

FIFTH ASIAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
(Feb.17-18, 1989)

Asian Population and  
Development Association

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OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FIFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani  
Co-chairperson, Philippine Legislators' Committee on  
Population and Development

Secretary Monsod, Secretary Bengzon, Former Prime Minister Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Mr. Mangun of UNDP, Mr. Singh of UNFPA, Hon. Tatsuo Tanaka of APDA, Hon. Sat Paul Mittal of AFPPD, distinguished parliamentarian delegates, colleagues in the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, representatives of international organizations, representatives of various government offices and non-governmental agencies, executive of local government units, members of the academe, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me special pleasure and honored privilege to welcome such a distinguished group of people to a meeting on population and development issues. I hope this is an effective indicator of interest and commitment for action on the topic.

Before I move on any further, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, the organizers of the meeting - the Asian Population and Development Association, those which have provided cooperation and support for the realization of this meeting - the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the United Nations Population Fund and to our friends and colleagues, who have shown concern and have given assistance.

We consider this to be another significant even in the history of Philippine legislators' interest in the population and development issue. On September 2, 1988, a national conference on Human Survival: Population and Development participated by members of the Philippine Senate and the House of Representatives was conducted. The main output was a Plan of Action which puts together a set of basic premises and recommendations for action towards resolving bottlenecks in the implementation of the present population program

of the country with the end in view of strengthening the program to effectively attain its objectives. To date, there are at least 15 bills and resolutions on population and development - related issues filed and being deliberated upon by appropriate committees in both houses.

Our interest in population and development is brought about by the apparent difficulties of our country in completing the demographic transition and its implications for attaining our cherished development goals in spite of the presence of the Philippine population program for the last twenty years. While we do not question the appropriateness of the main components of the program, we would like to work towards a more efficient and effective population program to directly confront with tact and understanding what has remained to be one of the important missing ingredients for Philippine socioeconomic progress. The present demographic situation of the country inhibits the attainment of economic growth because it does not make any human nor economic sense to compromise the health and welfare of over present population in favor of the growth of tomorrow's economy. Continued increase in appropriation for welfare services like health, education and housing for a rapidly increasing population will invariably mean less investments for productivity pursuits like industry.

Population factors are amenable to public policies as demonstrated by several of the countries represented here. We would like to think that with collective and massive support, we can also bring on balance our population and resources. Otherwise we shall continue to face new challenges brought about by the negative consequences of poverty as exacerbated and compounded by unfavorable demographic events. We now have what we can call a second generation population and development concerns in the form of the following emerging social problems: "street children", child labor, septic abortion, early premarital sex, teenage pregnancies, prostitution, proliferation of squatters, and increased crime rate.

The role of government here is twofold. One, is to act as custodians of society to align or make consistent private and public gains in family life and population. To keep a certain level of employment without straining the capability of the economy to create new jobs, an individual family's gain from having many children to augment family income requires that other families plan the number of children in accordance with their capacity to support and care

for them. Individuals usually do not appreciate nor understand the cost of their children to government and society as a whole. Secondly, where the demand for family planning is high in segments of the society with low purchasing power, government should be made responsible for providing these services.

The government is also dutybound to ensure that timely and reliable data are made available to provide an accurate status of the population towards improved monitoring and evaluation of public programs.

Let us dispel the myth that politicians are shortsighted and are not capable of seeing and appreciating the issues with longer time frames. The "silent emergency" of dying mothers and malnourished children due to too-frequent and many births continues to grip the nation and in many ways exacerbates our present problems. Shall we now start to confront the issues with determination and on the basis of dialogue and consensus with the unified and integrated objective of a better future for our countries and for our region in our agenda?

I am confident we shall, as fellow-Asians, respond to this challenge at this fifth meeting of the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

ADDRESS AT THE FIFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Tatsuo Tanaka  
Chairman, Asian Population and Development Association

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association, which is sponsoring this meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Chairman of the Philippine Congress, and other government officials and academicians for their efforts in holding this "The Fifth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development." My appreciation is also extended to all members of the Philippine Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, including Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani and Congresswoman Teresa Aquino-Oreta, for the kind consideration and assistance they have provided in co-sponsoring this meeting.

Also, I would like to personally thank everyone in the audience who has kindly found the time in his or her busy schedule to gather here to attend this meeting. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the guidance and support of UNFPA led by Dr. Nafis Sadik and other concerned agencies that have assisted for us since the Asian Population and Development Association was established in February 1982.

I am very pleased that we can hold this meeting in the Republic of the Philippines, the home country of the late Mr. Salas, whose memory we all love and respect, who was the former Secretary-General of UNFPA. We all remember how he devotedly spend his life, traveling all over the world in an effort to find solutions to its population problems.

This meeting was organized in order to assist every Asian parliamentarian who is involved in resolving the issues of population control and economic development in Asia. The first and second meetings were held in Tokyo in 1985 and 1986, respectively. Then we met successfully in Thailand in 1987, and in

Malaysia in 1988, thanks to the support of those host nations.

This meeting consists of parliamentarians and experts from Asian countries who are concerned with the issues of population and development. It has accomplished a great deal in resolving these issues of common concern, as well as in promoting mutual understanding on a global scale.

As you all know, since its establishment, the Asian Population and Development Association has been carrying out various activities focusing on issues of population and development in Asia. Asia accounts for about 60% of the world's population, and, therefore, its social and economic development is an issue of global concern, which encompasses environmental protection, the conservation of natural resources, energy and food, etc. It is very important that these are dealt with by all the nations concerned in Asia, as well as in the world, by transcending national boundaries, and differences in religion or politics.

We held the first meeting of Asian parliamentarians on population and development in Beijing in 1981. At that meeting, a declaration was adopted which included a goal of "the attainment for the one percent population growth for the Asian region by the year 2000." This goal was then reconfirmed at the First General Meeting of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), which was held in New Delhi in 1984, as well as at the Second General Meeting of AFPPD held in Beijing in September 1987.

Since the Asian population is about to reach 3 billion, we all have to make every effort to achieve "the 1 percent population growth rate by the end of this century."

It is natural that politicians work hard for the benefit of their own countries. Population problems, however, cannot be dealt with effectively by individual countries or regions.

We politicians assume the responsibility of finding ways of securing a bright future for all the people living on this planet, not to mention those new lives which are entering the world at this very moment and our own offspring.

This afternoon we will be presenting a report on a series of surveys -



conducted in China and Nepal by the Asian Population and Development Association, as well as the results of several case studies which have been conducted in Japan. Our report will be discussed further during this meeting.

In the session, entitled: "Demographic Transition and Socio - Economic Development - Strategy towards 21st Century," we will be listening to presentations by each participating nation.

Although this is a two - day conference, and time is limited, we strongly encourage everyone to make whatever contribution he or she can to promote peace and welfare for the people in Asia and the rest of the world. It will be our greatest pleasure if all of you will freely and thoroughly discuss the population problem, a fundamental issue of grave concern to everyone.

Thank you very much.

OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FIFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Takeo Fukuda  
Chairman, Global Committee of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Leticia Shahani and Congresswoman Aquino-Oreta, Ms. Solita C. Monsod, who made the preparations for this meeting, all those from the Philippine government and all of our parliamentary friends from all over Asia, and everyone in attendance here today.

I am very pleased that the Fifth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development is being held today in Manila, Republic of Philippines. I would like to make a few remarks on behalf of the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and also on behalf of the Japanese parliamentarians delegation.

Speaking of the Philippines, the people in attendance here and everyone who is concerned with the population problem remember the late Mr. Rafael Salas, who served as Secretary-General of the United Nations Fund for Population from the time of its establishment in 1969 up until his death. The population explosion can be considered the biggest problem of the 21st century, and Mr. Salas should receive proper credit as the person who correctly indentified the problem, tackled it head on and made people would like to pray here with all of you for the soul of the departed Mr. Salas.

I have a close relationship with the Philippines, and I am in fact the chairman of the Philippine Society in Japan. Also, shortly after I took office as Prime Minister in 1977 I made a tour of various Asian counties and in concluding my tour I made a speech in Manila for the purpose of clarifying Japan's basic stance in dealing with the world, particularly Asian countries. I emphasized three points in my speech. First, Japan would commit itself to peace and would never take the path to becoming a military power. Second, Japan would develop a relationship besed on mutual trust with all Asian countries with which we can communicate in a sincere manner as true friend not

about politics and economics, but also about a wide range of subjects, both social and cultural. Third, the relationship between Japan and the other Asian countries should be one of equal collaborators, and even if a country's political system is different, we should overcome that difference and establish friendly relations. Publicly I have called this the "Fukuda doctrine," and to this day it has continued to be the basic diplomatic policy of Japan.

Since then I have had several opportunities to visit foreign countries. This time I have visited the Philippines with the Japanese parliamentary delegation in order to examine the problems of population and development in Asian with all of you. As you well know, the formation of the Japanese parliamentary group on population and development in 1974, the "Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population," the first of those forums of parliamentarians dealing with the population problem which now exist in over 60 countries. I am presently acting as chairman and have been very active in the forum.

Mr. Chairman, I have said that there are three problems which mankind must solve before entering the 21st century. I have warned that if they are not solved there will be no future for mankind, not to mention the 21st century. The first problem concerns world peace, the second is the problem of economic stability, and the third is the population problem and various other related issues.

Since the end of World War II, world politics has revolved around the confrontation between the East and the West, and this situation continues to this day. A natural consequence of this confrontation is an arms race. The arms race has even escalated to a nuclear arms race. It is said that there are now enough nuclear weapons stored up to annihilate mankind more than 60 times over. If they are used it will be the end of mankind on the earth. And yet there is no guarantee that they will not be used. This is frightening. Moreover, the financial burden of this arms race is enormous. Both the United States and the Soviet Union are encumbered with this pressure. Thus, belatedly they have begun to reconsider the arms race. Summit meetings have been held again between these two countries after a six year interval. There are signs of appeasement all over the world, with these summit meetings leading the way. This is a new trend in the area of world politics. There is now a ray of

hope. The world must very, very carefully foster this new trend.

In contrast, there are still no signs of improvement in the area of world economy today. Economic imbalance has yet to be resolved from now on. The key to healthy world economy is held unquestionably by the United States. Will the new U.S. administration which has replaced Mr. Reagan come up with sensible measures to deal with the so - called twin deficit problem, and will those measures be successful ? Will it be able to adopt effective measures to deal with the developing nations which are deeply in debt ? World economy is yet to shape up.

Well, problems involving world politics and world economy are the urgent questions of the day, but the other important question I raised, the population problem, is a mere basic problem for mankind and also is more difficult to manage.

The world population at the beginning of this century was 1.6 billion and will most likely reach 6.2 billion by the end of the century. This is in fact a four-fold increase. If the population continues to increase at this pace, what will mankind's future be like ? The earth today is already progressively turning into a desert. The atmosphere is being contaminated. Such frightening things as freon, acid rain and the greenhouse effect are progressively getting worse. Almost all of these are deeply related to the problem of the rapidly increasing population. Thus, the population problem has become a serious issue for all human beings which cannot be left to chance.

Various measures to deal with this problem have been promoted by mostly the United Nations, and countries all over the world have provided support. The problem is that these measures cannot bear positive results with just the United Nations and the cooperation of nations. Cooperation from the religious community, which has a very strong effect on mankind throughout the world, is necessary. That is why the InterAction Council, which we started as an organization to promote activities leading to world peace, held in Rome in March two years ago a gathering of six representatives each from the world religious community (representing the Catholic Church was Cardinal Kenihhi of the Vatican) and the world political community. I acted as chairman and we discussed the various issues related to world peace, but with regard to the population problem we reached the conclusion and announced in our official

statement that, "Leaders will have to seek to adopt effective family planning in their respective countries, while appreciating different approaches taken by various religious groups toward family planning methods and policies."

Asia is an especially important region of the world with respect to the population problem. The reason being that 60 percent of the world population is in Asia. That is why the administrations and legislators of all Asian governments are making extra efforts with regard to this problem. Noteworthy measures are now being promoted in the nations in Asia, such as the epoch-making policies in China.

We, the parliamentarian groups from Asia, have already resolved to bring the population growth rate of Asia down to one percent by the year 2000 in response to the 1981 Beijing Declaration. Moreover, the mortality rates for infants and mothers will be decreased, while achieving a population distribution conducive to the social and economic development of Asia.

I hope there will be a thorough exchange of opinions at this year's conference and that it will be a great success.

OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FIFTH PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Sat Paul Mittal  
Secretary General of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development

Former Prime Minister Fukuda, Chairman of the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Senator Shahani, Madame Oreta, Mr. Tanaka, Chairman of APDA, Mr. Sato, Chairman of AFPPD, my colleagues, distinguished leaders and members of the Host Committee, ladies and gentlemen. This is my proud privilege this morning, to be amongst those, who are to greet you, although I am one of you to be greeted, on this occasion, because I am one of the participants. But, being a functionary of the Asian Forum, it is my privilege to welcome all of you to this historic meeting of the Asian Population and Development Association, which has enabled us, the officers and the members of the Asian Forum of Population and Development, to get together for another meeting tomorrow.

Asian Forum was conceived in China in the year 1981, October, but born in India, in the year 1982, the following year, and, in this ninth year of its existence, it has 18 children. When I say 18 children, this means the Asian Forum has 18 members from the member countries of the Asian Regions in Parliamentary System. Prime Minister Fukuda, you can have objection to the population growth all over the world, being the father of a concept of a parliamentarian's movement, all the world over, you cannot have any objection to the Asian Forum having 18 children.

As a matter of fact, whether I would plead for a small family, I would certainly go in for, and crusade for a larger family of the Asian Forum, and consequently, a larger family of the Global Committee. I greet you to this historic event, where you are going to grapple with problems of organization, problems of reaching a consensus on not only the interrelationship between population, and development, and of the related matters, but also the nexus between population and human survival. Because, ultimately, we have come to a stage where the explosion of population has come to such a dangerous proportion,

that it has started threatening the very survival and existence of humankind on this planet. At least, it has come to a pass, where it threatens the quality of life of the people.

We are all parliamentarians, elected representatives of the people. Our goal is to promote the quality of life of the people everywhere. The explosion of population is threatening that very goal. As a matter of fact, a population of a country is an asset of that country. But when it overtakes the process of development, overtakes the existing reserves of development and resources, it doesn't remain an asset, it becomes the liability. Similarly, in the developing world, particularly the Asian region, which today account for 60% of the whole total human race, the very fundamental of the quality of the life of the people is being threatened, that is why we are all trying to grapple with this problem, and are not leaving it only to the medical profession, or even to the governments. Permit me to say, as wars are too important to be left to generals alone, population is too critical, too grave, too enormous to be left to bureaucracy alone, to be left to the medical profession alone.

That is why the parliamentarians come in. It's not that they enact laws alone, and laws alone will take care of this problem. It is because the laws must be backed by social action. Unless there is a program of, the action plan is there, which has the backing of the society at large, which has the backing of the people at the grass-roots level, such an enormous problem cannot be tackled. It is for this purpose that the parliamentarians have to be involved, not only in the formulation of the population policies, but also in the implementation of the programs that each country, that each government has to formulate for its own people.

The concept of parliamentarians taking the leadership role was emphasized in China way back in 1981, when we all decided that we must have a forum of our own to coordinate the activities of parliamentarians in each country in Asia. It was with that in view that this forum came into being eight years before. I remember this was a follow - up of a conference of parliamentarians organized by UNFPA in Sri Lanka in 1979, where one of the major recommendations was to facilitate and encourage parliamentarians to meet often, to organize themselves into a movement so that they can back their governments at the national level in the implementation of the population policies.

This Asian Forum eventually became a vehicle, a forum for the formation of the Global Committee at the global level. In a way, Asian Forum is the father of the Global Committee, I would like to say that. And here I have great pleasure in welcoming Fomer Prime Minister Fukuda, not only that he is today currently occupying the position of the Chairman of the Global Committee, but he is one of those two great statesmen of the world who fathered the concept of a parliamentary movement in the world to take care of the critical problem of population explosion. I welcome him.

Every event that takes place, we have touch of Mr. Fukuda. We get the inspiration from him. Even when we organized meetings of this nature, not only in Asia, elsewhere in the world, we always recognized the contribution made by Mr. Fukuda and his colleagues. And, on this occasion, I would also like to recognize the leadership role that Takashi Sato, the Chairman of the Asian Forum, has provided in giving this movement a meaningful context. He has gone around the whole of Asia meeting parliamentarians in each country encouraging them, inspiring them into forming national groups and national associations. That is how we have now become a large family in the Asian Forum.

On this occasion, when the whole world will be observing the 20th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Fund for Population, UNFPA, I would like to recognize the presence here of senior officer, Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, who is, in a way, deputizing Dr. Nafis Sadik, who couldn't make it. This is the year when we will be observing the 20th anniversary of the UNFPA, I would like to say a special world of our thanks and gratitude to the United Nations Fund for Population for enabling us to organize such meetings, not only here, but in China, in New Delhi, and, shortly, we are going to have a meeting, a conference of the Asian Women Parliamentarians in New Delhi hopefully in September / October this year, where we expect at least 22, 23 member countries of the Asian Regions in Parliamentary System to participate. The concept of an Asian Women Parliamentarian's Conference have emerged as a result of our long deliberations and the conclusion that it is the women who have to take the leadership role in the population and development front, if we really want the results that we envision from time to time. The women have ro take the leadership role.

We all recognize that if we leave it to the men to determine the size of



the family, the family will be smaller. Because we know it is the woman who has to bear the entire brunt, not only of giving birth to a child, upbringing of the child, nurturing of the child, giving education, all kinds of things that a child or a baby requires, it is the mother who has to provide. So if we have to leave the choice of the family size to a woman, I have no doubt, and I am not here to argue the role of men and the role of women, but we all know that, it is imperative, I don't have to argue on that score, when we accept that, if we leave it to the men, the size of the family will be smaller.

We are to recognize the fact that we have to give that kind of status to the women, and if we have to give that status to the women, the education to the women, the necessary employment and other opportunities to the women, why not give the leadership role to the women, to come forward and help. So the person who has dreamt about it is no other than the dreamer, I call him a dreamer, a dreamer whose dreams have always been realized, Mr. Akio Matsumura. Mr. Akio Matsumura is the executive director of the Global Committee and the executive coordinator of the Asian Forum. I have specially mentioned him because he is the one who dreams, and then sees that his dreams come true. Only last year, with his active involvement, we were able to organize a world conference, a global conference of Parliamentary and Spiritual Leaders in Human Survival in Oxford, U.K.

And Cardinal Kenihhi, whom Former Prime Minister Fukuda mentioned, he was one of those top - ranking religious leaders, besides many others, including the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and many others who came around there, to that great conference. And it was a breakthrough in all respects, because, ultimately, the concluding document of that world conference touched upon population as one of the major problems that this planet is faced with. And the document said that we have to, in a coordinated and collaborative manner between the spiritual and parliamentary leaders, we have to give our top priority to population and development issues.

The nexus between the two was one of the main themes that engaged the participants on two major fronts : the parliamentarians, who were elected by the people, and the spiritual leaders, who are closest to the people in many respects. So, on all fronts, one of the major plank of the world attention is the population problem.

I don't have to dwell on other problems that Mr. Fukuda, senior statesman that he is, has dealt with at length. I only say that your family, the Asian family of parliamentarians, is making big strides, is trying to make a dent into the situation. What is needed is more endeavors, more efforts, in a more coordinated and systematic manner in each country by parliamentarians who are dedicated and committed to it. I thank you very much for taking the trouble of coming to this meeting. I hope that you will be able to deal with these problems, put your heads together, and come out with workable solutions and resolutions to these problems.

Thank you very much, indeed.

OPENING REMARKS AT THE FIFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh  
Director, Information and External Relations Division  
United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Fukuda, Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Mittal, Mrs. Shahani, Mrs. Oreta, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik, I would like to warmly welcome the parliamentarians who are participating in the Fifth Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. Dr. Sadik has always taken a keen interest in the activities of parliamentarians aimed at promoting both awareness and understanding of population issues, and she regrets very much that because of other commitments she cannot be with you today. However, she looks forward to receiving in due course a report on your deliberations and conclusions.

As you will recall, 1st July 1988 was marked in many countries in Asia as the Day of Three Billion. According to the 1988 United Nations projections, the population of Asia reached three billion on or about 10 August last year. That is almost 60% of the present world population of five billion.

The growth rate for Asia as a whole is lower than that for Africa or Latin America. But because Asia has such a large population base, the total numbers in Asia world continue to grow rapidly for sometime to come. The Asian population is currently increasing by 54.5 million every year, 4.54 million every month or 150,000 every day. Under current projections, it is expected to reach 4.5 billion by the year 2025 - still more than half of a projected world population of 8.2 billion.

Population growth varies greatly among different sub-regions of Asia. It has already declined substantially in East Asia and in many countries in South-East Asia where population policies and programmes are beginning to show impressive results. However, in countries of South Asia (with the exception of

Sri Lanka), the growth rate continues to be high.

Asia's population of three billion is in many ways a testimony to the victory achieved of the region's age - old enemies, famine and high mortality. But what is clear now is the need for Asia, like other developing regions, to continue to lower birth rates, to stimulate economic growth and food production and to provide jobs and food for its increasing population. This is not an easy task. But Asia provides good examples both what can be done and what needs to be done in the future.

Among the South Asian countries, India and Pakistan have had national population programmes since the early 1950s. But these have not had an appreciable impact. It is generally accepted now that the birth rates will not come down unless there is a much higher rate of literacy, particularly among women. Also basic health services and family planning will have to be strengthened.

It has been demonstrated that family planning works best in those countries where women work outside the home and have control over their own fertility. This means that many countries will have to proceed with the delicate task of encouraging change in their traditional cultures.

The Asian food situation has greatly improved but the region will have to produce more in the future. Asia produces 450 million metric tons of rice, or about 150 kilograms per person. In 1950 it produced only about 150 million metric tons. Rice production has thus trebled in the last three and a half decades. But Professor Gayl Ness of the University of Michigan estimates that it will have to rise from about 555 million metric tons in the year 2000 to 675 million in 2025 to cover the additional population.

The Asian countries can probably do this, but they will have to plan for provision of the extra fertilizer and energy required for increased production. And they will have to assess the environment consequences of more intensive cultivation.

The Asian labour force grew at an annual rate of about 2 percent between 1950 and 1985. This overall rate may continue for sometime, but fertility

decline in many parts of Asia will restrict the number of people seeking jobs. Much higher levels of investment will be needed to create new jobs especially in depressed rural areas. Strengthening of rural economies is needed to stem the migratory flow to Asia's exploding cities.

Asia's pattern of growth and the associated problems are in many ways typical of other developing regions. They pose grave problems for the future. One of the most disconcerting is that while population in the industrialized countries has slowed or stopped, it continues to grow rapidly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This global population imbalance poses dangers to the environment, to international trade and to peace.

When population growth outstrips its natural resource base, it begins to destroy it. The destruction of trees and forests spreads deserts and creates worldwide climatic changes.

Countries which have to devote much of their energies to coping with high population growth have little chance for economic improvement.

And when population growth in a country or region curtails economic growth, people without prospect of finding work have little choice but to migrate to other countries in search of livelihoods. In addition, large - scale unemployment, especially on "young" societies with high population growth, creates the potential for political and social upheaval.

If we are to have a peaceful and prosperous world population growth will have to be brought into balance with resource base. This means that governments will have to develop or continue sound economic policies and effective population programmes.

The parliamentarians in Asia have a particularly important role to play in helping governments to establish appropriate population policies and programmes and to integrate population concerns into over - all development plans and programmes. As representatives of their constituents, they are in a position to convey the objectives of the specific plans and programmes formulated by the governments. At the same time they can convey to the governments the needs and wishes of the people, which must be taken into

account in the implementation of population and development programmes. There is increasing awareness, because of the efforts made by the governments, NGO's and the media of the urgency of population issues, among the people. But there is a big gap between what people need in terms of information and services, and what is currently available. This gap has to be closed if population programmes are to reach their objectives. Parliamentarians can be of immense help in helping the countries to reach these objectives.

In the past, we have worked closely with both the Asian Population and Development Association and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. We hope to strengthen our co-operation with you in future, and would like to wish you every success in the deliberations of this meeting as well as in the implementation of your future programme of work.

OPENING REMARKS AT THE FIFTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Turhan K. Mangun

UNFPA Representative and Resident Co-ordinator of The United Nation System's  
Operational Activities for Development in the Philippines

Hon. Senator Leticia R. Shahani, Hon. Congresswoman Teresa Aquino - Oreta, Hon. Chairman Takeo Fukuda, Hon. Chairman Tatsuo Tanaka, Hon. Sat Paul Mittal, Mr. Jyoti Singh, on behalf of my colleague, the UNFPA country director, and myself may extend a warm welcome to you.

Since the success of the 1974 and 1984 United Nations Conferences on Population, the way has been opened for more and more active involvement in population and development issues. Asian Countries have led the way in this movement. Some countries in Asia were the first to adopt population policies, the first to confront the question of rapid population growth, and the first to see their efforts rewarded with at least partial success.

At this conference, there are parliamentarians from 15 countries in the region. And these countries represent a wide array of population and development circumstances. Among them are some which decades ago achieved high levels of socio-economic development and low population growth rates; some which have only recently made considerable economic progress and have also brought down their population growth rates; some which are struggling on both counts; and some which have reached the point where they would like to see increased population growth.

UNFPA has provided assistance to virtually every developing country in the region, at the request of their governments. This assistance has been based on the following three principles:

1. National sovereignty in population matters. Every nation has the right to determine its own population policy;
2. The principle that individuals and couples are to be provided with the necessary information and services to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children; and,

3. The principle that population goals and policies are integral parts of socio - economic development.

UNFPA has assisted the Philippines in the population area since 1970 and is now in the process of working with the Government to prepare a new five year programme of assistance.

Globally, considerable progress has been made in the last 20 years, since the operationalization of UNFPA. 1989 is the 20th Anniversary year for UNFPA. In the 20 years since the Fund was operationalized under the dynamic leadership of Rafael Salas, one of the Philippines most illustrious sons, a new awareness and understanding of population within development and in the formulation and implementation of population programmes has emerged. Population variables in development programmes have come to be viewed in relation to resources, health, education, employment, land, water, energy and technological capabilities. Population has come to be recognized as one of the integrated aspects of socio-economic development. It is significant that UNFPA and UNDP - which covers the entire spectrum of development concerns - share the same Governing Council. It has been realized that population issues must always be dealt with in the context of the individual country's socio - economic conditions, and in the light of the individual country's religious and cultural traditions.

Population and development issues are increasingly seen as being of strategic importance to the well-being and progress of humankind. In the face of the enormous problems and challenges that face much of the Asian region, it is encouraging that these issues are being given, in many countries, urgent priority.

As pointed out by Dr. Nafis Sadik, the distinguished present executive director of UNFPA, the status of women, and the health of women and children are of particular relevance. Population programmes contribute to providing women with the options necessary for them and their husbands to determine the number and spacing of their children, and thus contribute to the status of women, as well as to the welfare of their families. As an integral part of maternal and child health programmes, family planning provides an important contribution toward improved health of mothers and infants, and toward decreased maternal and child mortality.



All these issues relating to population and development area clearly within the purview of parliamentarians. Meetings such as this one provide the opportunity for exchange of information, review of relevant experiences, and expansion of cooperation. The role of parliamentarians is unquestionably significant in the formulation of policies, the promulgation of legislation, and the creating of awareness both nationally and internationally, and in contributing to effective solutions of questions pertaining to population and development. The Asian Population and Development Association and the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development are to be warmly commended for this timely initiative.

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES :  
THE IMPERATIVES FOR RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Hon. Solita Collas-Monsod

NEDA Director-General and Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning

I am highly honored to be here today to address the 5th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. I would like to congratulate the sponsors, organizers and participants of this meeting for bringing into focus once again the linkage between population and development and how such linkage influence our efforts to raise the levels of living and quality of life of our people. We must never forget that population is both a means and the end of all our development efforts.

In Asia, we find countries with different concerns regarding population change -- concerns which are related to their different stages of demographic and socio-economic development. Many countries like the Philippines are confronted with problems associated with continued rapid population growth, while other countries, notably the more development ones, are confronted with problems associated with dramatic fertility declines in the past.

In Japan, for instance, its rapid fertility transition in the past has resulted in rapid population aging, that is, a rapid increase in the proportion of the elderly. Its population in the elderly age group of 65, and above had already reached 11 per cent in 1987 compared to only 5 per cent or less in most Asian countries. In view of this rapid population aging, Japan is concerned not only with how to provide for the needs of the growing number of the elderly, but also on how this rapid population aging affects labor supply, savings and capital formation, technological progress, and the long-run growth of its economy.

With its rapid economic transformation and highly successful fertility reduction efforts, Singapore achieved replacement fertility -- the level when there are only enough offspring being born to replace their parents -- as early as 1975. Having gained the economic benefits of reduced fertility, its demographic policy goals has now shifted towards encouraging better educated-

women to marry and have more children.

While fertility in China has declined considerably in the recent past, that country still has to contend with the sheer size of its population. In spite of its efforts to further reduce its fertility rate, its projected population size is expected to exceed by 100 million its target of 1.2 billion by year 2000. In view of this, the Chinese Government continues to pursue its one - child family policy.

Although Malaysia's population growth of 2.2 per cent remains high, its government believes it has the capacity to support 70 million people and is thus aiming for that population level from its present 16 million people. In view of its vast resources compared to other countries in the region, such a demographic goal is perceived to be consistent with its long term development goal.

From those few examples, it is apparent that different countries at different stages of economic and demographic development also view their population challenges differently. Yet, on closer examination, they all address the same fundamental question, namely, what population size and growth rate should be aimed for at what point in time to assure a balance between population and other resources needed for rapid and sustained improvement in standards of living and quality of life.

It might also be instructive to look at the contrasting population and development experiences of the developed countries, such as those of Western Europe, with those of the developing world. The population growth rate of Western European countries in the 18th and 19th century when they were experiencing a "population explosion", did not even exceed 1.5 per cent a year. Contrast this with the growth rate in the developing countries in the early post - war period which was averaging at 3 per cent per year !

The demographic transition in Western Europe was characterized by a gradual mortality decline resulting from both economic and medical advances. This was followed closely by similar reductions in fertility. The resulting population growth rates, which are low by current developing country standards, facilitated rapid economic and social progress.

In contrast, in developing countries such as those of Asia, mortality decline occurred at a much faster pace and within a much shorter period of time. This resulted principally from the introduction of inexpensive public health and medical technologies developed in the West. Moreover, it was not followed by a corresponding rapid decline in fertility which, up of now, remains at high levels in some countries.

From these contrasting population and development experiences evolve apparently varying concerns : the need to raise fertility from below - replacement levels in developed countries, and the need to reduce fertility towards replacement levels in developing countries. However, while the directions of demographic change being pursued are opposite, the concerns are essentially the same : how to achieve population levels and growth rates most conducive to socio - economic progress and its equitable distribution.

From the standpoint of most of Asia's developing countries, what makes continued rapid population growth worrisome is the fact that a large proportion of the Asian population are impoverished. Yet, rapid population growth and its implications remain poorly understood by certain quarters of society.

Rapid population growth would not be a major concern in most Asian countries if this were matched with the capability to make rapid economic and social progress to accommodate the increasing population at higher standards of living. Unfortunately, if anything, rapid population growth makes it more difficult to improve such capability. That economic development leads to a slowing down of population growth is accepted ; but what needs also to be accepted is that too rapid a population growth slows down economic development. Let us take the case of the Philippines.

In the Philippines, under prevailing trends, 1.38 million persons are being added to the present population every year. This will exert tremendous pressure on scarce public resources, even just to merely expand health, nutrition and educational services. As a consequence, there would be little room to improve the quality of these services. At the same time, it also lessens the capacity of the economy to save and invest its resources in other productive activities such as the development of physical infrastructures needed for agricultural and industrial transformation.

Continued high fertility is expected to make even worse the manifestations of poverty such as malnutrition, maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality; and poor schooling performance. Such a state of affairs tends to promote a vicious cycle of poverty and high fertility. In addition, such conditions combine to lower the quality of family life in the short run, and the quality of human resources in the long run. After all, having a physically and mentally healthy populace is a fundamental factor in increasing the capacity of the economy to support a growing population at higher standards of living. If such conditions continue, a deterioration in the quality of the labor force would make it even more difficult for the country to compete with other industrialized and industrializing nations in the future.

Continued rapid population growth rate would also mean a rapid growth of the population of working ages. This would exert tremendous pressure on employment generation, given the already large pool of unemployed and underemployed. Such pressure leaves less opportunities to channel investments to increase labor productivity and attain full employment at rising wages. Unless the growth of the future labor force is slowed down through fertility reduction now, the problems of unemployment and underemployment are not likely to ease up even beyond the year 2000.

Furthermore, a continued high population growth rate threatens the already precarious balance between natural resources, environment and people. It contributes to the rapid depletion of marine and forest resources and to environmental degradation as more people need to exploit these resources to survive.

In brief, rapid population growth is related to a host of development problems which include (1) poverty and income disparities ; (2) unemployment and underemployment; (3) slow human resource formation ; and (4) over - exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation.

While slowing population growth is not sufficient to ensure progress, it will at the very least minimize the obstacles for its attainment. Slower population growth would allow more time to implement policies and to develop the institutions necessary to sustain socio - economic development.

We are now meeting during critical times. The prospects for our countries' future progress in the twenty-first century are, in a large way, already circumscribed by present realities. But, there is room for shaping a more favorable future, particularly for the developing countries of Asia. The executive and legislative branches of government must act together. The need for positive action and definite solutions is now even more urgent.

What can we do now ?

For countries like the Philippines, the overall development strategy should include policies to reduce fertility. A comprehensive set of policies, both directly and indirectly influencing fertility, should be pursued. Indirect measures will include those which would raise incomes, improve health and nutrition, and expand education and employment opportunities for women whose status is certainly a cause for concern in both developed and developing countries. In addition to meeting socially desirable objectives, these are expected to encourage parents to have less children.

The imperative to actively pursue a population program is based on the fact that, without such a direct activity, the population growth rate will remain high for several decades. This is due to past demographic trends, one manifestation of which is an increasing number of women in the childbearing ages. Experiences of developing countries have taught us that a well - conceived and carefully - executed population program that enjoys strong political commitment and widespread popular support, can and does make a difference in substantially reducing fertility over a shorter period of time.

The population program for each country, however, must be in accordance with its socio - cultural and political setting. Parliamentarians, like you, who are in tune with the people's sentiments, are in a good position to help develop a strong population program which is acceptable to the people.

In the case of Philippine parliamentarians, they are guided by a constitutional mandate which respects the rights of couples to freely and responsibly determine the size of their families in accordance with their moral and religious conviction. The government policy is that of non - coercion from any sector or group including itself and informed free choice. In this connection, the Philippine government is committed to provide all legally and

medically approved methods of family planning as a basis of free choice.

The challenge to parliamentarians is to strengthen the current population program through legislative action.

On a more direct level of action, parliamentarians can encourage their constituents to embrace responsible parenthood and a small family norm. It would also help to impress on them that their individual decisions have an enormous impact on the overall welfare of society, not only their own.

Your meeting provides another opportunity to examine population and development issues toward adopting legislative action appropriate to your specific country situation.

Your leadership should spell the difference on whether or not we succeed in improving the lot of our people.

Thank you very much.

Fifth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

PROGRAMME

Date: Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18, 1989

Place: Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Manila, Republic of the Philippines

Friday, February 17

9:00- 9:15 Courtesy call on H.E. Corazon Aquino, President of Republic of the Philippines at Malacanang Palace

9:30 Registration (at First Floor Lounge, PICC)

10:30-12:00 OPENING CEREMONIES (at Meeting Room 4, PICC)

- Master of Ceremonies : Rep. Teresa A. Oreta
- Entrance of Colors
- National Anthem

- Address;

Hon. Leticia Ramos Shahani

Co-chairman of Philippine Legislator's Committee on  
Population and Development (PLCPD)

Hon. Tatuso Tanaka

Chairman of Asian Population and Development Association  
(APDA)

Hon. Takeo Fukuda

Chairman of Global Committee of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (GCPPD)  
Former Prime Minister of Japan

Hon. Sat Paul Mittal

Secretary General of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (AFPPD)



- Message from Dr. Nafis Sadik  
Executive Director of UNFPA  
by Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh  
Director of Information and External Relations Division,  
UNFPA

Mr. Turhan K. Mangun  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Representative and  
Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System's  
Operational Activities for Development in Philippines

- Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Hon. Teresa Aquino-Oreta  
Co-chairman, PLCPD

- Keynote Speech

Hon. Solita C. Monsod  
Director-General, National Economic and Development  
Authority, Philippines

12:30-14:00 Luncheon hosted by Hon. Takeo Fukuda, Chairman of GCPPD at Gloria  
Maris

14:30-15:15 SESSION I GENERAL SURVEY ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
(Meeting Room.11, PICC)

- Speech

Hon. Hu Keshi  
Vice chairman, AFPPD

1. "Basic Survey on Population and Development in China"  
by Dr. Toshio Kuroda, Director Emeritus, Nihon University  
Population Research Institute

15:15-15:30 <Coffee Break>

- 15:30-16:50 2. "Philippine Case Study: Agricultural Approach to Teaching Rural Family Planning"  
by Dr. Juan Flavier, President, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
- 16:50-17:00 - Speech  
Hon. Takashi Sato  
Chairman, AFPPD  
Vice Chairman, APDA
- 17:00-17:30 3. Slide Presentation "Family and Population in Japan"  
Mr. Tsuguo Hirose, Secretary General, APDA
- 18:30-20:00 Cocktail Reception hosted by PLCPD at Banquet Hall, PICC  
Co-chairpersons, Sen. Leticia R. Shahani and  
Con. Teresa A. Oreta
- 20:00-22:00 Culture Presentation by Ballet Philippines at Cultural Center of the Philippines

Saturday, February 18

- 9:00-10:20 SESSION II DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION AND ECO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -  
STRATEGY TOWARDS 21ST CENTURY  
Each Country representative will present 10-minute paper  
which will be followed by an Open Forum  
  
China, India, Indonesia
- 10:20-10:35 <Coffee Break>
- 10:35-11:40 SESSION II Continues  
  
Japan, Korea, Malaysia
- 12:00-13:30 Luncheon hosted by Mr. Turhan K. Mangun, UNFPA Representative at  
Abelardo Restaurant, Philippine Plaza Hotel

14:00-15:30 SESSION II Continues

Nepal, Philippines, Thailand

15:30-15:45 <Coffee Break>

15:45-17:00 General Discussion

17:00-17:20 CLOSING CEREMONIES

- Closing remarks

Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco  
Speaker Pro Tempore

Hon. Tatsuo Tanaka  
Chairman of APDA

18:30-20:00 Buffet dinner hosted by Hon. Tatsuo Tanaka, Chairman of APDA  
at Champagne Room, Manila Hotel

**SESSION I**

(Feb. 17 14:30-17:30)

## PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF CHINA'S POPULATION

Hon. Hu Keshi  
Vice Chairman, AFPPD

Honorable Mr. Chairman, fellow parliamentarians, and my old friends. Today is a great honor for me, on behalf of China's National People's Congress, to extend warm congratulations to the fifth Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. I also want to pay my great respect to the host country, the Philippines Congress Government and the Philippines people. Our meeting is held at a time when the international situation is experiencing great pain, from confrontations to conversations, from tensions towards detente.

Peace and development has become the mainstream of our times. Although various factors causing tensions still exist, the arms race does not stop. Problems in hot areas are yet to be solved. Yet the picture is becoming clear. Peaceful and just forces are strengthening. Such a situation is extremely beneficial to Asian countries, especially for those developing countries. This is a historical opportunity for them to speed up their economic development and to build up their countries.

As we all know, the five principles of peaceful coexistence is the crystallization of wisdom of the Asian people. It has become the basis for establishing a new international political and economic order. The economic growth rate of many countries in Asia is quite high in the world in the past few years, which demonstrates their vigor and energy, and suggests that they would make even more significant historical achievements in the 21st century. Population is a big problem in the development of Asia.

Although much progress has been made in controlling the over-rapid growth of population, the development is still unbalanced. Moreover, many countries have entered a new baby-boom period. A series of problems caused by the population growth became even more serious. So now is the high time for us to discuss the strategy on population and development. In the past decade China's economic strength has been hastened quickly because of the policy of reform and opening to the outside world.

The annual growth rate of the GNP averages to 9.7% from 1979 to 1988. The living standard of the people of the people has been greatly improved. However, because of the large population base, the per capita still stays in the rear of the world. After 1978 the continuation of the launching of the family planning program led to the version of 100 million births during the past ten years. By the

year 1985 the birth rate and natural growth rate of this country have decreased to 17.8 per thousand, respectively. But, beginning from 1986 China entered another baby-boom period. The population of our time will increase at the speed of 14 to 15 million each year up to 1995, while the cultivated lands are decreasing at a speed of 300,000 to 400,000 hectares each year at the same time. The annual consumption of grains will increase more than 10 billion kilograms on the average.

The conflict between population and resources will still exist and the task of protecting natural ecological environments will be even more arduous. China must adhere to the policy of family planning, control the quantity of the population, while improving its quality, so that the population growth will keep pace with the socioeconomic development, and be suited to the ecological environment. The objective of our economic development and population planning is to redouble the GNP value of 1980 and control the size of the population at 1.2 billion by the year 2000, raise the living standard of the people towards the well-off level.

The per capita GNP will reach the level of the medium-developed countries by the middle of the next century, and to have the country basically modernized. The population might be controlled at around 1.5 billion. It is possible for us to reach this goal so long as we firmly carry out our population policy, take advantage of our past experiences and improve our work. Fellow parliamentarians and friends, Asia should make greater contributions to the world, resolving population and its socioeconomic development. China's National Peoples' Congress would like to work with other Congresses, and Chinese people with the people of other countries, to fight for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Asia. Thank you.

BASIC SURVEY ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

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

Thank you. This sound like a so big introduction from you. I am very happy to be here to say something about the theoretical and practical problems on population. Now, this morning the keynote speaker, the Honorable Solita Monsod, Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority has made so a comprehensive introduction and theoretical explanation on population problems. In particular, the relationship between fertility transition and economic development and modernization have been discussed. In connection with this kind of ideas, I will introduce some experience which has been conducted in China.

The APDA used to conduct a joint study with some Asian countries population-related, development-related topics. For example, India, Thailand, Indonesia, and China, Nepal, and so on. Last year we could conduct joint studies with the State Family Planning Commission in Beijing, and also in Sichuan, with the local provincial family planning commission. On how the population control, in particular the fertility control, has been successful in reducing the fertility so quickly, we could publish a monograph which has been distributed to all of you, therein you will find some more detailed information about our joint study on the family planning policy, and also the related socioeconomic factors.

I think all of you know that there are two theoretical opinions, or schools, about this kind of relationship between modernization and fertility transition. One is the so-called family-planning school, which argues the dominant role of family planning policy. The other one stresses that economic development is the more dominant factor to reduce the fertility level. We know that there is so much theoretical arguments around these kind of schools, or theories. Actually, we know that, it may be more reasonable or correct to say that more the effective policy, maybe in between two schools. It means that economic development and modernization may be very useful to reduce fertility levels. On the other hand, the family planning programs can be effective in reducing fertility.

But, previously many demographers did not agree with the family planning policy in that way. But recently we could find out that family planning could be very much effective under more effective, more reasonable policies of family planning. So then last year, we could make a joint study on the Sichuan Provincial Family Planning Commission.

The time is so limited, I don't like to say so much about our experience, this is expressed in much more detail in our brochure. So then, focusing on the essential points in connection with this kind of practical and theoretical problems, how the family planning program could be effective, before that, simply, the situation in Sichuan Province in China.

Sichuan Province is a very big province in China, 1.5 times bigger than Japan. The population is also more than 100 million, which is nearly equivalent to the population of Japan. So in this sense, it is maybe interesting for us to find what happens in Sichuan Province. We then made some comparative studies, Sichuan Province and also the the Jiangsu Province, which seems to be very similar in socioeconomic development and also the fertility transition. And, compared with two other provinces, that is Jiling Province and Liaonin Province.

Could you just see page 14, this is just showing the fertility and also the socioeconomic indicators comparison, compared with these two provinces, Sichuan and the Jiangsu with the other two provinces, that is Liaonin and Jiling, which are two provinces of the northeastern part of China. The reason why we wanted to compare these two groups of provinces is because the Sichuan and Jiangsu regions are characterized by much backward situation in terms of socioeconomic development. For example, the primary industry population is very high and the organization rate is very low. The illiteracy rate is very high. But, on the other hand, in spite of this kind of backwardness, the fertility reduction has been remarkable.

Table 1 on page 14 shows for Sichuan and Jiangsu the primary industry population ratio, 74% for Sichuan and 66% for Jiangsu. And the urbanization rate, Sichuan only 14% and Jiangsu also 16%, very low. The illiteracy rate, Sichuan 32% and Jiangsu Province 35%. But, on the other hand, Liaonin and Jiling were much more highly developed in terms of the industrial population, and also urbanization and literacy rate. For example, in Liaonin and Jiling, the primary industry population is nearly that of the agricultural population, 46%, very low. And urbanization rate, Liaonin 42% and Jiling 40%. Also, the illiteracy rate is very low, Liaonin 16%, and Jiling 22%. A remarkable contrast. It suggests that even under the backward or delayed socioeconomic development fertility reduction could be made.

I think this is the one good example, and also I found that these two provinces could be a kind of engine or motive engine to drive the fertility control in all of China. Particularly in the case of Sichuan, its has a very big population and big land area, and also the population is so unevenly distributed. In such a specific situation, the lo-



cal Sichuan Provincial Family Planning Commission could start the family planning policy very actively.

So then I wonder initially, in China any province started to take up very much positive population policy program under the guidance of the Central Government policy. But I found that still we can find some regional inequality in terms of fertility reduction. I saw that all the local governments take up nearly the same administrative policy. But in spite of this kind of recognition I could find that so much differential fertility in areas. So then the idea that, again, how the family planning program could be effectively implemented, there must be some difference about the family planning policy. It depends on each local governments policy, which may be different in terms of the effort and strength of the official organization, I think so many administrative points may be different.

So then, after reviewing the family planning policies with the Sichuan Provincial Family Planning Commission people, I found that one of the points which should be emphasized, that is the advertisement, if not education, on family planning, in so much effective way, so thorough way. For example, the family planning success in Sichuan may be a kind of categorized guidance of family planning policy. It means that some of the specific guidance of family planning programs according to the area, the socioeconomic characteristic area, and also natural conditions in terms of taking into account specific conditions. So then it may be very interesting to say, even within that one Sichuan Province, so many different kinds of family planning methods, not the same way.

I found that just you can refer to page 43, when we talk about the provincial authorities, we could find out the methods, something like the proportional distribution of family planning methods. IUD is 43%, this is dominant, followed by male sterilization, 38%, and female sterilization, 11%; pill and condom, 7.3%. This is average, the situation of the family planning methods in Sichuan Province. But quite a different experience was found when we visited a very big spinning factory, where there are many young women working. And there I found that the condom was much dominant. There is some particular reason why. They have to work 8 hours in shift system, working, standing 8 hours. Then, in that case, IUD is not so good. So then the manager of the factory recommended condoms. So then, in this case, condom is dominant.

So in this way, quite a different method has been adopted. According to the specific condition in that area or place or enterprise, taking into account their own specialties. And also I found that the family planning organization is characterized by the horizontal and vertical

organization. I feel this is sometimes very difficult for any country. But I think that, as far as the Sichuan situation is concerned, vertical means coming from the top of the local government coming to the smallest area, so this is a vertical association, vertical in that way. Not only family planning authorities, but also other related organizations have so much close contact. I think this is maybe interesting to cite here.

Then may I ask you to see page 15. Here you find some historical frame of vital statistics in Sichuan Province. A so much different situation, it may not be common. You can find it here, it is shown the birth rate and death rate, and natural growth rate. You will find that they are so low, for example, birth rate from 1981 to 1985, the birth rate in urban areas is slightly higher than the birth rate in rural areas. It is just against the normal situation in any country. This is reflecting somewhat different specific situations, in China or in Sichuan, too. This is due to, during the Cultural Revolution young people have been sent to rural areas from urban areas, and after 10 years they are coming back to the city, or urban area. This is one of the reasons why there is a slightly higher birthrate in urban areas than rural areas.

And then, back to Table 1, shown in page 14, the Liaonin and Jiling have been developed more in terms of the industrial structure, and those urbanization and also literacy rate, much more than the other, Jiangsu. But, in terms of the birth rate in Sichuan and Jiangsu, in 1980 it was very low compared with the other two provinces, Liaonin and Jiling, which are much more developed in terms of the social and economic indicators. Then, 1985 all this area has been declining so quickly. But still, we have some difference. For example at the national level, the birth rate is much higher, 17.8. But these, Sichuan, Liaonin, Jiling, and Jiangsu have been approaching very similar low level, just 11 or 10 or 12, very low level of fertility.

But, anyway, I think that this is just what we wanted to reaffirm or identify, the so-called family-planning school. Even under the backward economic social development, family planning could be effective to reduce the fertility level. Of course, we do not say the economic development is not useful. Of course, both factors reinforce each other. For example, Singapore, and also maybe South Korea, maybe cited as such a case. The family planning policy has been so strong, initially, but later the economic development, modernization helped the family planning policy. So these factors reinforce each other. The very quick reduction of fertility in Singapore and Rep. of Korea. Singapore, very quickly, and Rep. of Korea, slightly delayed, very recently.

The family planning policy was so strong in Rep. of Korea, but fertility decline was not followed so quickly, but the economic development in Rep. of Korea, industrialization and urbanization, so quick, this kind of many socioeconomic development so reinforced the family planning policy's effect. That is the reason why last year, just one year, two years, in terms of the crude birth rate coming down very quickly. As far as my understanding is correct, then the crude birth rate may be 17 or 18. Because it is very difficult for them to reduce the crude birth rate to under 20. It took many years, but finally it could be achieved less than 20. I guess, I imagine that this is promoted, stimulated by the economic development.

So in this way, family planning and socioeconomic development must reinforce each other. But even when the economic social development is delayed, we could identify even such a case in which fertility decline could be reduced by a strong, reasonably effective family planning program. Thank you very much.

(Question and Answer)

Sat Paul Mittal: Thank you Professor Kuroda for giving us quite a comprehensive and graphic account of research done under your leadership, you have given us your assessment of the basic survey on population and development in China, we are grateful to you. But may I ask if you are prepared to answer a few questions related to the... So Professor Kuroda would be happy to answer questions, if any, and the participants should be free to put their questions to Professor Kuroda.

Let the chair put a question, if I may do so. Professor Kuroda, I would like to know whether there is some natural, psychological interrelationship with population growth to the correlates of development. You have given an example of Rep. of Korea. There is another example of Japan. Now, I would like to know from your experience as a researcher and a surveyor, to throw light on this facet. Is there any co-relationship, psychological or natural, between development and states of population growth?

Toshio Kuroda: Thank you, Chairman. This is also a theoretical problem. I may not be able to answer it quickly. For example, in our experience, the so-called advanced countries, western countries, according to these experiences the so-called industrial revolution, then the organization is the nation's target. This means that from so-called rural society to industrial society. This means much more people are coming up to the city and changing their occupation from agriculture to going to a factory or offices. So then this brings difference, change of life,

coming to give some people to think about their family size.

For example, in my country also the same thing, even before the World War II, in rural areas usually farmers do not care about the size of the family because they are producing food. So, three children, four children, five children, they do not care. It is not so much a burden. Not only that, they are coming up to be productive. Even in my... I see this in Japan... for example a boy, coming up to eight or nine, can help their father with very much work. And, at seven or six, a girl can very much help the mother. So then even when the father and mother are going out working in the field, then this very small girl can take care of the house, and sometimes preparing a meal. So it means that even if there are many children, for a large family it is not such a burden.

But then they are coming up to the city, and they start working, and the salary is limited, and maybe more of them wish to have more educational opportunity, to achieve this. It means, they gradually think about how to limit the family size, not such a big family. They don't need so many children. And also, again... so this kind of the changing situation around family life bring about the family planning idea. And also, on the other hand, modernization and urbanization gradually bring down the mortality. It means that there is higher probability of surviving of the children. (In agricultural society,) they want them to take care in later years of life.

So there are many, many factors that are going into assimilating them, to have more children, but in industrial society, people gradually, naturally think about this in that way, to have smaller family. This is our experience. But after World War II, the situation changed. For example, today the honorable speaker said that, for example in Thailand, after World War II, the population increase has been so high, 3% or so. Then 3%, this is very important. We must pay attention to the meaning of 3% increase. The question has never been experienced in the world. Even in the Western countries, the highest level of increase is just around 1% or so, 1.2 or so. That is the highest one. In the case of Japan, also, 1.3 or 1.5 was the highest one. Never a higher one, always less than 1% or so.

It means the 3% of increase is coming to impede the economic development, social development, because it is very difficult for the countries to increase agricultural production at 3% rate or so, continuously. So then again, that is it. This may be very easy to understand why we... so then, even... I remember that since 1963, when we had the first Asian Population Conference in New Delhi, then all delegations from many countries in Asia agreed to that so high, rapid population increase, this is impeding socioeconomic

development, so this should be reduced. This is the consensus of the Asian Population Conference. So then our problem's dimension are coming to change. So before, as far as the advanced countries are concerned, they did not need any population control. Even the government was against population policy, any country. So now many countries here, they must recognize the real meaning, the socioeconomic meaning of 3% of population increase. They have to intervene, anyway, for their behavior.

So coming to this, in this case, I said about the Sichuan experience. In Sichuan province, illiteracy is high. Urbanization is very late. So it means that there is some difficulty for the government to persuade the people to limit the family. So then comes in education, this is very important, to have the consensus of very many people.

PHILIPPINE CASE STUDY: AGRICULTURAL APPROACH TO  
TEACHING RURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Dr. Juan Flavier  
President,  
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

Thank you. Actually I came here with a lot of misgivings, because my sphere of experience is field work. So when we talk about macro-level policy discussions, I am not at home. But when the invitation was footnoted with the fact that it came from Senator Shahani, and Mrs. Aldaba Lim, I could not say no, because they are two of the five women I admire most. The other three, for your information, are Cory Aquino, my mother and my wife.

When Dr. Raymundo extended the invitation, I somehow got the impression that I will have 45 minutes. So I prepared three things: slides, text and some jokes. But when the invitation arrived, I got the impression I only had 30 minutes, so I removed the slides. And today I find I only have 15 minutes, so I remove the text. So please, I have forewarned you what you have in store this afternoon. I was asked to wake you up, that is why.

The topic I am going to discuss with you or share with you -- please pardon me, I would like to stand so you can see me, is really a product of over ten years of field experience, triggered by failure in family planning in the rural areas. Because I was there, and we were promoting it, and all that, but the birth rate was not going down. And that was a painful thing. But the more important thing is to find out why you are failing. So we went and tape-recorded the presentations of the nurses and the doctors that were with me. And lo and behold, we found part of the problem.

It was a complex thing, with many reasons, but one of them is that we were using technical terms that were in English. Why? Because the Tagalog language, or our national language does not possess the terminologies for family planning and population. But how have we managed without those terms?

One, we have pretended we have them by coining new words, which, unfortunately, take a generation to take. For example, the word, "sperm," is beautiful, poetic in Tagalog. It is 'punlai.' And when you say that, I told it in Dabarios, you said, 'punlai', beautiful life, the combination of 'punla', which means 'seeds', and 'buhai', which means 'life'. Beautiful! So I went to Dabarios, and I wrote that on the board, and I said, "What do you think of that?" And they said, "Scrotum." And I said, "Why? So

far?" Because they also made their combinations. It was 'punlai': 'punla' -- 'seeds', but 'lai' is 'nakalai', the 'lai' which means 'honey'. So I said, "We are in trouble." But this is the official word for sperm.

What is the other dimension? We were educated, including the parliamentarians, I am sure. Hispanise the English, and then think we are talking in the dialect. Example, ovary-ovario, fallopian tube -- fallopiia ortubo, fertilization-fertilisation. No wonder, there was a nurse who went to Dabarios, and began to talk about sperm and hispanise it, and said, 'sperma.' And, as you know, 'sperma' does not mean 'sperm.' It means 'candle'. And that's why the people in Dabarios told me, "Dr. Flavier, I swear we put out the candle before we went to bed." Why not, she said 'sperma', you know.

And then, I ask you, what is I.U.D., which is a plastic coil, but IUD is abbreviation, Intra-Uterine Device. What is IUD in Tagalog? So we went to Dabarios and we said, "IUD, IUD," and they may ask you "What?" and I said "What did you use?" And she put her mouth near my ears and she whispered, "They inserted an AID in me." She meant, you know, AID is an American agent, and she asked, "Are you Americans?" "No, I'm not, you know." Because, when they said AID, which means Agency for International Development, I said, "Those are huge Americans, you know, you'd better be careful if they insert them in there, that is uterine imperialism."

Alright, so we are in trouble, but the question is, what do we do about it? So I went back to Dabarios and said, "Look, we are in trouble, how do we surmount this problem?" So I asked a woman, and I said, "What do you think of these things that we're doing?" And she said, "I don't understand it." "But how do we do it?" And she said, "I don't know." "But suppose you were the one standing, how would you present all this thing called 'family planning'?" And she said, "You know only one thing, that when she was talking, what came into my mind is agriculture, because that is our way of life." "Aha," I said, "we are missing out." I said, "What did you think when she was talking about the sperm and the ovum?" and she said, "You know, she claims (the nurse) that it grows, so it must be like the 'binhi' (= 'seeds')." I said, "Continue. How about the uterus?" ... "It is supposed to be an organ with 30, 300 potential seeds that fall down, it is like the string beans, 'shitau'." So I said, "No. The 'shitau' opens like that and all the seeds are spread." And she said, "You must be a doctor, because it does not do it that way. The string beans, when it dries up, the pod curls, and the seeds fall down, one by one, just like the ovary." So the following day, I went back to Dabarios and I said, "From now on, no more hispanised English." I will define ovulation for you

using agriculture. Unfortunately, when I translate it to English, the flavor is lost. The Flavier is lost, you see, but I have to put it in.

Anyway, I went there and I said, "No more of this hispanised English." And then there were the women, and I said, "Every woman has got two string beans. One to the left and one to the right. Every month the string beans exclude out a seed, and when the seed grows on fertile grounds, it grows up the baby."

There was vibration. How do I know? When they were walking out, one woman said to the other, "Hey, how is your string beans today?" They were talking agriculture. And the following day I got overenthusiastic, I used the dried string beans -- these are long beans -- because you have to make them participate. You ask them to bring in some of these, they take them from above their kitchens or ovens, being dried for seeds. And when they bring it, it is participation, so I said, "You give it to me." And then, just to put the internal, externalize it, the invisible made visible. When I wanted to show ovulation, I raised the string beans, and at the precise moment, I pressed on it, and in my overenthusiasm, two seeds fell down, and the women said, "Twins!" I knew that there was something to it.

So what did we do? We said, why don't we systematize this, and try to really collect them one by one, because in trying to teach the people the message that is in family planning, we are not building on what they know. We are building on the unfamiliar. We must build on the familiar, with this one: agriculture.

And it began to grow, because what we did, was to have charts, small groups, because they are intimate, and there will be the agricultural situation and then the family planning analogy. And we have over 700 of these kinds of analogies, name the situation, and the message in family planning, and there is an agricultural analogy. And it grows, because when you show that this kind of 'dara' -- which is from 'malakit' is believed by farmers when eaten by horses, will prevent the horse from getting pregnant, which is what the pill is all about.

When the farmer sees this, he says, "It is like this with the papaya." And you show the papaya, and they say, "It is like this with the 'ipil ipil'." In fact, one of the first analogies we got is the 'ipil ipil', the favorite of my secretary here, and what was it? Is it really the, Lucenia, the 'ipil ipil'? The farmers told me that when the seeds fall on the ground, and then the hens eat them, they stop laying eggs. And when you stop eating the 'ipil ipil', then the hens will lay eggs again.



And I used to laugh at this until the University of the Philippines came out with an article that said that you can use the leaves of 'ipil ipil' for the feed of the swine, but beyond 26 percent, then they will have infertility problems. And then later, my friends from the university told me that it had a hormone that precisely worked like the pill. And that is why the pill that I was using was not white, nor orange. I used chocolate-colored pills. Why? Because 'ipil ipil' seeds are chocolate-colored. And so when I put it up, and I said, "This is like 'ipil ipil' seeds," the women say, "So when we take that we do not lay eggs, correct?"

And so there is this kind of... yet there is an objection, they said that some of the smart-alecks from the university, and I'll not mention the university, was criticizing it because we were having too much fun. And I said, that is my objection with you. You are too serious, everybody is sleeping. You think you are communicating. In this we are laughing, I am sure they are awake, and that is all that matters. And it is effective.

And so, down the line we tried to develop them as assistants, and we found out that there are two basic questions we'll have to answer, one is, "What is it? What is family planning?" And, because our survey shows that apart from birth control and 'spacing', the other what was needed to be infertility. Because, in any given barrio, ten to twelve percent of the women will be infertile. And not only that, when we asked them to let us know what they understood by family planning, sixteen percent said, "Family planning is against babies." O.k., this is the rural area. If that is the case, you are in trouble. Because it is like being against motherhood and patriotism and all that.

So the other definition of family planning to us, apart from birth control, and 'spacing', in terms of what it is, is infertility, meaning family planning is there to help you when you have problems of getting a child. So that is three. Then we went to the question of "How do you do it?", or "How is it done?" So we have IUD, we have condom, and we have the pill. We did not go too much in the rhythm, mainly because in the area where I was working the responsible parenthood council was very strong, and we did not want to compete with them.

But since then we have developed and collected analogies in all of the six messages, and have spilled over in terms of rhythm and in terms of, including even vasectomy. And, earlier, one of the spirited ladies was asking me, "How does it work, this vasectomy? What kind of analogy do you have?" I said, "Well, the most effective analogy we have for vasectomy is a comparison with the watermelon -- seedless watermelon." Because that is what vasectomy is all

about. The only difference with the fruit is that there are no seeds. And the farmers tell me, "Dr. Flavier, the watermelon that is seedless is also sweeter." So I told him, "When you are vasectomized, you are also sweeter to your wife." Why? Because this is a kind of... you see, in order to appreciate it you must be in the shoes of the farmer. This is how their mind works. And that is why some of my friends say, "I can't understand it." And I say, "It's not for you, it is for farmers."

And what is the implication? As far as I am concerned, the implication is this: If we must succeed in family planning, we had better look into the rural areas. Because 75% of our people are there. And most of our advances in family planning in the Philippines is a reflection of urban activities. So, until we can solve that, and I submit that this is one modest contribution that we can make. I have some slides, but I'm over my 15 minutes, so I have canceled it. Thank you very much.

(Question and Answer)

Chairman: Thank you very much, Dr. Flavier. Do we have any questions? I suppose there will be many.

Sat Paul Mittal: I think all we need to ask him is, how can we apply it in the same national lingua in other countries (still using agricultural terms).

Juan Flavier: Very good question. The question is very relevant because one even said it much more sweepingly than you did, he said, "Does it work without you?" Because the fellow claimed that with me anything can work. Because if my system cannot do it, he thinks probably I'll do it. But the point is that process is the name of the game, meaning the analogies are not the output here, it is the way I arrived at it.

Having that as a hypothesis, the population center foundation asked me if we can replicate it in the Philippines using five settings. One was in the sugar area, the other one was a fishing area, another one was a tribal area, there were five, and I forget the other. But they followed the process, and ended up with their own tremendous analogies, so far away from what I developed.

We became a little bit more ambitious. We are now trying them in Guatemala, in Thailand, in India, and Ghana. And the initial feedback of the analogies that came to me last December, were tremendous, especially the ones that came from the tribal areas of the borders of Thailand. So, how much of will really come out is not yet known, but I am confident, if they follow the process, they will have it.

We are trying this out in the Kupang District, in the Chittor area of Andhra Pradesh. And the initial reports to me are very promising in terms of the usefulness of the process, not my analogies. Because these are end-results. For example, don't try the pineapple when it's not a pineapple area, because they are going to end up telling you they open Dole Pineapple, and then you're in trouble. But when you follow the process, they localize it in terms of corn, they localize it in terms of sugar, they localize it in terms of fishes, of how, you know, the nets look like, the condom, and all that kind of things, that is the name of the game. When my answer is long, that means I don't know the answer.

Gary Teves: It is a very interesting approach to family planning, and even before using other countries to disseminate, I was wondering whether Dr. Flavier could tell us what is the extent of the coverage of this practice or processes in the Philippines, and what kind of support would be needed to propagate this and do this on a nation-wide basis? And, third, is how to measure success, or lack of success of this approach, so that we can have a basis for judging whether we should proceed and continue with this approach.

Juan Flavier: Very good points. My own, it is not widespread, in view of the fact that when we developed it, it was very limited, well-controlled, and something that I was doing even personally, because of something I enjoy. But my suggestion is this, if this can be done not even nationwide, but at least by selected regions, through, say, the Population Commission, which is the instrumentality of our government mandated to do this, I think we can do it.

The experience that we got with the Population Center Foundation can be a model that we can use in localizing these in those areas, and through training, I am confident, it can be done. How much it will cost, I don't know. But the last question is, are there ways of evaluating it, and the answer is yes. You can evaluate it as we did, in terms of the K, which is the knowledge, the aptitude is a little bit more difficult, the KAP. But the theory is that the P or the practice is supposed to occur when after the knowledge is able to hurdle the aptitude in our behavioral component so that it goes to practice.

In the control study we made, the K was a very interesting component because when you do it to people or with people who are high school graduates, there was no difference in this matter. But when you did it with farmers, and the lower educational attainment was, the more powerful the knowledge increase became.

Then in terms of the practice, this is the most rigid, then you make a comparison of the use of this system, and a

conventional, and a family planning service only in a control, and we found that the acceptance rate for this system was very much higher than the rest, especially when we tried to stop everything, and then, after six months we began it again, the curve was such that in this process the resurgence was very high.

And then you can go into all the other statistics. But for the birth rate and all that, we were not able to establish, mainly because that takes a little longer time to establish, but yes, there are indicators we can use for this type of approach.

Salvador Escudero: Dr. Flavier, you are such a gifted communicator, and I think your methods should be institutionalized. Nor I know whether the Population Commission of the Government or the Department of Health has asked your advice your assistance on this very important issue, of how to communicate family planning methods to all our rural people.

Juan Flavier: The most formal came through with the Population Center Foundation. But with the Department of Health and with the Population Commission, only on an informal basis. I think that there are two factors, one is, I have the impression that the constraints of funding limits their ability to come out forcefully, for one.

Number two, I think there is an impression that it costs too much, and that is not true. Because once you learn the process, in fact, you can do it on you own, and that only that the people will develop them themselves because their excitement will be the trigger to make this go on, so informally yes, but not formally, Madame Senator. The collaboration between the Department of Health and our organization has been very very satisfying, especially in the field of primary health care, in the field of immunization and oral rehydration. The next step is to include family planning, which we can work on.

Chairman: Thank you very much, Dr. Flavier, educator, rural worker, and, most important, farmer, and an articulate communicator.

SPECIAL ADDRESS: POPULATION AND FOOD

Takashi Sato  
AFPPD Chairman

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a while since I met you last.

I haven't been around to see much of my old friends for a long time. I resigned my post as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at the end of last year after 417 days of service and now I am back again at the Asian Forum after a long absence. I must have caused a lot of inconvenience to all of you including Vice-Chairman Hu Keshi, Secretary General Mittal and Deputy Secretary General Ms. Osman. I would like to thank you for your support of the Asian Forum from the bottom of my heart.

While working as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, I was struggling desperately over a number of pending issues every day such as a solution to the Japan-U.S. agricultural product dispute that Japan was facing.

However, the issue of "population and development" which is my lifetime work has never left my mind while I was keeping busy.

On "The day of 3 Billion Asian Population" in last July I was still at the post of Minister. Because of the significance of the occasion I appealed this fact to the whole world as a chairman of AFPPD in Tokyo receiving support from UNFPA, and we could have a major impact.

I am also aware that countries which are represented today have also taken action based on their own positions and achieved very positive results. Again, I would like to thank you for your cooperation.

It is especially impressive to hold "The Fifth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development" in the country of the late Mr. Rafael Salas we always respected a great deal.

Although Ms. Sadik has only recently assumed the post, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on her commanding high respect as a successor of Mr. Salas. She has been our leader who has strong interest in population and development issues over the years.

In returning to AFPPD I would like to pledge that working with you I will earnestly deal with the imbalance of food, environment and resources that is the underlying issue in resolving population problems, as well as local popula-

tion structure, aging problems and so on which emerge in the course of economic growth. I came to acquire numerous experiences and learn lessons while dealing with issues relating to the world's population when I was Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

I would like to discuss briefly what I have come to recognize concerning the food problems that affect human survival and are the most critical issue of the people of the respective countries.

First of all, I think that as regards stable food supply we should establish a fundamental principle of setting up a self-sufficient system, producing and consuming food in the respective countries as much as possible while supplementing food supply by stable imports. This needs to be understood as a common food policy whether a country is a food exporter or importer, and a developed or developing country. The idea of providing the leftover for countries suffering from starvation is wrong. My thinking is that it is the primary industry which is always under a threat of changing climatic conditions and also the necessity of storing food that call for common understanding.

I took various opportunities to make this argument, for example, at the Second General Meeting of AFPPD in Beijing in 1987 or at the "Japan-U.S., Agricultural Renovation Conference" held in Chicago in 1986 and so on. There's no prosperity of human beings nor world peace without ensuring stable food supply.

It is my sincere hope that the awareness of this issue is penetrated into the minds of the people of the respective Asia countries which account for 60% of the world's population, and everyone present here takes proper action.

I am now feeling like I am back my old home again, and I am also fully committed to tackling new challenges. It is because the warm and unchanging friendship with my colleagues encourages me even more.

In the morning of February 19th after closing this meeting, AFPPD Steering Committee Meeting will be held to discuss about the 'Women's Conference' planned in India in September and the AFPPD's long-term activity plan.

Again, I would like to extend my appreciation to the people of the Philippines and everyone who is present at this meeting for their efforts in holding this meeting.

Thank you very much.

(Question and Answer)

Sat Paul Mittal: In view of the unabated rising population, is the present generation not seriously engaged in mining the resources of the land and sea? And have they ever thought that we are borrowing in a very big way from the future? And are they doing real social justice to the future generations which have to come, for whose welfare and well being we are crying from the house tops? My question on the food and population front is that the scientists, including the social scientists have to put their heads together to find out an answer to a question that the present crusade of mining the resources of the land and sea are going to land us in a very very difficult situation in the foreseeable future. What is this world going to do about it? How is the world going to plan about it to retrieve the situation at that point of time when we may have do a great deal of damage our land resources and sea resources. Where do we get our food? Are we not traveling on the same path of deforestation which is resulting in desertification all around today, throwing signs of panic all around? Similar situation to be confronted in the foreseeable future if these social scientists, agriculturists and others don't think of the immediate future, that we are going to face the result of this present malice of mining the resources of land and the sea. That's my question.

Takashi Sato: The question raised by Senator Mittal is very broad, so I won't be able to answer it in 5 or 10 minutes' time. Therefore, I will attempt to complement my presentation with Senator Mittal's question in mind. The policy concerning the food production and stable supply issue needs to be implemented in such a way that it can be easily understood by the producers, the people in distribution business and the consumers. In doing so, staple food should be produced and consumed domestically. Any shortage will have to be compensated through a stable import system to each and every person in the country. In doing so, the cost naturally needs to be taken into consideration in addition to quantity.

At present, there exist many trade-related problems. There are also problems between the U.S. and EC, between Japan and the U.S. There's also much controversy over the new round, the Uruguay Round, and we're at the turn of the scheduled period. Under these circumstances, we will have to have the farmers understand what efficient agricultural production system is.

In Japan, staple food tends to be produced in excess. The reality is that the higher the quality of life gets, the less staple food is consumed. Another aspect of this reality is that the administration cannot keep up with the

convulsive flow of internationalization. When explaining this reality of internationalization to the farmers, it will have to be seen as an issue of global scale so that they can easily understand.

This reminds me of the proposition on population and food which was submitted to the then U.N. Secretary General Mr. Waltheim with 1,200 signatures from 95 countries. Then the World Population Council was held in Bucharest in fall of 1974, followed by the World Food Conference which was held in Rome in October of the same year. They were the first to focus on the issue of population and food. As I mentioned previously, the issue of security was discussed in depth in the GATT Summit Conference held in Montreal, Canada last December amidst the strong controversy between the U.S. and EC. It is worthy of note that the U.S. saw the food as part of the security issue.

My conclusion is that, in this process of internationalization, each country should strive for perfection in their food policies. In the Philippines, farmland reform, reform of the farmland system is taking place under the new Aquino Administration. They have requested Japan to teach some of the experiences. I see it as a proposition which we need to seriously learn together.



SLIDE PRESENTATION "FAMILY AND POPULATION IN JAPAN"

Mr. Tsuguo Hirose  
Secretary General of APDA

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the pleasure of showing you the slides, "The Family and Population in Japan", which is the joint project of UNFPA(United Nations Population Fund) and APDA.

Since 1984, APDA has annually produced slide and shown then to parliamentarians and to population an development specialists from Asian countries.

The titles of those slides are:

- Agricultural, Rural Development and Population in Japan
- Urbanization and Population in Japan
- Industrial Development and population in Japan
- The Migratory Movement and Economic Development in Japan

The slides of this year, "The Family and Population in Japan", take up typical Japanese family and describe how the life style of Japanese has changed since the World War II until now. The slides will take you through the past war history of Japan. You will see the periods of economic recovery and high economic growth, shift form extended family to nuclear family, and current social and economic challenges for Japan, including the problem of aging population.

We have distributed a set of the slides to parliamentarians who are here with us today. We will appreciate it very much if you would kindly show the slides to those people who are concerned with population and development in your country.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

<Presentation of Slides>

SESSION II

(Feb. 18 9:00-15:30)

## PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF CHINA'S POPULATION

### Country Report -- China

Mr. Zha Ruichuan  
Member of Standing Committee,  
Beijing People's Congress

Mr. Chairperson, honorable parliamentarians. It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to speak a few words about the present situation and prospects of China's population. I would bravely read my paper.

Owing to the historical reasons and current conditions, China is still facing a severe situation in the respect of population growth. At present, the Chinese National People's Congress and the Government are taking active measures to overcome difficulties and strive for the best results.

During the past four decades, China's population has undergone two historical turns during the process of socioeconomic development. The first one consisted in the sharp transition from a slow population growth to a high-speed increase, beginning from the early fifties. This was due to the rapid decline of the death rate after founding a new China. The second one is expressed in the drastic fertility decline and retardation of population growth. This is a result of the family planning program, cared of by the Chinese Government consciously for controlling the population growth. China's population has been too large for already a couple of centuries. So there have long been deep contradictions between population situations and economic development, not new but historical ones.

The ultimate goal of our modernizational construction is to continuously promote the level of material and spiritual living of the whole people. For this purpose we have devoted ourselves to increase production and develop economy. The output of a series of basic and important products and energies, such as grain, steel, coal, crude oil, electricity and cotton clothes, and so forth, are increased by a dozen times, or even a hundred times, compared with the production beginning of the 1950's, and have already entered advanced rank in the world.

But when the output is divided to aged persons, the level still remains low. This is the basic contradiction. This situation caused people to realize deeply that it is necessary to reduce the fertility and control the population growth consciously, while increasing production and developing the economy. In 1973 the Chinese government began to carry out the family planning program. National People's

Congress and the Government formulated a strategic decision to control the population growth and care about family planning. Step forward, clear and definite behavior is normal, and go, establish the special organs and carry out communications and education among masses.

The latent intention to limit family size existing among the part of the people was turned into action. And those who as yet lacked the desire to practice birth control were impelled to respond to the call of this day and turn to family planning. These activities undoubtedly played a determining role in the rapid decline of fertility and a striking retardation to population growth.

For correctly understanding and explaining the extraordinarily rapid decline of fertility, it is necessary to recognize the sudden brake effect. In the early 70's the Government set forth the specific requirements of late child-bearing, sparse and few. Those women who have married early, and already had two or more children before that, they ceased to continue to give birth, and that the birth due to the women of most active fertility age were greatly reduced. At the same time those who had not yet been married and given birth would marry and give birth only after they have reached a certain years of age. This caused a decrease of births over several years, and a corresponding decline of fertility by a big margin.

However, we have to perceive that after a period of action of this kind of effect the fertility will inevitably show a tendency to go up again to a certain degree. This point is very important, I think. We must not be satisfied by the first successes, and relax the continuation of strictly limiting the number of children.

Beginning from 1979 the focal point of work in China has been shifted to economic construction. The guiding principle of reform, opening to the outside world, was set forth. Under the guidance of this principle the economy was growing vigorously, though during the last ten years the output of the main products has increased by a large amount and the living conditions of the people have been further improved.

However, following the Chinese socioeconomic circumstances, there have also appeared certain new conditions in the evolution of population during the last ten years. And we are also facing new challenges in the coming decade. First, the current art of the system of family responsibility contract and animation of the market economy have benefited the families with more labor force, first. This, in turn stimulates part of the farmers to pursue more children, especially arouses the desire to have boys.

Second, with the reform of the political system, new relations occurred between the grass-roots political organs and economic activities of individuals and collective institutions. Farmers and other workers in the rural areas have larger independence in their economic activities. The binding and influencing power of the administrative organs on individuals is weakening. The family planning work becomes more difficult.

Third, certain old traditional ideas and backward customs have been rising again to some extent under changed conditions.

In certain places the family planning work has been loosened a little. So the cases of early marriage and early child-bearing has been increasing in recent years. So it is necessary to do a large amount of work to prevent early marriage and to reduce high-order births.

First, the repeating effect of population growth. The growth and change of population exhibit a strong periodicity and momentum. The birthrate of China in the twelve-year period 1962-1973 was as high as 34.8 per thousand in average. And the annual births exceeded 25 million. When these people enter the age of vigorous child-bearing after 1985, the births will inevitably greatly increase, even if the fertility remains at the level of the early 1980's. In fact, the birthrate has indeed been rising year by year since 1985.

And it could be anticipated that the birthrate will maintain the rather high level until 1995. This, because of the occurrence of the above-mentioned new circumstances, and the new factors since the middle of the 1980's, the birthrate and growth rate of population after 1985 has been manifesting a rise. According to that projection, the total population of China will reach 1.1 billion in the first half of 1989.

China's strategic goal of population control is to attain a stationary state through rapid reduction of fertility. It will be achieved in two steps: The first step lies in the struggle to reduce fertility of women of the whole country, in average, to the replacement level in the 1990's through strengthened family planning programs. The second step is to keep a fertility rate at the replacement level so as to make the total population to stabilize after more than 40 years thereafter. And during that period, the population would be continuing growth and reflect a population momentum.

In this process, certain new circumstances will appear. In the coming years, the population will show new characteristics. First, both the number of old people will be in-

creasing rapidly, and the proportion will rise quickly, both the number and the proportions. The huge number of the aged persons and its continuous expansion will necessarily increase the load on the society. And, at the same time, the proportion of those aged 65 and above will rapidly rise from around 7 percent at the beginning of the 21st century to 17% at 2040. Of course, we should not give up eating for fear of choking. Namely, to increase child-bearing and slacken the control of population growth in order to prevent the aging of population. We can't. But it is completely necessary to adopt appropriate countermeasures and to have them all in preparation in advance in accordance to coming increase of the number of aged persons and the rise of their proportions?

Second, the labor resources tend to be more abundant. With further growth of the total population, China will possess at the first half of the 21st century the most abundant labor resources known in her history. We should not be afraid of the lack of labor resources.

Third, the further development of the cultural and educational undertakings.

What is most urgent for China in the future is not only to control the population size but also to raise the cultural and the professional educational level of the labor force.

Fourth, the degree of urbanization will rise rapidly with the vigorous development of the commodity economy. As to the future process of further urbanization of China's population, we must actively support it, and, at the same time, continue to strictly limit the population growth of big cities, and help the medium and small cities and towns to grow up in a planned way, step by step.

Fifth, the problems of environment to pollution and resource shortage will become more acute with the continuous growth of population, and the accelerated development of material production will make new challenges. The evolution of population will shift onto the new track.

The activities for actively controlling population growth and improving its qualities adopted since the 1970's have much helped the economic construction. And a rapidly developing economy of the 21st century will, in turn, facilitate the change of the people's ideas and behavior in the field of reproduction. And, too, will then enter into a benign circle.

The process of population transition, beginning from the middle of this century, will be completed by the middle of the following century. Now, the China population is in

the middle of this transition. From the original high birth rate and high death rate, and low growth rate, China's population has first experience the fall of the death rate in the 1950's and 1960's, and then, the gradual decline of fertility in the 1970' and 1980's, as an action of family planning, and is going to turn to a low birthrate, and a low death rate, and a low growth rate in the 21st century, and to an eventual ceasing of growth, and this will enter into a completely new phase of evolution.

Counting from 1970 through more than eighty years of arduous efforts, the problem of continuously high-speed population growth in China will have been radically resolved, we believe.

In respect of population growth and economic development, there exist in many developing Asian countries circumstances and issues similar of those like in China. For the sake of our common prosperity and progress, I would like to put forward the following proposition:

First, China and most of the countries of Asia are still being embarrassed by the over-rapid growth of population. In order to win the population stabilization and economic prosperity in Asia we appeal to the governments of Asian countries to pay more concern to the population issues simultaneously with developing the economy and to increase the financial and technical input.

Second, we appeal to the developed countries, the international societies and the UNFPA to fully support and aid the population-related activities in Asia. The significance of the said aid is by no means inferior to the aid of economic constructions and cultural and educational undertakings.

Third, the Asian countries must fully strengthen the exchange of experience and mutual cooperation in the respect of population control and economic development.

Fourth, we appeal to the developed countries to actively provide advanced contraceptive techniques and birth control for the developing Asian countries. This, we propose, that the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development establish an Asian Population Award used to commend parliamentarians, experts of family planning, workers who have made outstanding contributions to the solution of the Asian population problems. Thank you.

(Question and Answer)

An Indian parliamentarian: On page three, it is stated that during the past 40 years, in spite of having experienced a number of wastes in times and various mistakes. Mistakes in population programming or mistakes in economic policy, or what kind of mistakes? Could you kindly elaborate just a bit, so that we also might benefit by them.

Zha Ruichuan: I think that we have made mistakes both in these two aspects. In the aspect of population growth we should have realized at the beginning of the 1950's that we must limit our fertility. But we didn't. This is a mistake in the field of the population. And we have made mistakes also in the aspects of the economic development. That is not the direct mistake because we have other movements and other things which disturbed the economic development.

Chairperson: Does that explain your question? Thank you. Any more questions?

An Indian parliamentarian: About the growth rate, about the birthrate going again higher, you have emphasized that after a fall there is again a raise in the growth of population. And you have given some reasons, also. And do you feel that in every developing country that is what is going to happen? That is, all of us are going to experience that raise after reform?

Zha Ruichuan: I think so. So I mentioned about it just to alert your notice. Because I think during the first years of the family planning programs the fertility rate decreased very rapidly, and we may be satisfied and think we have attained a great success, the problem is solved, and we need work no more. And I think it will do harm, because there is a special effect, that means, the sudden-brake effect, which is hidden. The effect is manifested, but the reason is hidden. And we may be satisfied by the phenomena, but not the reality. This is the first one.

The second one is that the habit, the tradition among the masses is not so easily removed, only in several years, in several decades. It is a historical and long tradition, and a way of thinking. And, at the beginning of the movement as a program, maybe the masses are shaken by such a program, and they behaved in new ways. But in the long run the old ideas, traditions, habits, and customs also play a very important role in the afteryears. So now, we are encountering the circumstances in the 80's, or especially in the middle of the 80's.

Rahmah Osman: Thank you. I'd like to just ask one question. You said in your paper that by the end of the 21st century you would stabilize your population growth. I want to find



out whether your policy on this one child-one family has helped you in any way with this population issue.

Zha Ruichuan: Why did we propose the one-child policy, but that is not accurate. It is not accurate that they call it the one-child policy. We encourage the couple to have only one child, but it is not a one-child policy. There are differences between them.

Why do we appeal to such a policy? Because in the later half of the 70's we had done a projection and we saw that even if a couple get only two children, the population will continue to grow very rapidly for a long time. So we appealed to the young couples to have only one child, especially in the urban areas.

And this policy has given us a very successful result, especially in the great cities, suggesting Shanghai, Beijing, Tienjing, and other large cities. The young couples basically have only one child. But in the rural areas it is another thing. But we can appeal to, we can encourage them to do such things. But we cannot request all of them to do the same. And we are just practicing like that.

A Filipino parliamentarian: I just want to throw a follow-up question in relation to the one family-one child policy of China, wherein the government made the quantification on the psychological effect on the family, wherein you have instituted a particular program.

Zha Ruichuan: I think the Government has considered the psychological aspects of such a policy. And now we are improving our policy. That means, we demand the couples in the urban areas to have only one child. But if there is real difficulties in their lives, then they are allowed to have two children, especially when the first one is a daughter. Because the daughter is weaker in rural areas.

A Filipino parliamentarian: So on that basis, you allowed some exceptions to that policy. That you allow some families to have additional child, when they have only one girl child. If you had every year a girl for the past five years, would you put a full stop?

Zha Ruichuan: No, only two is now allowed at the most.

A Filipino parliamentarian: If the two are also girls, would you allow it?

Zha Ruichuan: Then it is not allowed.

Sat Paul Mittal: I am very happy that my Chinese friend, while giving the demographic profile of China has very openheartedly accepted some of the setbacks and mistakes committed. May I be encouraged to ask a question on whether the

incidents of infanticide reported from time to time are correct or not?

Zha Ruichuan: Generally speaking, it is not correct. But individual cases are there, not only now, but also in old China. And we inhibit such practices. But individual cases are unavoidable, I think not only in China, everywhere in the world.

Chairperson: Yes, Mr. Sato?

Takashi Sato: I would like to express my frank opinion on the view just mentioned by China. First of all, when we in the legislature try to implement a new policy or an initiative, there are too many cases where mass media jump the gun and form a criticism. This is true in Japan also, and I am one of the persons troubled by it.

This criticism penetrates to the rest of the world and then penetrates back to your own country. Then the criticism never stops, even after you say that it was just proposed or not forced, because it had already turned into a world opinion and formed a public opinion at home. This makes the situation more difficult, distorting the essence of what you wanted to do in the beginning in many cases.

The population problem of China is currently in a swirl of controversy, particularly with regard to the One-Child Policy. However, I was able to feel the courage to implement new policies by overcoming such obstacles in the presentation made by China today, and was moved by it. I just mentioned my impression.

Chairperson: That was the statement. Yes, Ms. Shahani?

Leticia Shahani: I remember that in the Beijing meeting the issue of state disagreement was one of the main themes of our issue, our meeting, and I was very interested in the topic and in the Beijing Declaration we do have a mention, a specific principle of the need to raise the status of women in order that a family size automatically becomes smaller. In other words, we're not really just talking about contraceptives all of this time, or reducing fertility. There are other, longer term measures, such as giving educational opportunities to women, giving employment opportunities to women, making the men help in the household chores so that the women are not always the ones doing that so they, in turn, can have their own careers.

And I would like to ask my Chinese colleague, Madame Chairman, whether in the population program of China, with its really massive implications, whether there is a definite policy towards raising the status of women, because I think that this is a vital issue. I think former Prime Minister Fukuda wrote it up in his statement yesterday, and, as part

of the Philippine delegation, I think I would also give my support for this.

In order to make, let's say, family planning not just so dependent on contraceptives, etc., there are other measures, I means issues, even like even raising the age of marriage, is related to raising the status of women, but it means they will have to be educated, they must have their own work, they must be given a chance to show that they are human beings, not just serving the men and children, you see.

So this what I would like to ask, whether that avenue is being fully pursued, whether it is being given priority. Or are cultural factors so strong that the traditional roles of women as really keepers of the family and the home are still the main considerations. Thank you.

Zha Ruichuan: This question is very important. But in China we have always been paying attention to the promotion of the status of women. Not only in the view of population regulation, but as per se. That means, from the very beginning of the Peoples' Republic of China we have always emphasized the equality between men and women. So the social status of Chinese women has already been raised a lot, to a very great degree.

Of course, actually, in the reality, in the everyday life there may be some difference between the males and the females. But legally, as a principle, they are equal, especially in the cities, in the urban areas, ... also in the reality, both in principle and in the reality.

But in the countryside, the traditional ideas still exist to some extent, which is not removed by the legislation or other things. So we have conducted such survey, on the dependence of fertility on the educational level of the women.

It is very, very evident that with the rise of the educational level of the women the fertility declines, drops very evidently. So now we are not so much emphasizing the women's status in our articles or statements, because we think it is not so acute in China, such a problem. And the rising, the promotion of the status of women was prior to the family planning program.

Leticia Shahani: What is the age of marriage in China?

Zha Ruichuan: In 1951 we had a marriage law. There the marriage was put to 20 years of age for the young man and 18 years for the girls. And then, in the 70's, we appealed to the young persons to raise their age of marriage: the young men to 25 and the girls to 23, and we practiced this.

But then in 1981 we had a new marriage law, which stipulated that the legal age is 22 for the young men and 20 for the young women. But we still encourage late marriage, to 23 for the girls.

Leticia Shahani: I was glad to hear that it is encouraged. Because it is one of those policies by which issues like responsible parenthood can also be linked. And I am thinking we'll awake countries like the Philippines where there is a big debate on whether or what contraceptives to use.

I think the delayed marriage is one non-controversial issue, and I think it is also good for women not to be able to prepare themselves, of course. I got married when I was 32. I think that's too late. But, at least it enabled me, and I think it's also good, to have to be able to study and shape my own career. I mean, this is why I think that for women it is also so important not to enter into marriage too young. I hope the men will understand this, you see.

But I think this is just an example to show. It takes time for a woman also. She has to be able to be given the time to have the educational and the career opportunities, because once she begins to look after the husband and the child, I mean, she is really assailed with household tasks. I mean, what Mrs. Aquino has done is really exceptional, from a housewife she became the head of state. That, in a way, I think is more the exception than the rule, but I believe the delayed age of marriage is linked with the status of women, is linked with responsible parenthood, and I think also is a humane approach to the planning of families. So I'd like to make that point, Madame Chairman.

Zainal Zin: Madame Chairman, I'd just like to get a clarification. Yesterday a case study, a paper presented by one professor in the morning stated that the population growth in the urban areas in China is more than the population growth in the rural areas. Whereas today our professor here has stated that the population growth in the urban areas is lesser than those in the rural areas. Can I get this clarification whether I heard wrongly, or it was wrongly stated to me.

The other one is, I would like to know, on page 7, first paragraph, the last sentence, "So it is necessary to do a large amount of work to prevent early marriage and to reduce high-order births." Can you tell us the large amount of work to be done by your government to prevent early marriage and to reduce high-order births? Thank you, Madame Chairman.

Zha Ruichuan: I will answer your questions. In the 50's the fertility in the urban areas, the cities, was higher than in the countryside. I think this may be explained by the fact

that then many young people entered the cities. And so the births in the cities increased to a big extent.

But after the abrupt fall of the birth fertility in the beginning of the 60's, then, in 1963 the birth rate in the rural areas recovered the higher level, as in the 50's. but the level of the birth rate in the urban areas fell to a very low level, and didn't recover to the original level. So this means that the fertility rate in the urban areas was lower than in the countryside. But the birthrate appeared to be higher.

This is because of the age structure of the population, the difference between the age structure of the urban population and the rural population. And it may also be explained that the records in the urban areas were more complete than in the rural areas, but I think it is not the main reason.

The second one, it is necessary to do large amount of work to prevent early marriage. What are the works? First, now in China a part of the young men and young women marry before the legal age of marriage, that means, before 18 and 20, in the rural areas, not in the urban areas. So, firstly, we must prevent the occurrence of such cases. And we have a marriage law. Secondly, we must convince the young people that early marriage is not profitable for them.

Why they intend to marry early? In the rural areas, especially in the hilly areas, there are fewer girls than boys. And the boys are competitive, and they want to have a wife as early as possible. Otherwise they may be unable to find one for life long. And this stimulates early marriage. Another reason, I think, is very closely correlated with the education. If a young man wants to have a higher education level, he will delay his marriage, and she will delay her marriage. But if they haven't such purposes, they tend to marry carly.

Leticia Shahani: Yesterday they showed the film on Japan, where they showed that the family structure was changing and families tend to be more independent, and they don't want to live with their parents because of job opportunities and rural-urban migration. Is that also happening in China, Professor? Is the family structure changing?

Zha Ruichuan: It is also happening in China, especially in the urban areas. Because children will find their work in other places than their parents live. So they must move to a nearby residence of the work. But in the rural areas the things are a little different. The changes are the same, but now they are changed because the adults were born in the sixties.

Not only is there one son, but maybe two sons or three sons. The first one, the eldest son will leave, the second son will leave, and the third son often stays, often is left with their parents. And when the parents get old, they may join to their sons or daughters.

Chairperson: Oh, there are so many requests, but I have to stop here. It is so populous, China, and also so many questions! I am sure that you people are having more questions in mind, but I have to put a full stop to this because we passed the time.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION AND SOCIOECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Country Report - India

Hon. Sat Paul Mittal  
Secretary General,  
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development

Madame Chairperson, I have to seek a special favor from you. As far as the country paper depicting the demographic transition and socioeconomic development in India is concerned, my paper has already been circulated. And I understand each one of you has that paper with you.

I'll make only brief, preliminary remarks and seek a special favor from you to encourage one of my group members, a member of my delegation, probably the youngest of us all, Sudha Joshi, to dwell on it. Fine. If you see my paper, it has given a very detailed and comprehensive graphic detail of the demographic picture in my country. The transition that has taken place over a period of three decades has been depicted therein.

I'll briefly mention that India is producing since the 1981 census 15 million population every year, which is more than the annual population growth of China, the largest populated country in the world, approaching 1000 million in 2080. And our population, India's population, will touch upon, if not exceed, 1.22 billion by the year 2025. I am afraid that we are going to be as close to China's population by that time, if not, we go to overtake you.

My paper has dealt with the organization problem, and the problem of aging. By the end of the first quarter of the next century the population base, being what it is, is going to produce 92% of the labor force in the future projections of the population growth.

Now I'll only give you what the present population requirements are to show the enormity of the problem that we are facing. According to one estimate, the daily requirements to meet the growing needs of our population are 63,000 houses daily, 6750 tons of food grains, 709,700 jobs -- I'm talking of daily -- 60,000 meters of cloth, 360 schools, and 1000 teachers. Now this is the daily requirement that one estimate has put for India's population, keeping in view the growth that occurred in our population base. You can imagine very well the enormity of the problem that my country is facing, and is likely to face in view of the unabated rise in numbers.

Similarly, I've touched upon mortality and morbidity, and I said earlier, I've touched upon what point of time we'll be facing a very acute problem of aging. Now, about the organization I can say, the total urban population is expected to reach 350 million in 2080, from around 200 million now. Every day about 13,500 persons are added to the urban India, of which 5,400, or merely 40% are migrants from rural areas. So that is the situation, that is the present scenario in my country.

I won't go into the details, or read out the paper as a whole, because, as I said, I'm going to leave it to Sudha Joshi, a member of my delegation, to dwell on it in greater detail. So with your permission, Madame Chairperson, I would like Sudha Joshi to comment.



## POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Sudha Joshi  
Member of Parliament, India

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Mittal and friends. I am thankful to you madam, for giving me this opportunity.

Population was the concern of economists from Adam Smith's time and before. Smith, Ricardo, Malthus, Mill, Marx put forward different theories of population and stressed different views.

A United Nation's 'Study' has listed economic and social factors affecting fertility as follows:

- a) Family functions and structure
- b) Relationship between mortality and fertility
- c) Rising levels of living and increased cost of children upbringing
- d) Level of education
- e) Social mobility
- f) Urbanization
- g) Industrialization

It is observed that "Societies with large family norms are slower to respond to changes in the underlying social structure. Further as mortality declines, the pressure of an increased number of surviving children on limited family resources makes itself felt. Similarly, the slower elimination of the aged from labor force because of decline in mortality makes economic situation more difficult for those in reproductive ages.

With the abolition of child labor and enactment of compulsory education laws, children have ceased to be a source of income for their parents and instead, require increasing expenditure on education, thus threatening a reduction of living standards.

A generally inverse relationship between fertility and education exists in the developed countries. The desire to improve one's position in social scale is another factor that has emerged as an important motive for family limitation. Certain aspects of industrialization and urban environment are also associated with relatively low fertility. These factors are relevant in India also.

India's population which was about 342 million at the time of Independence in 1947, now rose to 685 million in 1981 census, almost double the figure at the time of Independence. Today, it is more than 800 million.

Considering the rapid rate of growth of population in India and its effect of nullifying/reducing considerably the benefits flowing from the economic growth, several studies dealing with economic and social policies affecting population growth have been undertaken by specialists in various fields.

One of the interesting studies undertaken by the World Bank is the relationship between program inputs, socioeconomic levels and family planning performance in 16 States in India. The study took socioeconomic variables as electricity consumption per capita, death rate, proportion of population living in districts of higher level of development, proportion of population in urban area, per capita income, literacy rate and surfaced road per 100 sq. km.

Regression analysis of the family planning performance showed that the birth rate had significant co-relation with death rate, urbanization, surfaced roads and female secondary school enrollment. These four variables accounted for 80% of the variations in the States. The death rate alone explained 60% of the variations, whilst death rate and urbanization could explain 68% of the variations.

A Working Group on Population Policy was set up by the Planning Commission in 1979. This Group recommended the adoption of the long-term demographic goal of reducing the Net Reproduction Rate (NRR) to 1 by the year 1996 for the country as a whole, and by 2000 in all the States. The implications of these long-term demographic goals were spelt out as follows:

- a) The average size of the family would be reduced from 4.2 children to 2.3 children.
- b) The birth rate per 1000 population would be reduced from the level of 33 in 1978 to 21.
- c) The death rate per 1000 population would be reduced from about 14 in 1978 to 9 and the infant mortality would be reduced from 129 to 60 or less.
- d) As against about 22 per cent of the eligible couples protected with family planning, 60 per cent would be protected by the year 2000 AD.

If these goals are achieved; the population of India would be around 950 million by the turn of the century and stabilize at 1200 million by the year 2050 AD.

Keeping in view the long-term demographic goals, the following targets were envisaged for the Sixth Plan, keeping in view past performance, available capacity and future potential.

Sterilization	24 million
IUD	7.9 million
CC Users	11 million in the terminal year 1984-85

Effective couple protection 36.6 percent.

Our Sixth Five-Year Plan sought to make a massive attack on the problem of unemployment and poverty, through specific programs directed towards the weaker section of the society. Special attention had to be paid to the education and employment of women to liberate them from dependence and insecurity, thus improving their social status and at the same time changing their attitude.

The Sixth Plan emphasized that the family planning and welfare program must rise above all controversies and should be accorded high priority. The role of education, motivation and involvement of officials and voluntary agencies was stressed. Health, Family Welfare and Nutrition programs directed towards the vulnerable population -- mothers and children -- were vigorously pursued.

Against the target of 24 million sterilization by the end of the Sixth Plan, a little over 17 million sterilization had been carried out. Against the target of 7.9 million IUD insertion, about 7 million IUD insertions were done. Against the target of 11 million CC Users during the year 1984-85, about 9.31 million CC Users were enrolled in the program during the year 1984-85.

The Family Welfare program is integrated with the Health program, especially Maternal and Child Health (MCH). The performance of the MCH program during the Sixth Plan, particularly in the field of immunization and natal care, is far from satisfactory. Measures for strengthening the program and increasing the child survival rate are essential for the success of the program.

The highlights of the Family Welfare program are:

- a) It is estimated that the crude birth-rate has declined by about 8 points in about 17 years -- from 41 per 1000 population in 1966 to 33 in 1982, that is 0.5 percentage point average decline per year.
- b) The program seem to have averted 60 million births since its inception until end March 1983. It is estimated that the program implemented in 1983-84 might avert 11 million potential future births.
- c) By the end of 1984-85, about 32 percent of all eligible couples were effectively protected by Family Planning methods.

Most of the Provinces showed better family planning program than before the Sixth Plan. The pick up was however, uneven among the Provinces.

The network of program services has been expanded considerably in different Five Year Plans, but it has not yet reached close enough to the people. Several studies have shown that these facilities have not been optimally utilized for various reasons such as ignorance, inaccessibility and lack of credibility of services. There is, therefore, an urgent need not only to expand and strengthen the program infrastructure but also to enlarge its acceptability.

I have, thus, attempted very briefly an overview of the scenario in India's point of view in regard to problem faced, particularly by developing countries in respect of population and development. After all, future of the entire mankind is involved and unless all the right thinking people address themselves very effectively to this task of controlling population in terms of the resources available, the question can really assume menacing proportions.

As it is, situation is quite grave and the danger signals are already hoisted all over. We, the Parliamentarians, have a special role to play; otherwise, history would not pardon us. Spread of message of population control and increase in the level of education are the main factors which would bring about the social change. In this sphere, women have a special role to play and unless they build up a consensus opinion, the social order would not undergo the requisite change. Woman is blessed with motherhood, but the same should not be converted into a curse for the mankind in future. Thank you.

**(Question and Answer)**

Chairperson: Thank you Sudha. I think we've heard the problems of India. Besides all those problems they have, they are still producing 50,000 babies a day, by the end of the of the year it's 15 million. It's a submission, if not, being born every year in India.

Can I have questions from the floor?

Zainal Zin: I have a question about India. We were told that 50,000 babies were born every day. 50,000 babies were born every day, and also quite a number of babies were born in China and also in Indonesia. There are other three countries that are densely populated in our region. Out of these 50,000 -- I don't mean to embarrass, and I just want to know, how many of these are babies born illegitimately? Because this is part of our problem. The illegitimately born babies have become much more problem to the population

and to the communities. What steps are being taken by the Indian government? And also, it can be the example to the other countries, if possible, to overcome this problem and to help us to minimize the illegitimate born babies, and to give them a better life in the future. Thank you.

Sat Paul Mittal: I can assure you that you haven't embarrassed me a bit by asking this question. In my country, the problem of illegitimate child is not of much consequence, because it is minimal. The most minimal. This is not at all a problem, because the politicians, public workers, social scientists have never grappled with this problem in any public fora, because this is not a problem. I'll rely on her statement to say that it is the most negligible. So this is not a problem that we are facing in our country.

Leticia Shahani: I'd like to address this question to our Indian colleagues. I think that former Prime Minister Fukuda said something very important yesterday when he said that the religious leaders will have to help us and solve the population issue. Now in India there is a very strong tradition of spirituality, and one of the teachings is abstinence, or self-control. Cannot the government also appeal to this quality in human beings? You know Gandhiji kept referring to this, there has to be a certain control of sexual desire. Cannot this be part of the family planning program?

Sat Paul Mittal: How I wish it could be. Celibacy or abstinence, permit me to say, are bound to the sages. Now we had been discussing to the past two days many facets to the problem of population. None of you, including myself, have touched upon sex, which, even if you want to shut your eyes, relates to a very sensitive area of human behavior. That we must keep in mind. Sex is something which you cannot curve or control by any law. At least the human history bears that no law can curve sex. Because it relates to a very sensitive area of human behavior. So, ultimately we have come to the conclusion that leaving it to celibacy or abstinence would be disastrous.

That is why we have come out with the contraceptives. And the modern age has propagated the use of contraceptives to control the unabated growth of population. Gandhiji was able to do many things. He was able to do it because he was Gandhiji. We cannot do. Howsoever we may proclaim to be Gandhi? We would love to proclaim. We would love to continue to proclaim that. But in real, physical, actual terms, to be a Gandhian is much more difficult than even to be a human. I am saying so because that is the reality.

Leticia Shahani: But, doesn't being a vegetarian help?

Sat Paul Mittal: Yes. Now you also started transgressing to very personal... Haha, I would like you to enjoy at my cost. But I have not come across any analyses whether vegetarians give rise to more births than non-vegetarians. Probably vegetarians are responsible for more births than the non-vegetarians. So celibacy or abstinence, is something to read, but not to make it as a component of the program. I don't think we can do that. However, this does not mean that those who preach abstinence or celibacy, we should stop them from whatever little they are doing.

TWO ASPECTS OF POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND THE  
EXISTING PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA

Country Report -- Indonesia

Mr. Mackbon  
Vice Chairman,  
Tenth Committee

Madame Chairperson, due to time limits I will not fully read my paper. The way I will do is, I will go through my paper, and here and there I'll read some matters related to the aspects which I have mentioned regarding the topic of my presentation, two aspects of population development and the existing problems in Indonesia.

Honorable Parliamentarians, Senators, distinguished delegates and participants. I'm very proud of being seated in front of you, but, at the same time, I doubt whether I will make a good presentation on behalf of the 175.6 million people of Indonesia, who I represent in this APDA-sponsored meeting today.

Speaking about population, I could say that Indonesia is known to all of us as the fifth dense populated country in our world today. If you do examination, then you get five. It means you have to do your best to change it to six or seven.

Based on this philosophy, Indonesia during the last years was working hard to control its population growth. Because, without taking care about this aspect, by the year 2000, it has been estimated that the figure of the total amount, 175.6 million people today will increase to 282 million people instead of 210 million people.

As it is already well-known to all of us, the population growth in Indonesia becomes a real problem to be faced. And to minimize this problem among other development aspects, the population growth and distribution can be managed through family planning and transmigration programs. Talking about population development, the most outstanding problems now faced by Indonesia are the still relatively high population growth, the discrepancies in the distribution of the population according to their age structures and their whereabouts, or sites, and the moral force needed to improve the living quality of its people or society.

The still relatively high population growth is caused by the still high birth rate on one hand, and a speedy decrease of mortality rate on the other hand. This has resulted in the concentration of the population in a group

of young people, which age structure, the level of dependency of the Indonesian people is relatively high, because the number whose lives are dependent on other groups is still high. The distribution of the population according to the sites, or residence, does not show proper balances. It also makes it difficult for the utilization of natural and human resources for the national development. In places where the density of the population is high, there is a great pressure on land, forest and water, as well as on other resources.

Regarding the population growth and family planning, according to the projection, in 1988 the population of Indonesia was 175.6 million, and in 1989 this figure will increase to 192.9 million people. It means that during the next 5-year development plan, the increase of the population is 17.3 million, or with the growth rate 1.9% yearly. This projection on population growth rate is smaller than during the same period 1984-1988, which is 2.1% yearly.

These figures indicate the results of two important population components that have been executed to control the population problems in the country, namely the birth or fertility rate and the mortality rate. The problem of transmigration plays an important role in efforts to address the question of population. The policy on transmigration in Indonesia is directed towards the reducing of population density on Java and Bali islands and also preparing a stronger basis for efforts of development in various sectors throughout the country.

Through this transmigration program there is also a strong link to restructure the utilization, the control and ownership of land in places, of regions, as well as assessing area of destinations. During the last five-year development plan the total transmigrants who had been placed on their destinations 637,943 heads of family, which was divided into 251,755 heads of family who joined the general transmigration program, and the remaining were transmigrated on a voluntary basis. This last type of transmigration will be integrated with other development sectors in this in designating areas such as forestry industry and real estates, fishery and so on, to fulfill the shortage of laborers.

One of the other programs intended to improve the standard of living of other groups of the Indonesian people who live in isolated areas in the interior is the program of population resettlement and the improvement of welfare of these isolated ethnic groups. This program can be carried out through the removal of these isolated ethnic groups, or joining several compounds together to form a new village, or they also joining the national transmigration program to a



certain degree. They are all known as local transmigrants. The existing problems. The implementation of related programs in the population development sector, as have been discussed, obviously are confronted with many problems which hamper their targets or successes as planned previously.

The existing problems are as follows:

One, The age structure of the Indonesian population is mainly concentrated on young age groups. This fact has caused a lot of improvement of many aspects, such as education, agricultural production, health and nutrition, housing and work opportunities, which aim to fulfill their needs and life quality. For example, the labor force of the world population in 1988 was 131.3 million people, which will increase to 147.5 million people in 1993. Therefore, this point requires more investment, in creating of general work and opportunities in the country.

Second, the consciousness and participation of the Indonesian Republic regarding family planning programs and activities is very related, especially the still fertile women, which, in the productive ages, ranging from 15 to 49 years, almost understand the goals of family planning programs. For example, during the fourth five-year development plan, 18.3 million or 75% out of 24.5 million of these married fertile couples are permanently using contraceptive materials or devices.

The existing problems due to this family planning program are the still high birth and fertility rates, the increase of fertile married women, and the requisite to develop the increase of participants and to practice the use of contraceptive materials continuously. The further requirements for more and effective programs, such as extension and motivation, family-planning education, monitoring and development of information network and program management must be taken to enlarge the people's participation to make fruitful the family planning programs in the future.

Third, regarding the transmigration activities, the improvement of economic life is still questionable. Measures already have been developed to support the activities of this aspect, such as the building of transportation access roads, local markets, cooperatives, and so on. But the improvements are still far from home. Therefore the integration of related development sectors must be made to cooperate difficulties and improving the economy.

Fourth, as had been stated, yet there are many faults to refer of the living conditions of the isolated ethnic groups through resettlement programs.

These resettlement programs mostly are not satisfied, because these isolated ethnic groups traditionally are still

strong, united their feelings and attitudes with the whole environment and living conditions. For example, for their living they still practice the shifting agriculture while they are taught to make permanent gardens.

To attract success through these resettlement projects, appropriate and integrated programs should be established by various development agents, such as the integration of informal teaching with the practices of permanent agriculture, etc.

Finally, by having the knowledge with regards to the real situation and results, and existing programs of the population development achieved by Indonesia, it is hoped that mutual existence and close cooperation among our nations in the Asia-Pacific Region will improve to strive the welfare of our peoples. Thank you.

**(Question and Answer)**

Chairperson: Thank you, Mackbon.

A Filipino parliamentarian: A question to the speaker from Indonesia. I feel that your paper reflected a higher positive response of your people to your population program. And there has been an active participation of people of about 75%. What could have been the secret formula that the government is implementing to encourage the people to participate through these programs?

Mackbon: I think this is a very nice question. Maybe it is also difficult for me to answer. But I think the way the government or the related development sector to rectify the motivation of the population is the way, I think, the same as has been done by a member of the Philippine team, I think Dr. Juan. So, the way that the government and related agencies could do is, going also closer to the people, especially in the rural areas, to talk to them about this family planning programs and the growth of the family planning program itself. That's the way to deal with the government.

And I also can indicate that there is two different government sectors who are dealing with this family planning programs. The first one is the State Minister of Population and Environment, and the other one is the National Family Planning Board. These are two development sectors working together with, dealing together with the problems of the family planning problems.

So there are several ways. They are trying to execute together, so they have to do their best to solve this problem. And I'm wondering about the way that Dr. Juan had explained yesterday, about the way to motivate the people,

and I think the way they do in Indonesia is the same.

An Indian parliamentarian: What is the marriage age in Indonesia?

Mackbon: In 1971, there is an act produced to regulate these problems, among this one is the age of marriage. That is, following the act, is 25 for young men, and for young women, 20 years.

A Filipino parliamentarian: What is the extent of the support of the President Suharto for the population program in Indonesia?

Mackbon: Yes, it is a nice question. And I could say that our president is very supportive to this program. So that's why maybe he won an international award for ?????.

Zainal Zin: Do you think the project of transmigration by the Indonesian government will help to reduce the population growth in the area? Through experience in our country, if you don't have enough facilities in these rural areas, and you will unconsciously allow the meeting of husband and wife very open, so in this case you will increase the birth rate. What do you think about this transmigration program? Will your government produce all these facilities in these areas? And can I know the program planned by the government about this project?

Mackbon: The aim of the transmigration itself is to distribute the people from the densely populated areas to the less dense populated areas throughout Indonesia. And the other aim is also to use of the potential that is scattered throughout the country.

And about worrying that there is a possibility of another baby boom in the transmigration areas, I think the government is already prepared for this, so they also provide programs related to these territorial worries, the program on family planning. So this planning is also going with the transmigration program. So it is in a whole package condition. Besides this, the government is also building health centers, and/or houses for worship, etc. in the areas. While we are still feeling that there are many problems related to the available fund for these programs.

## POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT IN JAPAN

### Country Report -- Japan

Mr. Masayoshi Takemura  
Member of the House of Representatives,  
Member of Japan Parliament Federation for Population

I would like to comment on the issues of population and environment from two perspectives, situation in Japan and in the world.

Although I have been engaged in local administration for many years, my main interest until today has been in the area of environmental issues. Three years ago, an organization of parliamentarians on global environmental issues was formed in Japan. As we have solicited Mr. Takeo Fukuda to serve as the Chairman of this organization, so Mr. Fukuda is currently working in the area of both population and environment.

The more one becomes interested in environment issues, particularly those of global scale, the more he is confronted with the major obstacle of population problem. This is the context in which I attended this meeting. I am determined to continue my efforts with interest in both themes, the environment and the population.

Japan has the area of 378,000 square kilometer, which accounts for 0.3% of the total land on the earth. We have a population of 122 million people, which accounts for approximately 2.4% of the world's population that is now said to be over 5 billion. On this small land (0.3%) and with a large population (2.4%) we are engaging in a highly dense socioeconomic activities, producing more than 10% of the total GNP of the world.

After World War II, high economic growth continued centering around the heavy and chemical industries, which has dramatically increased employment opportunities in cities and caused a large-scale migration of mainly young people, from rural to urban areas. While the urban population sharply increased the population in farming or mountain villages started to decrease.

As a result, the depopulation in farming or mountain villages became a critical issue as well as the overpopulation problem in cities. This has brought about environmental problems in urban areas such as air pollution, increase in automobile exhaust gas, treatment or disposal of industrial waste, water pollution by household sewage or industrial waste water. On the other hand, in farming or mountain villages, due to depopulation and especially the

decrease in young workers, traditional structure of maintaining local environment such as forests or farm land is being destroyed.

In order to cope with these problems we are vigorously promoting environmental policies such as anti-pollution measures, and at the same time deciding on a nationwide comprehensive development plan to aim at well-balanced development of local areas.

Prime Minister Takeshita is stressing "the creation of hometowns" having plenty of greeneries and rich natural environments as his political objective and has made public a plan to grant 100 million yen to each municipal government as an activity fund to be used to positively develop its local communities, exercising their own ingenuity and creativity.

I had an opportunity to visit Bangladesh in October last year. Two thirds of the land had been damaged by a flood in September last year and I heard that the damage is becoming even bigger year after year. Part of the reason cited was that a rapid increase in population in Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Northern India and so on and chopping down trees for firewood or charcoal had cut the green land in the Himalayan area by about half in over the past decade. These factors have contributed to the increase in the damage from the flood of the Ganges River although the amount of the rainfall was the same.

I felt that what I had seen there is a typical example of a close and inseparable relationship between population and environmental problems. I have come to fully recognize the necessity of strengthening cooperation beyond national boundaries in order to stabilize the population and protect the environment.

Population and environmental issues are close related when viewed from a global perspective. The world population passed the 5 billion mark two years ago and it is still increasing by 220,000 people a day and more than 80 million people a year. A simple calculation tells us that it is increasing by 1 billion people every 12 years. And it is expected that 90% of the increase in population will be from developing countries. On the other hand, tropical forests are decreasing at the rate of 12 million hectare per year due to burning of fields or commercial deforestation, and the loss of topsoil amounts to 26 billion ton per year. An element such as unstable rainfall added to over cultivation on sterile land due to the pressure of population growth, as well as pasturing and excessive consumption of trees for firewood or charcoal, are aggravation soil, reducing farmland and promoting desertification. One third of the surface of the earth and at least 850 billion lives are ex-

posed to a threat of desertification, and 6 million hectare of new desert is created every year.

Population policy plays a vital part when drawing up and promoting a national development plan for a country. One needs to make a total policy including environmental conservation measured in the development plan. Based on such total policy, we can strive for the stabilization of population, environmental protection in an effort to actualize the "sustainable development" proposed by the World Committee on Environment and Development (WCED). Continuous and stronger support in this field is strongly expected from advanced nations.

In our country we have been achieving positive results in tackling industrial pollution. However, we have yet to solve a lot of problems from the standpoint of ensuring a well-balanced development of our land. I think that we should not only create and affluent and comfortable environment in our country but also contribute positively towards solving the world's population and environmental problems by making use of our knowledge, experiences and technologies.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Takeshita, preparations are now under way to hold an international conference on the environmental conservation on a global scale in Tokyo in September this year. Lastly, on closing my report, I would like to express my sincere hope that this international conference will mark an important step forward towards tackling the world's population and environmental problems.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(Question and Answer)

Leticia Shahani: Well, since concerns of aging are very close to your heart, Senator, and the previous speakers referred to the increase of the aging population before lunch. So I also return to my favorite topic which is the status of women. You know, among the aging, it is the women who survive. They always say that women are the weaker sex, but actually they live much longer than the men.

Now, what I would like to really ask our Korean and Japanese colleagues is this. If a woman lives up to, let's say eighty, she still has about ten years..., well, she doesn't have to retire. Are there retraining schemes for women? Because that is also another woman power. What do you do with your..., they really just don't like to retire, if you keep yourself healthy and, you know how to take care of yourself. A woman is still very good at age sixty-five. So I wanted to ask our Korean and Japanese colleagues

whether there are any retraining schemes for women, so that they can go back to the labor force, even at age sixty-five. Maybe to do lighter jobs, lighter tasks, but it is better than just putting them into an old-age home and just watching their flower beds grow. You can also have part-time work, you can have flexible work time. I think these are some of the adjustments government will now have to take. So, Senator maybe you have something to say about this, because I know that you are not only thinking of the aging men, but also the aging women.

Masayoshi Takemura: The present life expectancy in Japan is 81 years for women and 76 years for men, so there is a 5-year difference. Naturally, men also marry at older age. Therefore, if the life expectancy of women is several years longer, they will have to live the last eight to ten years of their lives by themselves. This may lead to some social problems.

Regarding the point you have raised on retraining and employment, employment opportunities for the elderly have been gradually increasing owing to opening of more jobs for the elderly and decrease in young labor force. However, because of their handicap in terms of physical strength etc., each elderly person and the employer have difficulty in reaching agreement in terms of working conditions, which results in difficulty for the elderly in finding an ideal place to work.

Meanwhile, a discussion is currently taking place over the necessity for a mechanism in which the elderly can participate more actively in social welfare, including volunteer activities.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
IN KOREA: STRATEGIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Country Report -- Korea

Mr. Suh Sang-Mok  
Member, National Assembly

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on behalf of the Korean Delegation, I would like to thank the organizers for inviting us to this very stimulating conference, and our Philippine host for their gracious hospitality. Since I am not an expert on population or birth control, I would like to touch on the broad area of relationship between demographic change and socioeconomic development. To save time, I think I will read the prepared text.

As we look towards the 21st Century, we must remind ourselves that the century is not in the remote future but almost upon us. Policy makers in Korea have been analyzing with keen interest, the social and economic trends bringing us into the 21st Century and I have had the privilege of participating in several of these studies.

The most important features of population change in Korea are related to age structure. The age structure of the Korean population is changing rapidly. In 1960, the structure was pyramid-shaped with the largest portion of the population in the youngest age cohort. By 1980, the structure became bell-shaped as the baby boom generation entered the production age cohort. After the year 2000, however, the structure will become jar-shaped as the baby boomers age and the effects of low fertility rates and a longer life span become evident. These changes will have serious implications for future socioeconomic development and raise several important policy issues.

There are four important features of this changing age structure.

First, the proportion of the population in the youngest age cohort is declining. The proportion of the population 14 and under was 42.9% in 1960 declining to 34% by 1980. By the year 2000, it will be 25.1% and, by 2020, 19.1%. This will have a serious effect on the educational system. In the past, the high proportion of youths created a strain on the educational system, resulting in serious problems of overcrowding. In the future, this pressure will decline enabling policy makers to focus on improving the quality of education through smaller class sizes and higher teacher-student ratios.



Second, the proportion of the population in the old age cohort is increasing. The portion of the population 65 and over was 3.3% in 1960, increasing slightly to 3.8% in 1980. It will rise to 6.2% by the year 2000. If we extend our projection as far as 2040, the figure jumps to 18.2%. As evident from these figures, after 2000, the proportion of the aged population will accelerate rapidly. The aging population is a serious problem exacerbated by both the trend towards nuclear families and increased urbanization. In the past, the family unit was extended to include several generations with adults assuming responsibility for their aging parents. With the trend towards the nuclear family and changing life patterns, much of the burden to care for the aged will fall on the government. This raises the important issue of a national pension program.

The third important feature of the changing age structure is the increase in the production, or economically active age cohort. The proportion of the population between 15 and 64 was 53.8% in 1960 rising to 62.2% in 1980. By 2000, it will reach 68.8%. Of particular importance is the 25-44 age group, the so-called core production group, which will increase very rapidly over the next ten years. Over the next ten years the baby boom generation will be in the most productive age group and this has several important implications. First, as the baby boomers pass through the production cohort there will be increased demand for housing. Second, with less children to care for and most of the population in the most active cycle, the next ten years will provide the best environment for high economic growth. Given that the economically active cohort will begin to decline after the year 2000, the next ten years will be a crucial period for economic expansion and may be the last chance for such rapid economic growth in Korea.

The changing population structure has brought about significant changes in the life cycle pattern. The decrease in the number of children and increased life expectancy have resulted in more time for leisure. This is particularly relevant for women. With an increased educational level and fewer children to care for, women have become a large potential labor pool. As a result, there has been a greater demand for labor force participation by women.

Given these changes in the population structure and their socioeconomic implications, there are four policy issues which draw special concern. The first is obviously the population control. The current policy objective is to bring the total fertility rate, which was 2.7 in 1980, down to 1.9 by the year 2000. If this is achieved, the natural population increase rate will be zero by 2030, after which it will be negative. The current population in Korea is 42 million and will increase to 56.2 million by 2030. To achieve this goal, we are intensifying our population con-

trol programs. We have changed our two-child-per-family campaign to a one-child-per-family program and are planning to increase efforts to expand birth control education and information programs.

The second policy issue related to population changes is the problem of urban housing and traffic congestion. Urban housing is a particularly serious problem. The number of new families in Korea is rising faster than the number of new housing units. The ratio of families to housing units was 74.4% in 1974, declining to 69.2% by 1987. Our current goal is to create 2 million new housing units by 1992 which would bring the ratio up to 72.9%.

Traffic and urban congestion are another serious problem which has emerged as a result of rapid urbanization. We have now reached the per capita income level at which there has been an explosion in car ownership. The average annual increase rate for passenger cars was 27.6% from 1982 to 1988 and will average at least 15% from 1988 to 2000. The traffic problem, particularly in Seoul, is exacerbated by the fact that there is relatively less road space as compared with other major cities.

Building new roads however, is very expensive and we are focusing instead on improving and expanding the public transportation system, particularly the subway system.

The third policy issue is social security, in particular social welfare for the old aged. Our current welfare policy goals include the expansion of the medical insurance system and the introduction of a national pension program. The medical insurance program was established in 1978, and included coverage for wage and salary earners only. This past year, it was extended to include farmers and starting next July, it will cover the urban self-employed. With average medical costs rising faster than the average inflation rate, this program will be a great strain on the government's budget.

Starting this year, a national pension scheme will be implemented in anticipation of the problems of our aging population. Unlike the American pay-as-you-go scheme, ours is an accumulated fund where the pension size will depend on the contribution. With an expected deposit fund of 420 billion won in 1988, it will continue to grow over the next 10 to 20 years after which it will fall as pensions begin to be collected. By 2020, we will be facing many of the typical problems experienced by countries with social security systems. In the meantime, however, we will have a large accumulated fund, which we are considering using to help finance our housing program.

The final policy issue is the question of employment and growth. The fact that such a large, and still growing portion of our population is in the 24-64 age range could strain our economy if employment does not continue to grow. However, I am optimistic that this large labor force will be an asset given our current growth momentum. From 1986-88 we had a high economic growth rate of 12% per annum, and thus we were able to absorb the increased labor. In fact, the labor market became too tight and the nominal wage rate increased nearly 20% last year. While our export growth is expected to slow this year, I think we will be able to maintain 8-9% growth rate up to year 2000. On the export side, the won appreciation and rising wages have caused difficulties in our labor-intensive industries. However, we are now making efforts to upgrade our products by emphasizing technological innovation.

In the past, we relied on exports to fuel our growth, but given our present surplus we can now turn to our domestic economy to maintain our growth momentum. The rising wages have fueled domestic demand contributing to the growth of the domestic economy, a development which is very positive and will lead to more balanced economic development. Furthermore, with the new political environment, demand for social welfare and increased public expenditures has risen and will further contribute to domestic expansion. As a result, instead of relying on export-led economic development we will be able to achieve a balance between external and domestic demand.

When looking at Korea's socioeconomic development into the next Century, the importance of population trends and changes becomes evident. The recent and future changes in population structure in Korea carry both positive and negative implications for its future social and economic development. On the negative side, changes in age structure have created immediate social concerns related to housing shortages, urban congestion and a rapidly aging population in need of greater social welfare. On the positive side, however, the increase in the economically active age cohort has created a labor pool which, if used to its potential, could be a great asset and contribute to the expansion of our domestic economy. Our ability to address the social and economic challenges of the 21st Century will depend on our ability to capitalize on the positive and use the next ten years to generate high growth so that we can deal with and overcome the negative aspects, whose full effects will be felt in the next century, which is only ten years away.

I think that Senator Shahani raised a very interesting question. I think that will be a very important issue in the coming years. But up to now, the labor force participation by women is relatively low, particularly at the old age group. So we really don't have any urgent need for retrain-

ing because they were not in the labor force before. But because of the trend I explained in the paper earlier, I think that will be a quite important issue in the year 2000 and onward.

Thank you.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION: SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND STRATEGIES TOWARD THE 21ST CENTURY

Country Report -- Malaysia

Dato Zainal Abidin Zin  
Committee Member

Mr. Professor, Chairman, Mr. Mittal, member of parliament and senators, ladies and gentlemen. I've shortened my papers and I would like to read this, the summary on the Malaysian Demographic Transition: Socioeconomic Development and Strategies Toward the 21st Century.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. According to current population projections, based on recent statistics, the population is projected to grow from an estimated 16 million in 1985 to 17.9 million in 1990 and to reach 22.4 million by the year 2000, and by 2010, it is estimated that the population will reach 29 million. Therefore, future socioeconomic strategies will have to be developed in relation to the time frame that this population size would be attained.

In 1984, a new population policy was promulgated. The Government's Mid-Term Review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan stated that: -

"..... Malaysia's population is relatively small and the nation has the capacity to generate the wealth that will support a much larger population. The domestic market is relatively small and this has also put constraints on the development of industries. Recognizing that a large population constitutes an important human resource to create a larger consumer base with increasing purchasing power to generate and support industrial growth through productive exploitation of natural resources, Malaysia could therefore, plan for a larger population which could ultimately reach 70 million.

This was followed up by a statement in the Fifth Malaysia Plan which reads:

".....The Government will continue to monitor closely current population trends to ensure that the target is achieved. With the enunciation of the new population policy, efforts will be undertaken towards increasing the awareness of the patterns of family building and relationships and about the means of timing and controlling births with special emphasis on family development and welfare....."

Ladies and gentlemen. Many demographers are of the opinion, such as maintaining the present total fertility of 4 can lead to the achievement of 70 million. Thus, the Cabinet accepted the scenario recommended by the Adhoc Committee on Population Issues, calling for a slower decline in fertility. In making the population projection according to this scenario, the life expectancy at birth was assumed to increase steadily from 66 years in 1980 to 75 years by the year 2000 and maintained thereafter, while the total fertility rate was assumed to decline slowly from 4.0 in 1980 to replacement level fertility of 2.05 children by the year 2070 and maintained thereafter. Under this trajectory, the population will stabilize at around 70 million by the year 2100, through the process of natural increase. The present population of about 16.0 million was projected to reach about 22 million by the turn of the present century.

Population growth in Malaysia has not affected its economic growth. In spite of population increases of between 2.7 per cent to 3 per cent in the past, real per capita income increased by 4.9 per cent per annum during 1971-80 thus allowing for higher standard of living.

Malaysia has considerable potential for economic development. It has a relatively small population, rich natural resources, and, equally important, a highly trainable labor force. At least half of Malaysia is still under virgin forest with considerable potential for development. This is not to imply that Malaysia is not concerned about the effects of population growth on resources, particularly in the longer run. It has been its policy to maintain proper husbandry of its resources in order to meet the needs of posterity and of ecology.

The Government of Malaysia has attempted to have a rather balanced view of the likely positive and negative consequences of population growth. While rapid population growth could have an adverse impact on investments and employment, large population could also be considered an asset, as a reservoir of employable skills which could be utilized for development efforts. A larger population could provide a bigger domestic market to support industrial growth and economies of scale in the provision of infrastructure and other amenities, as well as to reduce the dependence on export-oriented industries which are often frustrated by protectionist policies of developed countries. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman. Thank you very much.

## SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

### Country Report -- Nepal

Hon. Tika Jung Thapa  
Chairman, Population and Development Forum

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished participants,  
and Ladies & Gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to express sincere thanks on behalf of the Nepalese delegation, and on my own, for giving us this opportunity to participate in this meeting. Mr. Chairman, I am confident that under your able leadership the Asian Population and Development Association will be able to play a dynamic and creative role in attaining the twin objectives of population control and economic development in this part of Asia which accounts major part of the world's total population. I must also congratulate our host for making such an excellent arrangements to make the meeting a success.

The negative consequences of high population growth on various aspects of socioeconomic development process has been well recognized. As a result, most of the Asian Countries, including Nepal, have taken a number of policy measures to reduce the current fertility rate. The progress achieved by some countries are really encouraging but for some - and Nepal is not an exception - more efforts have to be made to make economic development a self generating process through the integration of population and economic development activities right from the project formulation stage. This, of course, is a difficult process, but I am aware, as I am sure, the other participants attending this meeting are aware of, there is no short cut process to reduce fertility and to alleviate poverty. The history of human civilization has no end.

If the experience of developed countries is any guide, experience not only of European countries but of Japan as well, the problem of aging can be no less serious than fertility reduction program. We the national legislators of the developing countries should initiate such programs, though at the modest scale, to deal the emerging problems of aging. In the meantime, however, emphasis should be rightly provided to reduce high fertility as well as to reduce high infant mortality rate: I am perhaps asking too much -- but that much and it is a great deal -- is clearly within our reach.

We, in Nepal under the able leadership of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, are committed to meet such basic needs as food, clothing, shelter, health, educa-

tion and security of the Nepalese people by the end of the current century. It is obvious that the fulfillment of basic needs will remain beyond our reach unless the current high population growth is checked as we want to be. Therefore, the central issue for the government of Nepal has become to achieve an appropriate balance between population growth and economic development. The population policies of Nepal aim at obtaining the replacement level of fertility by the turn of this century. For this purpose, various programs are in the process of implementation. Particular emphasis has been given to integrate population into the whole fabric of development process.

The population dynamics of Nepal is characterized by high and stable fertility and declining mortality thus resulting in population to double since 1911, but it will take less than half of this to double again, if the current annual growth rate of 2.6 percent is to continue. Moreover, the high dependency ratio and the increasing trend of population density has posed serious economic burden on national development scheme. Given the seriousness of the problem, His Majesty's Government of Nepal had adopted a comprehensive population strategy in January 1983 to bring down the fertility rate from about 6.0 to the replacement level by the end of the current century. In order to achieve the target, five strategic policy directions have been adopted, priorities and processes have been defined and a detail time-specific plan of action has been developed.

I must mention even at the cost of repeating myself, the population policy of His Majesty's Government perceives two-way relationship between population and development. The National Commission on Population of Nepal is given the responsibility of the formulation and coordination of policy governing the conduct of population sector's program. The commission headed by Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister is a broad based national level organization which consists members from different field, including the national legislators.

The implementation of the population sector programs, especially in a country like Nepal, where children, particularly sons, are still viewed as an asset is easier than done. The demand for children in rural areas is higher than the fertility reduction target of the government. Community participation can be effective measures to help attain the desired socioeconomic situation under which the attitude and behavior of the individual and community will be compatible with the goal of society at large. His Majesty's Government has, therefore, adopted a policy of decentralization under which the responsibility of development authority will be provided to local entities. It is our belief, Mr. Chairman, that the local communities will have additional incentives to engage themselves in population programs due to the responsibility of managing development activities.



Development programs which can generate awareness among the people to adopt small family norms has been emphasized as they are also useful to fulfill the basic needs of the people. The demographic target and the process of integration that we have adopted presents a great challenge for all of us concerned, including the national legislators. Therefore, the search for effective policy instrument to integrate population variables into development planning will be continued to maximize the effective use of available resources for both demographic development purposes.

Mr. Chairman, the meeting such as this will provide a good opportunity to learn from each other's experiences, to help enable each country of Asia to move into the twenty-first century with improved quality of life. This we can achieve, no doubt, by maintaining proper balance between population and resource development.

Before ending my speech, I express sincere appreciations for Mr. Kawano, who has been to Nepal two months back, and has written a book, "A Report on the Survey of Rural Population and Agricultural Development in Asian Countries: Nepal" About this book, which is a product of your untiring efforts, dedications, demonstrated wisdom in the field of development. Thank you.

IMPLICATIONS OF POPULATION ON PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT:  
Towards a More Responsive Legislative Action

Country Report -- Philippines

Con. Gary Teves

Disturbing demographic trends as evidenced by a population growth rate which today remains relatively high at 2.4% characterize the Philippine population. The national growth of 5,000 babies daily is dangerously out of proportion to unemployment, housing, food, insurgency, migration and other critical problems.

We should have a single-minded population policy and program with sustained and massive support to keep the national population at a level to ensure a balance between resources and development. The leadership should make an unequivocal statement on the need for a strong population program, endorse the social goal of a small family norm, and at the same time adopt explicit fertility and population growth reduction objectives. Accordingly, the government should propagate a program which includes effective natural and approved artificial methods and one that is consistent with principle of free choice of couples and respect for human rights.

We should come up with a socially desirable formula acceptable to the majority in order to reduce fertility rates. This means a more rational method of resource allocation with emphasis on the health, nutrition and educational needs of the populace. It is thus important that the goals and strategies of the population policy as well as their links to the socioeconomic development be understood as widely as possible.

The country has to address these disturbing demographic trends because:

- 1) The per capita income remains very low despite recent economic gains;
- 2) Sixty per cent of the population remain poor; many of them belong to families of 7 or more members;
- 3) There are 12 million young children today; one fourth of them suffer from second and third degree malnutrition and face greater risks to pneumonia, diarrhea, blindness, anemia and other afflictions;
- 4) There are about 2.5 million unemployed and 7 million underemployed in the country today; each year the new entrants to the labor force number 750,000 and will even reach 1 mil-

lion by the year 2000;

5) Migration to urban areas has escalated, contributing to the increasing slum and squatter settlements in cities;

6) Encroachment and exploitation of scarce marine, forest and agricultural resources continue unabated.

Legislative action has been in the direction of strengthening the population policy or program, population-related studies and legal/constitutional inquiries in aid of legislation. The more recent congressional actions are;

1. For strengthening the population policy

Providing for a more effective policy

HB NO. 7281 - "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE POLICY ON POPULATION CONTROL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE P.D. 79, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED POPULATION ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES" (By Cong. Monfort)

For improving the organizational structure

SB NO. 930 - REORGANIZING THE POPULATION COMMISSION AND TRANSFERRING IT TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE AMENDED. (Introduced by Senators Estrada, Shahani, Angara, Aquino, Herrera, Mercado, Romulo and Tanada.)

For program strengthening

HR NO. 840 - "RESOLUTION URGING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT" (By Cong T.A. Oreta).

2. Population-related inquiries for better information base for planning

HR NO. 40 - "RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE STATUS OF OUR POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN THE FACE OF OUR HIGH POPULATION RATE INCREASE OF 2.5 PER CENT WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO URBAN SPRAWL, THE RISE OF CRIMINALITY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL ILLS AND TO RECOMMEND SUCH MEASURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PLACE OUR RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE AT MANAGEABLE LEVELS" (By Cong. Santos (O), et.al.)

H.R. NO. 55 - "RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION EXPLOSION, ITS IMPLICATIONS ON ALL OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL LIFE, AND THE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION PROGRAM" (By Cong. Real, et.al.)

3. Legal and constitutional inquiries

HR NO. 1048 - "RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE FAMILY RELATIONS AND POPULATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE REPORTED PROLIFERATION OF FAMILY PLANNING ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH IS VIOLATIVE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION GRANTING THE RIGHTS OF COUPLES TO FOUND A FAMILY IN ACCORDANCE TO THEIR RELIGIOUS CONVICTION AND LIKEWISE INTO THE REPORTED FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY ON POPULATION" (By Cong. Aquino (A)).

Members of the Philippine Legislature have thus been addressing various dimensions of the population issue. Our position is towards a total and more concerted approach. We are proposing the following courses of action:

1. Congress should come up with the following RESOLUTIONS to achieve a socially desirable goal of small family norm which includes:

1.1 Urging the President of the Philippines to issue an unequivocal national policy on population endorsing a small family norm on the basis of responsible parenthood;

1.2 Urging the President of the Philippines to strengthen the Population Commission by including members of the legislature;

1.3 Urging the Population Commission to dialogue and work closely with religious groups and NGOs in order to strike an acceptable and effective formula of bringing down population growth rate in the country.

1.4 Urging the President of the Philippines through the Population Commission to support NGOs presently engaged in population activities with adequate logistics;

1.5 Urging members of the House of Representatives to appropriate substantial funds for the Population Commission to more effectively pursue its objectives;

1.6 Urging the members of the Philippine Legislature to appeal to provincial and municipal executives to appropriate a certain percentage of their local incomes to support population activities and together with the barangay officials, to promote family planning program; and

1.7 Urging the President of the Philippines through the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and National Statistics Office (NSO) to provide for an efficient review and monitoring system by collecting and disseminating relevant, accurate and timely statistics regarding the Philippine population and its various implications as a basis for more effective planning.

The Philippine Legislature recognizes the significance of fora for sharing experiences with countries of different socio-demographic backgrounds. Surely, the international community gains from each others' experiences and the successful programs of other countries may inspire us to evolve more dynamic population policies. We propose that we continue to strengthen these inter-country network. Thank you very much.

(Question and Answer)

Takashi Sato: I'm sorry if it is my misunderstanding. I would like to express my respect to your courage to submit a proposal to President Aquino. As I understood it, increasing the number of parliamentarians involved in population issues was included in this proposal. Am I correct? If so, I wonder if it is appropriate for the legislative body to propose to the president an increase in number of parliamentarians. Isn't it something that parliamentarians should do on their own? My common sense tells me that, as the highest state body, parliamentarians should be able to do this without any restrictions. I apologize if I've misunderstood you.

Gary Teves: Thank you. That's a very good point. Actually, what is happening now is that the members of the legislature are not really involved in the whole aspects of population planning and policy formulation. What you said is also correct. However, related to this whole issue about separation of powers, we have to realize and we need to realize, especially in the case of developing countries like the Philippines. Where we have to put premium on coordination of policy as well as implementation of these policies. Because there is a danger that we arrive at a stalemate instead of everybody focusing on a very important problem like population. So it is best under severe circumstances that we are facing, like the Philippines, for the executive, legislative as well as the private sector to have a coordinated effort on this issue of population.

Takashi Sato: I understand. If you allow me to say it in my style, it would be "an effort made by the entire country." I wish you success.

Gary Teves: Thank you very much.

Masayoshi Takemura: There was a question from Ms. Shahani to the representative from India this morning about the relation between population policy and religion. I have heard that Catholic Church is the biggest religion in the Philippines, but do you have a similar problem also? As we understand it, Vatican has a policy of disapproving all contraceptions and abortions. How is this problem between

population policy and religion affect the active implementation of population policy in the Philippines?

Gary Teves: Well, this whole issue about religion and population is really a very detailed and lengthy issue. However, in the case of the Philippines, it is correct that relative to other countries that may not have the same kind of religious environment as the Philippines, the use of the so-called artificial methods is more readily acceptable. But if you note our position is, I thought pretty clear that we are suggesting a menu or an array of options which allow the use of both natural as well as approved artificial methods and consistent with the free choice of couples.

Now, I think the concept of free choice of couples is respected by the church. So, whatever methods, whether they are natural or artificial, as long as we both agree, that population is something that we should seriously try to solve. In fact, in one of our resolutions here, we suggested that we should work together, together with the non-government organizations to strike an acceptable and effective formula of bringing down population growth rate in the Philippines. Hopefully, we will be able to veer towards an acceptable solution.

Zainal Zin: I would like to raise a few questions. One is about the religious leaders participating in this concept of reducing population growth in the Philippines. I heard, whether it is true or not, that some of these religious leaders to the members of Parliament, even Senators, not to work together. I don't know whether it is true or not. I just want to get the clarification. And if this happened, is it a great problem for you to implement this?

Two, I have heard that there are about 75,000 unemployed citizens in the country. How you also counted that a lot of Filipinos have gone out of the country to work, and most of them are very popular singers and musicians and earn a lot in my country. And I would like to know how many Filipinos have gone out of the country to ease the tension in the country.

And the third one, I have not heard that you have a proper planning about the housing problem in the country. You have stated that there are a lot of slum areas in big cities. In 1978 when I first visited Manila, I saw that the former first lady, Imelda Marcos had planned this housing scheme for the lower income group. Whether the present government has the same planning to improve the standard of living, plus the housing problem in this country. Thank you very much.

Gary Teves: Thank you. Let me just summarize the points that were raised. One is that whether or not we receive of-

ficial communication from our religious leaders. Two, related to the issue of unemployment and underemployment, how many people have gone out of the country to look for jobs somewhere else. And three, the whole issue of the housing problem. On the religious leaders, I haven't received one, although there was a manifestation in some papers. I don't know if our more illustrious Co-Chairpersons were able to receive an official communication. But even if they have, we took note of their position, which, we believe that may in the long run, not really going to be permanent, but may be flexible and we are here precisely to help, or to ask you to help us also. At the same time, as they say, we are not daunted by some positions of our religious leaders because we still think that we can work together, rather than confront each other on this whole issue of population.

The second point related to unemployment and underemployment. There are statistics which indicate that there are about a million people that have left the country to look for jobs somewhere else. And on this whole issue of housing which is also related to this problem of population, migration from the rural to the urban sector. This is being addressed by our Committee on Housing which is headed by one of our colleagues who is here, Congressman Singh. And I believe that we also have a similar committee in the Senate, and they are also addressing this problem. Thank you.

## WOMEN'S ROLE IN CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT IN THAILAND

### Country Report -- Thailand

Khunying Puangrat Wiwakanond  
Member,

Population and Development Committee of National Assembly

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, excellencies, distinguished participants and ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to express sincere thanks on behalf of Thai delegation for giving us this opportunity to participate in this meeting. This report will explain you about women's role in child development in Thailand.

Thai women have played a role in politics ever since the first Election Act of 1933. It was not until 1948, however, that a woman managed to win a seat in parliament. Since 1948 over 50 women have served as MPS; each for at least one, and very often two or more terms, 10 women currently represent their constituents in the 357 member House of Representatives, there are only 5 women senators in the 267 senators, a small but growing percentage.

In the present government there is one woman minister. But all women politicians have important role in and strong vote, especially in children's problems and family planning.

The women politicians suggest the government about:

- 1) To have adopted laws for family planning.
- 2) Develop formal and non-formal education, child welfare and the promotion of children's rights.
- 3) Enhance employment and income among adult workers to reduce dependence on child labor.
- 4) Coordinate the complementary action by government organizations to protect working children.
- 5) Outlaw the employment of very young children in accordance with the International Labor Office Minimum Age Convention of 1973, stipulating 12 as the lowest age for light work only.
- 6) Introduce a national enforcement system.
- 7) To have adopted laws and regulations prohibiting the employment of children below a certain age and specifying conditions under which minors may work.
- 8) To encourage the elders to be active in child upbringing and cultural education.

Most of the politicians are in Women in social Welfare also. First among Thai women is Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, who since 1950 has reigned beside His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej.



Her Majesty holds this position not merely because of her exalt rank but also because of her manifold activities on behalf of the Thai people. A devoted mother of four, a constant support of His Majesty the King, and a tireless participant in the numerous ceremonies required of royalty, she has found the time as well to initiate a large number of personal projects aimed at helping the less fortunate members of Thai society, especially those living in rural areas.

Traveling continuously to all parts of the country, Her Majesty mixes informally with village people in order to learn their problems, often in remote regions officially classified as "sensitive". Medical aid is brought to the side, many of whom are hospitalized at Royal expense, and imaginative self-help activities have been started to assist farmers who find it difficult to subsist only on their agricultural efforts.

One of the most outstanding projects has been Her Majesty's wide-ranging effort to support traditional handicrafts, officially organized in 1976 as the Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques, popularly called SUPPORT. SUPPORT provides training and basic materials for the participants, as well as retail outlets in Thailand and abroad, Queen Sirikit has personally undertaken trips to Japan and the United States to publicize the products.

Such activities have brought Her Majesty not only deep affection from her own people but recognition from a number of foreign institution. The food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has portrayed her likeness on a gold Ceres Medal, and honor reserved only for outstanding women of the world who "by their lives and their work, have helped to uplift the status of women, especially in the rural areas".

By leadership, sympathy, and personal example, Her Majesty has earned her place as Thailand's most notable woman.

Social welfare organizations and family planning program in Thailand were originally set up and mostly operated by women. For example, the Red Cross Society of Thailand and the first orphanage in Thailand were initiated by Her Majesty Queen Saowabha of King Rama V.

Most ladies from the Royal families and middle-class housewives were recruited to serve voluntarily those two welfare agencies at that time.

However, welfare and family planning programs in Thailand have systematically emerged since 1940. With

government support several welfare and family planning institutions came into existence and operation, such as the Department of Public Welfare and the National Family Planning Institute. Those who were wives of the provincial governors automatically became presidents of the women's organizations, mainly responsible for the welfare and family planning of the poor in their locality. These organizations also looked after family problems, such as too many children, children of broken homes, family break-downs, separations, protect the health of mother and child and family planning, etc.

Family counseling was primarily given to the wives of soldiers who had to serve the nation during the war and left the family with problems. Such service programs have given an opportunity for women leaders to be involved and participate in social welfare and family planning activities. Consequently, a great number of welfare and family planning organizations, both public and private, have been increasingly established and operated, including such groups as the National Council of Social Welfare of Thailand under Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen.

At present, there are approximately 400 non-governmental organizations, out of which 95 are women's organizations. Apart from a women's organization in each province, alumni associations of some girl's schools are also included. Therefore women are extremely active in the social welfare and family planning field.

Thai people still live in extended families, particularly in the rural areas where most of the rural poor stay. Women and their families are expected to live with or close to their parents and share their family's wealth and work.

It was found from a survey on the Status of Thai women in Two Rural Areas that women hold the purse strings of the family. In other words, women play a more important role in taking care of family members and especially in family planning. The women always make decisions about how many children to have and now the women realize that less children in better life.

In big cities like Bangkok, where private business and welfare organizations have grown rapidly, a great number of women from various professions including housewives have voluntarily served non-governmental organizations (NGO) and take responsibility for the welfare of the children and the family planning program. It is true to say that women play a major role in social welfare services. Thai women are very active in social welfare activities and carry out child's development. Intellectual women who are well educated in various professions and have had field experience

from their regular work, including university women, are increasingly participating in child's developmental and family planning programs both in rural and urban communities.

Apart from their practical contribution and research studies, conferences, seminars, workshops and dialogue-group meetings have been conducted in order to share their experiences and find ways and means to solve their child's problems and the family planning as well as to meet community needs. Moreover, trainers courses have been organized for front-line workers, supervisors and trainers as well. The National Council of Social Welfare of Thailand, the National Family Planning Institute and the National Council of Women should be recognized for having played leading roles in this aspect, including the development of income-generating skills for rural women in poor villages. A great number of non-governmental organizations are also playing an important role in the welfare of the children and the family planning through women's groups in rural communities.

Therefore, it is expected that women in Thailand will become more and more influential and increasingly contribute their wisdom and energy to the welfare of the children and country as a whole. Therefore, the National Family Planning Program in Thailand is successful. Thank you.

## THE POPULATION IN SYRIA

### Country Report -- Syria

Ms. Hajer Sadek  
Member,  
Syrian Parliamentarians Committee on  
Population and Development

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants in the meeting on population and development, it is my great pleasure to greet you and tell you how happy I am to participate in this meeting.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Asian Population and Development Association for its kind invitation and attention, mainly regarding the female parliamentarians; thank you for having included in your agenda their contribution to the Population and Development issues and acknowledging there by the special attention they have granted to this matter.

Kindly allow me, in just a few pages, to present to you the population situation in Syria. What are the Government's points of view and actions regarding this problem?

#### Introduction

In the early sixties, the population problem had been the object of greater attention by means of a census: a vast population inventory was conducted and it has been adopted by researchers for the preparation of many of their surveys and by the Planification Program officers in order to help them to set up economic and social development projects. It gave them a better insight into population development and its growth rates: it also gave them the opportunity to measure unexpected changes or evolution and its features, geographical distribution and kind.

In Syria, three census and statistics surveys of the population were taken in 1960, 1970 and 1980, respectively. Moreover, a series of surveys were conducted pertaining to the labor force, and several others regarding the main features of the population way of life. The last one was carried out in 1985. A survey was also undertaken regarding child mortality, the relation between the size of a family and its health, a statistical survey on fecundity and another related to internal migrations. The five projects and the results derived from all those surveys have allowed us to set up development programs.

## Population Growth in the Arab Syrian Republic

Over a period of less than 22 years, the population in Syria had doubled. According to the 1960 census, the total population at that time was 4,565 millions. The 1970 census results indicated a population of 6,305 million and the 1981 results reached 9,046 millions. In 1988 the total population was approximately 12 million. According to provisions, this number would reach 16,463 million in 2,000 and 22,216 million in 2,010, which means that population would double once again during the next 23 years.

It is obvious that those facts require additional efforts regarding the development of economic resources towards an adequate response to the needs of an increased population. It seems to me that those additional efforts have been exerted, thanks to the awareness of the medical services, mostly in the field of childhood and maternity education, which helps to lessen the mortality rate through a decrease in abortion cases, miscarriages, a broader education for the girls, the improvement of the women's contribution to social activities and the changes we start to observe regarding social attitudes and traditions pertaining to marriage age and number of children in a family.

The results of those changes can already be observed in the early eighties, with a decline in the birth rate, which reached approximately an average of 14.2.

As a result of the continuous progress in education, which becomes available to more people, of the women being associated to the development process, we can foresee that the progressive decline of the fecundity level will continue; but we must consider that the mortality rate among infants and children will regress, the increase in immunization, the greater concern towards health and environment, which are the result of the progress and development of medical knowledge and science and the development of prophylaxis methods.

All these factors have contributed to the higher life expectancy rate of the individuals.

Between 1970 and 1980, the number of the labor force has doubled. It will continue to rise in the next 28 years, due to the project orientations, economic and social development programs geared towards industrialization, construction, betterment and enlargement of services and fight against ignorance, especially among females.

Implemented Programs in the Syrian Arab Republic Regarding the Population Problem

As a result of its concern regarding the population problem, the State has taken various steps:

1. In 1974, a Family Management Commission was established in Syria. Centers for Family Management were set up in the entire country; those especially concerned with childhood and maternity supervision were found by the Ministry of Health.
2. The cooperation with UNESCO, the Ministry of Education has introduced programs regarding population education in the schools.
3. Population education has been centered by the Ministry of Culture on methods pertaining to obliteration of ignorance among the masses.
4. The President of the Cabinet has established a committee for population, headed by the Minister of Planification. It comprises two members representing the officials concerned by the population problem; its objective is to plan a population policy in the Syrian Arab Republic.
5. A section specialized in the study of population problems was opened in the universities of Damas and Alege.
6. Since 1979, a special committee for the population development was formed in the Parliament. Its concern is the population problems. It makes the parliamentarians aware of said problems.
7. In cooperation with the population activities section and with the UNESCO, lectures and survey courses regarding population were organized.

These are the features on the Syrian population. They are few and we wish we will be able to continue with a more intense work in order to reach a good population policy in Syria.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## WRAP-UP SESSION

Leticia Shahani: May we now resume this afternoon's meeting. We are really in the period of general discussion. And I'm told that in the tradition of APDA, this session is what you'd call a wrap-up session, we are supposed to summarize the topics of what we feel have been the priority topics which have emerged during this meeting. I also would like to hope that delegations might make comments about the organization of the meeting, the methods of work.

This is the fifth meeting of APDA, I understand that this is the annual meeting, so I'm sure we also would be interested to discuss how we conduct future meetings etc. So may I have some comments? Ms. Osman made the remark that this is supposed to be a round table discussion, but we have a square table. But that's really a metaphor, so to speak. "Round table" means that the discussion is intimate, it is something which is of interest to everyone. So may I have some comments? Let's say something about the topics. Do you feel that some topics have emerged during those two days which are of special interest to us as Asian parliamentarians? Could I have some comments on that first? And then later on we'll have a discussion on methods of work. Any comments on what you feel where the priority topics, or what you feel should be the priority topics, maybe for the next meeting? Topics which should be mentioned in the report? Anyone would like to take the first plunge? Yes, Mr. Sato.

Takashi Sato: We were discussing how the next meeting should be held. APDA was founded around the same time as the Asian Forum. According to the request from various countries at the time, I have committed myself to taking the responsibility up to now. APDA is a foundation headed by Chairman Mr. Tatsuo Tanaka. The number of staff is limited, working under the principle of fewer people of superior quality.

Our future plan is to constantly move forward in view of APDA's financial situation, using the opinions that were expressed today as reference. Otherwise, it is impossible for us to meet too many expectations, yet we cannot neglect the process of discussions that have taken place up until today.

Under the Chairman Mr. Tatsuo Tanaka, I serve as a director of APDA. Dr. Kuroda, who is an expert on population, also serves as a director. Professor Kawano, who could not attend this meeting because of schedule, also serves as a director. Being in the position of vice-chairman, I am fulfilling my duty as APDA and Asian Forum have been helping each other since their establishment. The reality is that we are making efforts with various guidance and support from UNFPA, linking our efforts with the roles

that need to be played by Japan. This is the general principle, so it is important that this is taken into account as the first point.

The second point is the outstanding result of this meeting which Chairperson Shahani mentioned just now. I was very moved by the remarks of President Aquino and Senator Shahani that it is possible to deal steadily with population and development with consideration to culture and religion in the Philippines, amidst the criticism from some sectors that manifested in the form of demonstrations. This is a remarkable point. I was inspired by this meeting, feeling that it will go down in history as an actual result following that of the Conference of Religious and Political Leaders which was held under Chairman Fukuda of the Interaction Council.

Some may have the opinion that the meeting should be done in a more predictable manner at a faster pace. However, the long historical background and various problems require us to go through certain steps. In this sense, I would like to give credit to this meeting for creating very encouraging results.

Leticia Shahani: Arigato Sato-san. Any other comments please?

Rahmah Osman: Madam Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I would like to thank APDA for making it possible for us to represent at this very important and interesting annual event organized by APDA. I know there will be many more countries that would be interested to come, but I think even if they come we would not have enough time for them. We have had this... I personally have attended this meeting for the last two or three years, and I found that it is very important forum for discussion, especially between the parliamentarians and the experts. But I find that time factor... there are so many topics, so many papers which are very very valuable, need to be dealt with in depth, by us, especially the parliamentarians. But we are not given enough time to discuss. I was the Chairman today for one session, and I find it ten minutes is impossible for anybody to discuss anything within ten minutes.

I would like to suggest, Madam Chairperson, for the benefit of APDA and everyone that the next time, I think that we don't really go into detail the countries report. I think countries report can be sent even earlier, and we can sort of touch on the countries report when the subject or the country concerned, or when anyone is interested to ask questions. But I would rather that, special topics like, if you can see from the paper, like the basic survey on population of China and India and other populous countries, I



think that we would like to have more time. And so I would suggest that enough time given in the future.

The other point I would like to raise is that, in the spirit of cooperation, I think the common concern is for the role of women. This is a very important topics to be discussed. A few countries have not been able to present the actual position of the women in their country, so we cannot really discuss this. But they play a very important role, and I take it that all the men here agree with me that future role of women in population, whatever, is very important so they should be highlighted. And for this opportunity to inform the members here, that in September of this year, we will have all the women parliamentarians in Asian countries will be meeting in New Delhi to discuss specific role for the future women's roles in population issues. So I hope APDA also, for the next meeting would include one paper specifically on women.

Leticia Shahani: Thank you Ms. Osman, Congressman Teves.

Gary Teves: Following the very important observation of the lady from Malaysia, I would just like to add that I think it would be very helpful if indeed there are some special topics that can be presented, and perhaps there is an occasion for us to break into smaller groups where we can interchange ideas, where we can get to know each other and convey our own experiences in fields that are of mutual interest to us. For example, in the particular case of the Philippines, on interesting topic that might be helpful for us is gauging on the experiences of some countries where religion is a major setting, how the church and policy makers or practitioners of population planning may have worked together in grappling and solving this problem of population. There may be others, for example, how the legislative and executive may have worked together on this whole issue of population policy or legislation.

So workshops can then present to the main body at the end of the day or at the end of the seminar, and this can be summarized by the secretariat together with some of the key participants. In the workshops as well, we would like to suggest that the experts can join us in the workshops so that they can also provide their action as well as their own experiences. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Leticia Shahani: Thank you. I just would like to make a point of clarification because I think Sato-san made an important point in that APDA has a certain budget and a certain number of personnel. So I take it is quite clear that in making these changes in topics and in the methods of work, we are not really going into an additional budgetary responsibilities. I hope that that is clear. I would like to make this clear to Sato-san. I think that in this kind

of discussion, there is no attempt to increase expenses, or to increase the work of APDA personnel, which we know, is limited. I think what we are asking around the room is whether we should go into general topics, specific topics, whether we should send our papers ahead of time etc. So I would like to make this clear to everyone. There is no desire, I think, to increase the budget. We know that this is a difficult and complicated problem, but we're just really discussing, you see. Now at this fifth meeting that APDA has grown, and is growing, I believe that it is useful to have an exchange on whether we want to modify the format etc. So this is really is the purpose of this discussion.

Takashi Sato: I would like to add a few words to the history of APDA which I just mentioned. When Asian Forum was formed, there was a supreme command from the then three countries that Japan should contribute by forming an organization. APDA was founded in response to this demand. As a result, APDA has not received any government assistance from its founding until today. We have been operating with a limited number of staffs, with guidance and support from UNFPA. I would like to reiterate this point.

As for the results of this meeting, country papers that are submitted and explained by each country, as well as the discussions that follow are compiled into one book and sent out to each country. However, we are not recording the questions and answers in detail. The current situation is that we cannot keep up with such details due to limitations in terms of staff and desk work. However, as we have already conducted five meetings, I feel that we should take the results of this meeting into consideration and start thinking about new ways of conducting the discussion, new ways of running the meeting.

Regarding the suggestion about the subcommittee, I think it would take more than two days for the meeting if subcommittees are formed. Then it would cost more to run the meeting. What if we ask each country to contribute a certain amount to finance this meeting? I would like to mention to you all that we end up putting a considerable burden on the host country. This Fifth Meeting has put tremendous burden on its host country, the Philippines. I feel that the method for delving into major themes of discussion without depending on subcommittees is a topic we need to consider still further.

Leticia Shahani: I wonder whether Mr. Mittal is around. I think he should be here since he is the Secretary General of the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians. Or maybe someone can brief those of us who are new of how often the Asian Forum meets, and whether its agenda is dependent on APDA etc., because I think these are important considerations. Ms. Osman, you are the Deputy Secretary General. You have the

floor. I just would like to acknowledge the presence of our speaker Congressman Cuenco, he is our closing speaker, so I think if you have any thoughts on these important issues, I think we just will have to try to make the man responsible. Ms. Osman?

Rahmah Osman: Could you repeat the question?

Leticia Shahani: Well, I think there was a mention of the fact that APDA's work is related directly to the Asian Forum. And, so I think maybe we could get some clarification on what's the APDA-Asian Forum relationship, so we those of us who are new can have a better appreciation, so we won't be off-tangent in this discussion.

Rahmah Osman: Madam Chairperson. I think... Asian Forum, we do not have enough budget to have our meeting whenever we like to have the meeting, let's say six months or eight months or even once a year. We have enough budget for projects, or visiting other countries, for example. But, to call for a meeting, we have to depend on APDA. When APDA is having their annual meeting like this, it involves also the member of parliament. So we take the opportunity to have the Asian Forum meeting, and that will reduce our Asian Forum budget.

Leticia Shahani: Well, I think I would like to make it clear that in having this discussion, we don't really want to have any additional budgetary expenses. I would like to make that clear to Sato-san. No, I think Mr. Teves just made the issue of smaller meetings -- that's a kind of a helpful recommendation, but the intention there is not really to increase the expenses. I think we just want to see before we close, because we will not see each other again until next year or who knows, so this is really now is what they call a wrap-up meeting, and I think it is useful for us to have an exchange of views on this matter. Congressman Teves?

Gary Teves: That's very correct. In fact, if we look at this two day conference that we had, perhaps it's really trying to work within this constraint -- this financial, as well as time constraint, and see whether other approaches like breaking ourselves into smaller groups might be more effective in terms of generating more ideas, working out solutions, having a better rapport or relationship with each other, getting to know each other. Perhaps all of these objectives can be attained within the same financial as well as time constraint. It is merely a suggestion, but we stress, I support the Chairwoman that it is going to work within those constraints.

Leticia Shahani: Any other comments from other delegations? Maybe especially those who have been attending the previous APDA meetings?

Takashi Sato: I would like to add a few words to what Ms. Osman has said.

Our common sense tells us that subcommittees go together with general meetings. I explained about the subcommittees in the context of the budget problem. There was a suggestion that we should simplify the general meeting and specialize more on individual topics through subcommittees during the two day period. As I have mentioned earlier, we have already held five meetings, it's about time we come up with something new. For now, I would like you to understand that we have confirmed such a trend.

We need to think of a new direction for the Asian Forum as well. We have been holding the Asian Forum for quite some time now. We should have a clear long-term perspective at this point. My view is that, while Japan will make utmost efforts from her stand to contribute to the United Nations, it is necessary to move the Asian Forum forward with support and assistance from UNFPA and IPPF. The Executive Committee of the Asian Forum is scheduled to be held tomorrow. The content of tomorrow's discussion is as mentioned yesterday, and I expect that the opinions that came out just now will be the main topic of discussion there also.

Leticia Shahani: Well, there's really very little time left now, and I'm wondering whether anyone would still wish to speak on this important topic. There are really two issues here. One, whether we want to have selected topics for the time being. And two, whether we want to send the country reports ahead of time so that they can be read, digested and discussed. Also, a suggestion has come, that since we are parliamentarians with very rich experience of our own individual countries, there should be a more free-feeling exchange among ourselves, so that we could get to know each other better, we get to know the experiences of our specific countries, and so that we are able to profit from this kind of interchange. So these, I think, are the three main topics which have come up. If there are any others who would like to comment on it, I think there is maybe remaining five minutes before we go to the closing ceremonies.

Well, I don't think there are any topics, maybe you might wish to think about this and anyway we can always write to Sato-san in Tokyo, and maybe those of you who may have other ideas about this might wish to contact APDA and tell them what you feel. Our colleague from Malaysia please. Please let Malaysia speak. May we have Malaysia because he has been raising his hand.

Zainal Zin: Senator. Chairperson. I just would like to add a few points. One, that what we have discussed for two days on population and development, it seems that in our square table discussion, it tended to be around economics problem

of population. Because we are taught more about the economy, that is, the money concern, we don't have enough money to finance. And on this part, I have attended a few of this meeting, and it happened in Manila that the Organizing Committee did not organize a tour to see certain areas, the problem areas faced by the local government. I don't know whether it is a financial constraint, or that you just don't like foreigners to see your area. Looking at the one or two organizing lunch or dinner, I've seen that it is quite formal that everyone sit on the table, but I would like to suggest in the future that we have this buffet so we can cut short the time of waiting on our table for hours, to wait for a few plates of foods. We are waiting for the lunch or the dinner much more time than we are in the room to discuss, so we have to cut short a few discussion in conjunction with the food that we take.

All of this come to the problem that I've said about money. I don't know whether I heard that only the Japanese that contribute to finance this APDA, and I don't know about the future. What would happen if the Japanese Government would decide that they won't like to contribute anymore. Whether the Philippines under this present government, Malaysia under Rahmah Osman maybe would like to finance the movement of this APDA in the future. This is a very serious case. Otherwise, about the financial, to finance this movement in the future. Thank you very much.

Leticia Shahani: Thank you. No, I think on the part of the Organizing Committee, we did hope to show you some of our projects -- we are open society and we are not wanting to hide anything. But it was the time constraint, you see. We really have to conclude by tomorrow noon. But am I correct, I don't know who is here now -- Mrs. Reymor or Dr. Pineda -- that there's an effort being made to bring some people still outside Manila tomorrow. I maybe mistaken but I heard this last night. Well, yes, this service is something we need to keep in mind, because this is a working conference and I think that is something that we should pay attention to. Dr. Pineda, is there any tour organized to see some family planning projects outside the city? I know that we did mention this in the beginning.

Dr. Pineda: There is none that I know of. Hiroko-san is here.

Leticia Shahani: I think that there is none. But in the beginning, I think we did want to show some of our projects. But it was the time constraint, I think we had to end by tomorrow noon. But I think Philippine hospitality is such that we're willing to bend backwards. I'm sure we can arrange some tours for those of you who really want to see something, Population Commission, or even I think the Philippine Committee will be willing to do that.

Well, I think these are big issues, the issue of financing is something which I'm sure we cannot decide now, but I'm glad that we had this exchange of views, it's something which we can maybe think more about. The way I feel it, I don't think any decisions can be made this afternoon. The important thing is that these views have been brought out into the open, and I'm sure this could be a topic of future communication, discussion with our Japanese colleagues as well as with our other Asian colleagues. I take it that there is no more that the parliamentarians would like to say at this wrap-up meeting,. I therefore declare this meeting adjourned and may we now start the closing ceremonies. I think it is Mr. Mittal who will be presiding and our speaker Mr. Cuenco will be the main speaker.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Antonio V. Cuenco  
Vice-Chairman, House of Representatives, Philippines

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, fellow Asians and our guest Westerners, good afternoon. I'm pleased to add my welcome to those already expressed by the Philippine participants, for the Asian parliamentarians who have come to Manila for this meeting. And to extend my special greetings to the Prime Minister, Minister Fukuda whom we in the Philippines count as a long-time and endeared friend. I congratulate you all for your concern for population and development issues. This concern is only fitting because we are the direct representatives of our people, to whom these are problems of life and death importance. The issue of population is much more complex than most other problems of public policy. It is an emotional issue because it concerns the very core of the human social unit. And it is much as a religious and moral issue as it is an issue of social equity and economic viability.

As parliamentarians of democratic countries, we all realize how potentially explosive the making of public policy and population can become. And so, even if we close this conference today, we cannot close the population debate that will continue in this largely Catholic country. There are widely divergent views, both in and out of this conference on moral and social grounds, but we can all share one common precept that the population policy of any government should be adopted in complete freedom.

Once a population policy is adopted, it is important that the majority of the citizens support it. Otherwise, it will fail. That the Philippines is a melting pot of cultures, with sometimes conflicting beliefs and traditions, does not mean we cannot have an effective population policy. Our constitution and statutes are splendid example of uniting under one rule of law, conflicting practices like those in marriage and family relationships. We can have a strong overall population policy this country in spite of religious and cultural disagreements.

Our new constitution has dropped that provision in our 1973 Charter which had made it the responsibility of the state to achieve and maintain in population levels most conducive to the national welfare. But population moderation is a responsibility from which the state cannot run away. We agree with the world population plan, which stipulates that the basis for an effective solution for the population problems is social and economic change. And those population policies should be components of, and never a substitute for, social and economic development.

You know, there are many grounds for bitter controversy, as our own experience tells us, all of our countries, all of our parliaments and all of our executors of public policy do need a consensus formed out of wisdom and compassion to solve the most grievous public policy problems. And I do appreciate, all of us, we do appreciate the time that you have all spent, the leisure you've forgone and the hard thinking you have all devoted to this problem of demographic transition and economic social development that all countries face.

Compromise, which is the essence of democracy, is very difficult to achieve. It is for this reason that supranational gatherings like this have a special value. For they enable representatives of the people to discuss among themselves, with low voices raised in anger, an intransigent problem that concerns us all.

Population policy is a much bigger problem for us in the Philippines than it is for most other poor countries. Our demographics are much harsher than they are in other places. Fertility rates, man-land ratios, growth rates of agricultural production, malnutrition, infant mortality, social inequality, poverty levels -- all of these are worse than they are in the majority of our neighboring countries. We therefore stand to become the foremost beneficiaries of the strategies that you've developed here, and of the legislative action that you've evolved. We are anxious to hear about these strategies and their practical applications. The dominant sentiment at the Philippine Congress is in favor of the drastic reduction of the rate of population growth.

There are bills, yes lady, which you and Tesia filed, to give incentives to small families to undertake a comprehensive population instruction program in our schools, and to give more funds to the Population Commission. In all these, we always have in mind the freedom of the individual, and the integrity of his cultural heritage. This may dilute the effectivity of a severe program to control the population. But I believe that if we patiently explain to everyone, the urgency of an effective population policy will touch the hearts of reasonable men who wish to lessen human sufferings in this world.

But you know, my friends, there is one question that seems bothersome to me. It is a philosophical one, which I hesitate to raise at this gathering of practical men and women. But let me raise it just the same. Do we have the right to deprive others of existence, even if that existence would mean a hard life? The same existence that we now wish to cling to, in spite of the hardships of the times? I do not think that we can conclusively answer this question because that would break the inviolable mystery of creation.



But how can we deprive him of it? Because he is still non-existent, and does not have it in the first place. I hope you will pardon me in expressing that opinion, or at least any opinion at all. You have been discussing the population problem continuously for two days and you must be tired and weary of the subject. I'm sure you're punch-drunk from your speakers.

Mr. Chairman. You have assigned me to close this conference, not to extend it single-handedly. But I come from the Philippine Congress which is a visard of this tradition, and we tend to bring our habits out of the session hall. But I guess, as we say in the House, my time has expired.

Let me then congratulate Senator Shahani and Congresswoman Teresa Aquino-Oreta, all the members of the House of Representatives, these two girls are our chairpersons. And Mr. Tatsuo Tanaka, the Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association, who sponsored this gathering. To our guests from other nations, we say thank you for visiting our land, for honoring and enriching this conference with your presence. I hope you enjoyed your stay in this country, as much as we are happy to have you here. Thank you the your privilege of your company this afternoon.

## CLOSING SPEECH

Tatsuo Tanaka  
Chairman, APDA

With your permission, I would like to say a few words at the closing of this meeting. I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to those of you who attended this meeting for your enthusiastic discussion over the last two days, and for making it possible to obtain numerous extremely significant and productive results.

Through this meeting in Manila, we must continue our steady efforts with courage and perseverance to solve the problems related to population, which is bound to become the greatest problem in the 21st Century, thereby lighting the torch of peace, abundance and hope for the humanity and for the future.

In this meeting, coming of aged society in the 21st Century was pointed out by the two highly-populated countries, China and India, as well as by Korea. At the same time, it was stressed that new adequate measures have become necessary to cope with problems such as environmental pollution and shortage of food resources that are caused by urbanization resulting from migration of population from rural areas to cities. The importance of improving women's status and their education was discussed anew. Many instructive suggestions were also made.

I was particularly impressed by the strong proposal made by the Philippines to establish a socially-acceptable family planning in consort with religious groups and non-governmental organizations. An in-depth report to the Vatican in the recent Meeting of Religious and Political Representatives in London was mentioned in the meeting of Former Prime Minister Fukuda and President Aquino.

Now, truly serious phenomena, such as desertification, air pollution, acid rain and various phenomena that accompany increase of the earth's temperature are currently taking place on this earth. Linked together, these phenomena are involved deeply with the population problem. At the same time, they coexist with the population problem. We, the Asian parliamentarians should communicate closely and exchange information more frequently to these urgent problems, so that we can contribute to the resolution at Beijing in 1981 which was to adjust population to the proper level for the socioeconomic development of each country by reducing the population growth rate in Asia to 1% and by lowering maternal and infant mortality rate.

In closing this meeting, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Philippines, particularly Sen. Leticia Shahani, Cong. Aquino-Oreta and members of the Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development and UNFPA for their tremendous efforts that led this meeting to a success. To all participants, I would like to wish further good health and happiness, success and unlimited prosperity of your country. Thank you very much.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Hu Keshi, MP  
Vice Chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (AFPPD)  
Vice Chairman, the Education, Science Culture and Public  
Health Committee (ESCPH), NPC

Mr. Zha Ruichuan  
Member, Standing Committee, Beijing People's Congress  
Member, Expert Committee of the State Family Planning  
Commission

Mr. Zou Ping  
Assistant Chief, Population Division, ESCPH, NPC

### INDIA

Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, MP  
Secretary General, AFPPD  
Chairman, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (IAPPD)

Ms. Sudha Joshi, MP  
Member, IAPPD

Ms. Veena Varma, MP  
Member, IAPPD

Ms. Bibha Ghosh Goswami, MP  
Member, IAPPD

Mr. Manmohan Sharma  
Assistant to Mr. Mittal

### INDONESIA

Mr. Machbon, MP  
Vice Chairman, Tenth Committee

### JAPAN

Mr. Takeo Fukuda, MP  
Chairman, Global Committee of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (GCPPD)  
Chairman, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for  
Population (JPEP)  
Former Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Tatsuo Tanaka, MP  
Chairman, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)  
Vice Chairman, JPEP  
Former Minister for Education  
Former Minister for International Trade and Industries

Mr. Takashi Sato, MP  
Chairman, AFPPD  
Deputy Chairman, JPEP  
Former Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Dr. Hidetiko Yaci, MP	Director, JPEP
Mr. Svogo Abe, MP	Director, JPEP
Mr. Masayoshi Takeumi, MP	Member, JPEP
Mr. Nobuyuki Sekiyama, MP	Member, JPEP
Mr. Huro Yakote	Secretary, Mr. Takeo Fukuda
Mr. Jun Sato	Secretary, Mr. Takashi Sato

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Shu Sang Mok, MP	Deputy Director General, Policy Coordination Office, Democratic Justice Party
Mr. Lee Jong Byool	Chairman, International Relations Committee Former Minister for Political Affairs

MALAYSIA

Ms. Rahmah Osman, MP	Deputy Secretary General, AFPPD Former Deputy Minister of Transport
Mr. Zainal Abidin bin Zain, MP	Committee Member

NEPAL

Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, MP	Chairman, Batriya Panchayat Forum on Population and Development
Mr. K.P. Pandey	Assistant Secretary

SYRIA

Ms. Haier Sadek, MP	Member, Syrian Parliamentarians Committee on Population and Development
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THAILAND

Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn	Chairman, Population and Development Committee of National Assembly
Sen. M. L. Toldhosyuth Devakul	Member, Population and Development Committee of National Assembly
Sen. Puangrat Wiwakanondo	Member, Population and Development Committee of National Assembly

PHIIPPINES

Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani	Co-Chairperson, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)
Cong. Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Co-Chairperson, PLCPD

Sen. Joseph F. Estrada  
Sen. Ernesto Herrera  
Sen. Orlando S. Mercado  
Sen. Santanina T. Rasul  
Sen. Alberto G. Romulo  
Sen. Wigberto Tanada  
Sen. Agapito A. Aquino  
Cong. Venice B. Agana  
Cong. Rodolfo P. Albano  
Cong. Florante L. Aquino  
Cong. Amado S. Bagatsing  
Cong. Salvador H. Escudero III  
Cong. Jose Carlos V. Lacson  
Cong. Felicitio C. Payumo  
Cong. Hilario L. de Pedro III  
Cong. Raul S. Roco  
Cong. Margarito B. Teves

Honorable Guest

Hon. Takeo Fukuda

Hon. Solita C. Monsod

Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco

Hon. Turhan K. Mangun

Director-General, National Economic and Development  
Authority, Philippines

Speaker Pro Tempore

Executive Director, UNFPA

Representative and Resident Coordinator of the United  
Nations System's

Operational Activities for Development in the Philippines

EXPERT

Dr. Toshio Kuroda

Dr. Juan Flavio

Director Emeritus, Nihon University, Population Research  
Institute

Director of APDA

President of International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

OBSERVER

Mr. Jyoti Shanker Singh

Mr. Hirofumi Ando

Director, Information & External Relations Division, UNFPA

Chief, Program Coordination, Management & Field Support  
Office, UNFPA

Mr. Akio Matsumura	Executive Coordinator of AFPPD Secretary General of GCPPD
Ms. Cecil Reyes	Executive Director, Program Director, GCPPD
Mr. Bernard Alvihere	Advisor to Secretary General, IPPF
Ms. Jeannie Peterson	Country Director, UNFPA, Philippines

COORDINATOR

Mr. Tsuguo Hirose	Secretary General, APDA
Ms. Hiroko Aeki	Deputy Secretary General, APDA
Mr. Masaaki Endo	Senior Programme Officer, APDA
Ms. Kumiiko Sakurai	APDA
Ms. Keiko Hanamitsu	APDA

Technical Committee

Dr. Estefania Aldaba Lim  
 Dean Josefina Dineros Pineda  
 Dr. Corazon M. Raymundo  
 Dr. Angelina C. Almanzor  
 Dr. Rubin A. Apelo  
 Fr. John J. Carroll, S.J.  
 Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion  
 Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan  
 Sr. Christine Tan  
 Mr. Benjamin D. de Leon  
 Ms. Zinnia Cariasa Arcinue  
 Ms. Raquel Nakayama

INTERPRETER

Ms. Fujiko Hara	Japan
Ms. Sachiko Tanaka	Japan
Ms. Reiko Hineno	Japan
Ms. Wu Xiaohong	China