

**SEVENTH ASIAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Seoul, Republic of Korea

25-26 February 1991

Asian Population and Development Association

CONTENTS

OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming Address:	Hon. Jun-Byung Park, M.P.	3
Opening Address:	Hon. Takashi Sato, M.P.	5
Address:	Hon. Prasop Ratanakorn, M.P. Presented by Hon. Neville Fernando, M.P.	9
Address:	Dr. Nafis Sadik Presented by Dr. Hirofumi Ando.....	11

PROGRAM

SESSION I – General Survey on Population and Development

Basic Survey on Population and Development in Bangladesh Dr. Toshio Kuroda	21
Survey on Rural Population and Agricultural Development in the Philippines Dr. Shigeto Kawano	27
Demographic Transition in Korea Dr. Ehn-Hyun Choe	33
Population, Development and Environment in Japan - An Asian Experience Dr. Toshio Kuroda	39

SESSION II – Issues on Population and Development in Asia

Presentation of Country Papers

Japan	Hon. Shogo Abe, M.P.	45
China	Hon. Wang Wei, M.P.	49
India	Hon. Sat Paul Mittal, M.P. Hon. Maheswarappa K.G, M.P.	53
Indonesia	Hon. Kemas Badaruddin, M.P.	57
Republic of Korea	Hon. Young Soon Shin, M.P.	61
Malaysia	Hon. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.	63
Pakistan	Hon. Noor Jahan Panezai, M.P.	65
Philippines	Hon. Leticia R. Shahani, M.P.	67
Singapore	Hon. Sidek bin Saniff, M.P.	73
Sri Lanka	Hon. Neville Fernando, M.P.	77

PANEL DISCUSSION

On Measures for the Implementation of the "Bangkok Declaration" and
Population and Development Strategy Towards the Asian Future with
Particular Emphasis on the Environment 89

CLOSING SESSION

Closing Remarks: Hon. Chung Soo Park, M.P.
Vice President of the Korean Parliamentary League
on Children, Population and Development109

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS113

Opening Ceremony
Monday, 25 February 1991

Welcoming Address

Hon. Jun-Byung Park
President of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children,
Population and Development

Honorable Chairman of the APDA Mr. Sato and the representative of the AFPPD, distinguished delegates, guests, ladies and gentlemen!

It is indeed my distinct pleasure to extend on behalf of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development my sincere welcome to all the participants, and I would like to borrow this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the delegates and organizations in the efforts rendered for the successful hosting of this meaningful Meeting.

Especially, I would like to pay my respects to the Asian Population and Development Association of Japan for graciously providing its support every year to the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, greatly contributing to solving the population problem of the region.

As you are well aware, the Asian region has many problems that await solving. Entering the 21st century of the Asian Pacific era, many political, economic, cultural and social problems have accumulated in front of us. Among these, I must say, the problem on population takes precedence over all others. Our region which had been maintaining a typical agrarian society until not too long ago, is recently faced with serious difficulties including food shortages which clearly represents poverty, various diseases, and social inequalities.

The underlying reason for this is that the population increase rate has been extensively higher than that of industrial development. Accordingly, it is my belief that if an efficient policy is not developed and implemented, the population problem will be very difficult to solve.

For this reason efforts have been concentrated, focusing on the political leaders of the region in order to solve the population problem of the region, improving the quality of welfare and lives of the people and achieving economic prosperity.

Honorable delegates, distinguished guests!

It is true that in the Republic of Korea the problem of population increase also had been a tremendous obstacle hindering the national development. Consequently, since the 1962 family planning activities have been continuously carried out as part of the economic development plan and achieved successful results. However, industrialization and urbanization gave rise to many social problems like the concentration of population in the urban areas or the destruction of the environment. The Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development was created in 1989 in order to solve these problems at the parliamentary level. In a short period of time, the CPD has been able to successfully carry out activities in order to realize its objectives. I can certainly say that the hosting of this Meeting by the CPD can also be linked to our efforts toward this goal.

Esteemed delegates!

The 7th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development has its very objectives in consolidating the cooperation among the regional countries to solve the many problems involving population and the environment.

Accordingly, during this Meeting, in-depth discussions will take place among the delegates in implementing the Bangkok Declaration to solve the population problem of the region and also on devising measures towards the population and development issue. The Declaration which was adopted at the 3rd AFPPD General Conference in Bangkok last October includes very important measures towards finding the solution for the population problem of the Asian countries. Thus, the proper implementation of this Declaration, I believe, could lead to the answers to those many questions ahead of us, being the basis for peace and prosperity of the region. In this connection, the earnest and open discussions among the participants of the Meeting is being greatly anticipated, and I sincerely hope that this Meeting will be the stepping stone towards solving the population problem of each respective country.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that your short stay in Seoul will be a very meaningful one and that this Meeting will be a good opportunity for you to discuss the population policies of the Republic of Korea.

Thank you very much.

Opening Address

Hon. Takashi Sato
Chairman, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

The Honorable Jun-Byung Park, President of the Korean Parliamentarian League on Children, Population and Development, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to say a few words on behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association on the occasion of the opening of the 7th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

Let me first of all warmly thank the members of the Korean National Parliament, academic circles, particularly the members of the Preparatory Committee and all concerned for your special cooperation and guidance.

I also wish to thank our parliamentarians from the Asian countries who have joined us despite their press of business and the members of the UNFPA and IPPF who have been most generous in their support since the inception of our Association in 1982.

Since our first two meetings in 1985 and 86 which were held in Tokyo, we have met in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia successively to plan and support the parliamentarian activities on population and development in Asia.

We are indeed grateful that we are able to meet this time in the Republic of Korea, which among other things is a good partner of ours in agricultural problems and is concerned, as Japan, in the supply of food stuffs. Particularly, recent economic advance of the Republic of Korea has been phenomenal with your people now enjoying good life supported by excellent social programs and successful population transition. I have all the respects for your commitment to the issues of population and development which is organically related to the issues of aging and stable supply of food which most appropriately receive deserved attention by the administration.

Next year I will be marking a quarter of a century as a member of parliament. During this time I have consistently addressed the issues of population and development in Asia and worked with like-minded colleagues such as yourselves. As we are painfully aware, the resolution of the problems of population and development requires balanced solution of all related and diverse problems including food, global environment, natural resources and energy, economic and social development as well as issues concerning population distribution such as urbanization and rural development, aging and population structure, employment, educational opportunities, status of women and children's rights. These are issues which must be resolved if humankind is to achieve lasting peace and prosperity. They require long term commitment as none of these can be solved overnight. Needless to say, these global issues can hardly be resolved by one nation.

I have constantly maintained that rural development is the answer to the population problems. Rural villages in the hills and fishing communities must become part of dynamic economic activities. Because of the excessive concentration in one megalopolis, we suffer from depopulation of rural villages and overcrowding of our cities in Japan. Projects designed to develop rural communities create new problems as they are often centered on leisure and sporting facilities. I am convinced that we need rural development opportunities and stimulate local economies.

For this we must consider how international cooperation can contribute to the fields of technology and investment for rural development. Given that agriculture is closely interlinked with regional development and protection of the environment, it is essential that we maintain a system which supports local production of basic foodstuff and dependence on stable supply from overseas to supplement domestic production. Only in this way can we ensure people's livelihood and dynamic development of local communities. Without this, there can be no development for countries or peace in the world.

Concentration of urban population is not just a Japanese trend. It is said that by the end of this century almost one half of humanity will be living in cities and that in the twenty-first century our world will be more or less an urban society. We witness the emergence in the world economy of the ASEAN countries, particularly the DAEs, the dynamic Asian economies following the success of the NIEs. Thailand, among others is promoting NAIC which is a dual track program maintaining both agricultural development and industrialization. In the background to this program is a fact that 58.3% of the labor force is engaged in agriculture. Thailand enjoys a self-sufficiency rate of food of 200%, and exports half of its agricultural produce as a superpower producer. Thus, Thailand cannot necessarily be considered on the same ground as other nations in Asia, but pursuing industrialization for processing agricultural and fishery products using the primary products they have in abundance will help solve the problem of populational distribution.

Despite world food production at an unprecedentedly high level now, there are areas in the world where supply is not sufficiently stable. Of the economically active population, more than 730 million people are not taking enough food, and as many as one billion, representing 20% of the world population, are said to be suffering from poverty and starvation. Increased production of food is a result of dramatic improvements in productivity. The increase in population, in most of the areas in the world, means a decrease in the per capita acreage cultivated. The increase in population and decrease in available land for agriculture can lead to deforestation.

Demand for food expands as population and income increase, and the form consumption takes also changes. By the end of this century, it is expected that the world will be populated by approximately 1.3 billion more people than today. However, the World Commission on Environment and Development points out that, among the factors behind increasing demand for food, increased income represents 30% to 40% in developing nations and approximately 10% in industrialized nations. To respond to the situation, they say that the world's food supply capacity must be increased by 3 to 4% annually for several decades to come.

To improve the food supply capacity of the whole world, distribution should also be considered together with better productivity. It will be necessary to further improve the situation of food markets, strengthen transportation capacity, and place the focus of food policy on countries or regions where there is insufficient food supply.

To develop the policy on a global basis, as policy makers we need to get together to exchange views and share each other's experiences.

The presentation by Japan this time is a result of surveys conducted by our organization, dealing with population and development, and rural population and agricultural development. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our appreciation again to those concerned in Bangladesh and the Philippines who kindly extended their

assistance and cooperation for these surveys. The present Gulf War is adding to the turbulence of the international society, and voices are being heard calling for a new order and coordination in every respect. Also, the advanced information society has been bringing countries increasingly closer and making mutual influences stronger. Given such circumstances, there is always demand for an approach to problems from a global viewpoint. The problem on population and development is one of the areas which require an interdisciplinary and diversified approach to find a solution. Those working in the field of policy-making should be prepared to listen to the voices of intellectuals in various fields and should be determined to act courageously.

Asia has diversified races, religions, and cultures. However, our mutual trust has brought us a common base as Asians, and it will be further strengthened. Therefore, let us first work to solve various problems related to population and development including the issues of food and environment in preparation for the twenty-first century. This is a task we all have.

Only two days are given over to this meeting, but nothing would make us happier as an organizer than active discussions among you all.

Thank you very much.

Address

Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn
Secretary General of AFPPD
Read on his behalf by Hon. Neville Fernando

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Thai Parliamentarians and friends, we wish to convey to you, Excellencies and Friends, best wishes for happiness and prosperity. SWASDEE!

This happy occasion marks three firsts for me: My first visit to your beautiful city of Seoul. My first official function as Secretary General of AFPPD. And my first trip abroad for 1991, after my report published.

This meeting is the starting point for the three years plan of action of "the Bangkok Declaration" in October 18, 1991, whose guidelines are stated clearly as follows:

1. Population, Environment and Sustainable Development.
2. Role and Status of Women
3. Aging and Youth Dependency
4. Health Care, Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning.
5. Role and Cooperation of Asian Parliamentarians, more and more "Asia in Action".

It is my optimistic view that "Well begun is half done." It is sincerely hoped that we will achieve our goal of well-being for more than half of the world population, the people of Asia.

After the year's three annual joyous and fun-filled festivities of Christmas, New Year, and Chinese New Year, when there are much hope for prosperity and bright future in the area of programs for population and development, it came to my mind that the potential actions for us to try to fulfill are in the area of "Quality of Life."

They are:

1. Without health, life is lifeless.
2. Awareness will bring public participation.
3. Participation in NGO will lead the way to success.
4. Parliamentarians' role in Action.
5. Education and Training for both public bodies and professionals should be a key role of achievement.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The above actions can be abbreviated into four letters.

- H – for Health.
A – for Awareness.
P – for Participation.
and
E – for Education.

How can we change the last "E" into "Y" so that these letters will form the word "happy?" "Y" is You —you yourself, as an old saying -

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,

In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

On the occasion of this special meeting may I take the liberty to inform you all that the office of the Secretary General is already set up at the Parliament House of Thailand. All members and friends are cordially invited to visit us and use our services. I am at your disposal.

To contact me, simply address:
Senator Prasop Ratanakorn
Parliament House
Bangkok

In this good year of 1991, the Secretary General Office will seek to cooperate with UNFPA in New York, ESCAP in Bangkok, APDA and the Global Committee as well as all Asian countries and parliaments in the endeavor to fulfill the goals of population and development as set forth in the Report of the Third General Assembly in Bangkok.

Finally, dear Friends, I thanks you all for your support, and courtesy. Together with Thai friends and APDA colleagues, I wish you much success for this meeting and for your many good deeds to mankind.

“Goodness is the only investment that never fails.”

All the best and Good Luck.

I thank you all.

Address

Dr. Nafis Sadik
Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund
Read on her behalf by Dr. Hirofumi Ando

First of all, I would like to congratulate the organizers of this meeting, the Asian Population and Development Association and the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development. Under the leadership of Congressman Tanaka and Congressman Sato, the Association has taken the lead in stimulating co-operation and among Asian parliamentarians on these issues.

The 1990s will see faster increase in human numbers than any decade in history. World population is increasing by three people every second, 180 people every minute, 250,000 people every day. Between 90 and 100 million people – the population of the Philippines plus the Republic of Korea – will be added every year during the 1990s; a billion people – a whole extra China – over the decade. Well over 90 per cent of these births will occur in developing countries.

Population growth in Asia is lower than in Africa or Latin America – an achievement for which strong and effective population programmes in Asian countries may take much credit. However, since the population base is so large, Asia's total numbers will continue to grow rapidly for some time to come. Today's 3.1 billion people will become 3.7 billion by the end of the century. We cannot be complacent; on the contrary, we have to search for new ways to solve old but persistent population problems. We must also be aware that new issues, notably the increasing proportion of elderly people, will grow in importance during the next 20 years.

There have been rapid and substantial declines in fertility in several countries in the region and in the region as a whole. Total fertility rates have decreased from 5.71 children per woman in 1960 to 3.26 in the 1990s. In East Asia fertility has declined from 5.35 to 2.19.

In South Asia, however, fertility is still 4.4 children per woman, and population growth continues to be rapid, about 2.3 per cent a year. This is despite a declared determination on the part of most governments to work towards slower and more balanced population growth. In round figures, we are talking about adding between 25 and 28 million people a year for the foreseeable future to one of the poorest areas in the world.

About 70 per cent of Asia's population still live in the rural areas, where the combination of poverty and rapid population growth has frequently led directly to deforestation and degradation of land and water supplies. Landholdings are already small and growing smaller. Both of these trends tend to destabilize the traditional culture of rural areas, leading to the continued movement towards great cities.

By 2020, half of Asia's population will live in cities. In the urban areas, industrialization and consumption are growing at unprecedented rates. These are welcome signs of development. But there are also some adverse consequences. Up to half of Asia's urban population live in slums or squatter settlements. Their resources are hardly sufficient for even their basic needs, still less for health, education or adequate housing. At the same time, Asian nations' share of global industrial pollution is rising, and will continue to rise.

Continued rapid population growth, degradation of agricultural land and the growth of cities threaten Asia's achievements in supplying food for its increasing population. Over the last decades, Asian food production has greatly improved; 450 million metric tons of rice annually compared with 150 million metric tons in 1950; 150 kilograms per person today compared with only about 110 in 1950. But to maintain this level will require 555 million metric tons in the year 2000 and 675 million in 2025, to cover the additional population.

In responding to the present challenge, we need to take seriously the preoccupation with environmental damage, but we should also make a direct all-out attack on the causes of the crisis, among them poverty and rapid population growth.

Reducing population growth, particularly in countries and areas with the highest rates of growth, is a crucial part of any successful strategy of development. One of the clearest lessons of the last two decades of work in population is that investments in human resource development – that is, improvements in the status of women, access to education, health care and family planning – are also the best and quickest way to reduce population growth rates. The evidence is that such a programme can spearhead other needed reforms.

This point has been well demonstrated by successful population and family planning programmes in a number of Asian countries, notably the Republic of Korea. Korea's total fertility rate has fallen from 4.1 in 1970 to 1.6 in the early 1990s, an extraordinary achievement for which the national family planning programme can take much credit. It is therefore particularly appropriate for this meeting to be held in Seoul.

Successful population programmes affirm the worth of every human being in the community. They work on the assumption that everyone, even the poorest, can take charge of their lives if they are given the chance.

Among social investments, those with a direct effect on women should be given priority. Women in developing countries should have the same power over their reproductive cycle that most women in developed countries take for granted. Their education should go beyond basic literacy; we know that education for women and lower fertility are very closely connected. Health care for women should emphasize reproductive health and ensure that appropriate family planning services are readily available to all women who wish to use them.

In this regard, we note with appreciation that in South Asia 1990 was the Year of the Girl Child. Such initiatives will greatly help to improve the status of women and reduce the number of Asian women – still as many as 50 per cent, outside China – who have no access to modern family planning methods and therefore the means to protect their health by spacing their pregnancies.

The Bangkok Declaration, adopted at the Third General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Bangkok in October 1990, reiterated the goal first adopted at the Beijing Conference in 1981, to achieve an annual population growth rate of 1 per cent for the Asian region by the year 2000. This is by no means an impossible task, but will require much greater efforts, backed by strong and consistent political commitment.

In 1989, the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-First Century was convened with government officials, parliamentarians and experts from 79 countries. The Forum called on all nations to make every effort to provide the financial resources

necessary to reach the medium variant population projection by the year 2000; a total of \$9 billion a year for core population activities, double the current expenditure of \$4.5 billion.

Parliamentarians will play a crucial role in focusing attention on the importance of social investment, and in particular the role and status of women, and in achieving the goal of slower and more balanced population growth. You are not only legislators, but leaders in your communities. What you say, and even more the example you set in daily life, has an enormous influence on attitudes and behavior throughout your constituency.

Your role in mobilizing resources to meet population challenges will be equally important. Of the total annual outlay of \$9 billion which will be required by 2000, a half will come from the international community, and half from the developing countries themselves. It will be your responsibility to ensure that national development policy and legislation gives due emphasis to population issues, and to consider that every development decision has a population impact.

I hope that your discussions here will redouble your determination to confront the challenges of population in the 1990s. UNFPA, as always, stands ready to co-operate with you and help your work in any way we can.

**SEVENTH ASIAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(February 25 - February 26, 1991)**

PROGRAM

Monday, February 25th

10:30 - 11:30 OPENING SESSION

[Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel Convention Center]

1. Welcoming Address: Hon. Jun-Byung Park
President, the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population
and Development
2. Opening Address
Hon. Takashi Sato, Chairman of APDA
3. Address
By Hon. Prasop Ratanakorn, Secretary General of AFPPD
Presented by Hon. Neville Fernando, Deputy Secretary General of
AFPPD
4. Address
By Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA
Presented by Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Director, Information & External
Relations Division, UNFPA

12:00 - 13:30 LUNCHEON

Hosted by Hon. Chung-Soo Park, Vice President, the Korean
Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development
[Sunflower Hall]

14:00 - 17:00 SESSION I – General Survey on Population and Development

1. Introduction of Participants
2. Election of Chairpersons
3. Basic Survey on Population and Development in Bangladesh
Dr. Toshio Kuroda, Director Emeritus,
Nihon University, Population Research Institute
Question and answer
4. Survey on Rural Population and Agricultural Development in the
Philippines
Dr. Shigeto Kawano, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Question and answer

5. Korean Experience on Population and Development

Dr. Ehn-Hyun Choe, Vice President, Korea Institute for Health and
Social Affairs

Question and answer

15:30 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

**16:00 - 16:30 Population, Development and Environment in Japan
– Asian Experience**

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

Question and answer

**16:30 - 17:00 Slide Presentation on Environment, Population and Development
in Japan**

19:00 - 20:30 Welcoming Dinner

Hosted by Hon. Takashi Sato, Chairman of APDA
[Sunflower Hall]

Tuesday, February 26th

**9:00 - 11:50 SESSION II – Issues on Population and Development in Asia
Presentation of Country Papers**

Japan
China
India
Indonesia
Republic of Korea
Malaysia
Pakistan
Philippines

12:00 - 13:30 LUNCHEON

Hosted by Hon. Sat Paul Mittal, Vice Chairman of AFPPD

**13:30 - 13:50 SESSION II – Issues on Population and Development in Asia
Presentation of Country Papers (cont'd.)**

Singapore
Sri Lanka

13:50 - 14:00 COFFEE BREAK

14:00 - 15:40 PANEL DISCUSSION

On Measures for the Implementation of the "Bangkok Declaration"
and Population and Development Strategy Towards the Asian Future
with Particular Emphasis on the Environment
[Convention Center]

15:40 CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Chung Soo Park
Vice President of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children,
Population and Development

18:30 - 22:00 FAREWELL DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Hosted by Hon. Jun-Byung Park, President of the Korean
Parliamentary League on Children
Population and Development

Session I

General Survey on Population and Development

Monday, 25 February 1991

Chairman: Hon. Sang Mok Suh, M.P.

Report on Basic Survey of Population and Development in Southeast Asian Countries – Bangladesh –

Dr. Toshio Kuroda
Director Emeritus of Population Institute
Nihon University

I would like to report briefly on the basic survey on population and development that was conducted in Bangladesh last year, in 1990. I would like to deeply thank the Ministry of Health and Family Planning of Bangladesh, the National Hospital, Dacca University, Bangladesh Institute of Development and many people in the government administration and experts for their assistance in conducting this survey.

Since the presentation is limited to 15 minutes, please refer to “the Report on Basic Survey of Population and Development in Southeast Asian Countries” for details of survey results.

First of all, the report is comprised of the following seven chapters.

- Chapter 1 Summary – Bangladesh, the Country with Vicious Cycle of Rapid Population Increase and Poverty
- Chapter 2 General Information
- Chapter 3 Population and Family Planning in Bangladesh
- Chapter 4 Summary of Health and Medical Care
- Chapter 5 Field Study Report – Activities of Health and Medical Care Agencies in Bangladesh
- Chapter 6 Tasks of International Cooperation – Significance of Cooperation from Japan in Area of Population
- Chapter 7 Survey Team Members and Schedule

As can be seen from the chapters above, the aim of this survey is to analyze the situation with emphasis on vital statistics and public health measures that have been implemented by the government administrative agencies.

In the U.N. classification, Bangladesh belongs to the Least Developed Countries category, and offers a typical example of a country which is suffering from the vicious cycle of rapid population increase and poverty. Bangladesh, however, has been referred to as the Golden Bengal, a country endowed with abundant agricultural production and capable of supporting a large population. A scholar has also said that the culture of Bangladesh has achieved a high level of development in a biological sense, and that a community in which a population of this size was able to subsist without destroying the fundamental resources had never existed elsewhere in the world.

It is true that the condition in Bangladesh was like this until recently. As you may know, however, Bangladesh of today has fallen into extraordinary difficulties. My friend, Dr. Mosleh Uddin who is a Professor of Statistics at Dacca University described the present situation as follows:

“About 85% of the population is in absolute poverty, 74% is illiterate and 33% of labor force is unemployed. The problem is an economical one. If this condition continues, the number of those in absolute poverty will increase to 113 million by the year 2000. The poverty syndrome will spread like mushrooms.”

There are several possible reasons that pushed Bangladesh towards such disastrous situation. Natural and human disasters, i.e. serious damages from continuing floods and political instability are some of such reasons. However, the problem that concerns me most deeply is the explosive increase of population. Even today, crude birthrate is higher than 40 (per 1000 population) and total fertility is immensely high at 5.4. On the other hand, mortality is showing a downward trend but continues to be high. General mortality and infant mortality are also exceptionally high at 15.0 (per 1000 population) and 130 (per 1,000 live births), respectively.

Accordingly, average life expectancy is 49.1 years for men and 48.1 years for women and has not reached 50 years for either sex. It is worthy of noting that average life of men is longer than that of women. Average life of women being shorter than that of men is a rare phenomenon from international perspective, and has been observed elsewhere only in South Asia, in Pakistan and Nepal. It is suggestive of influence of low status of women and hard labor amidst poverty.

Incidentally, natural population growth rate, which is the difference between high birthrate and decreasing mortality rate, is estimated to be about 2.7% a year. Annual growth rate of 2.7% is a very high figure compared to other countries of the world and is considered to be the root cause of poverty in Bangladesh.

The second important point after population growth rate is population density. Although the population of Bangladesh is 106.5 million which is slightly smaller than Japan in scale, it has only 40% of land area of Japan, resulting ordinary population density of over 740 as opposed to 330 of Japan. Japan is famous for having high population density, so we can understand that population density which is more than twice as high signifies an extremely high density.

National income per capita of Bangladesh is only \$160 U.S. (in 1988) compared to \$20,382 U.S. (in 1988) of Japan, which a difference of more than 140 times.

It is clear that the fundamental problem is how to cut off the vicious cycle of population increase and poverty. It goes without saying that preventing natural disasters such as flood and striving for political stability are important. However, it seems that controlling the rapid population growth will become the closest way to the goal after all, even though it may appear to be a roundabout way. In this context, we would like to propose the following two strategies.

The first strategy is penetration of family planning program among the general public. The Government of Bangladesh is making efforts for diffusion of family planning practices with the help of United Nations and the developed countries, but the prevalence rate appears to be insufficient.

The second strategy is what is called the “Child Survival Strategy,” and is a comprehensive measure for significant improvement of infant mortality rate. Even if it triggers a rise in natural increase rate as a result, it will be a temporary phenomenon. By having their children's lives saved, the mothers will realize that they do not have to give birth to many children, and this will lead to their increased interest in family planning.

Furthermore, improvement in infant mortality is in itself an important factor that increases the precious potential human resource of the future.

Another point which is worthy of note is the fact that, even though there are people who are against family planning, no one will oppose improvement in infant mortality and healthy growth of children. Thus, it is important for people to fully understand that decline in infant mortality is a vital prerequisite for lowering the birth rate.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words about the Rural Poor Program which is being carried out in Bangladesh. Although this ambitious program is still very small in scale, it is starting to attract international attention recently as it not only fosters a collective management spirit among the poverty-stricken farmers but contributes to improvement of income standard as well. Enabling the poor farmers on a grass roots level to demonstrate their willingness to produce is coming into the limelight as an important step towards socioeconomic development.

United Nations and the developing countries are also offering active support and cooperation for the development of Bangladesh. We can fully understand that the Government of Bangladesh is also doing their best to cut off the vicious cycle of population increase and poverty. One serious problem is that, when seen from outside, we get the impression that the policies are not integrated and fractionated, and that they end up being ineffective vertical line relationships. There seems to be some room for improvement with regard to integration and priority system of policies and adoption of proper approach towards grass roots.

I am afraid many of the points were left unclear as a result of this summarization.

Thank you very much.

Questions:

INDONESIA (MR. CHOLIL):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to listen to the presentation of Professor Kuroda, with whom I am already familiar with for a long time, and I also feel that we are without any Bangladesh delegation to comment on this kind of situation, based on the experience of that what was carried out in Indonesia, I fully agree with the recommendation just put forward by Professor Kuroda, that in dealing with the population problems in countries like Indonesia and Bangladesh, that has such a high fertility and growth rate. It is true that we have to deal directly, both to reduce the growth rate, as to reduce the infant mortality rate. And we are sure, and we are convinced, that unless we take both strategies, it will not be a successful population program there, because it is very difficult for people to accept the idea having a smaller number of children whenever they still experience a high infant mortality rate. To get them convinced with the new idea of having a smaller number of family we have to offer also a situation and condition in which the infant mortality rate is lower and lower.

But my question is on this study itself, whether the study carried out by the Professor Kuroda, also identifies how important the role of the community leader in a situation like Bangladesh is. We know very sure that the political will, therefore, is bringing down this, overcoming this high population growth rate, but the result is not as good as Korea has experienced for many years. The question is now is that what is the role of the community leader in Bangladesh with regards to this kind of program? Thank you.

PAKISTAN (DR. PANEZAI):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I fully agree with your recommendation. But I'm sorry to say that the concentration was on the infant mortality rate, but there is nothing about the maternal mortality rate, which is very important in this forum, because the whole family depends on the mother. Can you tell us, what about the maternal mortality rate?

SRI LANKA (DR. FERNANDO)

I would like to ask Dr. Kuroda, why in Bangladesh, unlike generally in other countries, that the average longevity of the women is lower than that of men. The normal pattern is that the longevity of the women is much higher than that of men.

The other matter that I would like to find out from him is whether, in dealing in Muslim countries, especially Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Maldives, and countries like that, whether the question of women's rights has been taken into consideration, especially I'd like to know whether the women have equal rights, especially in divorce, whether divorce is allowed, whether that aspect has been taken into consideration.

KOREA (DR. SUH SANG MOK)

I would like to raise one question to the distinguished speaker. My question is that there are many countries who went through the population planning program. And some countries have been very successful and some countries have not. I think it is important to identify the cause for the success and the cause for not being so successful. Even in the tradition of the Subcontinent, Bangladesh is not very successful, but Sri Lanka is very successful. The way I see this, a key factor is the literacy rate, particularly among women. I thought that in this sense education is very important. So I wonder whether you can make a comment, in addition.

Answer (Dr. Kuroda):

Thank you so much. There are so many interesting questions. I would be very happy if I could have two more hours to discuss with all of you. Because, in view of my experience, theoretically, and practical policy, I have much interest in all of the question raised by you.

So, starting from the question about the local leadership in connection with the population policy, I was very happy last year when we had this kind of workshop in Indonesia. And, particularly myself and some other parliamentarians had a chance to stay in Bali, a very beautiful island. It was the first time for me, and I was extremely happy. But next day, we were also very happy to have a chance to talk with some interesting local people. And I got to know the very nice executive local committee system in connection with family planning. And also, particularly, I knew that even the Islamic religious leader in the village are participating in spreading the family planning practice. I think that is wonderful. And I knew why, particularly in Bali, the fertility declined so dramatically. So in this sense I agree with you.

Otherwise, the local community has a very nice system to develop family planning practice in grass-roots. Actually, it is extremely useful and important. And I am not sure so much about the Bangladesh case. I know some experience in China. Today we

are happy to have distinguished parliamentarians and also experts join in this meeting. But, anyway, I have been to China many times, not only in central places, where the parliamentarians, the honorable Wang Wei, the Minister of Family Planning, we had bid my time to talk with, and also we find the administration, even the lowest village – not only village, not only city, not only province – coming to a very small, laborful, and I found that so much close to make associations with people in connection with family planning. This is so much, and also an experience. That is the reason they could succeed in fertility decline in China.

I am not sure about the Islam religion, what they are going to preach in rural areas, I do not know it. We had a chance to stay in Bangladesh only ten days or so. I could not have enough time to look into this. So I'll agree with your opinion.

The next question is, why you don't pay attention to the mother? Of course I agree with you. I am talking about just the infant mortality. Infant mortality means, that it is of course connected with the mother. So I don't need to say it. Of course that is naturally included. I don't neglect the mother, of course, you know. In my country the infant mortality is very low. Now it is 4.5 per 1000 live births. It is the lowest in the world. But on the other hand, the mortality level is not the lowest, but higher. Why? So this is what we in Japan also have much interest about. So then I agree with your opinion. I don't ignore the women. I can say more later, anyway.

Next is the average expectation of life. That is an interesting, very important question. Today we are happy to welcome parliamentarians from Pakistan, India, etc. I know that now, as a matter of national difference, the average expectation of life of women is slightly higher than male in India, not in a completely normal way.

But, statistically speaking, I found that Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan, it is, more or less, the reverse; that is a very serious picture. Why? The general answer is that the situation of social status of women is worse than men, and nutrition and food customs, and also the labor, and I found that particularly the labor burden imposed on females is so serious, and also in general, more and more frequent pregnancy and giving birth, that is much more heavy burden than male. This kind of things combine together to bring about a higher death rate. A higher death rate means, longevity is shorter, right?

So I think that today we have many excellent people, maybe more adequate answers, I don't know. I think as far as my experience is concerned, only the South Asian area, but not in Sri Lanka. Only, I think, a few countries. And sometime ago, even Brazil showed this kind of reversal of longevity, but it is now coming back to a normal rate, but very few countries in the world.

And then the Islam. The next question is, I don't know the women's rights in Islam society. Some people are here, coming from Islam countries. They know it much more than I do. And, also, I don't find any different situation in Bangladesh, compared with other Asian countries. Thank you

Survey of Rural Population and Agricultural Development – The Philippines –

Dr. Shigeto Kawano
Professor Emeritus
The University of Tokyo

My presentation is on population and agricultural development in the Philippines based on the field study that was conducted there. However, we did not necessarily perform a study on population per se as the study was focused on agricultural development. The Philippines is a country with enormous population growth where the population increased by eight times during the last 90 years. Large increase in population signifies an increase in capacity of the country to support such population, which, I think, is very good in one sense.

All ASEAN countries have achieved impressive economic growth since 1960. In the case of the Philippines, however, the population growth is still continuing at a high rate of 2 to 3%, even though her economic growth has been hampered by various troubles and unfavorable conditions including earthquakes and typhoons. To cope with this situation, the Filipino Government adopted a policy since the Marcos Administration to improve agricultural productivity mainly through land reform, and such policy was further emphasized and continued under the Aquino Administration. The details of this policy can be found in the report.

The study was conducted in August 1990 at a village located about 120 kilometers north of Manila. About 25 years ago, people who did not have land settled on this former national land as farmers and formed a village. We conducted a study to find out the results of such settlement. The conclusion was that, out of nearly 4,000 people that settled there 25 years ago, 35% still remain.

It can be said that these 35% of the people succeeded in their settlement, but it also means that it was more advantageous for the rest to move to a city or find employment elsewhere. However, we were left with an impression that the settlement can become a greater success for the 35% that remained if they place emphasis on certain points in the future. I would like to describe these points to you.

One of the points is this. The 1,200 settlers are divided into three categories; rice farmers, fruit farmers and dairy farmers. Although irrigation using motor pumps is used very effectively in areas where precipitation is unstable, there were only two farming households in this village that had a water pump; one a rice farmer and the other a fruit farmer. People appeared to be experiencing much difficulty as most of irrigation was done by pumping water by hand. If these people could obtain motor pumps and use them, they can harvest two to three crops a year from the same rice farm. In reality, the households that have two or three crops a year are those that own such pumps. Therefore, introduction of mechanization with emphasis on water pumps is the first important point that needs to be considered.

Another point is the procedure that will enable people to buy the land that they have settled for 20 years by paying money to the Government so that they will have ownership to the land. The reality, however, is that people are complaining that this procedure takes much time and does not go smoothly. In a way, this is an administrative problem.

The third point is the difference in the policies between the Marcos Administration and the Aquino Administration concerning the release of land by the Government. While the former had a policy that was dominated entirely by the Government in which it provided subsidy, the latter has set out a policy in which the farmers take initiative in receiving loans and the Government giving support to commercial banks for this purpose, i.e. private financial institutions support the farmers and the Government offers indirect support instead of providing direct subsidy.

In this case, the most important factor is the voluntary activity on the part of the farmers. According to the study we have conducted on this point, we found that working in an enterprise-like manner has already taken root among the farmers as they had formed an organization similar to a cooperative and ran a kind of a store through their joint effort. In addition, there was a women's club that was engaged in cooperative marketing and cooperative processing for some farm products. I regard them as explicit examples of activities of the farmers that they are engaged on a voluntary basis.

On the other hand, however, there are reports of people having the impression that the Government-backed cooperative and the channel for purchasing fertilizers, medicines and agricultural chemicals are not necessarily functioning sufficiently due to the lack of confidence among the farmers in functions and activities of the cooperative and its management. Therefore, the important thing is for the farmers to create a reliable cooperative of their own. Up to now, I have spoken about the results of our study at the village. Now, what is the Government doing and planning to do?

The Government is thinking to provide 10 million hectares of farmland to the people who do not own land during the 10 year period starting in 1989. It also intends to create a stable tenant farming system by allowing the farmers to keep the increase in harvest after paying a fixed amount of rent instead of having to pay 30 to 40% of the entire yield. The Government has appropriated approximately 200 billion pesos for these purposes. The plan with regard to compensation for the landowners is to pay one third of the budget appropriated, and spend the remaining two thirds for improvement of infrastructure such as irrigation.

The source of finance for this plan is an international issue. Japan has to make substantial contribution in this regard, but the issue here would be the extent to which Japan can contribute to the agricultural reform with emphasis on farmland reform.

Landowners will have to pay sacrifice if land is given to landless farmers free of charge or at a very low price. Landowners will oppose if their sacrifice is too large. In reality, farmland reform is going relatively well in areas where there are many absent landowners. This is quite natural.

In other regions, however, farmers are not given their land for free. They must pay for it. These people have low income. These low income people will have to make money in some way or another.

For this purpose, they can earn money if there is employment. In addition, they can grow cash crops by taking voluntary action. The point here is the fact that the voluntary efforts on the part of the farmers is the fundamental prerequisite for the reform.

To state my conclusion, I believe that, in international cooperation for this kind of agricultural reform, it is necessary to spend a substantial amount of money in educating the farmers, i.e. training leaders and telling them about the cases in developed countries, in addition to building agricultural chemical, or fertilizer plants and promoting irrigation. Thank you very much.

Questions:

THE PHILIPPINES (MS. SHAHANI):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we would like to congratulate Dr. Kawano for this paper which he has produced, and I happen to come from the island of Luzon where this research was undertaken, so I would like to say for a starter that the situation in Magalang, although typical of those who have been subjected to land reform, is by no means typical of the entire agricultural picture of the Philippines. Certainly we have the island of Mindanao, where you have the small 25-hectare owner, and where the agricultural production indeed is much higher, and I think the more successful agricultural performance in other parts of the country should not be lost. Magalang is in the heart of central Luzon, where, historically speaking, agrarian unrest has been present. So I would like to keep that as a sense of framework, you see, because, really, in certain areas of the Philippines where agrarian reform is needed, in central Luzon, maybe also Congressman Mati, who comes from also the island of Negros, could maybe say something, that is where the sugar people are. So I just would like to keep that in mind.

Yes, agrarian reform has been slow in the Philippines, I think, for many reasons. I'm not really condoning it, but I think that the Philippines has had a more difficult problem, maybe, than most countries in the region. First, it has had a very long colonial experience with Spain, where the Spanish colonial administration held their power through a very harsh feudal system. I think the fact that Latin America, up to now, has not liberated itself from what you call the *latifundia*-type of farming, indicates how deep was that influence. And the Philippines, in contradistinction to the other countries of Asia, is heir to this pattern of land use. Also, I might say, the Americans, who occupied us for fifty years, did nothing to help us in land reform. They helped Taiwan, for instance. This is what we are also asking the Americans: "You helped Taiwan, you helped Japan, you helped Korea with your land reforms. How come you never helped the Philippines?"

Well, I think the answer is obvious. They wanted the Philippines to be the source of their primary agricultural products, you see. And they purposely prevented us from industrializing, from having a successful land reform. I believe also, although the Catholic Church now is very much for land reform, for a very long time since there was associated with Spanish culture, was also a major factor. I'm not trying to deny, you see, the present situation, but I think we have inherited a very burdensome historical factors which other Asian countries have not. And I think it is good for us to remember this in our relation with other countries. Well, having said that, I believe I agree with what the good professor has said, that any rural development has to be supported by other support systems, irrigation, environment, making the farmers take more initiative on their own, supporting women's groups, etc. The land reform is not going as fast as it should be, and the financing, of course, is something which is extremely difficult.

I would also say, however, that there are other areas. Maybe, if the Professor could have gone to other areas where the non-governmental organizations have been active in helping the Government bring a trust to the people, I think it would have presented a more balanced picture. I'm not saying that this paper can be questioned, but I think I would question the limited framework within which the situation has been presented. And, maybe, when you go home, we might give you some more. Because I think, after, when they called my office and said that there is a Japanese group which would come

here to study land reform and population, that was the first time I learned of this mission. The first thing which came to my mind was, well, it is a complicated issue, because it is, after all, a process. And I said, well, maybe the... I don't know with whom they would have talked, but I think that if you had talked with the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, which is an NGO, they could have been a balancing of that perspective. So I think that's what I'd like to say for the time being.

SRI LANKA (DR. FERNANDO)

I'm Dr. Neville Fernando from Sri Lanka. I would like to ask the distinguished professor and also the Philippine delegation, whether and when land alienation is linked up with productivity. Because the Sri Lankan experience was that in 1956 land was giving to the tenant farmer, but it was not related to productivity. And the Government, during the past 10 years, has been pumping in a lot of money, but although the production went up, we never became self-sufficient in paddy, because every time we were just close to self-sufficiency, the agricultural input center will break. Very recently the fertilizer subsidies which was given to the poor farmers were withdrawn on IMF recommendation. So, again this is going to affect productivity. And, very recently, about a couple of weeks ago, the parliament passed a bill linking up land with productivity, where, say, during a period of one year or two years, farmers had to give a certain production. If they don't do it, if they don't reach their targets, the land can be given back to the previous owners. So this was not a very popular move, but anyway it was passed. So I would like to have your comments on that.

INDIA (MR. MAHESWARAPPA):

Mr. Chairman, these problems appear to be analogous of the problems prevailing in India. I want the doctor to make it clear whether there are legislations regarding land reforms in the Philippines and any problems relating to implementation of these legislations. For instance, selling of land, that is the next question. There are several land reforms legislation in most of the states of India. The problem of selling, is not being carried out according to the law, the implementing authorities is very ineffective in India. And also the subsidies for irrigation, and loans from the bank and cancelling the loans to increase the performance, these are all the questions which are now under serious consideration in India also. So regarding the landlord-tenant relationship, whether there are a large number of landlords which have a strong political lobby in the government, who come in the way of implementing the land reforms in the Philippines. Thank you.

Answer (Dr. Kawano):

Thank you for your valuable comments. First, regarding the point that the area studied in the Philippines might have been slightly biased. I agree. I would like to make it the task of my future studies to have the country in which such a study is conducted fully understand the purpose of the study in selecting an adequate location.

As for the representative from Sri Lanka, I agree with what you are saying. In short, I feel that it is an issue of whether the farmers have an assertive attitude in converting changes in condition of production brought about by irrigation to their own income.

I have the same reply to the representative from India. In the Philippines, they have a comprehensive agricultural reform plan which is budgeted and is under way. However,

oppositions from landowners against land reform is an universal phenomena, and Japan was no exception. The fact that it was carried out despite their opposition in Japan, and I believe Korea also had a similar experience, is largely due to the influence from the U.S. Ms. Shahani from Philippines mentioned in regard to the reason for the U.S.A. not implementing it in the Philippines that they wanted to maintain the level of production in plantations. I agree 80% with this view.

However, the problem is whether farmland reform is impossible without General MacArthur. I don't think so. I think it is possible as long as the farmers see it as their own task and exert force in an effort to push it up from the bottom. By seeing their extra effort result in more income that will enable them to buy a TV or a radio will inspire them to make further efforts to improve their life. I believe that this is the true motivating force, the force propelling agricultural reform. In this sense, I feel that it is necessary for the farmers and tenants on a grass-roots level to increase their knowledge, their motivation and learn more. And my conclusion is that there should be more international effort in the realm of training and educating farmers. I would like to mention this as a common reply to all the three questions. Thank you very much.

Demographic Transition in Korea

Dr. Ehn-Hyun Choe
Vice-President

Korea Institute for Health & Social Affairs

The Korean Population has experienced all stages of demographic transition since the 1920s, before which it had stayed at pre-transitional stage characterized by high level of fertility and mortality.

The overall process of demographic transition in the Korean population is divided into three phases. The first period termed as early transitional stage lasted from the 1920s to the early 1960s. During this period, constant high fertility and continuously decreasing mortality prevailed. The second phase started from the early 1960s with overall modernization and lasted up to the year 1984, showing a rapidly decreasing fertility level and gradually improved mortality condition. The third phase started from the mid 1980s, characterized by stable fertility below the replacement level.

That is to say, Korea is believed to be in the process of going beyond the demographic transition. In other words, reproduction in Korea is under almost complete control except some groups of women.

In the future, the current low level of fertility will continue having the total fertility rate as 1.7. More broadly, TFR will be in the range from 1.5 to 2.0. It also appears certain that a return to large families is unlikely. Even within this seemingly low and narrow range, socio- economic differentials persist, and economic conditions and government policy could affect couple's decisions about family size intentions.

Thus, the rate of population growth showed a gradual and steady downward trend. The rate decreased from 3 percent in 1960 to one percent in 1986. The trend of demographic transition which Korea has experienced is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. On the basis of new population projection made by NBOS in November 1988, taking into consideration of the above facts, one percent level of population growth rate will be expected to continue for the time being.

Finally, zero population growth rate will be attained in the year 2020, having the 50,193 thousand population.

Assumption in the new population projection is as follows: (1) the TFR level of 1.70 observed in 1985 will be continued, (2) the life expectancy at birth will be increased by 0.5 years per annum when it reaches 70 years and by 0.25 years when it is above 70 years, (3) the number of emigrants will be 38,800 annually.

On the basis of the new population projection, the age structure of Korean population shows the following implications.

First, the number of young population aged below 15 years old will be continuously decreased. Second, the number of older population aged 65 years and over will be rapidly increased. Third, the number of economic active population aged 15-64 years will continue to increase.

Thus, in terms of manpower supply, the Korea is believed to have the position of sufficient stock of manpower supply for coming next 30 years. In other words, in terms of manpower demand, creating of job opportunities is continuously needed.

Finally, if we mention about future direction of population policy in Korea at the stage of post demographic transition, more efforts should be given to the qualitative aspects of population policy.

Based on elaborate studies on demographic and socio-economic factors, it is urgently needed to prepare systematic and comprehensive national measures and programmes for upgrading the quality of the population, and to adopt an integrated approach to human development by taking into account the relationship between population and development.

Especially, as far as the family planning program concerned, it is believed that the program has reached its demographic objectives, but it continues to have important social welfare functions.

Chairman's Comment:

Thank you, Dr. Choe. From Dr. Choe's presentation, I think it's clear that the Korean case can be said that it is one of the success stories. And if you look at the present population structure, the next ten or twenty years, I think this kind of population structure is very good for the economic development. So one might say what we have here is sort of a virtuous circle of population and development. In the first section we have experienced a vicious circle of population and development. And I think that this really a good subject that we should discuss.

Now the floor is open to any comments and questions.

Questions:

MALAYSIA (MR. IBRAHIM ALI):

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the honorable speaker on the age structure of Korean population, meaning to say the success story of Korea. Well, it seems to me that the young population of age below 15 will be decreased. Are you going to say that one day Korea is going to be full of old people? I don't know whether it is the right trend or not, because the Korean economy is very stable. I'm just asking whether it is the right trend for Korea in the future?

JAPAN (MS. HIRONAKA)

Yes, actually I was going to say the same thing. There is a striking similarity between Korea and Japan, except that Japan is a little bit ahead. And I am wondering that if your government is trying to implement any kind of population policy which would encourage families to have more children?

SRI LANKA (DR. FERNANDO)

I would like to know, Korea has reached a very successful stage now, whether they have sex education in schools, in primary schools or in secondary schools, and whether your laws permit abortion in your country.

THE PHILIPPINES (MS. SHAHANI)

I think it is useful, Mr. Chairman, to have all of these statistics, and so forth, but in a meeting of Asian parliamentarians where the cultural and traditional issues are so important, I think it would help in the presentation of our papers in the future if the cultural issues were placed. Because, of course, it is wonderful to see this progress which Korea has done and maybe I was going to ask what factors in Korean culture. I'm saying this because in the Philippines, which is a deeply Catholic country, it can not, of course, come up with these very clear-cut approaches. And I think it will really help to understand each other better, if we just did not deal with cold statistics, but really show what were the other factors which came into play. Because otherwise there is a certain distortion in comparison, Mr. Chairman, and I think for those of us who are lawmakers, this is so important.

IPFF (DR. PALAN)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to refer to table number five, which I think is an extremely interesting table, and I would like to seek clarification on one. If you look at the marriage of women from 1935 to 1944, the age at marriage is 16, but the first child birth is at the age of twenty. Then you look at the next cohort for 1955 to 1964, the age at marriage is twenty, the first birth is twenty-two. And then if you look at the group 1975 to 1985, they marry at the age of twenty-three, and the first birth takes place a year later at twenty-four. The question I would like to ask, is, for the group 1935 to 1944, was there a practice of family planning, because the interval is roughly four years in that group. Was it natural family planning, or was there some other methods used to delay the first birth? Thank you.

Answer (Dr. Choe):

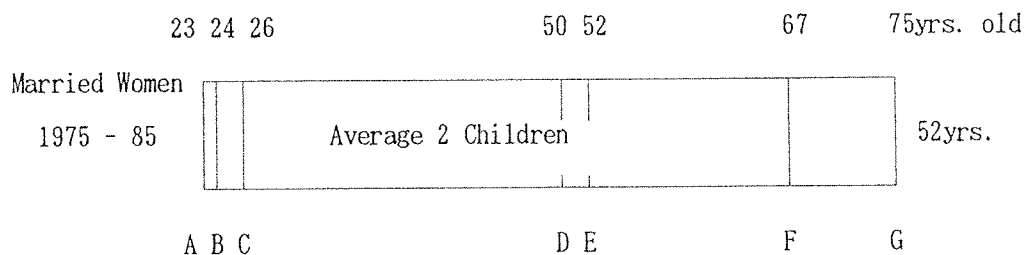
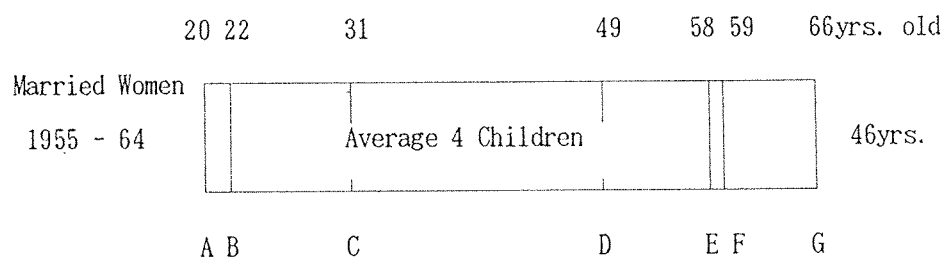
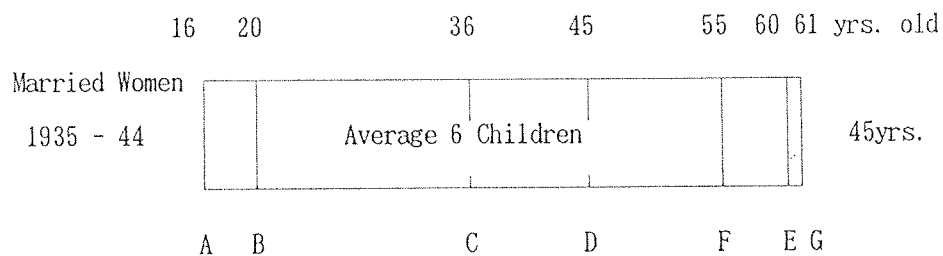
Yes, let me first apologize to Dr. Palan, that I missed to mention about the table five somewhat in brief basis. In fact, this is based on very earlier world fertility survey findings. We know that the life cycle study is very difficult, all life spans have to be involved into it. So I think this is the quiet beginning of the program itself. There are various implications you can think about. And the first question which was raised was what is the implication of the decreasing trend of age below 15? It is a sort of political issue, also. Some of these Asian countries are already turning to prenatal policy, if I say very frankly. But we are facing a highly industrialized society. If we really tackle the very organized educational system, we could somewhat stand, as I mentioned, with a very high quality of population. If I may say, I think that we can somewhat manage into this problem. And also regarding the abortion problem, as I mentioned, there is some representative of the PPFK, he also agrees that we really came to the stage of improving population quality, which means we have tend to refer into maternal and child health programs, etc. That could answer some aspect of response to it.

And also there is the cultural background problem. This is a vast area. I am not really a sociologist, but our distinguished economists can also reply to some of these questions later on, because time is limited. And also agricultural population problems. I hope that Dr. Suh also could respond to some of these problems such as agricultural household, etc.

KOREA (DR. SUH)

I am not sure whether I have the expertise to answer, but on these cultural factors, as I mentioned earlier, I think that one of the important factors is the educational level, particularly among women. Traditionally, in Korea, the educational level has been very high, and also the rapid industrialization also had an impact. We have been very successful, but the problem is this declining young dependency ratio. What it means is that, after the year 2020, the Korean population will be aging very rapidly. In that context, I think that we should have some rethinking on our population strategy. And I think we should encourage, perhaps, young people, particularly more educated people, to have more children. I'd like to ask that Dr. Choe and his institute study this proposal seriously. Because, so far, in Korea, the government is always talking about having small families is a virtue, but maybe it is time to change the attitude, particularly to the more educated segments of the young population.

Table 5. Estimated life cycle of average Korean Women



- A: Women marry B: First child birth C: Last child birth
 D: First child married E: Last child married F: husband death
 G: Women dying

Sources: Park, I.H., Estimates life Cycle, Changes in Korean Family Structure, Chapter 5, KIPH Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1987

Population, Development and Environment in Japan – An Asian Experience –

Dr. Toshio Kuroda
Director Emeritus of the Population Institute,
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This report comprises a part of the research that was conducted by the Asian Population and Development Association in 1990 on Population, Development and Environment-Related Problems in Japan.

The research was conducted by studying this complex problem in the context of the post-war experience of Japan, taking into consideration the fact that it will become one of the guidelines as a precedent in population, development and environment-related problems that Asian countries must go through in the future. It is based on the idea that Japan's experience is Asia's experience as well.

The report is comprised of the following six chapters, with overall coordination made between experts that were assigned to each chapter.

- Chapter 1 Link Among Population, Development and Environment
- Chapter 2 Economic Growth and Environmental Problems
- Chapter 3 Environment of Residential Area and Population Structure
- Chapter 4 Fluctuations in Population Distribution and Environmental Problems
- Chapter 5 History of Environmental Problems
- Chapter 6 Economic Development and Environmental Problems in Asian Countries

Since the presentation is limited to 15 minutes, it is impossible to explain all the chapters to you. Therefore, I would like to concentrate on the ideas concerning the three problems; population, development and environment. Environmental problems in the Asian countries are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Population, development and environment, which are the three problem areas, have historically been treated as independent problems or problems that have little to do with each other even if they were related. In the pre-war days, for instance, the top priority in economic development was to contribute to the improvement of living standard for the people, and its impact on the environment and increase of population were given very little attention. However, an extraordinary population increase that was unprecedented in the history of mankind started after the World War II. It was the so-called population explosion. It was the first major trap that put the survival of mankind at stake.

The Limits to Growth from the Club of Rome in 1972 warned the danger of destruction of mankind as a result of tremendous increase in deaths caused by food shortage and deterioration of the environment, which, in turn, were the consequences of skyrocketing population and exhaustion of resources. United Nations' Conference on Human Environment was also held in 1972 in Stockholm, but international interest in environmental problems was very weak then.

The trap of population explosion that puts the survival of mankind at stake is recognized as an increasingly serious problem. Future projection of world population by the United Nations is often revised, and with the estimated values of world population in the years 2000 and 2025 increasing at every revision, measures that are global in scale have become necessary. However, in addition to the first trap that will endanger the survival

of mankind called the explosion of world population, the problem of global environment, triggered by the global warming, also emerged during the '80s as a problem that will have an impact on the survival of mankind as a phenomenon of globalism. This is the second trap that will put the whole human existence at stake, rich and poor alike, regardless of race.

The significance of this environmental problem was pointed out in the aforementioned *Limits to Growth* but was not actually taken so seriously. It was not until *Global 2000*, a report that scrupulously analyzed the changes that will take place in the global environment by the turn of this century, was issued in 1980 from the U.S. that environmental crisis created a sensation all over the world.

However, it was *Our Common Future*, a report from the Global Committee on Environment and Development in 1987, and its Tokyo Declaration that had a crucial impact on the world. Significant indications made in this report were the examination of the link between population increase and other factors such as environment and development, and presentation of a new concept referred to as "sustainable development."

This notion of sustainable development is a concept that is worthy of attention. However, the important point is that it is not an independent concept. In order to make sustainable development possible, we must assume that there is sustainable population growth rate and sustainable environment. In other words, it can be said that these three factors are inseparably interconnected, and that there exists a link among the three.

Before the World War II, the relation between population and development was that of two independent variables. The frontier of development appeared to be infinite and resources were considered unlimited. The population was small enough so that people were able to think that the earth's capacity to support its population was limitless. However, the exponential growth of population and improvement in standard of life after the war made it easy to calculate the limit to earth's carrying capacity.

After the World War II, in 1950, the world population was 2.5 billion. It doubled to 5 billion in 1987. The doubling time was only 37 years. It was the result of population growth rate going up from 1% to 2%, but had the annual growth rate of 1% in 1950 been controlled to its same level, the population would not have doubled to 5 billion by 2020. In reality, it doubled 33 years earlier in 1987.

The annual growth rate of 1% is not a low rate by any means. It is not low because the annual growth rate was 0.8% during the first half of this century and was only 0.5% during the 19th Century. If the growth had been checked at this considerably high annual rate of 1%, the world population would have reached 5 billion by 2020, but the estimate made by the United Nations according to the present trend predicts that the population will exceed 8 billion by that time. There would not have been a major problem for a while because it would have meant 3 billion less people living in 2020.

Moreover, we must assume that the level of consumption by the increasing population will more or less increase as well. Taking this into consideration, it is obvious that resources and the environment will not tolerate the survival of the human race. As we approach such a stage, it may be more appropriate to say that we have entered the third stage of ecological transition rather than the stage of mere interrelation between population, development and environment. In other words, it is a stage in which the demand brought about by population increase continues to grow and the biological maintenance system itself will collapse. It is a concept that attempts to explain the

relation of population and development with the environment through the process of transition of the ecosystem.

It was in the 80's, especially in the latter half of the decade, that environmental problems jumped over national boundaries and started to have effect on many of the surrounding countries, that they started to be interpreted as problem of global scale affecting the whole human race. With the advent of the global warming problem, the so-called "greenhouse effect," an organism called human beings started to realize that they are not simple problems that are limited to developed countries or to developing countries alone.

In Japan, the rapid economic growth that started in 1960 brought to the people the blessing of phenomenal improvement in standard of living as well as the tragedy of pollution. Then came the deterioration of the living environment in the cities to add to the existing problems. Outbreak of pollution-caused diseases that had direct effect on human life such as Minamata Disease and Itai-Itai Disease, and incidents like Yokkaichi Asthma which typified the deterioration of urban environment demonstrated to the people of Japan the other side of affluence.

It was in 1975 that the famous female author Sawako Ariyoshi wrote, "The beauties of nature are in crisis... and strange diseases are springing up in cities and villages." Despite considerable improvements that have been made through the efforts of the government, corporations and residents, the problems are yet to be solved.

The crisis of the beauties of nature signifies the crisis of nature itself and crisis of the earth. Accordingly, it is our most urgent responsibility as human beings to build an earth-oriented community that can coexist with nature.

I hope that the experience of pollution and environmental problems that Japan underwent before others will have something to contribute to other Asian countries.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(DR. TAKAKUWA)

I am Eimatsu Takakuwa from Japan. I used to be also involved in environmental issues as a university professor, and have done work that are somewhat related to this area as a deputy director of the National Pollution Institute of Japan as well.

Dr. Kuroda has indicated a very important point in his speech we just heard now. I would just like to make slight additions to his speech, rather than to comment or ask questions, and leave it up to you to dwell further on this subject.

Going back to the Population Principle Theory just described by Dr. Kuroda, population increases in geometric progression while food resources increase in arithmetic progression, and therefore the balance is lost. According to Malthus, it is "famine and war" that corrects such loss of balance, and this has proven to be true in reality as well.

However, we are witnessing an emergence of a concept that can be referred to as "humanism in a global sense." In this age when information travels the entire world in an instant, we will eventually be sharing the same values.

There is one thing I would like to mention with regard to the lack of balance between population and food supply. I assume that Dr. Kuroda did not mention this deliberately, but not only did population increase in geometric progression but progress in medicine lowered mortality rate and extended life expectancy. Therefore, if explosive

increase in population is vice, then medicine would be most responsible for it. I am a physician, but I think medicine has made substantial contribution in this regard.

While we are discussing this matter, a large number of people are starving in Africa. People are suffering from disease as well as from starvation, and should relief be provided to all of these people, I think that population explosion will be several time greater than geometric progression.

As mentioned in the report that has been distributed, it seems that population, development and environment are in triangular relation to each other. Thinking in terms of chicken-and-egg proposition, I think that development will become necessary as a result of increase in population, rather than population increasing as a result of development. And increase in population will require additional energy, food, shelter and clothing for the increased portion. Not particularly thinking about modern commodities such as automobile, food, shelter and clothing alone will consume enormous amount of resources. Therefore, even though I have lost track of which was chicken and which was egg in the triangular relation among population, development and environment, I at least feel that increase in population is the starting point. Dr. Kuroda also mentioned that deterioration of the environment may bring about extinction of mankind.

Mankind did not come into existence at the same as our planet earth. As the human race emerged only in the last million years of the 4.8 billion years of earth's history, we may undoubtedly be one of the species that will become extinct according to the changes in the global environment. Thinking in this way, I feel that things may be just allowed to take their own course, but our offsprings or descendants of future generations may look back and say, "Humanity of several generations ago were awful people." After all, I think that we must use our human intellect and solve these problems. Therefore, how to keep the natural environment including food in balance with population will become the ultimate task.

Although the term "sustainable development" appears to be easy to understand, the term "sustainable" means that it is corresponding to population, so the increase in population will certainly make sustenance impossible. The reason is that loss of balance is inevitable between something that is increasing in geometric progression and something that is increasing in arithmetic progression. After taking these matters into consideration, we must proceed in the direction of restraining population. On this point, total fertility rate (TFR) of Japan was 1.57 last year. The representative from Korea just mentioned that the figure for Korea was 1.7. These figures are very close.

If left alone, population will definitely go down. Then what should Asian Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development do about this? Speaking from the viewpoint of a third party, both Japan and Korea are moving in a favorable direction. Needless to say, it appears that politics has another role to play in this regard. However, population-related strategies will have to be considered from a global perspective. There are many developing countries, particularly in Asia. That is why it is necessary for everyone to move in the direction of restraining population by exchanging technology and ideas that they have. As I am saying this from a general standpoint, I will not touch on the circumstances of each country. Those were the slight additions I wanted to make to the speech by Dr. Kuroda.

Session II

Issues on Population and Development in Asia

Tuesday, 26 February 1991

Chairperson: Hon. Leticia Ramos Shahani, M.P.

COUNTRY PAPER: JAPAN

**Demographic Transition in Japan
and
The Social and Economic Development of Asia**

Mr. Shogo Abe, M.P.

Vice Chairman of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

Honorable Parliamentarians. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make this speech. I have been serving as a member of assembly for a quarter of century, and have been participating in the Federation of Parliamentarians on Population and Development since its inauguration after receiving the request from Honorable Mr. Takashi Sato. I consider the activity in the Federation to be the most significant of all my activities as a parliamentarian, and I am very proud of it as well.

In Japan, the activities of the Federation of Parliamentarians on Population and Development do not contribute to winning votes in the very competitive election. Although it does not win us any votes, Honorable Mr. Sato, whom I respect the most, has been working together with the leaders from the national assemblies of various countries and put all his heart to the population problem. I am very inspired by the fervor of Honorable Mr. Sato as a politician towards the issue of population and development.

Today I would like to talk about social economic development and demographic transition in Japan.

As you are all aware, the term demographic transition refers to the process through which a society changes from a many births – many deaths society to a few births – few deaths society. In the case of Japan, the demographic transition process and social economic development have occurred simultaneously. Scholarly research has revealed that a variety of conditions are involved in demographic transition, and some experts disagree that it is an unerring indicator of a country's level of social economic development. However, it is important to note that the process of demographic transition has either been virtually completed or is in progress in those countries in which social economic development has taken place. At the very least, very rapid population growth destroys the social economic foundation of a nation, warps its industrial structure, and causes the extravagant use of natural resources resulting in shortages of these resources.

Accordingly it may be possible to use the stage reached in a demographic transition process as an indicator of the actual state of a country's social economic development. It is possible to compute demographic transition indices by using birth rates and death rates.

The following are the Japanese birth and death rates for 1930, a short time after the year I was born, which was 1926. In 1930 the Japanese birth rate was 32.4 per 1,000 population, and the infant mortality rate was 14.1 per 1,000 live births. This birth rate is comparable to current rates in India and the Philippines where they are 31.9 and 35.9 respectively.

These infant mortality rates are almost equal to present levels in Bhutan and Cambodia which are 127 and 129 respectively. The demographic transition rankings of India and

the Philippines, where the birth rates are almost equal to that of Japan in 1930, are 18th for the Philippines and 24th for India, which means that they are about mid-way in the process among 39 Asian nations.

Let me consider infant mortality rates in the same manner. The two Asian nations I mentioned with infant mortality rates roughly equal to Japan's 1930 rate of 124.1, Bhutan and Cambodia, are ranked 31st and 29th respectively in terms of their progress in the process of demographic transition, indicating that they have made relatively little headway towards this goal. Accordingly, a comparison of the state of the Japanese population in 1930 with current Asian levels shows that Japan had not achieved the average level of present day Asia. This was the state Japan was in only 60 years ago.

When people of my generation were children, Japan's situation fell short of the present average situation in the nations of Asia. I was the 7th of 9 children; 3 of whom died in childhood. This was definitely not unusual when I was a child.

During the pre-war years pro-natalist policy was adopted by the government. But in the 1930s, Japan was far poorer than many countries of present day Asia.

The process of demographic transition in Japan advanced quickly during the forty-year period following the war: the same years in which Japan achieved high-speed economic growth. To give a few examples of the effect of this economic growth, let me point out that bicycles spread throughout the nation between 1932 and 1942; cars repeated this feat between 1955 and 1965; and television sets appeared and spread in 1957 and 1958. About 1965, telephones finally came into wide use.

The fall in the birth rate during this period of high speed growth was a result of voluntary decisions made by the Japanese people. The Japanese decided to have only as many children as they could rear while fulfilling their responsibilities to society, and only as many as they could afford to educate.

Today we have achieved the dream of providing a higher education for all of our children: a feat which would never have been possible if Japan's birth rate had remained high.

It is believed that Japan achieved this development as a capitalist nation, but in my opinion, this level of development would not have been possible with a capitalist system in the simple sense of the term which is used in Western Europe. Japan has formulated and implemented social policies which incorporate the agricultural village communal ideology which will be still a part of the characteristically Asian society of Japan.

Under pure capitalism, welfare services which can only come into existence in response to the demands of labor are skillfully incorporated into society through a process of conciliation between labor and capital. Japanese development has been premised on a capitalist economy, but it has also stressed social benefits and social equality.

For example, social development has been accompanied by the provision of a complete selection of pension and insurance systems. In 1961, pensions were provided to the entire population with the introduction of a public pension system which included the national pension and a variety of welfare pension plans for workers in private companies with the government acting as the insurer.

Along with annuity insurance, a variety of medical insurance plans complete the social insurance structure of Japan. In 1961, universal medical coverage was introduced to Japan, permitting its citizens to receive low-cost medical services. This completed

Japan's social insurance system which now includes employment insurance and work-related accident insurance systems for the workers, the old age insurance system, and the livelihood assistance system.

Another thing I must mention in particular is the fact that farmland reform was carried out soon after the end of the World War II. In addition, the enactment of the Labor Union Act and establishment of various systems concerning fundamental labor rights cannot be overlooked.

A social consensus regarding the way the burden is borne in society has been achieved in Japan. In this sense, it is possible to argue that Japanese social economic development has been achieved in a capitalist society which has skillfully incorporated socialist policies.

The total fertility rate is the index currently used in Japan to express the average number of children which a woman would bear in her lifetime. At the present time it stands at 1.57, far below the 2.1 required to maintain the replacement level of Japanese population indicating that Japan faces a serious social problem.

There is also a trend to late marriage in Japan with the average age of men getting married standing at 28.5, while is 25.5 for women.

The low birth rate and trend to later marriage are blamed on a variety of factors including the high cost of education and rapidly rising cost of housing which has followed concentration of the population in urban areas.

A survey by the Ministry of Welfare indicates that while some families are deliberately choosing the so-called "double income no kids" lifestyle, other couples would like to have 3 children but are settling for 2 because of the high cost of housing and education, and that many prefer daughters who can provide their parents with companionship and financial support in their old age.

Another factor is a changing view of marriage under the effect of transformed living conditions. As more women receive a university education, increasing numbers of them are establishing independent careers in society, and marrying at a later age. Others acquire the ability to survive independently in society, and decide that marriage, formerly a step every women felt compelled to take, it not essential for them.

Another factor is the lack of the facilities required to permit women to raise children without quitting their jobs.

The above are the major factors blamed for our falling birth rate, but I believe that if we solve the problems within society which make it difficult to raise children, the Japanese birth rate may change.

It is possible to argue that this problem, like population problems which plague other nations in Asia, is broadly speaking a natural product of the demographic transition process.

Japan will have to search for ways to deal with the low birth rate problem. I believe that while the decision to have a child will be left up to individual couples, the problem can be overcome by improving the social environment, and I intend to work to achieve the necessary improvements.

Only 60 years ago Japan had still not reached the level which the nations of Asia have now achieved. Should we not all join hands and cooperate to solve these problems.

COUNTRY PAPER: CHINA

Population and Development in China

by Mr. Wang Wei, M.P.
Vice Chairman

The Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, NPC

Mme. Chairperson, Fellow Parliamentarians:

For several decades, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese Government, people with all nationalities have explored ways of implementing family planning, which has experienced torturous progress.

After the New China was born in 1949, with economic development, improvement of the people's living standards and medical health care, there were a decrease in death rate and a rapid increase in population growth. The issue of population control was put on the agenda. In 1953, China started to advocate birth control. It was believed that to practise contraception was necessary and useful. Contraceptive services on a trial basis were provided in some cities. The "Revised Draft of the National Programme for Agricultural Development" formulated in October 1957 stipulates that birth control should be propagated and popularized and family planning should be advocated.

However, the rapid population growth was not effectively controlled since we lacked the experience of family planning. Besides, the detailed policy and measures were not followed or implemented conscientiously.

China has carried out the family planning programme nationwide since the 1970s. After 1979, Family planning in China came to a new development stage in the process of building the country into a socialist one with its own characteristics. The national word emphasis has been shifted to the development of productivity along with the construction of socialist modernization so as to further create favorable social conditions for family planning on a large scale.

The three step strategy (i.e. The first step, to double the GNP of 1980 in 1990 and solve the problem of food and clothing for our people; The second step, to double it again by the end of this century thus enabling our people to lead a fairly comfortable life. The third step, by the middle of the next century, to reach the per capita GNP of moderately developed countries and our people begin to enjoy a relatively affluent life.) towards economic construction of socialist modernization indicates not only the national strength, but also the requirement of increase of GNP per capita. This strategy clearly shows that the population growth must be in keeping with the economic development.

Therefore, at the same time of concentrating on developing productive forces and speeding up economic construction, we have also made it a basic state policy to practise family planning, control the number of population and improve its quality. Our Constitution also provides that people have the duty to practise family planning.

To facilitate leadership, organization and planning over family planning programme, the State set up Family Planning Commission in 1981. Meanwhile, family planning organizations at various levels all over the country were also established, legislative construction on population was strengthened and strategies for population and development were formulated. All these have guaranteed and reinforced the normal practice of family planning programme in organization and policy.

We especially emphasize that we should rely on the masses, mobilize the masses and organize the masses and therefore, to form a solid mass foundation at the grassroots level in the practice of family planning programme. Social services are being provided and the research on birth control technology is being accelerated. We are also pushing other departments of the society to be involved in and support family planning.

For a long time, we have been giving top priority to communication and education in the implementation of family planning programme. We have conducted education campaigns on family planning related policies and legal provision as well as the basic knowledge of population through various media, and make the people understand that for the powerfulness of our country, prosperity of our nation and the health and happiness of our future generations, population must be strictly controlled. Thus family planning programme has struck deep roots among people, the policies made by the party and the government have been widely supported by the masses. Our experience has proved that so long as we adhere to the practice of family planning programme according to our national condition and stick to the principles and policies that are effective, make population growth in keeping with the socioeconomic development in order to promote the construction of socialist modernization, family planning programme will definitely achieve success.

Since the 1970s, China has made great achievements in family planning and the trend of rapid population growth has been under control. The birth rate declined from 33.59‰ in 1970 to 20.98‰ in 1990; The natural growth rate decreased from 25.95‰ in 1970 to 14.70‰ in 1990; The TFR dropped from 5.81 in 1970 to 2.33 in 1990. If calculated according to the natural growth rate of 1970, we have averted about 200 million births in the two decades since 1971.

Such achievements have not only alleviated contradiction between population growth and socioeconomic development and promoted the development of productivity, but also manifest the superiority of our socialism in an economically and culturally less-advanced country.

China is the most populous country in the world, characterized by a poor economic basis and relatively limited arable land. Population status (including quantity, quality, structure and distribution) has not yet been integrated with the socioeconomic development. In the course of socioeconomic development, population is always a matter of great importance. Based on this situation, we have set it a principle to strictly control population growth.

Practice has proved that this principle is correct as it has conformed with our country's situation.

Basically, our family planning policy is to promote late marriage, late childbearing and fewer but healthier births. Since 1979, we began to advocate the practice of one couple, one child. This policy has played an important role in the implementation of the family planning programme while the traditional marriage and fertility concepts have been pounded. Couples in urban areas are encouraged to practise on child, except for some with practical difficulties. However, couples in rural areas encountering practical difficulties in following this policy may have a second child provided that birth space is planned. In no case, a third child is allowed.

In minority nationality areas family planning is also advocated. In such areas, specific regulations formulated are more relaxed and flexible in accordance with existing local

conditions. The family planning policy has been familiarized by staff members and people and become stabilized.

As a great social reform, family planning deals with the great changes on marital system, marriage and fertility concepts, fertility habit, family structure and population structure as well as the improvement of population quality. Since 1979, family planning work has developed along with the reform. As some small-sized families highly qualified, civilized and better-off emerged, people came to see the perspectives of family planning.

In the course of reform, the development of planning commodity economy, improvement of people's cultural life and increase of people's income have been favorable to the practice of family planning. While carrying out the programme, we have clearly realized that there are still some problems in family planning require further study and resolution, so as to adapt and promote the development of reform, and continuously to improve our works.

Now China is confronted with the great task of the realization of the second step of economic development. Meanwhile, we will be preparing for the third step. From now until the end of this century, it will be a critical time to control the rapid growth of population and to improve its quality. Looking forward to the 1990s, the population situation in this country is really arduous. The reason is: the total number of population on China's mainland has reached 1.14 billion; Now we are on the top of the third upsurge of fertility.

The number of women at childbearing age, the number of women at exuberant childbearing age and the number of women entering peak of childbearing age between 1991 and 1995 will be respectively 5.5%, 16.2% and 8.2% more than those between 1986 and 1990. The number of women at exuberant childbearing age will not decline until 1996. As the family planning programme has been performed unevenly in various parts of the country and there are still some weak links in our work, our task ahead is arduous. However, under the firm and correct leadership of the State Council, with the full support of the people and a contingent of family planning, workers and volunteers who are enthusiastic in family planning, we believe that we will implement the programme more successfully and make even bigger contributions to our construction of socialist modernization. Together with the friends of other countries, we would like to make common efforts to achieve the goal set up in the Bangkok Declaration and make new contributions to the population stabilization of the Asia and the world.

Thank you all.

COUNTRY PAPER: INDIA

Bangkok Declaration : A Strategy for Its Implementation

Mr. K.G. Maheswarappa, M.P.
Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, M.P.

MR. SAT PAUL MITTAL:

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Chairman, Asian Forum and APDA, Mr. Sato, distinguished friends and colleagues. I must, at the very outset, thank our hosts, the Korean group of parliamentarians who are making wonderful arrangements for this meeting, as also arrangements for a very, very comfortable stay.

I will leave it to my colleague, Mr. Maheswarappa, a Member of Parliament belonging to Janata Dal, who accompanied me all the way from India to present the country paper. I have taken the permission of Mme. Chairperson, that within the confines of the time limit, we will separate into two, I will mention something about the Global Committee, because I think the Global Committee should not go by default.

It was almost about the same time when the Asian Forum was formally born in India, although it was conceived in Beijing, that the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development came into being. The credit for founding of the Global Committee should go squarely, if I may say so, Madame, to this side of Asia, and the distinguished parliamentarians from Asia, who conceived the idea, that on the same pattern as we have the Asian Forum, functioning as a coordinating body of parliamentary groups within the countries of the Asian region, we should have some kind of an outfit at the global level, which should try to generate the environment of consensus all the world over amongst parliamentarians, and encourage the formation of regional groups so that the activities of the parliamentarians in those regions could be coordinated by a committee at the global level.

I have been the Secretary General of the Global Committee for many years, and in recognition of my humble services, they have now named me as the Secretary General Emeritus, a new position created to keep me in focus.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to say that the Global Committee has now five regional groups in Asia, the Asian Forum, in Africa, the African Council, in Arab countries, in the Americas, and in Europe. Practically, all these five regions cover the entire globe. And we have as many as 55 national groups which are functional either directly or through these regions, and are connected with the Global Committee in one form or the other.

It is also a matter of great pleasure for me to say, that not only parliamentary groups in these regions are functioning in coordination with the Global Committee, we have to lay a very big network of artists, scientists, even spiritual leaders through the coordinating body of an organization, which is now called Global Forum of Parliamentarians and Spiritual Leaders on Human Survival. We organized a global conference in Moscow last year, to which four thousand people, anybody who was anybody, in any corner of the world, amongst the parliamentarians, or the spiritual leaders, were present. The scientists, the media persons, the artists, all of them were there. And they pledged to

save this planet, which is being degraded in terms of environmental and ecological degradation.

I thought that before the country paper, which is presented by my colleague, Mr. Maheswarappa, I should mention something about the Global Committee, because the Global Committee is the Committee which is coordinating our activities at the global level, connecting 55 countries in five regions. Thank you very much. I thank Madame Chairperson for allowing me to make a mention about it before the country paper is presented.

The China experience and the Japanese experience should be replicated, more particularly in Asia. Possibly, something from each of these experience could be helpful, at least to my country. I'll now have the permission of the chairperson to ask my colleague Mr. Maheswarappa to present the country paper on behalf the Indian Association. Thank you very much.

MR MAHESWARAPPA:

The Bangkok declaration is indeed a unique document. It is on par with such historic pronouncements as the World Population Plan of Action of 1974 and the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978. Its coverage is comprehensive. It touches upon all conceivable aspects of the nexus between population dynamics on the one hand and social and economic development on the other. Its preamble presents the parliamentarians' perception of the situation as it has evolved in Asia since the Second World War. It reassesses their assumptions on development. Its Plan of Action rests on the principles that population, resources and environment are inextricably linked, that without regard to this reality, development cannot be sustained; and that economic growth must balance with population increase for the preservation of the environment and for social progress. It calls, therefore, upon parliamentarians, governments, NGOs, the Press and Media, and the International community to take action within their respective jurisdictions on specific lines. Finally, it rededicates the Asian Forum to the success of the Action Programme prepared by the AFPPD General Assembly at Bangkok in October, 1990.

The excellence of articulation must be matched by positive action on the part of the people. In respect of the people, the parliamentarians must act as catalysts. At the level of the continent, Asia has made tremendous progress in economic, social and cultural fields, but this progress varies considerably among the countries. The Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong are the new industrial countries and the five Asian countries will attain that position in the near future. Common to all these countries is rapid economic development and a more rapid decrease in their population growth rates.

Mutuality of economic growth and deceleration of population growth rate is adequately demonstrated by these countries. They suggest a possibility. Despair must, therefore, give way to hope. It matters little that material resources are not abundant; what is of significance is that cultural resources are still plentiful. If we take a cue from Japan, the impressive fact is that Japan has not sold its Asian Soul in order to achieve Western affluence. Asians know the worth of material wealth, but they know also the evils it begets when material possession overpower the human spirit.

It is this example which lends hope to our endeavor in this preeminent field of humanity's survival. The question that I must address is how can we, as parliamentarians, help the people to translate this hope into reality. Neither the state nor

the NGOs can by themselves achieve anything if the people do not respond positively. Our mutual discussions in conferences, seminars, workshops, debates, and discourses highlight but one thing and that is, that talk of any development, sustainable or otherwise, is of no use unless people commit themselves to desist from excessive procreation. In their present state they do not see the light for their own salvation or survival. Can we make them see the light and refrain from action otherwise?

The explosion, the flood, the deluge is upon us. However heroic is the state's attempt to develop, it will unfailingly wipe away huge numbers of the weak, the poor, the underprivileged the indigent living on the outer margin of existence as well as all those who have bargained away their love for lust.

How can we invoke the Asian spirit of love so that the onrush of lust from the West does not wipe away the unique Asian cultural identity. The task before us is not merely that of propagating this or that contraceptive; it is one of restoring humanness to burgeoning Asian humanity. In other words, our task is to carry the message of the Bangkok Declaration to the common man all over Asia. We know that he is poor, that he is often illiterate and unformed, that he sticks to age-old superstitions, tradition, customs, norms and attitudes. He does not know how to break away the old anachronistic order that rests upon structured violence and injustices. He has ingrained habits of practising subjugation of gender inequalities and sweating of child labour.

He has become incapable of shouldering the social responsibility of passing on to the next generation unimpaired the rich heritage bestowed upon him by his forefathers. He fails to see that when the present tries to relive the past, the future virtually disappears. We must make him live in the present so that the future may acquire the brightness of its own. We must nurse the present so that sanity and wisdom may guide our path towards humanity's healthy survival.

To be more specific, the concrete task that lies before us consists in generating the will of the people for the sacrifice that the future demands of them. The will can be generated by informing them of the broader realities of human existence and the scientific and technological options that are available to rid the present of want, misery and suffering. But the discipline that people must display in containing the excesses of their procreation. However much man may cherish his freedom of choice, it has become imperative that choice in procreation is lost to him for ever; it now rests with larger society which only can clearly visualise the rape of environment that results from excessive population growth and that, therefore, threatens the survival of humanity. We talk glibly of quality of life but fail to see that the excesses of procreation may destroy the life itself.

Today, we have the unenviable job of telling the people that if they wish to prevent their commitment of Harakiri, they should avoid by their individual duty to desist from adding the numbers in their population. Time has come when people must ensure that their number decreases rather than increases and this can be done only by preventing births while preventing deaths.

The decrease of births cannot be influenced directly. Apart from the minimisation of infant mortality and maximisation of child care, it calls for the speedy operationalisation of several socio-economic correlates of fertility decline. These include late marriages, maternal care, women's education and the creation of income-yielding employment for women. If we desire women to complete their nationally desired family size in the middle twenties, it is absolutely essential that we devote the first twenty-years phase of

their life in the development of their full human potential as well as generate high level jobs for their socially and economically profitable employment. Such an approach will, besides reducing fertility, automatically lead to a great improvement in the quality of life all round. Women bear the burden of human reproduction; their tremendous creativity must now be turned towards the preservation and the nursing of life support systems within the environment. Sustainable development requires much more than mere population control; it makes it imperative to invoke the female ethos of creation, preservation and upgrading of the potential of human welfare.

Given this interpretation of the mandate of the Bangkok Declaration, I shall attempt to concretise what a parliamentarian must do in order to subserve the objectives of the Declaration. He must seek to generate social transformation in his own constituency. The first step is to set up a formal or even a non-formal organisation of the local level leadership of his constituency on which youth and women must constitute a majority. Women's groups, youth groups, nunk girls' groups should be created in each viable community under the leadership of the parliamentarians, whose initial purpose would be to promote cultural activities. These cultural groups will no doubt be committed to secure population changes of the kind needed in the country or region.

Within the constituency these community level groups may form an apex federal body. A task force, whose functions will be to assist the parliamentarians in:

- 1) Promotion of maternal care and child health;
- 2) Changing the traditional pattern of nuptiality in order to delay marriage and reproduction till the optional age span of early twenties;
- 3) To promote voluntary choice of small family norms by couples;
- 4) To ensure fullest possible personality development of children, especially of the girls among them;
- 5) To preserve the family as a basic social unit of consistent folk cultural traditions of each country or region;
- 6) To promote welfare of the aged and to ensure that they enjoy care given by their own near and dear one's within families, and
- 7) To ensure upgrading, preservation and maintenance of local environment in which communities live.

These we illustrative areas of social action to be undertaken by the parliamentarians. Many more can be identified on the basis of the Bangkok Declaration. I am sure each parliamentarian can identify for his constituency a set of issues in the light of the situation prevailing therein; what is important is to activate the people in the constituency to resolve these issues. The key to operationalisation of a Parliamentarians Social Plan of Action is the organisation of an apex Task Force and community level activists groups to undertake these arduous task of reconciling population with development trends in a way that leads to a progressive improvement of life of the common people in the different activities of Asia.

COUNTRY PAPER: INDONESIA

The Population of Indonesia in 1990 Its Challenges, Prospects and Problems

Mr. Kemas Badaruddin, M.P.

Excellencies, honorable participants, ladies and gentlemen.

Indonesians have worked very hard with its people to improve human welfare through the large peripheries of development programs. One of the most important of these has been the national family planning program. After a consistent and steadfast effort since 1970 to improve the quality of life through family planning, the national program has been recognized throughout the world as a success.

The last Indonesian population census, reveal striking reductions in the population growth rate. During the last decade, 1980-1990, the rate of growth is 1.88 percent annually, while the rate the period of 1970-1980 was 2.327 percent. Interestingly, the decline of the growth rate had been accrued, while the death rate, at the same time, was decreasing very rapidly. In this regard, Indonesia is now experiencing the final stage of the demographic transition.

This achievements are the results of the national family planning program, which has continually adjusted itself to changes of the developing society, and then to affect those changes by emphasizing of a norm of small, happy, prosperous family. For this success, the President of the Republic of Indonesia received the United Nations Population Award two years ago, in 1989. The President of the Republic Indonesia also received other international recognitions, such as from FAO in 1984 and WHO in 1990 for the success of the migration program in Indonesia.

Indonesia's family planning program is mandated by the people. The Indonesian people consult at its assembly, MPR, the highest state organ institute in Indonesia, which established a national planning program, as part of each 5-year development plan. The program should be administrated in an integrated fashion, working together with other development sectors, government, private and the community.

PROGRAM EXPANSION

The 1988 step policy guidelines dictated by MPR for the fifth 5-years' development plan have formulated policy recommendation aim at erasing all labor societies, including loose-leafing in remote areas, and new-ruling in transmigration areas. Even though the reissuing, but clearly improvement of still needed further strengthening and expansion are extremely important in order to affect directly the renewal increase in the number of eligible couple participating in program, the reduction of the fertility and the legal age of first marriage. In accordance with this policy, strong efforts to improve the welfare of family planning acceptor and their families, including their children's welfare and education, are needed. This integrated approach not only allows the acceptor to take part in family planning programs activities but also enable them to enjoy their benefits in their daily life. This policies therefore serves to incorporate the program into the acceptor's life and further strengthen the institutionalization of small, happy, and prosperous family norm.

REINSTITUTIONALIZATION

The reinstitutionalization process of the family planning program in Indonesia, was introduced in the fourth 5-years' development plan, and will continue improvements in the ensuing five years' plan. The support this institutionalization, participation by all groups of society, including professional organizations, social leaders, business organizations is required. Through this process of institutionalization people reach a goal of self-reliance in their family planning, not only economically, but individually and psychologically as well.

PROGRAM INTEGRATION

During the current fifth 5-years' development plan, 1989-1993, the family planning movement in both recently and sparsely populated areas is again tied to produce more opportunities. This sector is particularly important for family planning participants, since the reason for having large families is to increase household income. Finally, equal educational opportunities are important for further family planning acceptance. With increased education, society's understanding and ability to accept new living habits including low fertilities with family planning will improve. Furthermore, more equal education opportunities lead to better work opportunities and distribution of income. Hence improved educational opportunities will win increased acceptance and smooth implementation of family planning programs for both the short and the long-term efforts to control population growth.

SOUTH TO SOUTH COOPERATION

Indonesians have always strongly supported the idea of mutual assistance among countries. Only by exchanging ideas and information and cooperating in policy development and implementation can the limited resources of the world be justly allocated and an appropriate standard of living be guaranteed for each individual. Since Indonesia has been able to achieve a significant success within its family planning program, several areas within the program have been defined as especially relevant to international cooperation especially among developing countries, South to South Cooperation.

The BKKBN International Training Program, known as ITP, launched in 1989, offers three different types of programs for policymakers, program managers, and family planning participants from the international community who wish to learn about the international experience with family planning. These are bilateral Observation Study Tours, OST, multilateral regularly scheduled courses, bilateral and individually-tailored programs. BKKBN's major OST program has been with the family planning program of Bangladesh. Over the past two years nearly 200 local-level community and family-planning program leaders have spent three weeks observing the Indonesian program and planning projects in family planning to improve their own local-level family-planning activities. Besides these regularly scheduled courses, tailor-made courses or study tours can also be arranged on request. For over the past year, for example, 98 individuals from 20 countries have visited accepters of Indonesian individual family programs under their auspices.

The Indonesian family planning program relies from the beginning that the program cannot function without a guaranteed supply of quality contraceptive products and efforts were made to develop facilities to produce them locally. Since 1980, contraceptive

pills have been produced in Indonesia. Indonesia is also self-sufficient in condoms and is now able to produce 900 thousand gross, yearly.

The Indonesian family planning program has already provided technical assistance to several other countries, and would be interested in assisting others in areas as recording and reporting systems, information, education and communications techniques, computerized, including both hard- and software, logistics of contraceptive products supply, community participation in developing countries' family planning program. Where resources are limited, further funds can also be obtained from international donor agencies which are in position to assess the realization of national development goals.

The continued rapid growth in world population, especially in the developing world, the process of uncontrolled immigration, and urbanization, and the increasing degradation of environment everywhere that threatens to darken the face of the world will be left for posterity in the 21st century. As has been stated by experts, population resources and environment are actively linked to the stressed commitment to bring about sustainable relationship between human number resources and development. Therefore we would like to call upon all the developed countries to generously respond positively the request for population assistance and increase significantly the proposition of real development assistance going into population activities including family planning.

Finally, the offer made by Indonesia of now promoting South to South Cooperation family planning program would only be implemented if it gets response accordingly by all donors of providing assistance and other resources necessary. In fact, the name call-on donor has been mentioned in the Amsterdam declaration issued at the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century on 9 November 1989 to observe the proprieties of a national population strategy and seek organized donor financial input and program procedures to support our strategies. As for us, the parliamentarians and community leaders are to undertake political action including legislative measures to stimulate the implementation of such cooperation in family planning programs among developing countries. Thank you.

COUNTRY PAPER: REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Population and Development Policies of Korea

Mr. Young-Soon Shin, M.P.
Member of the National Assembly

Distinguished delegates, fellow parliamentarians, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to present a few words on the population and development policies of the Republic of Korea.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the Republic of Korea was a poverty-stricken country due to its low economic growth rate, mostly dependent on agriculture, and its high population increase rate of 2.88%. However, to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty as well as suppress the population growth rate, the government carried out health care and population and development policies as well as education, which is closely related to the fertility fluctuation. Above all, under the conviction that the population explosion not only placed a heavier financial burden on the nation but also that it deteriorated the social environment and hindered the economic development, the Korean government decided to include family planning works into its economic development policies as part of the first 5-year Economic Development Plan which was implemented in 1962.

From the beginning of these works, the government consolidated the health care network throughout the country. Personnel specializing in family planning were dispatched to each health center and local areas. In addition, contraception was systematically supplied by designating private practitioners as performers of contraceptive operations for family planning. Furthermore, the Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea took charge of educating the people through nation-wide publicity. With such efforts from both the public and private sectors, the family planning works of the government successfully were carried out, having precedence over all other policies.

All expenses following the implementation of family planning was met from the government's budget. Additionally, the government provided a system in which anyone wishing to receive family planning services could do so free of charge.

Distinguished delegates.

To be more specific, in the earlier period of implementing the family planning policies, which was applied since 1962, key methods of contraception were vasectomy and other temporary methods like the condom, diaphragm, and spermicide. However, with the adoption of the IUD and the oral pill as key means of contraception in 1964 and 1968, respectively, the supply of the mentioned temporary methods were stopped, with the exception of the condom. Consequently, the four means of contraception adopted were: the condom, the oral pill, the IUD and operations which include vasectomy and tubal ligation (introduced in 1978).

Since then, the family planning works of our country met a turning point in 1977. To the previous policies of simply applying technical methods in family planning works, social development policies were added, implementing the population development policies. For example, by revising the tax laws, income tax deductions were limited to those with only two children or less.

In other words, by developing various regulations as well as advantages, these policies succeeded in establishing a new value system of preferring lesser children. Especially, in the process of implementing the 5th 5 year Economic Development Plan in 1982, the government took steps in further promoting the family planning works. It was established that as a result of such continuous works, there was a positive correlation between the control of the population growth and the social and economic fluctuations. For this reason, the administration decided to pursue a policy which combine the management of family planning works with progressive policies consolidated social measures.

For example, compensation is provided for those in the lower income group receiving contraceptive operation for their loss of labor hours. Also primary medical services are rendered free of charge for children up to the age of 5 years of families with less than two children and known to have received contraceptive operations. Especially, efforts were exerted to elevating the legal status of women in order to reform the attitude of the people towards male-child preference. As a result of this, parents of a married working woman were entitled to health insurance in her name.

As a consequence of such continuous efforts by the government in implementing the population and development policies, the result were astonishing. First of all, the ideal number of children preferred by married women between the ages of 14 to 44 dropped from the previous figure of 3.9 to 2 in 1988. In addition, during the same period, the contraceptive practice rate rose from 9% to 77.1%. Such figures clearly indicated an elevation in the consciousness of the Korean people towards the population problem.

Next, I would like to turn to the fertility rate of Korea. The fertility rate was 6% in the earlier part of the 1960's, when the population and development policy had just began. However, it dropped to 1.6% in 1984, at the level of the advanced countries.

At the same time, the 1% annual population increase rate which was targeted for 1993 was already realized at the end of the 1980's, well ahead of its time. Should this low fertility rate continue in the future, the present population of approximately 43 million (43,000,000) will stop at the level of 50.19 million in 2020 and from then on, the population increase rate will be 0%.

Accordingly, the family planning works of our country have already turned towards the direction of improving the quality of the population and the reformation of services rather than expanding the supply of contraception for the control of population increase. In order to realize such policies, faithful studies and development of policies in diverse fields including family health care, youth education on population, youth education on sex, balanced distribution of population, and measures for industrial manpower will have to follow.

In conclusion, I can clearly state that the Republic of Korea has succeeded in implementing its population development policies, and it is willing to share these experiences with those countries in the region still concerned about their population problems. Without solving the population problem, neither social development nor economic growth can be achieved. Thus, we must all pay close attention to this important issue to now receive the upcoming 21st century.

For your information, please refer to the tables attached herewith. Thank you very much.

COUNTRY PAPER: MALAYSIA

Malaysian Population Policy, Programs and Issues

Mr. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.

Madam Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First, I would like to convey love and best regards from Mme. Rahmah Osman, the former Deputy Secretary General of AFPPD, who is unable to be with us today, and also to convey the best regards from my fellow Malaysian parliamentarians to the 7th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. Ladies and Gentlemen, I bring two papers which will be distributed to you. One, the title is Malaysian Population Frameworks in the Context of National Development, and another is Population Policy Programs and Issues. This paper is not written by me. It is prepared by the Population Research Center, Malaysian National Population and Family Development Board. It is an agency directly under the Prime Minister Department. So I did not write this paper. Because politicians always talk, others will write the paper.

But anyway, I would like to refer to the second paper, the Population Policy Programs and Issues, to give you an overview of the population in Malaysia. The current population of Malaysia is estimated at 18.01 million, with 14.71 million in peninsular Malaysia, 1.54 million in Sabah, and 1.77 million in Sarawak. The total population has increased to 4.26 million during the period 1980 to 1990 at a rate of 2.5 percent per annum. This rate of growth is higher than that of the world as a whole, i.e. 1.7 percent, and Asia, 1.8 percent. The rate of population growth is expected to decline slightly to 2.3 percent for the next decade. The total population is projected to reach 22.7 million by the year 2000. Compared with the developed countries, ours is still a young population with a median age of 21.2 years. However, concomitant with changes in the democratic process the age structure has been able to be changing as follows:

	1980	1990	2000
Age below 15	40.0%	37.5%	34.8%
Age 15 - 64	56.4%	58.8%	60.8%
Age 65 and above	3.6%	3.7%	4.4%

The wide difference in the rate of population growth by ethnicity and regions, results in substantial changes in the ethnic composition and redistribution of the population. The Bamiputra or the indigenous people's proportion is projected to increase from 62.1% in 1990 to 65.6% in the year 2000. On the other hand, the Chinese and Indian proportion will decrease from 29.4% to 26.6%, and from 8% to 7.3% respectively.

Ladies and gentlemen, one point I would like to mention here is that an examination of the data, if you go through the papers, shows that much of the decline in fertility is due to the reduction of fertility among younger women, owing to postponement in marriage and childbearing. Further, the transition to a smaller family size norm is evident by a dramatic decline of higher order birth among the Chinese and Indians, and to a lesser extent among the Malays. And this is an important point, because Malaysia is a multiracial society, a multiracial population.

Anyway, in recent years there has been some inflows from Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines to the peninsular Malaysia, but the magnitude is not know precisely. In Sabah, the inflows from Indonesia and the Philippines has contributed to the prevailing

high rate of population growth. Internal migration plays a very important role in achieving the objective of the new economic policy in restructuring the society. As a result of rural-urban migration the proportionate shares of Malays in the urban sector has decreased from 27.4% in 1970, 37.9% in 1980, and 45.6% in 1990.

On the national population policy, in the past rapid population growth was seen as posing a problem to ensure adequate employment and resources. And population factors were gradually incorporated in development planning. The population and family help project was implemented in 1970 to enhance family health and family welfare through multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach. There has been a perceptible shift in the role of population since the fourth Malaysian plan, i.e. from 1981 to 1985. The national population has been considered a strong motivating force that provides a reservoir of employable skill which could be utilized for development efforts. Therefore, in 1982, the Prime Minister of Malaysia announced that the country has the resources to support a population of 70 million. Following this announcement, an adhoc committee on population was established to study population issues and make projections.

Upon the recommendation of the committee, the Cabinet accepted a strategy to have a gradual reduction of the fertility rate by 0.1 child every five years. Under this fertility program, the replacement level will be achieved by the year 2070, resulting in the stable population of about 70 million by the year 2100. So we are moving for the population growth, not a decrease in the population.

With reference to another paper, we believe that, and we have adopted, the 1984 International Conference on Population and Development stresses that social and economic development is a central factor in the solution of population and interrelated problems and that population factors are very important in development plans and strategies and have a major impact in the attainment of development objectives. It also states that population and development policies reinforce each other when the response is to individual, family and community needs. Because in Malaysia we believe, no doubt, that population growth will give problems, but, on the other hand, we, too, believe that, being a country with a lot of natural resources, we can provide for more population. So it is unfair to deny the birth of others to enjoy the world that we were given by God. So, as far as Malaysia is concerned, population is not yet a big problem. Madam Chairperson, as far as the paper is concerned, it is too detailed for me to go in depth, but I hope the distinguished delegates can go through them so that you can have a better understanding on the population and development in Malaysia. Thank you very much.

COUNTRY PAPER: PAKISTAN

Population and Development in Pakistan

Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai, Senator

Mr. President and fellow delegates,

I thank over South Korean colleagues for their hospitality and friendship at 7th Asian Parliamentarian Conference on Population and Development Seoul 1991.

I speak here today in dual context that of a woman that of a member of the Parliament.

Asia occupies a special position not only as the most populous region where over sixty per cent of the world's population lives but also for the pioneering role in population issues which its governments, its leaders, including parliamentarians have played in the past. It is to the credit of Asian countries that during the 1950s and early 1960s when the majority of member states of the United Nations were reluctant to acknowledge the implications of rapid population growth. It was they who brought the population issues to the international forums.

Today, the population of Asia has passed the three billion mark overall, the region has made substantial progress in lowering fertility rates. However, much of this decline is due to the success of family planning efforts in East Asia, specially China, which has a population growth rate of 1.4 per cent.

The growth rates for Southern and Western countries to be high, averaging 2.3 per cent. In Pakistan, the growth rate is 3.1 per cent. Even in the countries where fertility rates are declining, present growth rates are considered too high. Maternal mortality rates are also unacceptably high in Asia, though there are regional variations. The infant mortality rates like-wise declined, but remained undesirably high for the region as a whole at 73 per 1000 compared to 13 per 1000 for the more developed regions.

At the First Asian Women Parliamentarians' Conference on Population held in April 1990 in New Delhi. It was pointed out that the risk of maternal mortality is 100 to 200 times greater in Africa or South Asia than in Europe.

Women have major role in development in this region. Women's economic participation and contribution in Asia and Pacific, rates that regardless of development level. But to make investment in women there is an urgent need to change the attitude of decision makers and leaders themselves in favour of equality of status for women.

The population of Pakistan has grown from 16.6 million in 1901 to 32.5 million at the time of independence in 1947. Today it is estimated to be around 110 million.

The total fertility rate in Pakistan is about 6.5 per cent. The difference between the birth and death rates is the rate of natural increase. In the beginning of the century, the population was growing at least 1 per cent per year. Since the birth rate remains high while the death has declined, the rate of the population has increased to over 3 per cent per year today.

In Pakistan the implications of the Seventh Plan started in July 1988, and activities under various programme components have been carried out effectively for two and a half years. The population welfare programme, during this period, in public and private sector has gained momentum in promotional and service delivery activities. In the

current ADP (1990-1991) as well as in the consecutive meeting held in April 1990 in Paris, the Government of Pakistan emphasized the expanding of the programme and improving upon the country- wide services delivery outlets till December 1990, the progress made.

1) The Government of Pakistan has given high priority to population welfare programme by upgrading status of population welfare divisions to that of full-fledged Ministry. In recognition of its priority, the Government made special increase in the size of ADP allocation for 1990-91 to the turn of Rs. 150 million in addition to its normal ADP.

POLITICAL SUPPORT

In view of its great importance, the programme has received support from the previous as well as the present government.

Ministry took a few decision for gearing up PW activities in the large cities.

The science outlets of health developments have been involved in the family planning science-delivery programme.

INVOLVEMENT OF TBAS

NGOs' Coordinating Council for Population has been established in 1985.

COMMUNICATIONS

The IEC strategy has been revised to create programmes visibility through display media and target audience specific programme and messages.

COUNTRY PAPER: PHILIPPINES

Population, Status of Women and Development in the Philippines

Ms. Leticia R. Shahani, Senator

INTRODUCTION

In the Asian region, the Philippines is one of the countries where development has been particularly elusive. It is also one of the few countries in the region where previous population intervention efforts have had limited success. The still unknown and highly-feared impact of the Gulf War is expected to be severe in as much as the country's present reserves do not provide a cushion for economic shocks of any magnitude. The choice, therefore, of strategic development investments is crucial.

The cutting edge of Philippine development must include the inextricable link between population and the status of women. Experience has taught us that ignoring the needs of women have been costly not only to them and to their families but also to their communities. Some of the costs are high population growth rate, infant and child mortality, maternal ill-health and mortality, low family income, limited education and skills, deteriorating environment and in general a poorer quality of life for all.

In spite of their being at the center of the process of development, women have been neglected, usually left with not much choice outside of marriage and childbearing. Bringing women in the mainstream of development means widening her opportunities for participation which can be achieved partly but significantly by freeing her up from dependence on children for status and support. Thus family planning is an important investment for women for it represents freedom where other freedoms flow (Sadik, 1989).

POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING SITUATION

Half of the more than 60 million Filipinos counted during the 1990 census are women. With a growth rate of 2.4 per cent, this means that about 1.4 million people are being added to the Philippine population every year with a slight edge of males over females.

The lower mortality rate among females, however, compensates for their lesser number at birth such that by the time they reach adult ages, there are equal numbers of men and women. The Filipino women live more than 5 years longer than men, on the average. A baby girl born today in the Philippines can expect to live for the next 65.7 years compared to 60 years for males.

Filipino women marry late by Asian standards. Their average age at marriage is about 28 years of age and they marry men who are about two years their senior. This late age of entry into marriage does not deter them from having a lot of children. This is because of their limited practice of family planning. Only about 36 per cent of our married women are practicing family planning with a large proportion using traditional and in effective methods.

This figure, however, hides the other 31 per cent of the women who would like to avail of family planning services but are constrained by a number of reasons. These

difficulties have manifested into the limited success of the Philippine Family Planning Program which failed to do better than a decline in the average number of children of Filipino families from 6.5 to 4.3 after twenty years of program implementation.

HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN

Death rates suggest a biologically-based superiority of women over men and is indicated by a widening gap in life expectancy between the sexes.

This general health indicator, however, hides the many conditions that endanger a woman's health. Most of these health hazards are reproductive-based. Together with the infants and young children, they are the highly-vulnerable group to malnutrition. Anemia prevalence in the country is highest among pregnant and lactating women affecting as much as 51 per cent of them.

Because of the continued high fertility experience of women in the Philippines, sixty three per cent of Filipino women of reproductive age are at especially high risk of maternal complications and dying during pregnancy and delivery. These are very young women (less than 20 years of age) or older women (more than 35 years of age) who face greater danger should they get pregnant especially if their pregnancies are too close to each other (less than 2 years apart) or if they have gone through several childbirths (4 or more previous births).

Estimates show that around 15 per cent of maternal deaths among Filipino mothers can be prevented if high risk women will at least postpone their next pregnancy. Pregnancy prevention among the high risk women allows double bonus in health since we are also expected to realize a 24 per cent reduction in infant deaths. The present infant death rate of 50 per 1000 live births will be reduced to 37 if all subsequent births will be at least two years apart.

WOMEN'S STATUS AND PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT

Many, if not all development strategies benefit from the active participation of women. As a matter of fact many changes in various spheres of life have made corresponding changes in the position of women —although not always for the better.

Statistics, particularly in education, indicate that Filipino women can hold their own vis a vis men. For instance, school enrollment at the elementary and high school levels are equally split between the sexes but there are more women degree holders than men. There is also an increasing blurring of the demarcation among traditionally sex-dominated professions. Through the years, engineering, law and architecture are increasingly being invaded by women. On the other hand, more men are now becoming nurses, medical technologists and pharmacists. This does not mean that we are nearing the resolution of the problem of gender-tracking of professions. In fact, the sex-role stereotyping is being perpetuated in social science textbooks. We are just taking small steps at a time.

More women are now in the labor market. They are slowly claiming a better share of jobs in the country. In general, their employability is getting better. Their comparative advantage in education is translated into their dominance in professional and sales occupations but is not sufficient to get them a fair share vis a vis men in the executive and managerial positions. Less than a fourth of the executive positions in the country are held by women.

In spite of the undeniable presence and contribution of women in production, these are not accounted for in the official work statistics. The present statistical system does not officially recognize the many production activities that women and their daughters do. The fact is whether classified or not as labor force participants, rural women are undeniably out of their homes, undertaking substantial jobs for monetary returns - whether in cash or in kind. They are engaged in almost all agricultural activities - from production to processing to marketing of the produce. It has been estimated that 21 per cent of the farm work is done by women without being credited with economic work. Urban women, on the other hand, are in the informal market - tending sari-sari stores, doing laundry for cash, peddling cooked food. These productive role of women can be gleaned from the official roster in other ways as the dominance of women in the "unpaid family worker" category is quite evident.

It is quite clear therefore that women had taken steps towards their own development. However, certain structural conditions in the society and the economy make it difficult for them to fully develop their potentials by limiting their participation in the labor market. Competitive markets are still largely inaccessible to them. In addition, they remain exposed to unequal and hazardous working conditions in the formal industrial sector. Unequal wage rates for men and women workers can still be found in some sectors and present industrial work situation does not adequately respond yet to the specific needs of women workers.

To summarize, development strategies have, by and large, neglected the gender dimension. By failing to recognize that women and men are not starting on equal footing and that existing systems have sex-biases, development has further marginalized women especially those in poor households in view of their unequal access to production inputs and opportunities. There is therefore a need to increase women's participation in the development process by improving their access to opportunities, resources, development inputs and services. There should also be conscious efforts to integrate their needs and skills in national development policies and plans.

WOMEN IN LAW AND POLICY

The foregoing discussion emphasizes the importance of safeguarding women's welfare and enhancing their status in the society of ensure their maximum contribution to development. It is realized that a first step shall be the full observance of women's equal rights and the elimination of *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination through proper and adequate provisions in the constitution, law and development plans and projects. We need the protection of the law to legitimize women's participation and action.

Towards this end, an analysis of the present legal system was conducted in order to gain insights into the standards and norms for gender equality and women's status in the country with the end in view of identifying possible areas of discrimination.

The Philippine Constitution has many women-specific provisions. It declares that the State "values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights" and gives recognition to the "role of women in nation-building". It further "ensures the fundamental equality before the law of men and women". Together these provisions of the Constitution pave the way for women's liberation from their confinement in the home to the public world and legitimize their equal right to participate in the development process.

Special attention is also given to working women by the Constitution through its provision on the State protection of "working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential and service to the nation." Furthermore, there shall be "priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children." The above provisions allow positive or affirmative action for women's health by recognizing their reproductive function and had been the basis for legislation granting maternity benefits to working women. There is, however, a seeming contradiction about how women are perceived by the Constitution. While their role in nation-building is recognized, women are classified in the same group as the underprivileged and the weak in so far as health and welfare are concerned. This does not augur well for their claim for equality in the work market and in decision-making.

Like the Constitution, the Family Code provides for a more egalitarian relationship between a man and a woman in terms of marriage, administration of marital property, family relations and parental authority. With regard to the power to dispose or encumber community property, the Family Code requires that written consent be obtained from both husband and wife, otherwise the contract is void. The Code, however, does not fully equalize the position of man and woman in the administration and enjoyment of such property. The man's decision prevails in case of disagreement and it gives the burden to the woman to go through a court action for the annulment of the husband's decision.

The Code also governs the relationship of man and women during the contracting for marriage. Under the Code, women have the same right as men to choose a spouse. The requirements to contract marriage are the same for men and women including the required minimum age at marriage which has been placed at 18 years of age. A definite improvement in the old provision of the Civil Code is the right of a married woman to exercise any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity without the consent of the husband and vice versa.

To give teeth to the above provisions against discrimination, Republic Act No. 6725 was enacted in 1989. It declares unlawful for any employer to discriminate against any female employee with respect to terms and conditions of employment solely on account of her sex. Criminal liability for the willful commission of any unlawful act of discrimination against women is punishable with a fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000) or imprisonment of not less than three months but not more than three years, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

In spite of all the laws protecting women, tradition and culture dictate the manner in which the laws are implemented and how they are received by the society. The experience has been that gender-neutral laws continue to operate in a gender-biased society. In addition, the legal education of the population has been obviously lacking. Women who are supposed to be the immediate beneficiaries of these laws are not fully aware and have not used these for their benefit. This is a clear case of socio-cultural changes lagging behind legal and political changes.

Another first in the Philippines is the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan for Women (PDPW). The National Commission of the Role of Filipino Women through extensive and in depth consultation with various groups of women and close coordination with various departments of the government.

The main goal of PDPW is to promote a gender-responsive development by addressing the concerns of women for equality and development across six major spheres: the individual, the family and the existing socio-cultural, economic, political and legal structures. It proposes to take specific measures which when properly and adequately implemented should be able to contribute to:

1. alter the traditional concept of a woman's individual self-worth as being subordinate to men;
2. encourage the formation of families that are characterized by a sharing of responsibilities, from parenting and domestic work to breadwinning and public work;
3. bring about significant changes in the socio-cultural milieu that perpetuates discrimination against women;
4. influence and change the economic system to ensure equal access of men and women to productive opportunities;
5. empower women to fully participate in political structure and processes; and
6. incorporate the concern for women's equality and development into the legal system.

The experiences of the Philippines does not only highlight the significance of population growth management and role of women in national development but also underscore the requirements to synchronize these factors for national development. Broad measures have to be translated into specific goals, targets and time frames. We should learn lessons from countries which have shown successes in their development efforts. In most of these countries priorities have been given to a conscious effort towards population growth rate reduction, human resource development, investments in social services with special attention to the status of women in health, employment and education.

COUNTRY PAPER: SINGAPORE

Population and Development in Singapore

Mr. Sidek bin Saniff, M.P.

Madam Chairperson, ladies and Gentlemen, let me first register my appreciation to APDA for inviting Singapore to this meeting. Second, my appreciation to the Korean parliamentarians for their excellent arrangements and hospitality. Madam Chairperson, I have two copies, rather two papers in front of you. The first is the country paper, made by the Population Planning Unit, Ministry of Health, the other is my speech. I consider my speech as read, and then I will just highlight the most important parts. Bear with me, by respectfully asking you to look into the last leaf of my paper, which is figure 1, Fertility Trend and Population Program in Singapore. If you look at that figure, you will notice that, about the T.F.R. per woman, in 1966 it is about 5-6, it goes down in 1972 to 3, and goes down further in 1975 below replacement, below 2. And because of that, in 1987, a policy division made by our government, then you notice, it is slightly changed, from 1.4, now it is 1.9. Instead of 30,000 babies, we have about 51,000 babies. But you must also understand, maybe in 1991, 1992, we may not produce 50,000, simply because, as stated by Madam Chairperson, of the cultural factor. That 1990 showed up to 51,000, simply because that particular year is the year of the dragon, and according to the Chinese, that year, babies born are excellent babies. They are future leaders, programmers, computer experts, and so on and so forth. So if you notice if, in the following year it declines a bit, that means we have to await another dragon year to short up to slightly better figures of percentage.

Ladies and gentlemen, the crux of my deliberation today is that Singapore is one of the few Asian countries to deviate with the rate from the region's planning paradigm, compelled by our own demographic and social forces, because of that we had to reverse our policy. What I hope, our policy is not that bad, simply because I think it is still in line, as what Sat Paul Mittal M.P. stated in his paper, and I quote, "Time has come people must ensure that their number decreases rather than increases, and this can be done only by preventing births, while preventing deaths." As well as the Bangkok Declaration, which stated, "slowing and actively stabilizing population growth." What had happened is in rapport, is actually, maybe at a certain juncture in 1966, we made a policy division quite drastically, asking out people to stop at two. All of a sudden we found out there is a big gap, now we are asking people to have three, four if you can afford it. In other words, if you were to start at six or seven, and then slowly go down to five, by now, most probably, our position will be about four or three, or maybe four or five. So, in other words, I hope ours is still within the parameter of what was stated by Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, as well as the Bangkok Declaration.

In other words, we have a re-look into our position. The last two pages, let me read for you, that is the crux of our position. We have to reverse the policy, because the government is aware that it may not be as successful as it has been with its population control of the past. To the extent that a small family size rationally compatible with the demands of modern society, then any effort to promote a large family size, however intense and expensive, may bring only modest results. The planning model of Singapore could serve as a useful model of the region. I don't know whether Malaysia concurred with our decision, but it is certainly different from ours. Planners and policymakers should not focus narrowly on magnitude and speed of fertility decline.

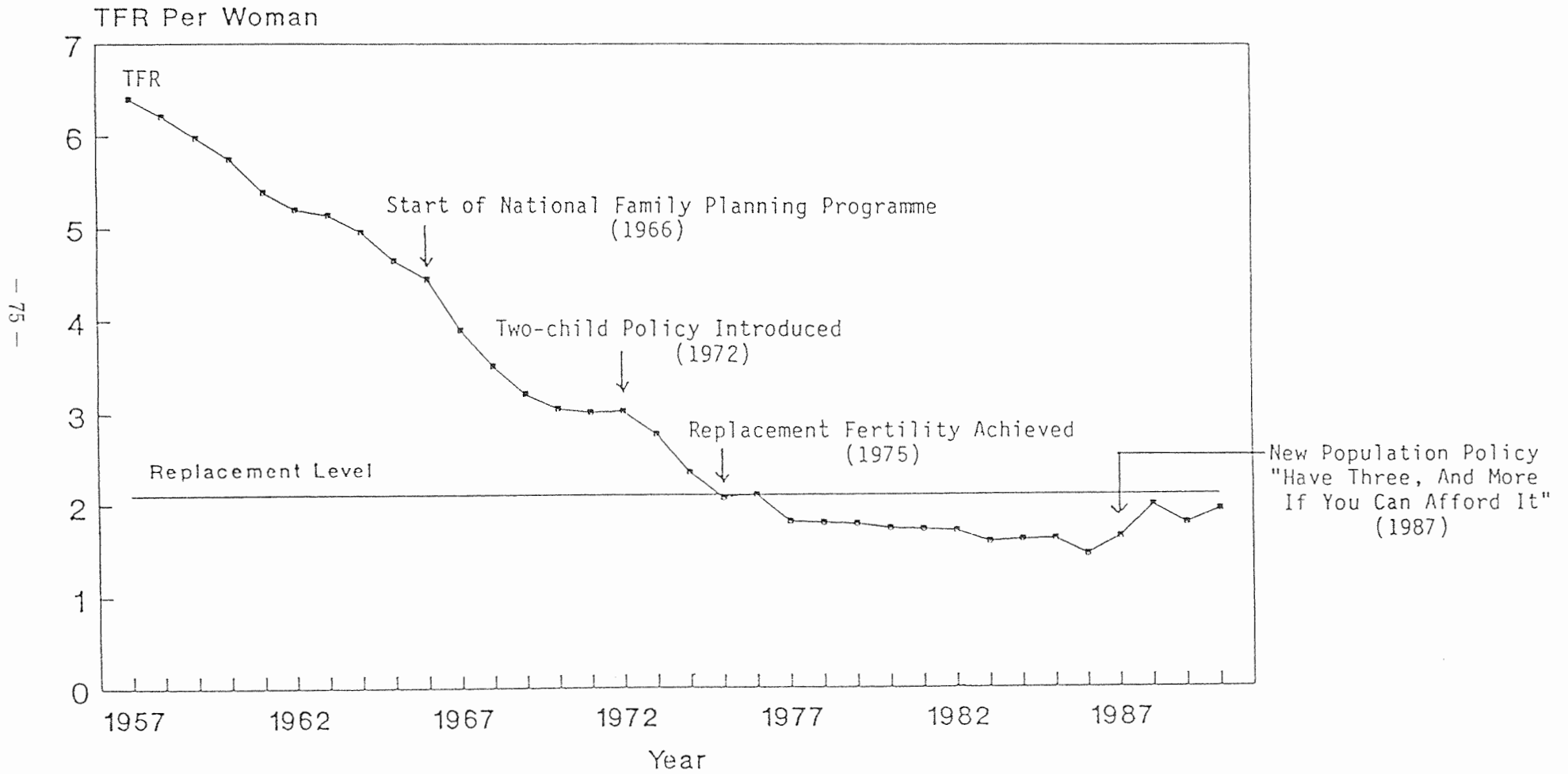
Age structure balance must be given due consideration. It might be advantageous to reduce intensity, the intense family planning effort to allow for more socioeconomic changes, or to allow for a more gradual infertility in tandem with the fertility decline and socioeconomic changes. Indeed, had Singapore reacted earlier to the signal and ease its intense population control program in the late 1970's, its current efforts in revising the population policy might have been much easier. Ladies and gentlemen, I just put to you the crux of our position. The rest, the argument, I noticed by listening attentively, by all my colleagues here, I noticed we have more or less the same problem.

So our deviance is simply because of the demographic and social forces that we need to change. For your information, we have in mind, the next 20 to 30 years, we can afford to have about 4 thousand population. Unlike the 1960's, where our cake was this big, and mice too many, there was an answer as this. But now the cake is bigger, the economic vitality is there, and we think if we were to embark on a very systematic sort of economic plan, and understand the whole conundrum of the matter, the conundrum of issues that made our people just as we are, then I think that we can achieve something better. In fact, for your information, the latest one, there is a committee, we call it IMAC, Immigration Action Committee. We become like the American, the European, some other aggressive cities of the world, from New York to London to Luxembourg to Hong Kong, in competing of getting know-how, people of certain calibre to Singapore. And we are opening our arms, whether they are talented Chinese, or talented Malays like me, or talented Indians coming to our shore, proportionately according to our percentage of our population. In other words, there is bound to be about 76% Chinese, 15% Malays like me, and the rest Indians, and the other communities. And it is a new concept, a totally new idea of inviting people purposely, simply because we think the globe becomes smaller. Just like you and I, we all here, we becomes so small, that I think, instead of talking in terms of "Singapore, Inc.," maybe one of these days we'll call ourselves, "The World, Inc." And we have this world of ours, only one world.

I remember a caricaturist. He won this caricature: A Russian came to the Emigration Office in Russia and stated that he wanted to go abroad. He is a Jew. So the emigration department from Russia said, "Ok, so you want to go to Israel?" Because that is his Number One. "No, no, no, no. Too many problems with Arabs." Then he said, "Would you like to go to America?" – "Oh, I can't find enough jobs there." "Would you like to go to Indonesia?" And he asked, "Can I read from my poetry there?" I don't know whether this has something to do with it. And then, finally, he cannot choose anything. And the man was asking him, "Come on, let me know which country you want to go." And then said he, "Give me the globe, I'll check." Afterwards, he kept on checking, and there is no answer from this particular Russian, I don't know what is his name, but he is a Jew. And then, after a while, he looked at the emigration officer, "Sir, don't you have any other globe?"

Thank you so much.

Figure 1
Fertility Trend and
Population Programme in Singapore



COUNTRY PAPER: SRI LANKA

Demographic Situation Of Sri Lanka

Dr. Neville Fernando, M.P.

INTRODUCTION

The demographic situation of Sri Lanka is one which has improved since the mid 1940s and this improvement has indeed continued in the 1980s: from the beginning of the decade of 1980s to its end, the average annual growth rate has declined from 1.8 to 1.4 percent; the birth rate has fallen from 28.4 to 21.3 births per 1000 population; the total fertility rate (TFR) has dropped from 3.4 to near 2.5 children per woman; the infant mortality rate has declined from 34.4 to 19.4 deaths per 1000 births; the neonatal mortality rate has declined from 22.7 to about 16 deaths per 1000 births and maternal mortality rate stayed at a low of about 0.6 per 1000 births.

An emerging feature is that consequent upon the lowering of fertility levels that have continued in the past, the age structure of the population is changing from that of a very young population to a gradually maturing one. This demographic change, commonly known as aging, has both immediate and long term implications on the relative emphasis to be placed on the various needs of the young, the children, the women, the youth, and the aged.

This paper describes briefly the demographic changes that have taken place in recent years and outlines the likely future trends with respect to population growth and changes in the age structure.

POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH

The total population of Sri Lanka is estimated to have reached 17.1 million in mid 1990. The annual increase of population, annual rate of growth, annual rate of natural increase and its components - the crude birth rate and the death rate - in the last 10 years are given in Table 1 and illustrated in charts 1 and 2.

During the last 10 years, the country's population has increased by 2 million through annual additions of the order of 200 to 250 thousands. An important factor affecting growth during this period has been emigration, particularly in the first half of the decade and rate of growth has shown a steady decline from near 2 percent to about 1.3 percent. In the year 1981 the rate of growth was 1.9 percent, but it would have been as high as 2.2 percent in the absence of emigration, and in the year 1984, the rate of growth was 1.3 percent, but it would have been 1.9 percent in the absence of emigration. Towards the second half of the decade, however, there has been a reduction of emigration and the growth was by and large determined by the natural increase.

The rate of natural increase, which is the excess of the birth rate over the death rate, itself has declined as a result of a continued decline in the crude birth rate from 28.4 births per 1000 in 1980 to 21.3 in 1989 while crude death rate remained almost static near 6.0 deaths per 1000 population. Thus, a sustained decline in birth rates complemented by a large rate of emigration - which has even exceeded the death rate in 1983 - has lowered the growth rate of Sri Lanka to the current level of 1.5 percent. This is still a high growth rate and well above the 1 percent level viewed as a target for countries in the region.

Should the flow of emigration be arrested or reversed the growth rate could well start to rise both through its direct effect and through the indirect effect of adding to the number of births.

MORTALITY TRENDS, PATTERNS AND CAUSES

Source of information on levels and trends of mortality in Sri Lanka is primarily the vital registration system which provide annual estimates of crude death rates, infant, neonatal, and maternal mortality rate. While the registration system provides mortality rates at national and district level, it does not provide socioeconomic differentials. Some indication of such differentials are available for the 1980s from the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 1987.

MORTALITY TRENDS

The crude death rate at the beginning of the decade was 6.2 per 1000 population and has not changed much in the subsequent years. Nor has there been a systematic or substantial trend in the absolute number of deaths, which has fluctuated from just under 90,000 to a little over 100,000 during the course of the decade (see Table 1). The static trend of crude death rate does not, however, indicate a lack of improvement of mortality conditions, for this measure tends to increase when the proportion of the elderly increases.

Better measures of mortality such as the summary index of life expectancy at birth or mortality at specific ages indicate the actual levels and trends in mortality. Sri Lanka's life expectancy at birth in 1981 was 67.6 years, with a female life expectancy of 72.1 years which is 4.5 years in excess of the male life expectancy. Values of life expectancy are not available for subsequent years. Yet, infant mortality and neonatal mortality indicate a degree of improvement in the mortality levels. The infant mortality rate which was 34.4 deaths per 1000 births in 1980 has progressed steadily to a level of 19.4 by 1988, accompanied by a drop in the neonatal mortality rate from 22.7 to 16.2 deaths per 1000 live births by 1985 as seen in Table 2.

Alternative estimates of infant and child mortality, available from the Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey given in Table 3 shows that the average infant mortality rate for the 5 year period 1982-1987 was 25.4 per 1000, while child mortality was 9.5 which implies a mortality rate of 34.6 per 1000 among children under 5 years of age. These levels are compared with the situation during the period 1977-81 in the same Table.

Between the last decade and the present, the infant mortality has been brought down by one third while child mortality which was already at low levels has been reduced by ten percent. Both infant and child mortality have improved somewhat more among girls than boys, thus further widening the sex differential which had recently changed in favor of females.

VARIATION OF MORTALITY AMONG POPULATION SUBGROUPS

Both infant and child mortality, which have been brought down to reasonably low levels for the country as a whole, are still considerably disparate between subgroups of population. There exist some subgroups who experience considerably high mortality levels among children. Main characteristics identified in recent surveys as being closely

associated with levels of mortality are education of mother and place of residence. These mortality differentials are seen in Table 4.

Communities where women have low levels of education - particularly, no education at all - have their children far more vulnerable to early mortality than others. Children whose mothers have had no schooling have experienced infant mortality rates as high as 52 per 1000 which is more than 2 1/2 times that of children whose mothers have received tertiary education. Child mortality (one to four years) too has been exceptionally high (20 deaths per 1000) among children of mothers who have had no schooling at all relative to those with tertiary education (6.5 deaths per 1000). Thus, mother's education, has had a strong association with reductions in infant and child mortality. The low average IMR of 19.7 achieved by the tertiary education group indicates the scope of improvement possible for the primary and secondary education groups from their levels over 30.

Type of place of residence has been identified as another social factor influencing infant and child mortality. Infant mortality is higher in the urban areas than in the rural areas while child mortality is higher in the rural areas. Both infant and child mortality are highest in the estates.

FERTILITY TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DIFFERENTIALS

Information on levels of fertility in 1980s are available from the 1981 population census, the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey of 1982, and the Demographic and Health Survey of 1987 the coverage of which excluded the seven northern and eastern districts.

FERTILITY TRENDS

Sri Lanka's Fertility decline which started in early 1960s showed disconcerting signs of stalling, even rising, in the second half of 1970s when the total fertility rate was about 3.4 children per woman. By early 1980s, however, the declining trend was picked up. As shown in Table 5, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to an average level of 2.8 during the period 1982-87. Evidence from the pilot census for the 1991 census suggests that it has reached a level of nearly 2.4 children per women by 1989.

The total fertility rate is a synthetic measure which can be interpreted as the number of children a woman would have if she survived throughout the reproductive period and she experienced the same age specific fertility rates that all women are currently experiencing. The drop in overall fertility between 1970s and mid 1980s was a result primarily of declines at older ages, above 30 years. In contrast, more recent decline from early to late 1990s seems to be due to very substantial declines at younger ages. These age specific declines in fertility can be seen in Chart 3.

During the period 1984 through 1987, the Colombo city and the greater Colombo urban areas have had the lowest total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman; estates have had the highest fertility levels of 3.3 closely followed by the rain-fed and irrigated dry areas; the rural areas, as a whole, had a TFR of 2.8 (see Table 6).

The fertility decline in Sri Lanka has been brought about at the initial stages by and large through a phenomenal increase in the age at first marriage of women to a peak level of 25 years. Rise in age at marriage was responsible for over half (52.6 percent) of the fertility decline between 1963 and 1981, but its contribution was only about one fifth (27.6 percent) of the decline between 1971 and 1981. Further declines in fertility therefore have resulted increasingly from reductions in marital fertility which accompanied a

considerable increase in contraceptive use from a level of about 54 percent in 1981 to 63 percent in 1987.

In as much as fertility behavior of women have changed in the past, women in child bearing ages do have definite views on their future child bearing. Approximately 75 percent of women with only one child wants another but only about 30 percent with 2 children wants a third child. Less than 10 percent with 3 or more children desire to have another child. Younger women in child bearing years consider the ideal number of children as 2 or 3 although differences exist such as, rural and estate women, and women of lower levels of education report higher ideal family sizes than urban women or better educated women as seen Table 7 and Chart 4. The large majority of children of the future years will, therefore, be growing up in families with one or two siblings.

Thus, the firm desires of women for 1 or 2 or children, the high use of contraceptives in association with other factors suggests further declines of fertility towards TFR of 2 children in the near future.

EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH

The recent population projections for Sri Lanka prepared by the Department of Census and Statistics show that by the year 2001, the country's population will reach the 20 million mark. Further, even if replacement fertility is reached by the year 2001, and will continue to remain thereafter the growth in absolute numbers will continue until about 2040 by which time the total population will have reached about 24 million.

Even more significant than the growth in overall size of the population, is the differential growth of the various age groups. The older age groups would be growing faster than the younger ages. As a result, the age composition would change towards an older configuration. This process of aging is an emerging demographic situation in Sri Lanka. The short term magnitude of the change can be seen in Table 8 and chart 5 which compares the age structure in 1981 with that of 2001. In 1981, the age composition was a broad based, gradually tapering pyramid typical of a young population; in 2001 it would be a dagoba with a reduced base, a slightly bulging middle and a tapering but broader apex.

The most impressive growth would be that of the aged-those 65 years and over. Their number will increase from just over half million in 1981 to 1.1 million in 2011 and their share from 4.3 to 5.8 percent. The growth of the aged stands in strong contrast with the growth of the children under 5 years whose numerical size would in fact be slowly decreasing after 1991. The opposing trends of growth of these two extreme age groups is seen in chart 6. The aged who were about one third the number of children under 5 years in 1981 will be about two thirds the number of children by 2001 and in fact, will exceed them by the year 2011.

The working ages of 15 to 64 years will also grow quite rapidly and the growth of the older segment of the work force will be faster than the younger which in turn would be more rapid than the growth of the children 5 to 14 years. These trends of differential growth are seen in chart 7.

This demographic change that is now underway in Sri Lanka and has already been experienced by many other countries forewarns the policy makers, among other things, of a change on the demands on the social infrastructure. The children of the country whose number has reached the unprecedented high peak of about 5.4 million would remain at

this level with marginal declines during the next 5 to 10 years. Hence, in the immediate future the quantum of services with respect to primary education, and primary health care will need to continue by and large unabated. The children of years to come, however, will be children of small families – mostly two siblings, or even one child – for whom the parents aspiration for quality of education, health and living conditions would be high. Thus, while maintaining the quantitative requirements almost at the same level more varied and better quality of services will be required.

Widely felt consequences will arise in the near future as the young adults moving to the home making and working ages will increase and with them, the number of households to be formed. The demand for maternal health, family planning services, household consumption too will continue to increase. So would the demand for employment - employment increasingly compatible with education. The natural tendency would be an increasing need for opportunities for vocational, technical and professional education and matching employment.

A significant impact will be felt in the expanding work force from 10.9 million at present to 13.3 million in the next 10 years. This change is also a critical opportunity to be harnessed to promote economic growth. As the share of working ages gradually expands and the dependent young (children under 15 years) decreases, even though the dependent old increases, (those 65 years and over) the dependency ratio will be declining as seen in Chart. By the year 2001 the dependency ratio (the number of dependents to 100 persons of working ages) will have reduced to 48.3 percent from the 66.8 percent it was in 1981. In the subsequently years it will, in fact turn upwards as the increasing old dependency will override the gains in declining young dependency.

Thus, despite a slowing growth rate, because of the continuation of the increase in absolute numbers, in the course of the next several years, the demand for food, health, housing, education, family planning and social services will continue to increase. Yet, the demographic trends will produce, in the short run, a decreasing dependency - especially young age dependency - a situation which could be effectively harnessed in the next few years for promotion of economic growth. To put this situation to optimal use while meeting the continued increase in demand for various population related services is a challenge to the policy makers.

Chart 1
Average Annual Growth Rate And Rate of Natural Increase: 1980-1989

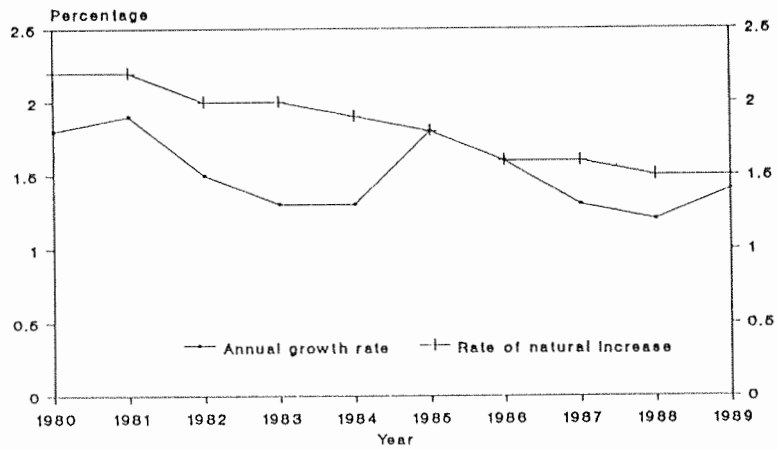


Chart 3
Changes in the Age Pattern of Fertility
1974-1989

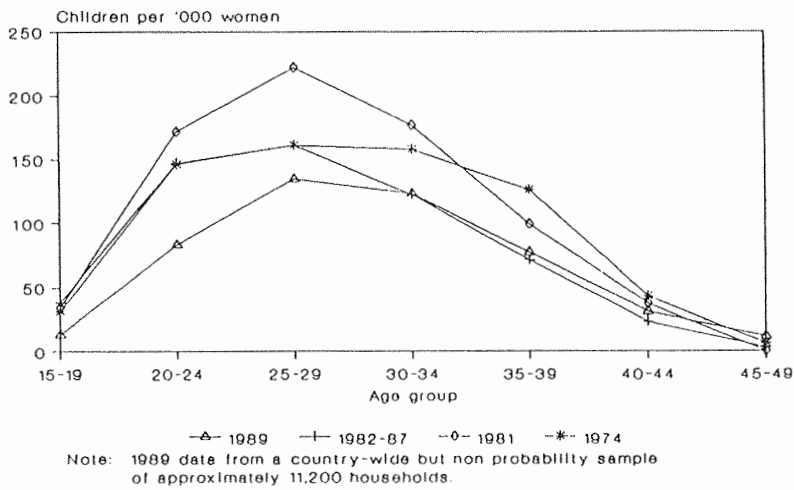


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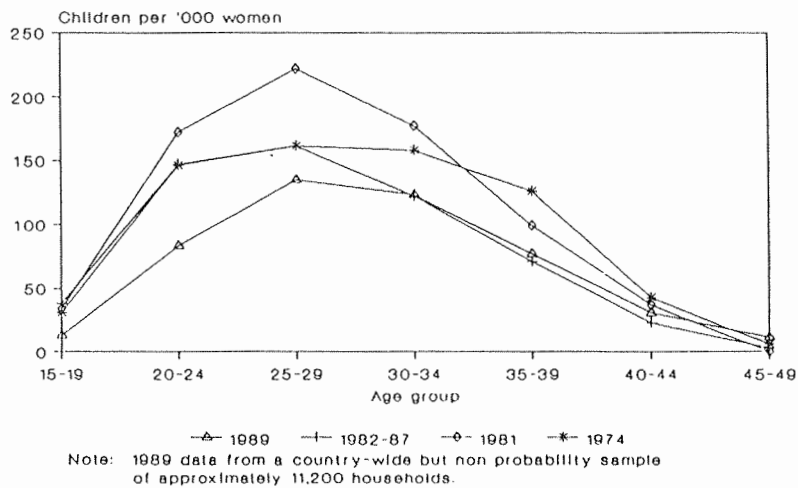


Chart 4

Mean Ideal Number of Children by Sector and Education

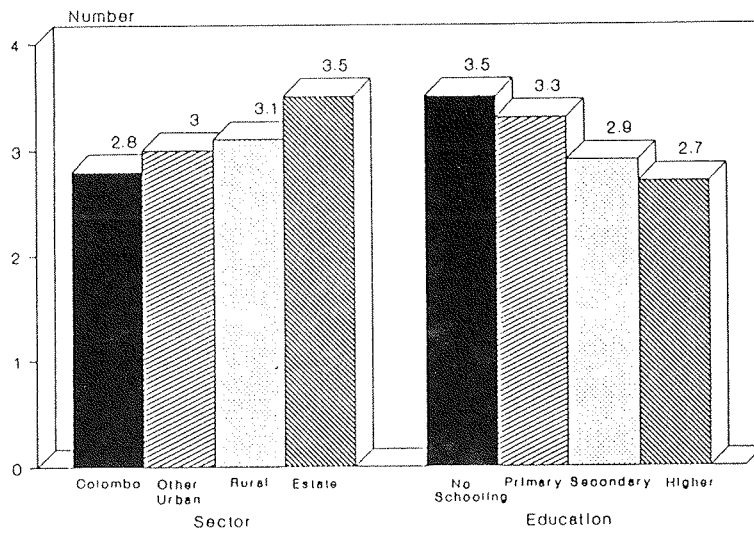


Chart 5

AGE STRUCTURE: 1981 and 2001

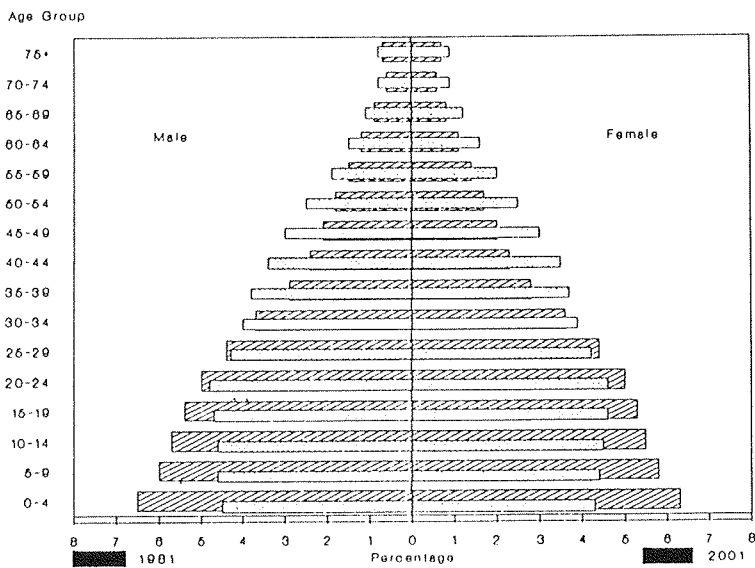


Chart 6

Comparison of the Projected Numerical Increase of 0-4 and 65+ Age Groups

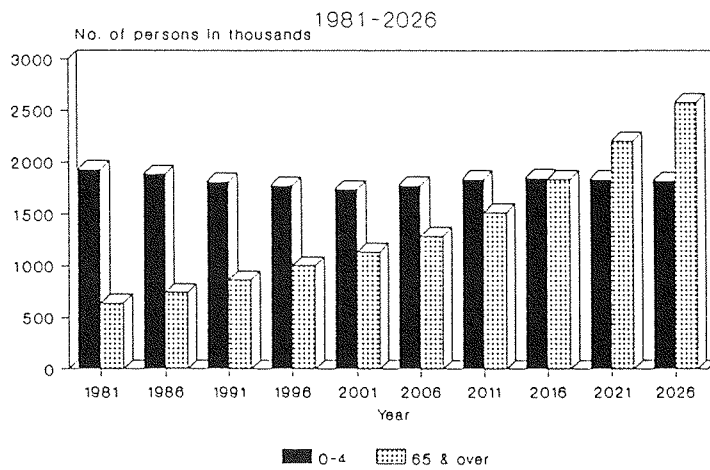


Chart 7
Projected Growth of Age Groups:
1981-2001

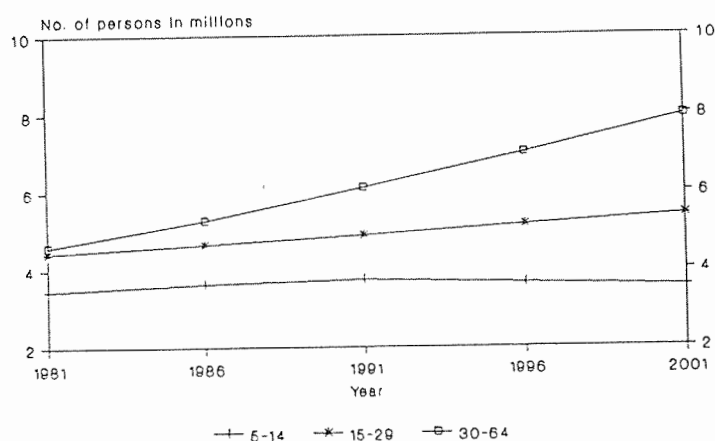


Table 1. Population Growth Parameters of Sri Lanka : 1980-1989
(per 1000 live births)

Year	Estimated mid year population ('000)	Annual growth rate (%)	Rate of natural increase (%)	Number of births	Crude birth rate	Number of deaths	Crude death rate
1980	14747	1.8	2.2	418373	28.4	91020	6.2
1981	15011	1.9	2.2	423793	28.2	88481	5.9
1982	15195	1.5	2.0	408895	26.5	92244	6.1
1983	15417	1.3	2.0	405122	26.3	95174	6.2
1984	15603	1.3	1.9	391064	25.1	100669	6.5
1985	15842	1.8	1.8	389559	24.6	98013	6.2
1986*	16117	1.6	1.6	359328	22.3	96052	6.0
1987*	16361	1.3	1.6	358130	21.9	96515	5.9
1988*	16586	1.2	1.5	343692	20.7	96536	5.8
1989*	16806	1.4	1.5	357964	21.3	104590	6.2

* Provisional estimates

Source : Registrar General's Department

Table 2. Infant, Neonatal and Maternal Mortality Rates of Sri Lanka: 1980 - 1988

Year	Infant mortality rate	Neonatal mortality rate	Maternal mortality rate
1980	34.4	22.7	0.6
1981	29.5	19.1	0.6
1982	30.5	18.1	0.6
1983	28.4	17.3	0.6
1984	27.2	17.7	0.4
1985	24.2	16.2	0.5
1986*	22.6	n.a	n.a
1987*	24.0	n.a	n.a
1988*	19.4	n.a	n.a

* Provisional estimates
n.a - Not available

Source : Registrar General's Department

Table 3. Infant and Child Mortality : 1977-1981 and 1982-1987

	1977 - 81	1982 - 87	Percent decline
Male			
Infant mortality	48.0	31.2	35
Child mortality	10.5	9.8	7
Under 5 mortality	58.0	40.6	30
Female			
Infant mortality	30.2	18.8	38
Child mortality	10.6	9.2	13
Under 5 mortality	40.4	27.8	31
Total			
Infant mortality	39.2	25.4	35
Child mortality	10.6	9.5	10
Under 5 mortality	49.3	34.6	30

Source : Department of Census and Statistics (1988). Demographic and Health Survey, 1987

Table 4. Infant and Child Mortality by Place of Residence and Mothers Education for the Ten Year Period 1977 - 1987*

Background characteristic	Infant mortality	Child mortality	Under five mortality
Sector			
Colombo	32.8	6.8	39.4
Other urban	36.5	4.3	40.6
Rural	29.9	10.3	39.9
Estate	57.5	16.5	73.1
Mother's Education			
No schooling	52.3	20.0	71.3
Primary	33.8	9.4	42.9
Secondary	32.0	9.3	41.1
More than secondary	19.7	6.5	26.0
Total	32.4	10.0	42.1

Source : Department of Census and Statistics (1988). Demographic and Health Survey 1987.

Table 5. Age Specific and Total Fertility Rates During 1970s and 1980s

Age	1974 ^a	1981 ^b	1982 - 87 ^c
15 -19	31	34	38
20 -24	146	172	147
25 -29	161	222	161
30 -34	158	177	122
35 -39	126	99	71
40 -44	43	37	23
45 -49	6	0	3
Total	3.4	3.7	2.8

a. Based on Sri Lanka World Fertility Survey, 1975

b. Based on Sri Lanka Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, 1982

c. Based on Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey, 1987

d. Based on Pilot Survey for the 1991 Census, 1990

Table 6. The Total Fertility Rate by Sector and Area of Residence

Sector and area	Mean children Ever born per woman 45 - 49 years
Sector	
Colombo city	2.1
Other urban	2.1
Rural	2.8
Estate	3.3
Area of Residence	
Colombo city	2.1
Greater Colombo	2.3
South-western coastal districts	2.5
The lower south-central hills	2.6
The irrigated dry area	2.7
The rainfed dry area	3.1
The upper south-central hills	3.2
Total	2.7

Note 1. The data presented exclude the northern and eastern districts.

2. The areas given here correspond to survey zones 1 to 7 in that order.

Source: Department of Census and Statistics (1988). Demographic and Health Survey 1987. Demographic and Health Survey, 1987.

Table 7. Mean Ideal Number of Children by Age, Sector and Education.

Background characteristic	Mean ideal number of children
15 - 19	2.5
20 - 24	2.6
25 - 29	2.7
30 - 34	3.0
35 - 39	3.1
40 - 44	3.5
45 - 49	3.8
Sector	
Colombo	2.8
Other urban	3.0
Rural	3.1
Estate	3.3
Education	
No education	3.5
Primary	3.3
Secondary	2.9
More than secondary	2.7
All	3.1

Source: Department of Census and Statistics (1988). Demographic and Health Survey, 1987.

Table 8. Projected Population by Broad Age Groups: 1981 - 2001 (In thousands)

Age Group	1981		1991		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 - 4	1926.2	12.8	1809.6	10.4	1736.7	8.8
5 - 14	3460.5	23.0	3740.1	21.5	3557.8	18.0
15 - 49	7707.6	51.2	9313.5	53.5	10988.6	55.6
50 - 64	1311.8	8.7	1671.2	9.6	2340.6	11.8
65 +	640.4	4.3	868.1	5.0	1137.8	5.8
Total	15046.5	100.0	17402.5	100.0	19761.5	100.0

* Enumerated at the 1991 census

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, 26 February 1991

Chairperson: Hon. Leticia Ramos Shahani, M.P.

Chairperson's Address

Ms. Leticia R. Shahani, M.P.

I propose that we move on to the next item, which is a discussion of the Bangkok Declaration, and any of the points which you feel were important enough which were raised in this morning's meeting, and this afternoon and also yesterday, could be raised here, so that we could have some suggestions on how we, as parliamentarians can implement this very important document. But before we go into the Bangkok Declaration, I would like to draw your attention to an important issue. Because I was not able to attend the executive committee meeting last Sunday due to difficulties in plane transportation. And we were supposed to take up at that executive meeting the establishment of the Standing Committee on Women's Affairs. As you know, it was decided at the meeting in Bangkok last year that there will be established a Standing Committee on Women's Affairs of the Asian Forum on Population and Development. And due to the shortness of time, and I mentioned this briefly at our breakfast meeting, I suggest the following procedures so that we can establish the Standing Committee on Women's Affairs. The following is, this here is just a suggestion, that every country represented here, or every national committee represented here, should nominate one woman member of the Standing Committee on Women's Affairs. And this communication should be relayed to me in the Philippines in my capacity as vice-chairman and one who is also specifically in charge of women's affairs. I will be giving you my address, or I can ask the secretary to provide you my address. There are three parties who can make denomination. One is the member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Forum. I think I'll ask Aoki-san if she could be good enough, she is a very active member of the Secretariat of the APDA, to give please us the names of the countries who are members of the Executive Committee of the Asian Forum. I give you the floor.

Yes, of course, it should be a woman member, but I suppose all countries have woman parliamentarians.

Ms. AOKI

Thank you, Mme. Chairperson.

Japan, India, China, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Australia. Yes, that's all. Thank you.

Ms. SHAHANI

So these countries, therefore, the members of these countries whose chairman sits in the Executive Committee, should be the ones to sign the letter. Now, if you are not a member of the Executive Committee, the letter should be signed by the chairman of your own population group, the chairman of your own national population committee, in your parliament. Or else, if you don't have a chairman of your national group, it should be signed, or denominations should be made by the speaker of your National Assembly. I am saying this so that the person who is nominated should have some standing. It is not just anybody who will nominate the member to the Standing Committee for Women's Affairs. I hope that is clear and then, if I get the names of the members of the Standing Committee, then I should be communicating to them what, in my view, we

should be thinking about, and before a major event of the Asian Forum on Population and Development, we should schedule that meeting which we already approved in principle this morning. I hope that that is clear. All right. This is now also part of the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration.

May we, therefore go to the Bangkok Declaration, which is before you, and I think when you talk about implementation, I guess it would be page 3 which would interest us, this is the actual program of action, and then on page 8, there are those specific steps which parliamentarians should be able to undertake, not only as lawmakers, you see, the making of laws, but also as personalities who can mobilize public opinion, who have a following in the voluntary organizations, and if you will notice, on page 9, there are two major events, which is mentioned here, the Asian Pacific Population Conference, and Indonesia is the host government for this Asian Pacific Population Conference in 1992. So I think the Asian Forum can also make an input into this very important conference, which will take place in a country which has been recognized by the entire world, they have made a major contribution in the field of population. And there is also the International Meeting on Population in 1994. You see, this is the pattern of the U.N., they hold regional meetings for two years before the International Conference. So I am sure that in 1992 there will be regional meetings for Africa, Latin America, Western Asia, and Asia will have its own.

Maybe, Aoki-san, you can tell us the other major conferences which will also take place and I think we should know in order that we would exactly know where we would be making our inputs so far as the Executive Committee is concerned. I think this was given at the Executive Committee meeting, if I'm not mistaken.

Ms. AOKI

Thank you, Mme. Chairperson.

In 1992, the Tenth Anniversary AFPPD (Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development).

In 1992, the Asian and Pacific Population Conference, as you mentioned.

In June of 1992, in Brazil, the International Conference on Environment.

In 1993, the Fourth General Assembly of AFPPD.

In 1994, the United Nations International Meeting on Population.

Thank you.

Ms. SHAHANI

You might be designated as members of these delegations, and I think it will be important for us to know them, so at least for us the work of the Asian Forum will be known, and we shall be making some inputs in these important conferences, which have a direct bearing on Population and Development.

Well, I think what is needed here, is, before we adjourn this afternoon, we could maybe identify some measures which we, as legislators of the Asian Region, should be able to do. We really don't have much time. We have, really, a whole hour to do it. In terms both of legislation and mobilizing of public opinion. Yes, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Indonesia.

DR. NARO

Mme. Chairperson, and distinguished guests. To support the Bangkok Declaration, I would like to say a few words. First, thank you very much to the host country and APDA for this well-organized meeting.

Indonesia has launched its family planning program since 1970. It is, internationally recognized, one of the successful family planning programs in the developing countries. Our president was awarded by the United Nations a Population Award Medal in 1989, even though Indonesia is still working hard to reach NRR=1 in the year 2000, in order to achieve stable population in the year 2050, with a total population about 250 and 300 million. As far as population policy in Indonesia, we also try to redistribute the population through the transmigration program. According to the National Assembly, the highest institution in the country, this endeavor is to deploy manpower evenly, redistribute population, raising the standard of living, expanding, the employment and economic opportunities.

The overall development program is also able to reduce the poverty. According to the World Bank Report, the incidence of poverty in Indonesia declined from 30% in 1984 to about 22% in 1987. Although serious challenge, is the environment since 1983, Indonesia has a state minister who is specifically responsible on population and environment. Our development program at the present time is to prepare property and implemented it carefully not to damage the environment. The development pattern is to be sustainable in participating in nature. Considering the environment degradation is the problem of the whole world. Indonesia is of the opinion that it should be tackled by all human beings and require a close cooperation between developing and more developed countries. Our rule as parliamentarians, according to my view, is to encourage our own government to strengthen their mutual cooperation in dealing the population development and environment problem for the benefit of all people in the whole world. Thank you very much.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. Well, I think if I may summarize up some very good suggestion here, which is to link environment and population, as they have done in Indonesia, where they have a Ministry of Environment and Population. Maybe we could have that as a suggestion, not in the sense of establishing a Ministry, but in linking these two very important issues. And I think the other one is the close cooperation between developed and developing countries in the field of environmental protection. If this acceptable, then I think that we can take these as two concrete methods in implementing the Bangkok Declaration. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Naro.

DR. PANEZAI

Yes, Mme. Chairperson. To support the Bangkok Declaration I would like to add some recommendation. Because yesterday some of my colleague from Japan and different countries have mentioned that this is not the problem of only population. It is a problem of economic development as well. It is concerned with this. If I think the Asian countries will establish this Asian Pacific Trade Bloc, definitely these countries will get a good bargain for their products in the West. And by this action, definitely, we will get something for our product in our area. I can give the member... and we will definitely get rid of this monopoly of the Western countries. I can give you our support in this

thing. We can get something for our products, and it will go to our agricultural field, to our industrialization trend. Thank you.

Ms. SHAHANI

You mean, a greater trading cooperation among the Asian region? I think there is nothing objectionable there. I think Malaysia has spearheaded a move to form the East Asia Trading Group. That the Minister of Trade has been traveling around the Asian to establish that. Is it acceptable in principle? It is something in principle, and it is not saying we are unhappy with the Uruguay round of talks -- I don't think that we will go into that, or that we want to support protectionism, but I think we will just express the hope that there will be greater intratrading and exchange of goods within the Asian Region.

DR. PANEZAI

I think Japan is very established country in this region. If Japan will give its support to this recommendation, definitely... It is up to the legislation, up to the government on how to make it, but it is some recommendation. If you can consider this, in this region, definitely, we would be in a better position then.

Ms. SHAHANI

Is this acceptable? Well this is part of development. You know, we are talking about population and development...

DR. PANEZAI

No, I'm talking about development and economics. At least we can get something for our trade.

Ms. SHAHANI

Yes. Could we have any comments on this? Of course, trade is always, when you come down to the concrete issues, it becomes a question of negotiations. Yes, Japan has the floor.

Ms. HIRONAKA

My name is Hironaka. As there are many representatives here from Japan, I would like to give an opinion as an individual instead of as a Japanese representative.

The outbreak of the Gulf War raised a question on the method of Japan's contribution in particular, and we are making our utmost effort to dwell on this matter.

Personally, I would like to see Japan's financial contribution spent on peace-related matters such as the environment, population problems, eradication of poverty, dissolution of illiteracy and education instead of on military-related matters.

The amount of ODA from Japan has now become the largest in the world and is expected to keep increasing in the future. Up to now, however, the assistance has been spent on infrastructure such as major roads, bridges, cultural centers and buildings. I admit that they are also of high importance and have no intention of negating them.

However, the reality that such money does not permeate all the way down to many of the grass roots projects that really need assistance still remains.

It is an issue that has been discussed often, but for the public office in Japan that is offering assistance, it is offering its assistance on a request basis. Since assistance will not be provided until the request is made, Japan cannot offer it by attaching certain conditions nor can it instruct the recipients to spend it on education or for the environment.

This kind of dilemma exists. Therefore, it is very important for the countries that are receiving assistance to give more consideration to such dilemma, and request assistance that will permeate to grass roots level. This will include diffusion of education on primary and secondary levels. In this context, environmental issues are of equal importance as was discussed in this morning's discussion.

Although the amount of assistance from Japan is increasing significantly, the number of people taking part in assistance is small. For instance, JICA, which is an organization affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is run by only over 1,000 people. The number of staff is very small even in comparison with the World Bank. Therefore, I think it is very important for each country to cooperate more with Japan and present to Japan the true problems that they have. I think that the dialogue should increase, and I also intend to approach the Japanese Government to provide more assistance that will permeate to the grass roots level.

MR. ABOOSARILLY

May I make a comment on that? I, while appreciating what Madam has said, and from Sri Lanka's point of view, thanking Japan for all the assistance it has given, as member of the government, they have given us gifts in the form of a large hospital, workshops, and also a lot of infrastructure work, our telephones, our roads, on a contract basis, have been done. You are speaking about the country's own contribution. I humbly suggest that while you give these grants and also aids, that you persuade your industrialists to establish either ventures in less developed countries, or joint ventures. Because industrialization of less developed countries, like us, Bangladesh, Maldives, and other countries, will help women to get into industries. And where women do get into industries, you find population decreasing. So this is a suggestion I would make. Because you are making a large amount of money and you are giving it in the form of gifts. For instance, now you have built a 1001-bed hospital, free. Appreciating that, but it does not contribute to employment as such, in the way that I am thinking of. There is a potential for industrial investments from developed countries into the less developed countries.

That applies to Korea as well, because they also come in in a big way, due to the large amount of contracts. But then they go away, after three years or four years, all that labor goes back, and then again you have trouble. But if you do invest in permanent industries, either in joint ventures with government or with private people, or on your own, I think it will be a better form of investment while helping the population programs of the country.

Ms. HIRONAKA

I think a request like that is very important. However, I feel that such voices of the local people are not fully heard by the Japanese Government. I think that the local people will have to make further efforts in this regard.

As parliamentarians, we will also give such advice to the Government, but the reality up to now has been that the Government does not take action until the request is made. Therefore, I think it is very significant for all of you to raise your voices with regard to assistance you would want to receive.

Ms. SHAHANI

Well I think this is a useful exchange. The reason why donor governments insist on giving aid on the request of the recipient government, is to make sure that they are not interfering in the domestic affairs of the recipient government. So, I think we could make a very useful recommendation here that donor and recipient countries in terms of official development assistance should improve their means of dialogue to ensure that official development of human resources, and not so much of infrastructure, and also so that the assistance will lead to investments, which, in turn, will lead into employment, which, in turn, will help in lowering population. I think something to that effect, all right?

And maybe, this forum could be also part of the framework for dialogue. I agree with Hironaka-san that sometimes it's very hard to get to the bureaucrats who are so busy in the development process, but if these illustrations, as you've heard from our Sri Lankan colleagues, could be repeated in the halls of the government offices in Tokyo, then I think it would be very useful for all of us. Yes, this is an important topic, official development assistance. I think, in this region we have Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, giving official ODA, and then Indonesia mentioned South/South Cooperation. Philippines participates in South/South Exchange, we collaborate with India on small-scale industry. And we hope to profit from a South/South Exchange with Indonesia. So I think that these kind of relationships could also be encouraged, and I think within the parliamentary forum, since we have the power to investigate, question, fiscalize, we really have the right to find out how effective these relationships are. Well, another point which you may wish to bring out which you feel, as lawmakers, are important? Yes, Korea, have the floor.

MR. YOUNG-KI AHN

The Han River is being polluted. The water pollution is becoming a very serious problem. The cause of this can be traced back about 200 km upstream where approximately 12,000 small and big size factories along the bank are polluting the water. Presently, our country is carrying out various types of measures to prevent such pollutions like the installation of wastewater and other waste product disposal plants. However, further development of such pollutions are unable to be controlled as yet.

As we improve our anti-pollution measures, we will provide to our neighbors in the Asian region information about our technology on our successful cases, thus contributing to the welfare of mankind especially in the population development problem. Also, our country will pay closer attention to the AFPPD Meetings in the future and will have more of our members attend such meetings.

And as I have stated earlier, we will provide the necessary information as well as actively participate in the exchange of technological and financial support regarding this matter. Thank you very much.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. So there is a specific suggestion that there should be greater exchange among countries of the region on the technology of antipollution measures. But I think the assistance that you should be interested in, in this forum, should not just really be financial assistance, but exchange of experience, information, techniques, etc. because, I think, if viewed that way, the exchange is richer and more dynamic. I'd also like to recognize Dr. Young Soon-Shin, I think she had raised her hand earlier.

DR. YOUNG-SOON SHIN

Thank you for the excellent comments presented by the participating members.

As you all know, the population of Asia is 3/5th that of the world. Considering this fact, the Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development is indeed very important. The Bangkok Declaration certainly contains many important and valuable words and to add to them I would like to present a few words.

I would like to speak keeping in mind that a closer cooperation among the parliamentarians of the region is needed in the future. In this sense, first regarding the development problem, to be more concrete, information concerning the relevant laws and policies should be exchanged among the countries. This should be done in the form of publications exchanges. With regard to the development issue, a means of training specialists in the field should be sought with the exchanges of ideas among the regional countries.

And finally, in forming a population fund, we should all be willing to provide assistance to the developing countries. In addition, those countries with plenty of experience regarding population and family planning should provide technological support to the developing countries in training their people about family planning. To this end, we should join our efforts in devising such methods.

Thank you very much.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. I think this is a very useful addition to what we mean by aid, in addition to financial aid, Dr. Young has mentioned, really, exchange among the parliamentarians of this Asian Forum, there is also a suggestion of a trainer of experts, and she also added more financial aid to developing countries. Well, maybe at a future meeting of the Asian Forum, a paper could be prepared on this matter, of the actual situation of aid in the field of population and development as it takes place in our region. It should not only be the flow of assistance from the developed to the developing countries, but should also include a South/South Cooperation. So I hope the Secretariat of our Forum is listening, and takes into account this suggestion, because I think this is one way of keeping the relationships among us parliamentarians on a solid basis, so that we just don't know each other socially, but we actually know what exchanges are taking place between our individual countries and the region as a whole. Thank you. I'd like to recognize Congressman Paras from the Philippines.

MR. PARAS

Mme. Chairperson, thank you. I'm very glad that this forum has recognized the inevitable linkage between the degradation of the environment and the growth in population. I'd like to cite the experience in our country, especially in the metropolis, in the Manila area, where studies disclosed that about 70% of environmental pollution is not caused by industry, but rather by the population around Metro Manila. In other words, 70% of the pollution is caused by domestic waste. And, similarly, 70% of the air pollution is not caused by industry, but by vehicles. So it is easily seen, therefore, that unabated growth of population can lead to environmental degradation. Again, in the field of forestry, the unabated assault on the dwindling forests in our country is caused by the runaway population growth in our uplands. This is traced to poverty and to overpopulation.

So it can easily be seen that environmental degradation is inevitably linked to unabated population growth. Now I should like avail of this forum to suggest, especially to our industrialized neighbors, that perhaps they can help us, not only financially, but also to suggest to their industries not to export or to dump their industrial wastes or industrial substances to underdeveloped countries, which are ill-equipped to deal with these not-so-useful substances. Also, in retrospect to our natural resources, we also suggest that industrialized countries should also minimize their need to import our dwindling forest resources. Actually, right now, although our country has already banned the export of logs, but still there are unscrupulous private persons, private companies in other countries who connive with our unscrupulous businessmen, also, in getting our really scarce forest resources. This is not officially being sanctioned by our country, and I am sure that this is not officially sanctioned by the importing country. So maybe along this line we can help by suggesting to our entrepreneurs to minimize these uncalled for practices.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you, Congressman Paras. I think that the useful suggestion which certainly we parliamentarians between developed and developing countries can undertake. Thank you very much. Yes, the gentleman from Japan?

MR. SANJI

We have received various suggestions and reports with regard to the Bangkok Declaration, and there were points which Japan needed to reconsider. Therefore, I would like to explain to you what Japan is doing and ask for your understanding.

Japan is currently experiencing a serious shortage of manpower, particularly that of the young, and industries that require large employment, most of which are small and medium enterprises, are very eager to invest overseas for this reason. I am sure you will be receiving a considerable number of business negotiations in the future.

As you may know, it is caused not only by the difference in wages but by the absolute shortage of labor force. Industries cannot survive unless they can hire people, and they are trying to advance outside of Japan for this reason.

As you have pointed out, companies have been advancing to the U.S. and have invested large amount of money there because the purpose was to make profit. However, the

trend which is emerging recently is to go overseas, particularly to Asian countries, to secure labor force.

There was also talk about ODA. It is true that, due to immaturity on the part of Japan, we are unable to determine whether the assistance from Japan is really contributing to the lives of the people, and that decisions are made without questioning the requests that are made by the recipient countries, resulting in problems such as pollution and cancellation of plant construction due to resistance from local residents.

Regarding this point, there still exists a shortage of a system that screens and studies whether the requests made by the recipient countries are really useful. It is for this reason that the effectiveness of the large sum of money that is being spent with hopes of truly helping those countries has currently become the subject of discussion at the Diet.

As for the environmental issues brought up by the representative from Korea and Philippines, we are also discussing in the Diet about the excessive deforestation in Philippines and Malaysia. As a result, a plan to recycle resources, the so-called movement for collection of paper resources, is becoming very active in Japan at the moment. Although it is more expensive, people are trying to produce paper by recycling paper in Japan instead of producing paper from imported lumber. In addition, recycling waste will reduce waste disposal and lead to protection of the environment.

This is turning into a major movement, and the Ministry of Welfare has submitted a legislation for coping with the waste disposal problem to the coming ordinary session. There are studies that are being conducted in Japan on effective utilization and recycling of resources as well as on various efforts for regeneration of resources in the Philippines, Malaysia and Amazon region of Brazil, although we do not yet know whether the assistance will be provided in the form of ODA or as Peace Corps volunteers.

Regarding protection of the environment, there has been significant improvement in Japan in the waste generated from corporate sources as a result of strict regulations imposed on them by the government. For instance, electric power companies are generating electricity by using liquefied natural gas instead of coal or petroleum to reduce air pollution.

Considerable improvements have been made with regard to industrial waste as well, but the most serious environment problem in Japan right now is the waste from home sources. The reality is that national average of sewerage diffusion is still only about 40% in Japan, and sewage from ordinary homes is contaminating the rivers and the lakes.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. I think this is a very useful exchange. I think we have two colleagues from Japan who would wish to talk.

MR. AZUMA

My name is Shozo Azuma. Just I would like to address somewhat regarding the environmental matters. Already Dr. Kuroda mentioned in this meeting the linkage between pollution, environment, and worldly development utilizing a very famous concept of sustainable development. And I would say that I was really very pleased that the importance of the factor of environment was emphasized clearly in the Bangkok Declaration. Already, some of the representatives from many world countries pointed out about the internal and domestic environmental matters. However, I would like to

express here, that the environmental world problems is now beyond the national borders, beyond national sovereignty. As you might know, last year is the environmental most critical year from the chlorofluorocarbons effect on ozone point of view. As you know, in the early years of the 1980's, at the South Pole, the ozone hole was found. As well as last year, in February of 1990, the ozone hole was also found at the North Pole. As you might know, the main factor of destroying this ozone is the use of chlorofluorocarbons. And there were many international conferences in which they were trying to avoid the use of chlorofluorocarbons, and Japan also, only recently revised a bill in which in order to abolish these materials until the year 2000. However, in these conferences sometimes I note that there are many so-called developing countries that are not participating in these conferences. And there are still scientific activities that should be developed more and more. However, in fact, as I said, already our globe – which is living... as humankind is – the globe itself has been damaged. Then I would like to stress that, although each country has its own internal environmental problems, however, if we ignore the environmental problems which are circulated throughout the world, then we will fail at everything, at the population program, as well as at economic growth. Thank you very much.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. I am glad that we were reminded that in the Bangkok Declaration there is the mention of sustainable relationship between population and the environment. And I think, if I hear no objections, we could also adopt the notion of sustainable development, which is really being able to give to the succeeding generations a kind of ecosystem which would also support their own life systems. There is another gentleman here from Japan, and then Singapore.

DR. TAKAKUWA

I would like to talk about two points from the standpoint of a researcher. One is the problem of pollution. In Japan, the rapid industrialization gave rise to pollution. Needless to say, they were mostly health disorders. Then Japan started to make all possible efforts to prevent pollution. These efforts bore fruit in our country in the form of the Pollution Control Act.

Therefore, because of the experience it has had, Japan thinks that it has the technology for preventing kinds of pollutions that have been discussed up to now. So, I think that technical assistance can be provided through mutual agreement.

For instance, there was talk about water in the Philippines. Water was also very polluted in Japan. But thanks to the movement called "Salmon Come Back," most rivers have recovered to the extent that salmon is starting to come back.

Waste water from home sources was also discussed – that public sewer system is not necessarily developed in Japan. Then the measure that is being taken to clean this up is the project to build what is called a collective septic tank on a regional basis. This collective septic tank is provided under subsidy to regions that are demarcated by population in units of thousands, rather than tens of thousands. I feel that this is a kind of technology that will contribute to the improvement of regional water quality.

Another effort is made in the area of pollution control. We had a discussion about ODA, but there is something I regret very much on this subject as an expert.

It is the fact that Japan is being criticized for exporting pollution despite the assistance that it has provided through ODA. I would like to point out the reasons behind such criticism.

In Japan, environmental assessment has not been legislated on a national level. I have mentioned this over and over at the Diet, but it has not materialized yet. Therefore, it means that environmental assessment cannot be conducted on a national level. It is being done on a municipal level, though.

Nevertheless, it is not implemented on a national level. If there is national assessment law, any ODA assistance should be assessed according to that law before it is offered. The response I keep getting is that there is no binding power because no environmental assessment law exists on a national level.

Another important matter is the fact that, when there is no legislation regulating pollution in a country, the plants that are built through ODA assistance are allowed to operate until they start emitting pollution. It is the result of such process that Japan is condemned for exporting pollution. I think that the lack of legislation in the countries that are receiving assistance can also be used as an excuse by the corporate people.

As Japan is being prosecuted as a result of all this, I would like to say to you from the standpoint of an expert that each country should have the legislation and technology for environmental assessment. If there is an assessment system in each country with legislation that prohibits emission of such and such item beyond certain level, then I expect that the problem of pollution will not occur when ODA assistance is offered from Japan.

Population is another problem. And I would also like to speak once again about prevention of AIDS. According to WHO, 100 million people will contract AIDS by the end of this century and 10 million of them will die. Since no methods of prevention or treatment are available, the number of those contracting AIDS will obviously keep increasing.

Generally speaking, there are three methods of family planning; use of pill, use of condom and sterilization. Among them, only condom has preventive effect against AIDS. That is why I feel that the use of condom should be further increased instead of pills and sterilization when promoting family planning.

As the use of pills is not permitted in Japan, the only means of family planning available would be condom and sterilization. The use of condom is very popular in Japan for this reason. As a result, even though Japan is a developed country, the number of AIDS patients in Japan is only about 370 and those who contracted AIDS about 100 times that figure, which is considerably small compared to other developed countries.

I think that condom should be made more popular from the standpoint of AIDS-related family planning. This is my advice as an expert.

Ms. SHAHANI

Thank you. I would just like to repeat some of the important points. I suggest maybe there should be an exchange of legislation among all members of the Asian Forum, legislation that has been done in terms of population and environment, and I am just wondering whether the Secretariat of the Asian Forum can facilitate this regular exchange of legislation in these areas. Also, Japan has said that there can be transfer of

antipollution technology, and that, I think is also something we can work towards, and that donor countries are required to give a certain percentage of the ODA towards environmental protection. I think the U.S. Congress, by the way, already demands this, that any ODA given by the U.S. government should have an environmental protection dimension. I think this is important, the relationship between AIDS and also family planning. Maybe, at a future meeting, some of the countries affected by AIDS could bring this up, the use of condoms. Well, I might also bring to your attention that the soldiers in the Gulf area used condoms to protect their guns from the desert dust. I think that is a new purpose of the condom. We have, as our last speaker, a colleague from Singapore, and I neglected to say that the honorable Bina Saniff is the senior parliamentary secretary of the Ministry of Education. You have the floor, and I think that you will have the last word, because you will be the last speaker.

MR. SANIFF

Mme. Chairperson. First and foremost, I would like to say that the Bangkok Declaration is a significant document. My congratulations to those participants that managed to amalgamate such an important document. Second, whenever we talk about population, pollution and environment, I always remember the former United Nations Chairman of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). His name is Eugene Castro (no relation to Fidel Castro). He once said, after looking at the population problem, "If there is no war, human beings refrain from conflict, his committee, the World Body, can produce food, ten times the population."

Madam Chairperson, I hope that I have this little bit of luxury of romancing in the realm of philosophy, hopefully as, if you will let us, as politician, we can make it a policy, and later on, as a plan of action. What we need, is, really, a political will. Not because I'm in education, that I sort of put education as number one, that whatever is the problem in the world, it boils down to education. Whether it is the Japanese society, the Korean society, my society, your society, all the world societies. A society must exist from the sociological point of view, because of three important elements: first, you must have the aggregate of the individuals, like you and I, our scientists, rickshaw pullers, taxi drivers, every single person must contribute. Second, we must have a good organized system, a good systematic organization. And thirdly, we must have the feeling of esprit de corps, of being together, you'll respect me, I'll respect you, you'll invest in my country, make sure that you will also open your door for investment in your country, that sort of mutual respect.

But society, including the world society, cannot exist by mere existence. We must exist strongly. The world society must exist strongly. In order to have a strong society, you must strengthen the structure of that society. And that structure is faith. Have faith between human beings. Trust. Respect. And so forth. Strengthening of the social culture. Cultural... we have some documents, like the lady from Korea suggested, most probably, or you yourself, or the lady from Japan, you must strengthen our administrative position, the structure of our organization, our economic structure, whether this GATT, whether this Round Table, Uruguay, whatever it is, and, finally, which concerns you and I, mostly, is the political culture, the political strength. Because I always believe, your job, our job is really to give our people bread and butter. Basically, that is what politics is all about: you will give our people bread and butter. Some people have more bread, less butter, some more bread, more butter, some less bread, less butter, but some have bread and butter and jam at the same time. They got

more. But some have a little bit butter, sometimes no bread, no butter, but a lot of jam. But this time it is not the jam that you and I eat for breakfast every morning. This is the political jam. Followed with economic jam and, finally, social jam. The problem is that, up to now, the conflict never jammed, the gun never jammed, the shooting never stopped.

After the First World War, they said, no more war, and then there was the Second World War. Between the Second World War and the present time, more than a hundred wars happened. And that is what Eugene Castro was saying. That money can be used, can be most useful to upgrade the human being. And, finally, ladies and gentlemen, politics is not just bread and butter alone. Politics must be morally packed with the development of mankind and humanity. It is not just power, you know. Of course, you need power in order to govern. Yes, but to me it is not just power. Worse, the win-all craving of power. And I think if this is what we really agree, our task, this, we'll also agree, must be turned into policy, must be turned into action, and hopefully – you know that in the Arab language "human being," man, means "forgetful," they say "an-Nisien(?)," "forgetful." And I think that we are very forgetful creatures. After the First World War, we forgot about the dangers of war, and we have another war. After that, another war, and now, this war. And I am quite sure they will say, "No more wars," but after that there will be more wars. Hopefully not. Hopefully this is the last time we learn our lesson, and put together our minds for something more useful.

Everybody will benefit, everybody got it. And I think that, as I said just now, we have only one world, we have only one globe, and that globe must be looked after by all of us. I'm sorry, Madam Chairperson, if I'm too luxuriously romancing the philosophy of this, but I hope that we can come up with a concrete policy and action. Thank you.

MS. SHAHANI

Well, I think that was a statement of the politician becoming imbued with philosophical, moral, and a cultural vision, which I think, is very useful for this group, because it is not always, as you said, a bread and butter issue. I see Mr. Fernando raising his hand, and I believe the Koreans have one more speaker, and one more from Japan would like to speak before Dr. Park takes the floor. Yes, Mr. Fernando.

DR. FERNANDO

Thank you Madame. I would like to respond to the Japanese delegation. They alluded to the fact that we had almost a civil war in our country about two years ago. But today things have come back to normal. That group has finally been eliminated, so that in the south there is absolutely nothing to worry about. I am saying this as a member of the opposition, not as a member of the government. So, it is very safe for any investor to come to Sri Lanka. Also, I must, referring to the position in the north and east, I must thank the government of India for taking a positive stand to prevent any militant Tamils having a base in India. They have been thrown out lock, stock and barrel, and now their government has been destroyed by the Center for giving them help. So, with better India-Sri Lanka relations, and with peace in almost 100% of the country, we call upon all investors, especially Japan, Korea, who have a lot of investments, all of them to come to Sri Lanka and help us solve our population problems.

Ms. SAHANI

May I call upon Dr. Choe of Korea?

DR. CHOE

Thank you so much, Mme. Chairperson. I am somewhat reluctant to mention it, but let me add a small comment so that this conference can be utilized for reference purposes. What I would like to add is that, usually, the national policy itself has to be based on fact-finding. Whatever the information backup, statistical data, all kind of backup data has to be based on the fact itself. The reason why I'm talking about this thing is that data backup is so important. And the data backup itself is not sufficient. It is always lagging behind the situation in each country, particularly in developing societies. It may be exceptional in the case of Japan. But for all of us, usually, data backup is not strong enough to formulate policies. Therefore I suggest that international donors, such as JICA, could organize some sort of international activity to make data backup updated. What I mean is that, available data is not really comparable when you come to cultural background, or all kinds of other backgrounding. So it may be a good idea to technical people coming to this kind of activity, to set a some sort of Asian standard for information collection procedure. Something like that can be developed. And also, in this sense, I must say that Japan is not really active in this field, such as JICA could develop an internationally comparable survey or analysis activities. This reason is from the side of the research institutes. Thank you so much.

Ms. SHAHANI

Thank you. Well, I think that this is a useful suggestion for a more updated data backup research. And I think we should put that as a suggestion, but I does not mean that it is the Asian Forum which should implement it. I feel it should be more research institutes and international aid organizations. I think the gentleman from India... Well, I see the representative of the Women's Institute raising her hand, so I think I'm biased towards her. I'll give her the floor before I give the floor to the gentleman from India.

Ms. WHA-SOON BYUN

I am a researcher from the Republic of Korea. For the past two days, it was very instructive to see the population problem from a developmental and environmental point of view. However, if we read the Indian paper, we can see that this issue in connection to the woman issue cannot be ignored either. The task force which is talked about in page 6 of the mentioned paper is certainly a great idea. Taking a close look at the paper, we can see that there are seven items beginning with "(1) Promotion of maternal care and child health, (2) Changing the traditional pattern of nuptiality in order to delay marriage and reproduction till the optional age span of early twenties." Whether these items can be observed by each nation is also a very important matter that needs our close attention.

I would like to propose that in the next meeting it is shocked whether this task force is fully carrying out its responsibilities.

The reason for this is because not only is the developmental and economic aspect of population important but is also the family and the role of the woman.

I would like to conclude my remarks.

MS. SHAHANI

Thank you. So this is a reiteration of the role of women in population and development. Thank you. Yes, our colleague from India has the floor.

INDIA

There are various legislations in different countries regarding family planning and family welfare measures. And some measures taken in a developing country, a big country like India, have not yielded any fruits. And in some countries they are very successful. And whether an assessment can be made of all the implementation of these legislations in different Asian countries, then a model legislation can be proposed, that are generally acceptable, not in all details, and along all the lines, which can even be referred to foreign assistance, pollution control, and development aspects. And model legislations, on broad terms, not of details, can be any particular community, technical experts coming from different comparatively developed countries, to assist reforms, and what assistance can be given to some of the more deserving countries of Asia. That is one aspect. As far as the pollution, environmental situation is concerned, I'm glad in my country there is a separate state ministry, headed by a state minister in charge of the environment, and the stress is only in regard to the environment of maintaining the forests and the natural environment, not vis-a-vis the population control or the problems relating to the population. Much has to be done in that regard. And we will certainly take assistance from the developed countries, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and other places so far as the environmental aspect is concerned. Thank you.

MS. SHAHANI

Well, that is a useful suggestion, but I really doubt that our secretary can undertake such a major undertaking of assessing the effectivity of the implementation of legislation. But, anyway, I think we always have to be positive. I think the exchange of legislation is possible. I suggest that every member sends to the APDA Secretariat any legislation which they think is of importance in the field of population, women's rights, family, etc., and let us see if APDA will have the capability to send this to all of us for our review. And, maybe, we could, later on, interest and international agency to make this assessment of the legislation in specific countries, and, as our friend from India says – but to make a master legislation, I don't know, Asia is so varied, and I doubt that it would be possible to have regional plan of legislation. But, nevertheless, I think what our colleague is saying is, let us profit from each other's experience and then learn. If, maybe, I could make a suggestion for the organization of our next APDA meeting.

I think, instead of reading out our country papers, this could be distributed in advance, and we could read it at leisure. And what is more important, as I see it this afternoon, is the actual exchange of – because this is where the controversy is, there is some controversy in our relations in the Asian region. We are parliamentarians, we like to talk. It is a pity that we are so silent during the morning meeting, just listening politely to a country paper. Maybe the secretariat and executive committee of the forum can restructure our proceedings. These country papers can be given out as background papers. Let us identify for the identify for the next meeting some of the vital issues, even controversial, so that we can discuss this openly among ourselves, and we can act as real parliamentarians of the region. This is how I would really see it.

Now before I give the floor to our colleague from Korea for the closing remarks, I know Mr. Mittal is leaving now, he is going to take the plane for Bangkok. Since he is such a major figure in the Asian Forum, I wonder whether he would say a few words before he takes his leave.

MR. MITTAL

Thank you very much. I've all along been feeling since morning that we have to change our pattern, our system. Mere presentation of these papers is of no avail. They could be circulated well in advance, for each other's benefit. The idea is to exchange experiences, information, and, of course, in terms of the country papers, it is something which is, more or less, a feedback from that from our governments. This forum should be more devoted towards active exchange of views on the floor. That would help us stimulate ourselves, each other, as also enliven the discussions. And while we are discussing the basic strength of democracy, while we are discussing, something productive already marches out of it. So, instead of the presentation of papers, I know all agree with you, Madam Chairperson, we should give more opportunities, and we should rather provoke each one of us to participate to say something, because by that process we could benefit from each other's views.

Thank you very much, I don't think I have to say much, except that we are growing. The Asian Forum family is growing. We have started with only eight members, if you recall, way back in 1981. And we are now this many. Whereas we are trying to stabilize population, we are not trying to stabilize the population of the Asian Forum. We want this family to grow more and more. And we should try to have more members. Those members who do not have the membership status today, those who are on a special invitation, or those who have come as observers, we should try to encourage them to promote, within their own countries, active forums or active groups of parliamentarians who could be involved in the process of formulation and implementation of the population policies, because, luckily, in the Asian region, practically each country has one or the other kind of family planning policy, today, with the support of parliamentarians as elected representatives of the people, because that is what is our focus. Leading merely to bureaucracy would be suicidal, if I may be permitted to say that, it would not be very productive.

You have to involve the elected representatives of the people, who are close to the masses at the grass-roots level, and, in case it is possible, the Indonesian example is before us, where the local mullah, the religious leader, has been motivated, and he participates in a big way in a village gathering, or in a local gathering, promoting family planning as a concept conducive to the welfare of the family, the community, the society and the country. We should all try to formulate policies and programs in such a manner, that we, in conjunction with, in coordination with, other volunteer organizations, more so the religious leaders, who sometimes are misunderstood as opposing the program, which actually may not be a fact. We should try to create a harmony between the two parliamentarians on one side, and spiritual leaders on the other, because when you look at both these constituencies, they are the people who are closest to the grass-roots masses. Spiritual leaders and parliamentary leaders, masses at the grass-roots, they interact with both of these in some or the other form, it's a daily kind of a routine. If there could be some kind of a harmonious relationship between these two, things could change in Asia. So I would urge my fellow members and colleagues to help in the promotion of the growth of this family, the Asian Forum family,

and the day is not far off, when Asia, which has given birth to this movement, and which has spread all over the world today, will be the leader again. Thank you very much, Madame.

Ms. SHAHANI

Thank you, Mr. Mittal. I think that should be really a decision of the executive committee to modify the structure of the future meetings and give more priority to the exchange of views. So may we wish you a happy trip, Mr. Mittal, and I think I will also see Mme. Hironaka leaving. We say sayonara, happy trip and we hope that we will see each other again. Thank you, Mr. Mittal.

Closing Session

Tuesday, 26 February 1991

Closing Remarks

Mr. Chung-Soo Park, M.P.
Vice President of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children,
Population and Development

Mme. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Development, it is my distinct pleasure and honor to have this opportunity to speak to you as we near the end of the 7th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

Before any country can begin to truly enjoy the bountiful fruits of economic and social progress, an effective solution to the problems brought on by population expansion must be sought and instituted. These problems are all the more serious in the Asian countries that have experienced painful transformations from traditional agrarian societies in need of large labor forces to industrialized ones. The process gave rise to "urban exodus" where significant portions of the rural population began to pour into the cities. And this phenomenon caused grave social problems for the urban centers in terms of food, education, employment, housing, traffic and the environment.

As such, the population problem is closely interrelated with political, social and cultural issues and thus, finding the solution to it requires much more than the efforts by a handful of politicians and scholars. Any attempt to find an effective answer to the problem should be focused on two levels: on the domestic front, a campaign to integrate the efforts of the government and the public must be waged while on the international level, close cooperation and collaboration between countries is sought. And it is my belief that our shared dedication to this common goal is what brought us together today.

While two days is certainly not long enough for us to cover this crucial issue in adequate depth and breadth, I do believe that through our focused and dedicated efforts we were able to accomplish much. All of us gathered here are all too aware of the importance of the task that we have undertaken. And thanks in large measure to the fruitful debates and discussions that have taken place during the past two days, we are one step closer to finding an effective answer to the population problem. Taking this opportunity, I offer my sincere gratitude to the parliamentary delegates from fellow Asian nations, renowned scholars and other distinguished participants for your insightful comments and thoughts on this most crucial issue. I sincerely hope that our small gathering has helped the nations in this corner of the world move a step closer to finding a solution to the population problem and in doing so, opening the way to a glorious new century of peace and prosperity in the Pacific region.

In closing, I hope that this meeting has served as a basis for strengthening cooperative ties among Korea's CPD, Japan's APDA, and AFPPD and also between concerned parliamentarians and organizations of regional nations.

Thank you.

List of Participants
of
The Seventh Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting
on Population and Development
Seoul, Republic of Korea

List of Participants

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