persons to poverty.
7. The world has the biggest generation of young people it has ever seen. It is vital we promote the role of young people in decision-making on population and sustainable development issues. Young people must have access to information and education on sexual and reproductive health, food and nutrition, and sustainable development and the environment in order to make sensible and informed decisions.
8. We need to take prompt and adequate policy, law, and budgeting to support preventive approaches, preparedness and lessen the impact of infectious diseases and natural disasters through the exchange of information, technologies, know-how and skills. For this purpose, we the parliamentarians need to promote advocacy activities in respective countries and in the international society.

9. We need to develop a close global partnership for sustainable development among parliamentarians.

10. In order to achieve those purposes, we will vigorously promote legislation, help each other in neutralizing opposition thereto, and mobilize funds in our respective countries.

Closing Ceremony

Closing Address

by

Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP
Chairperson of APDA/AFPPD

We had a successful 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development due entirely to your generous cooperation. Our activities span today, thanks to the untiring efforts of our predecessors, from Japan in the East to Iran in the West. We elected representatives of the people by nature constantly change with elections. This is the fate of any parliamentary activity. A stable and continuous support system, therefore, is essential in order to support the continuity of parliamentary activities. And there is always a need to start with the education of new members.

This meeting gave me the opportunity to look back and made me realize again how much progress we have been able to see in the Asian population scene. Since the nature of our work does not allow a single year evaluation, we must be patient when accounting for it. Indeed a discerning insight is required in continuing to support the activities. It is with that in mind that I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to national governments, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) for supporting our activities often under challenging international circumstances. I recognize this and value highly your perspicacity.

There are many challenges that present themselves before us and it is essential that we overcome them if we are to build a hopeful tomorrow. During the course of our meeting many problems have been brought to our attention, but we also have reasons to be hopeful.

The great hope is the very fact that we have come together from all regions of Asia, engaged candidly and enthusiastically in discussion and exchanged our views as elected representatives of our peoples. It is through engagement in discussions like the ones we had that we will arrive at having a shared perspective and build the foundation for taking actions throughout Asia. Globalization has certainly made our world smaller. We are being challenged to consider the whole world as a single entity and to steer it in the right course.

It may well be a novel experience in many parts of the world but I believe we in Asia have the required wisdom. I say this because historically, we in Asia have had to share a relatively small land mass among the teeming population. This historical experience has nurtured a culture to encourage us to think of our region as one family and to see problems as our very own.

Let us together believe in our wisdom, use it to the maximum so that we can continue to address the important issues of population and development. We must be prepared to wait before any result will become visible, but I am convinced that our earnest efforts will bring about the impact needed in resolving the enormously complex problems before us.

I have been passed on the chair from Dr. Taro Nakayama. APDA and AFPPD will be working in close partnership and effectively developing our much needed activities. As we start the new AFPPD/APDA partnership, I ask for your collaboration.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank the resource persons and the honorable delegates for your active participation. I look forward keenly to our next meeting whether at an APDA conference or our population and development activities in the field. Thank you.

Address

by

Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, MP

Vice-Chairperson of APDA/Secretary-General of JPPF

Thanks to the enthusiastic cooperation of you all, the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development has come to a successful conclusion. In the 25 years since the founding of APDA, the situation in the world has changed greatly. The Cold War as we knew it has vanished like a bad dream, and in its place we see a multiplicity of collaborative international exchanges. Our own circle of ties has dramatically expanded, as demonstrated by the participation in this meeting of members of the former Soviet Union, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Moreover, fertility in Asia has greatly decreased, a development which is indispensable for the stabilization of the population.

At a time when a country's population was considered its strength and an increase in population generally thought to be indispensable for economic development, certain forward-looking individuals clearly recognized, early on, the importance of solving population problems as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable growth. It was they who also saw the importance of the role that parliamentarians could play in achieving that solution, and worked to promote necessary measures. It is because of their foresight that Asia enjoys its current prosperity and stability. This is something that, I believe, must never be forgotten.

Efforts to make the future of humanity into one filled with hope will hereafter, I believe, reach their most critical phase. I am confident that the future of the children of the world depends on us as parliamentarians carrying out those efforts.

We have taken the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of APDA and AFPPD to look back on our activities to date and to focus on challenges of the future. I firmly believe that these discussions will come to serve as the foundation of our activities for the next 25 years. In order to achieve our goal of "building societies in which human dignity is protected," nothing less than the maximum effort will be required of all of us. While APDA's powers are limited, we plan to provide all the assistance of which we are capable.

Due among other things to shortage of staff, we may have caused you various inconveniences; I hope that you will forgive us. In the future, APDA, under its new chairperson plans to carry out its

activities with vigour. In that connection I would like to ask you to continue to lend us your valued cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the resource persons who provided us with such excellent presentations and to the parliamentarians from various countries who enthusiastically participated in the discussions. I truly thank you very much. I look forward to meeting you all again. Thank you.

Address

by

Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit
Secretary-General of AFPPD

First I would like to congratulate APDA for its 25th anniversary and the success of the 23rd Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. All the way you have come to this day with the issue of population and development. We have had a lot of changes and improvement, not only in Asia but for the world as well.

Secondly, it is with quite sadness to say that I have to leave my position as the Secretary General of AFPPD after 6 and half a years, as my term has ended. But I would like to say a few words about what I have done and contributed to the development of AFPPD. During my period, the Asian Women's Conference was initiated as well as a new concept of small focus group meetings of parliamentarians to keep more individual attention, evaluation and impact assessment by external consultation was also conducted. One of the most crucial events was the Organization of International Parliamentarians Conference last November in Bangkok which brought together 300 parliamentarians. Another important achievement during my period was the award of a grant of 1 million dollars by Hewlett Packard Foundation for the innovative program known as Person to Person Advocacy.

Actually, I do not wish to give you a 6-year report of AFPPD but feel satisfied about my contribution and sad because I will miss my good friends, and really close friends. Six and a half years. I feel that this is my second home. Anyway, so many questions came up and asked me what I am going to do in the future. Now I am appointed as one of the board members of hospital activation on the national level. Secondly, I am appointed as one member in one committee that scrutinizes the new constitution that we are now working on. We will have a new election in December. I still have a lot of connections in the country working on women's issues. So I think that I may come across and I may have a chance to see you sometime, someday. Or even if you do not see me, you can invite me to your country.

During my six and a half years, I would like to thank Dr. Taro Nakayama, Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Mr. Shin Sakurai, and all the members of AFPPD, the executive committee that very kindly supported me. And also, to the staff of AFPPD, APDA. And 2 people that I have to mention. One is Mr. Shiv Khare, especially. Mr. Shiv Khare, worked so hard. He always carried on the policy

quite well and I worked less because of his responsibility. The second person I have to thank a lot is Dr. Kusumoto. Dr. Kusumoto never missed work with us in AFPPD. Every event in AFPPD when we asked him, he would come along and solve the problem. And I would like to thank all of you for good cooperation.

Before I end my statement, I would like you to support my friend, Dr. Prat. He is the Permanent Secretary of Public Health at this moment, and he is also a member of the Parliament. He has a lot of connections in the country and outside. He would be new in the parliamentary field but he will adapt. By nature, he is very kind and always works in a friendly manner with all. So please support him. Just think that when you do not see Dr. Malinee, you see Dr. Prat. Thank you very much.

Congratulatory Address on APDA 25th Anniversary

by

Dato' Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadzlah, MP
Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry (Malaysia)

On behalf of parliamentarians from Asia and Pacific, I would like to heartily congratulate APDA on this auspicious occasion of its silver jubilee, that is its 25th anniversary. In 1982, at the time when nobody was ready to talk about population control, APDA took the lead and initiative, which we especially appreciated. With concerted efforts of APDA, and interaction with member nations, the Asia and Pacific region has achieved remarkable progress in the field of population and development-related issues for the past 25 years.

TFR has declined from the rate of 4 in 1982 to the present rate of 2.5. Since stabilizing population is one of prerequisites for achieving a sustainable society and one of the major Millennium Development Goals, this progress on TFR has contributed significantly to economic and social development in this region. This achievement would not have been possible if not for the support of APDA and the role of parliamentarians in their respective countries. APDA and Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population have been taking regular initiatives to mobilize parliamentarians to draw their attention on population and development-related issues since the inception of APDA. The association has been playing a crucial role to facilitate and encourage the activities of parliamentarian committees, groups and associations of the concerned countries, not only in the Asia and Pacific, but also all over the world. Their publications on surveys and studies done in various countries on subjects by APDA was a lighthouse for others.

APDA has made a very significant contribution is pursuing, first, the Programme of Action of the ICPD in 1994, and the Revised Programme ICPD+5 in the member nations. It has also been systematically pursuing the Eight Millennium Development Goals set up by the UNFPA covering, firstly, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; secondly, achieving primary education for both boys and girls by 2015; thirdly, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; four, reduction of under-five child mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015; five, reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015; six, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; seven, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global policy for development.

We also appreciate the role of the chairpersons of AFPPD and the secretaries of JPFP of Tokyo that have been handled over time by APDA, very much closely and efficiently. We wish APDA a bright and successful future and wish that it continues to cultivate the bonds of cooperation amongst regions and parliamentarians in achieving global human development goals. We also suggest APDA to take up new issues in its next 25 years. At this juncture, we, the parliamentarians from Asia and Pacific covering 23 countries, highly appreciate the generous contributions by the Japanese Government, UNFPA, IPPF, and express our gratitude to APDA on its important role, the parliamentarians' movement on population and development. We must acknowledge with great applause, the leadership and guidance provided by dynamic leaders, various presidents, Mr. Takashi Sato, Dr. Taro Nakayama, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Mme. Kayoko Shimizu, and the untiring efforts of its officers and staff to keep the parliamentarians' movement on population and development in action and alive for all these years. A round of applause to these people.

We are confident that under the guidance of APDA, our collective efforts will provide a solid foundation for a bright future for humanity in Asia and the Pacific. Once again, thank you very much. Thank you.

Address

by

Dr. Gill Greer

Director-General of IPPF

I would like to express my gratitude to the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for creating the programme of events over the last 2 days.

It has been an important opportunity to discuss research and issues related to population and development, with input from parliamentarians, academics and civil society. I would like to thank the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and to the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development and all of you for hosting this meeting and sharing your thoughts and ideas.

I have been particularly impressed by the commitment to sustainable development and APDA's willingness to encourage debate on many different aspects of population and development. In the past, APDA has been instrumental in building knowledge related to population and development and critical importance of reproductive health and rights. Parliamentarians from JPFP and AFPPD have made major contributions to global dialogue on these issues, and to national policies. These last 2 days dialogue have laid the basis for further reflection on policy development and action. I would like to congratulate the organizers on the timeliness of the theme of this meeting.

On page 11 of the Japan Times today, the headlines included "rising tide of development is choking Asia's major rivers", "Australia declares El Nino has ended", "South Korea warns against the yellow dust", "China aiming to cut water usage", "World's largest squid caught". The remaining articles related to human security and conflict including "War protesters, police clash over visit by Cheney".

I have been forcefully reminded of the wide diversity of population and development issues in this region and across the globe. These are matters for which we must take collective responsibility and action, ensuring that policies and interventions are specific and targeted. The concerns expressed about falling birth rates and aging in Japan, South Korea and Singapore offer opportunities for a variety of policy options, including positive aging, later retirement, flexible working conditions, and improved quality early childhood education, but what is clear is that any policies must be based on individual choice, not coercion or control. This lies at the very heart of ICPD.

Also empowerment of women is recognized as absolutely critical for sustainable development and improved environmental management. We must work together to reassure people that in fact it means that both men and women can be strong and contribute equally, if differently to their family, community and society. As I said at the opening, you are the bridge between people and their government and successful advocates who can speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and you have the power to make a difference through policy, legislation, funding and monitoring. You are of course not expected to achieve all this on your own – working in partnership with NGOs like our membership associations in your countries is the ideal way to create synergy and support, to share information, and to ensure the needs of communities throughout the region are met.

Together we can ensure young people have access to information and services and understand the importance of their decisions for themselves, and the globe, and we can halve the spread of HIV, reduce the tragic loss of women's lives through high fertility rates and unsafe abortion which are the consequences of the unmet need for family planning and other sexual and reproductive health needs. Similarly you can ensure that policies that address both low and high fertility rates are based on choice not coercion or control.

The last 2 days have been part of such stocktaking. I urge you to look for synergy and linkages between the Bangkok Declaration and its regional plans and the discussions of the last few days with your parliamentary colleagues, officials, and the media in your own countries, and take immediate steps to encourage a rights-based approach to development. One immediate step you can take is to ensure that strong statements are made by your country delegation at the forthcoming Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting to urge a zero tolerance approach to violence against the girl child, including child marriage and that the epidemic of violence against women and girls is finally halted. Soon after the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) will meet in NY and again you can call for your country delegation to insist that issues of changing population profile and demographics are addressed by policies based on choice not coercion and control.

The future of our planet depends upon the advancement of sustainable social and economic development, and sexual and reproductive health and rights are critical to this. All people are entitled to the right to the fullest attainable standard of health and the right to development. You can be champions for the rights and needs of so many women, men and young people as issues of population and sustainable development are urgently addressed. Please use your power to do so, we cannot afford to fail. Thank you again.

List of Participants

Members of Parliament

Australia	Dr. Malcom James Washer	Chair of Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development.
China	Dr. Sang Guowei	Vice-Chairperson of ESCPH Committee Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD
	Mme. Fang Xin	Member of ESCPH Committee
India	Prof. P.J. Kurien	Former Union Minister
Indonesia	Ms. Aisyah Hamid Baidlowi	Chairperson of IFPPD Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD
	Ms. Isma Yatun	Member of IFPPD
Iran	Dr. Shahin Mir Mohammad Sadeghi	Member of Presidium of Parliament Member of Iranian Parliamentarian Population and Development Committee (IRPPDC)
Japan	Ms. Chikage Oogi	Speaker of the House of Councillors
	Dr. Taro Nakayama	Chairperson of JPFP Chairperson of APDA
	Mr. Yasuo Fukuda	Chairperson of AFPPD Vice-Chairperson of JPFP
	Mr. Shin Sakurai	Vice-Chairperson of JPFP Former Chairperson of AFPPD
	Ms. Kayoko Shimizu	Secretary-General of JPFP Vice-Chairperson of APDA
	Ms. Mayumi Moriyama	Vice-Chairperson of JPFP
	Mr. Katsusugu Sekiya	Vice-Chairperson of JPFP
	Mr. Naokazu Takemoto	Deputy Executive Director of JPFP
	Mr. Takeshi Maeda	Member of JPFP
	Mr. Kenya Akiba	Member of JPFP
	Mr. Daishirou Yamagiwa	Member of JPFP

Kazakhstan	Dr. Bexultan Tutkushev	Deputy Secretary-General of AFPPD
	Mr. Amangeldy Duisekeev	Member of Parliament
Korea	Dr. Myoung-Ock Ahn	Executive Member of CPE
Kyrgyz Republic	Mr. Artykbaev Osmonbek Mambetjanovich	Deputy Chairperson of National Committee on Population and Development
Laos	Dr. Douangsavanh Somphou	Vice-Chairperson of Cultural and Social Committee
Malaysia	Dato' Ahmad Husni bin Mohamad Hanadzlah	Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Chairperson of AFPPD Malaysia
Mongolia	Mr. Lambaa Sambuu	Member of Parliament
Nepal	Ms. Chitrlekha Yadav	Deputy Speaker of Interim Parliament
New Zealand	Ms. Steve Chadwick	Chairperson of NZPPD Chairperson of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women
	Ms. Sue Kedgley	Member of NZPPD
Pakistan	Ms. Riffat Javaid Kahlon	Member of Standing Committee on Population Welfare
	Dr. Donya Aziz	Parliamentary Secretary on Population
	Mr. Chaudhary Imran Ullah	Member of Standing Committee on Population Welfare
Philippines	Mr. Rodante C. Marcoleta	Member of Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development
Singapore	Dr. Wee Kiak Lim	Member of Parliament
Tajikistan	Mr. Muhammadato Isoevich Suultonov	Member of Parliament
Thailand	Dr. Prat Boonyawongvirot	Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health
Vietnam	Mme. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu	Chair of VAPPD, Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD

Mr. Le Hong Phuong

Member of VAPPD

Resource Person

Dr. Zenbei Uchijima

Professor Emeritus of Ochanomizu University

Dr. Makoto Atoh

Professor of Waseda University

Ms. Mitsuko Horiuchi

Visiting Professor of Bunkyo Gakuin University
Former ILO Japan Representative

Dr. Hirofumi Ando

Professor of Nihon University
Former UNFPA Deputy Executive Director

Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe

Director of Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, National Institute of Infectious Disease

International Organizations

IPPF

Dr. Gill Greer

Director-General

UNFPA

Ms. Pamela DeLargy

Chief of the Humanitarian Response Unit

Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami

Director of UNFPA Tokyo Office

Mr. Kunio Waki

Former Deputy Executive Director

Observers

H.E. Askar Kutanov

Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Japan

Mr. Rysbek Moldogaziev

First Secretary of the Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic to Japan

Mr. Jafar Akrami Abarghousee

Counselor of the Embassy of Iran to Japan

Ms. Sumie Ishii

Executive Director of JOICEP

Ms. Makoto Yaguchi

Assistant Program Officer of JOICEP

Mr. Masahiko Nishiuchi

NPO2050

National Committee Secretariats

AFPPD

Mr. Shiv Khare

Executive Director

	Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit	Adviser
	Dr. Puangpen Chanprasert	Senior Public Health Technical Officer of Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health
	Dr. Porntep Siriwanarangsun	Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Public Health
	Mr. Nodir Egamberdiev	Staff
	Mr. Veravut Hirunyasiri	Administrative Associate
AFPPD Malaysia	Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah Osman	Executive Director
ESCPH	Mr. Ding Wei	Deputy Director-General
	Mr. Zhang Wu	Director
	Mr. Mao Junfeng	Staff
	Mr. Zhang Lei	Staff
IAPPD	Mr. Manmohan Sharma	Executive Secretary
NZPPD	Mr. Georgina Whitfield	Coordinator
VAPPD	Dr. Nguyen Van Tien	Executive Director
<u>Media</u>		
	Mr. Noboru Nagaoka	Editor of The Asahi Press
	Mr. Takashi Nameshida	The Mainichi Press
	Mr. Jamshid Rezaei	The head of Japan Branch of Iran National Broadcast (IRNA)
<u>The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)</u>		
	Dr. Osamu Kusumoto	Executive Director/ Secretary General
	Mr. Masanori Takemoto	Programme Manager
	Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa	International Affairs Manager
	Ms. Ryoko Kimura	External Affairs Manager
<u>The Interpreters</u>	Ms. Fujiko Hara	Interpreter

Ms. Kimiyo Machida

Interpreter

Ms. Nobuko Tsutsui

Interpreter

AFPPD	: Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development
APDA	: The Asian Population and Development Association
CPE	: Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development
ESCPH	: Education, Science, Culture, Public Health Committee (China)
FPAID	: Family Planning International Development, New Zealand
IAPPD	: Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
IFPPD	: Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
IPPF	: The International Planned Parenthood Federation
JPPF	: Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
NPC	: National People's Congress(China)
NZPPD	: The New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development
PLCPD	: The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation
UNFPA	: The United Nations Population Fund
VAPPD	: Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development