

***Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development
on the Integration of Population Issues
into National Development Frameworks***



*Kingdom of Cambodia
22-25 January 2013*

Overview

From 22-25 January 2013, *The Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks* took place in Cambodia. It was co-organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), and had the support of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It is a project which aims to enhance the capacity of Asian and African parliamentarians in their duties of legislation, budget-making, representation and oversight. The project also hopes to foster partnerships and networking to further collective efforts in addressing existing and emerging population issues.

The importance of the role of parliamentarians and of their involvement in ODA processes was underlined through APDA's three-year project that ran from 2009 to 2011, *The Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development Issues*. As elected representatives, parliamentarians have a crucial role in acting as catalysts between government and the people to ensure that resources are allocated and utilized in ways that meet actual public needs. To this end, capacity building, both individual and institutional, is of prime importance.

Cambodia has recorded remarkable achievements in the field of population and development since the reestablishment of peace. Strong partnership ties have been nurtured between Japan and Cambodia through Japan's comprehensive assistance to Cambodia. This has included support for legal and judicial reforms, which have served to lay the groundwork for Cambodia's long-term reconstruction and development.

CAPPD, established in 2000 with support from the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), UNFPA and APDA, has contributed to the progress of Cambodia through policy-making, legislation and implementation of programmes in accordance with the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Their good practices and exemplary experiences were presented during the meeting and study visit and directly enhanced the participants' learning experience, by allowing for a programme both theoretical and practical in nature.

The Meeting and Study Visit project was praised by the Asian and African participants as inspiring and successful, for which appreciation was expressed to the Government of Japan. Participants also stressed the need for continuity of APDA's initiative in tackling population issues in order to achieve sustainable development.



Project Synopsis

Day 1: Meeting

○ Opening Ceremony

"Address of the Organizer"

H.E. Dr. Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Read by **H.E. Masafumi Kuroki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan**

I would like to welcome the holding of this meeting on population issues, a topic to which Japan attaches the greatest importance. Since population issues are closely linked to many global challenges, sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without paying them proper heed. Today, Asia and Africa account for over 75% of the world population. Demographic trends in these two regions will have a decisive impact on the world's future. I hope that this project will be an important milestone in stepping up global efforts to address challenges raised by a rising population.



"Address"

Hon. Dr. Porapan Punyaratabhandhu, Senator; Secretary-General of AFPPD, Thailand

There is a growing concern for the effects of the increasing global population on resources such as water, food, energy, and forest. Aging and declining working-age populations, teen pregnancy, unequal access to health, and violence against children and women are emerging issues that need to be dealt with at the levels of policy makers and administrators. As such, developing the capacity of parliamentarians is crucial, as is the integration of these policies into



national development frameworks. I am confident that this meeting will yield fruitful results.

"Opening Address"

H.E. Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister; Chair of CAPPD, Cambodia

I would like to express my warm welcome to all the delegates for coming to Cambodia to attend this important meeting. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank JFPF and UNFPA for their support in the establishment of CAPPD in 2000. Challenges that the world is facing can only be overcome through collective responses at the regional and global levels, and this meeting is organized to serve this purpose. Cambodia has long considered population and development a priority and has fully integrated population policies into the national development plan to good effect. Let us work together to achieve the ICPD PoA and MDGs and tackle the ever-changing texture of global population challenges beyond 2015.



○ Session 1: Best Practices/Lessons Learned for Population-Related Policies and Legislation

Moderator: Hon. Chhit Kim Yeat, MP; Vice-Chair of Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the Senate, Cambodia

"Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks in Afghanistan"

Hon. Safi Kamal, MP, Afghanistan

With a high total fertility rate (TFR) of more than 5.0, Afghanistan has an estimated annual population growth rate of 2.03%, which is the highest among South Central Asian countries. The population is predicted to increase to 83 million in 2090 from 29 million today. The country has



made significant progress in health during the past 10 years as the government has allocated 4% of GDP to the health sector; however, challenges remain. Among other things, high maternal mortality rates, child marriage, and forced marriage are major issues. The country faces a shortage of qualified female health workers in the rural areas, a lack of health facilities, and insufficient domestic financial input. At the same time, donor resources are declining. It is recommended that an effective system of birth registration be established, that implementation of the legal age of marriage be strengthened, and that awareness raising and public education be carried out.



“A Call for Greater Integration of Environmental Sustainability to Appraising Human Development: Learnings from a Local Philippine Context”
Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, MP, Philippines

Confronted with health and environmental concerns, the need and urgency for integration of environmental sustainability in appraisals of human development has been fully recognized. With effort to include river system rehabilitation into the Philippine national budget, during the congressional budgeting hearing in 2011, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources agreed to release 9.48 million Philippine pesos for a pilot sewage treatment facilities project.



The Philippine population will reach over 140 million by 2040, and this will affect the ecosystem through land use change, pollution, and overexploitation of resources. To create a sustainable future for younger generations, the Philippines has established a series of laws and policies such as the Climate Change Act (2009), the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (2012), and the Sin Tax Reform Law (2012). Environmental sustainability could not afford to be peripheral to human development. It is integral to it.

“Overview of Revised Malawi National Population Policy”

Hon. Chibingu Paul Lackson Zacaria, MP; Chair for Health and Population of Parliamentary Committee, Malawi

Malawi’s population grew from just 4 million in 1966 to 14.8 million in 2012. The country has a large number of young people. Forty-six percent of the total population is below 15 years of age. The maternal mortality rate is still high at 675 per 100,000 live births. The infant and child mortality rates are declining but still stand at 66 and 112 per 1000 live births respectively. Rapid growth and relatively high mortality rates are a signal for the country to have a serious look at its population policy.



The country’s national population policy has five specific objectives: (1) to advocate for the development and implementation of population and development programmes; (2) to enhance awareness on the linkages between population and development; (3) to enhance the availability and use of data for population and development planning; (4) to enhance the coordination among various stakeholders and programmes; and (5) to promote prioritization and integration of population issues in development planning.

“Overview of the Zambia’s Population Issues”
Hon. Vincent Mwale, MP, Zambia

Zambia’s population has been doubling every 20 years. Currently, the population stands at 13 million, 80% of whom live in poverty and 16% of whom are infected with HIV. Poverty, employment, gender issues, HIV/AIDS, maternal health, family water and sanitation, illiteracy in rural areas are the main population challenges. To address these issues,



the country has a policy document called Vision 2030, which aims to eliminate poverty, improve access to family planning, and ensure that everyone has food to eat. In addition to this, the Sixth National Development Plan outlines more specific plans for the next five years to deal with the above issues. The country is currently developing an implementation plan for a population policy that clearly defines the sustainable fertility rate and growth rate of the overall population. Other challenges include a lack of reliable data for planning and decision-making and the slow process of decentralizing power to solve problems at a local level.



“Lessons Learned of Maternal and Child Health”

Dr. Tung Rathavy, Director of the National Maternal and Child Health Centre, Ministry of Health, Cambodia

Cambodia made remarkable progress on key health indicators related to child mortality and maternal mortality between 2000-2010. The infant mortality rate was reduced by half from a rate of 95 per 1000 live births in 2000. Cambodia is now also a polio- and measles-free country. Over the years 2000-2010, the percentages of children fully immune to and children protected at birth from tetanus have increased from 41% to 79% and 30% to 85% from 2000-2010 respectively. Similarly, over the same period, the maternal mortality rate has been reduced from 437 to 206 per 100,000 live births. The remarkable progress that Cambodia has achieved with regard to the health of mothers and children is the result of a number of factors—improvement to public and health infrastructures, development of human resources in the health sector, improvement of access to health services, and a strong commitment of support from the government and all stakeholders.



“Achievement of Prevention and Combat Against the Spread of HIV/AIDS”

Dr. Hor Bun Leng, Deputy Secretary-General of National AIDS Authority, Cambodia

The HIV epidemic among the general population (aged 15-49) in Cambodia is declining and currently stands at a rate of 0.7%. HIV prevalence among female sex workers (FSW), female entertainment workers (FEW), and pregnant women is also declining. The numbers of newly infected individuals (aged 15 and over) and of newly infected females (aged 15 and over) dropped sharply in 2012 to 1202 and 524 respectively. Such progress can be attributed to the national response to HIV/AIDS. Elements of this response include strong political will from the top, legal mechanisms to create an enabling environment, and structural reforms to foster comprehensive and multi-sectoral participation. More than 90% of both the general population and, most importantly, the population at highest risk know the methods for HIV prevention, thanks to effective campaigns to raise awareness of how HIV is transmitted. There has also been a sharp increase in accessibility to Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing (VCCT), in care and treatment, and in condom use under the government’s Three Zeros strategy (Zero Death, Zero Infection, and Zero Discrimination).



“Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women”

Ms. Kim Siphat, Director-General of Gender Equality and Economic Development, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Cambodia

The Cambodian government has created various policies to promote gender equality and empower women, among which are: (1) the Rectangular Strategy Phase II that recognizes women as the backbone of the economy and society and that



outlines various programmes to promote women's positions in decision-making, to prevent domestic violence against women, to increase opportunity for female students, and to increase the number of female teachers; and (2) the Cambodian Millennium Development Goal Number 3 that aims to achieve gender equality and women empowerment by 2015. Thanks to government reform programmes and gender mainstreaming mechanisms, women today account for 34% of all the civil servant and 18% of all the commune/sangkat council positions. Key priorities of the government's future plan include promoting economic empowerment, preventing violence, providing education, and encouraging behavioral change and involving more women in governance and in decision-making.



○ Session 2: Population Programme Implementation

Moderator: Hon. Ouk Damry, MP; Secretary-General of CAPPD, Cambodia

"Population Dynamics and Trends in Cambodia"

Dr. Derveeuw Marc G.L., Representative of UNFPA Cambodia



The current total population of Cambodia stands at 14.8 million and is predicted to increase to 19.8 million in 2030 and 23.6 million in 2050, despite a decrease in the TFR from 6.5 in 1985 to 2.6 today. Cambodia has a large number of young people who are the potential productive labor force for the economy, and there is a huge dynamic of young people migrating from rural areas looking for better employment and education. Fifty percent of these move to Phnom Penh and 30% go abroad to locations such as Thailand. Cambodia will have a bright future, at least from a demographic

perspective, with more working people contributing to the economy than dependents; however, there is a great need to invest in education and human capital to better prepare youth for the labor market.



"Cambodia: Mid-term Review 2011"

Mr. Poch Sovanny, Deputy Director-General of Planning, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

In recent years, Cambodia has successfully weathered four crises: (1) the global meltdown, (2) the commodity price hike, (3) border skirmishes, and (4) Typhoon Ketsana, and yet has still achieved high economic growth in the range of 6-7% over the medium term. The agricultural sector has grown at 3-4% annually over last 5-6 years, resulting in more agricultural products for export and in higher incomes for farmers. In the fisheries and forestry sector, the inland fisheries catch increased by 3.85% between 2009-2010, while the marine fisheries catch has increased by 40.5% over the last five years. With regard to land management, through early 2011, the government gave out 2.4 million land titles in 16 provinces and gave out 6250 ha of land to 1604 landless households.



In term of infrastructure, in 2011 irrigation reached 34%; the road network attained a total length of 3954 km; and more than 85% of Cambodians had access to some means of communication. In education, while primary education targets are being met, there remain challenges at the post-primary level. Overall, national poverty was reduced to 19.8% in 2011. Key challenges for Cambodia's development include a shortage of physical and human resources, limited reform of the civil services, a lack of harmonization among different development programmes, and monitoring and evaluation programmes of uncertain quality.

○ Session 3: Linking Policy and Advocacy on Population and Development

Moderator: H.E. Dr. Tissa Karalliyadda, Minister of Child Development and Women Affairs, Sri Lanka

"Cambodia National Population Policy Update 2011"
Dr. Poch Bunnak, Deputy Secretary-General of National Committee on Population and Development of the Council of Ministers, Cambodia



An increasing population will have an effect on the country's poverty rates, employment conditions, agriculture, land and water use, education, health, infrastructure, and on the issues of gender equality, and of women's empowerment. Policies require

the implementation of a number of key activities including improving the performance of key sectors, reducing poverty, developing human resources, exploring partnerships with different stakeholders, encouraging accountability and transparency, and promoting equity in development.



"Parliamentarians Advocacy on Population and Development, CAPPD: Strategic Plan 2012-2017"

Hon. Ouk Damry, MP; Secretary-General of CAPPD, Cambodia

CAPPD's overall strategic goal is to allow parliamentarians in Cambodia to work proactively to promote and resolve population and development issues. Since 2000, with strong support from leaders of the National Assembly, CAPPD has made significant achievements in incorporating plans, doing research, mobilizing resources, and exchanging experiences through workshops, fora, discussions, field trips and training to help enhance parliamentarians' knowledge on matters of population and development.

CAPPD's strategic action plan for 2012-2017 consists of five areas of work:

- (1) strengthening organizational structure, resources and coordination capacity;
- (2) disseminating information among parliamentarians on new laws and policies;
- (3) supporting parliamentarians in initiating, developing and adopting laws and policies;
- (4) supporting parliamentarians in monitoring and reporting on the effective allocation of resources and services to address population and development issues in their constituencies; and
- (5) augmenting relationships with parliamentary associations in other countries to exchange information and experience.



○ Session 4: Emerging Population Issues

Moderator: Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, MP, Uganda

"The Elderly in Cambodia"

Mr. Chukmel Santepheap, Deputy-Director of National of Social Security Fund For Civil Servants, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia

In Cambodia, the elderly accounted for 6.4% of the total population in 2008 and this number is projected to double by 2025. The government has expressed its concerns on the issues of the elderly and in 2011 established a national committee that is committed to ensuring that elderly people are fully integrated into society and assured a life of dignity and good health.



To achieve this goal, careful attention is paid to developing welfare services for elderly people, to promoting social inclusion, to providing medical

care, to establishing micro-credit schemes for income-generation activities, and to supporting research on social health and economic issues that affect the elderly. The government recognizes that the elderly are a national legacy and a resource of practical knowledge and experience, important both for their families and the nation.



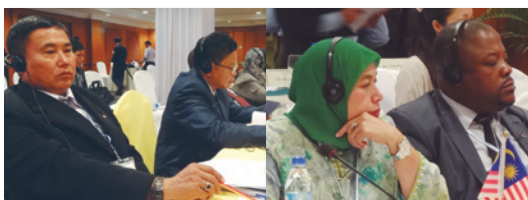
“Youth and Reproductive Health”

Dr. Soun Bophea, MPH, Youth Programme Manager of RHAC, Cambodia

Cambodia has developed a wide range of related policies including the Birth Spacing Policy (1996), the National Strategy for Reproductive Health (2006-2010, 2012-2016) and the National Policy on Cambodian Youth Development (2011). Comprehensive sexuality education has been implemented, with an increase in the number of government health centres trained in youth friendly-services and advocacy activities on youth reproductive health.



Other improvements include the expansion of reproductive health services for youth people with different sexual orientations and for young women who work in the entertainment business. However, there are a number of remaining issues. For example, unsafe abortion is an issue of increasing importance for young people. Cambodia needs to intensify its implementation of these strategies and needs the financial resources to do so.



Day 2: Study Visit in Pursat Province

○ Handicraft Community Centre

A three-hour bus ride out of Phnom Penh heading northwest took the Asian and African delegation to a handicraft community centre in Khnar Ansar Commune, Krakor District, Pursat Province. The centre provides people with training in the making of handicrafts such as baskets, cloths, and mats, which graduates from the programme can make and sell to supplement their earnings.



The centre is furnished with looms loaned out by the government for free, which people can use to develop their weaving skills. People are also given the capital to start a job and training in the skills necessary to establish small-scale businesses such as finding markets, responding to orders, and controlling product quality. This initiative was launched with the strong support of the Prime Minister of Cambodia. These centres are currently run by local people themselves, in partnership with NGOs. Such income-generation programmes have enabled more children to go to school and reduced migration from the villages.



○ Bun Rany Hun Sen Development Centre

From its establishment in 1996 to date, a total of 3168 students have studied at this centre. Of these, 2532 have been female students. A range of craft skills and training courses are provided to men and women in the community. These include courses in dyeing, in weaving fabrics, in sewing cloths and bags, in stone carving, and in broom making. Products made by students can be purchased from the shop at the centre.



○ Pursat Provincial Vocational Training Centre

The centre provides vocational training courses aimed at promoting poverty reduction and at helping people in the community attain a better life. Various courses are available. These range from instruction in agricultural skills, in computer use, in languages, and in machinery repair, to courses in mushroom growing, and in sewing. The courses are open to any applicants including the disadvantaged, drop-out students, orphans, and disabled people.



The centre has a particular focus on the needs of women, an emphasis which led to the setting up of a hair dressing and make-up course. About 60-70% of the graduates have been able to get job in a field related to the course they completed, while 30-40% are doing work that does not make use of their acquired skills. Challenges that the centre faces include: student poverty and illiteracy; a lack of buildings and of teaching materials; and curricula and teachers whose qualifications do not meet standards. Another challenge is no dormitory for students and teachers, many of whom live far from the centre.

Day 3: Study Visit in Kampong Chhnang Province

○ Trapeang Chan Primary School

The constitution of Cambodia promulgates free compulsory education for nine years. Although in this primary school, the dropout rate stands at 4.1% for reasons of poverty or health, through actions taken in close coordination with the government and the community, the province has seen much improvement in education.



○ Trapeang Chan Health Centre



In order to achieve MDG4 and MDG5, Cambodia's National Development Plan aims to have a midwife posted in every health centre and to promote prenatal and postnatal consultations, HIV testing, and family planning. There are 39 health centres in the Kampong Chhnang Province where people can receive a minimum package of health services.

In this area, the proportion of deliveries by traditional birth attendants has been decreasing, while deliveries by skilled midwives have been increasing. Another improvement is the provision of baby kits to mothers of new born-babies. Also, postmenopausal women can benefit from the distribution of iron supplements. The government endeavors to strengthen the local health system and to improve health and nutrition in the community in cooperation with local supporters.

○ The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) Training Centre

Established in 1992, CMAC has a national office in Phnom Penh, six provincial demining units, and a Training Centre in Kampong Chhnang. From 1992 through December 2011, CMAC destroyed 2,193,923 mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). This has significantly contributed to reducing the number of mine/UXO casualties. CMAC's areas of work include: mine/UXO clearance, survey and land release, mine risk education, staff training, and the training of mine detection dogs. CMAC is also active in sharing best practices and in building capacities of human resources by hosting workshops with Lao PDR and other countries in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Japan has been extending financial and technical assistance to CMAC such as handing over demining equipment and transferring skills in information and research areas. CMAC, as a token of its appreciation, presented a memento to H.E. Kenya Akiba, Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and Deputy Executive Director of JPPF.



The first-hand observation encouraged the desire of some participants to apply Cambodia's initiatives and schemes to their own countries. For instance, a Member of Parliament from Zambia said that the handcraft community development project was very inspiring that he would like to introduce hand-operated looms in his country. Since hand-operated looms do not require electricity, they can be installed in poor villages. Zambia is currently importing cloth products from China, but such a scheme would help people earn a living and reduce poverty. The Pursat Provincial Vocational Centre impressed a Member of Parliament from Uganda who mentioned that he would like to learn from this model to create such centres in his country.

○ Wrap-up of the Study Visit

The participants echoed that study visits, in conjunction with conferences and dissemination of information, were key priorities in order to develop the capacities of parliamentarians to deal with population and development issues. In this light, this project was in many respects an ideal way for Asian and African parliamentarians to enhance their capacities. There was a strong synergy between the presentations at the meetings and the hands-on experiences gained during the study visit.

Furthermore, some participants called for regular meetings and study visits of this sort among Asian and African parliamentarians; others requested to organize this project in their own countries in the future.



Day 4: Meeting



○ Session 5: Examining the Role of Parliamentarians Based on the Findings from the Study Visit

Moderator: Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, MP; Vice-Chair of VAPPD, Vietnam

Hon. Shantaram Naik, MP, India

APDA and CAPPD deserve congratulations for the success of the project by allowing the participants to gain rich field experience, which adds great value to indoor discussions. The first day of the study tour started with a visit to a handicraft community centre and then to the Bun Rany Hun Sen Development Centre that train people to acquire weaving and handicraft skills. The Pursat Provincial Vocational Training Centre offers job-oriented vocational courses to equip students with technical knowledge and skills. The next day in Kampong Chhnang Province, Trapeang Chan Primary School and Trapeang Chan Health Centre briefed the delegation on the status of education and health in the province. CMAC gave a slide presentation and a field demonstration of mine clearance activities. It was shocking for the participants to discover that Cambodia still faces mine problems and that completely eliminating mines from Cambodia is impossible.



To draw some conclusions from the study tour, parliament should: (1) raise population-related issues more frequently in their respective parliaments; (2) have the responsibility to make sure that people

understand the urgent need for family management programmes; and (3) visit hospitals, schools and other public facilities in their constituencies occasionally to carry out an on-the-spot assessment and make appropriate suggestions to their governments.

Hon. Biraaro Ganshanga Ephraim, MP, Uganda

The overall organization of the meeting and the study visit met the participants' expectations, with the programme relevant to the success and challenges in Asian and African contexts, as well as the site visits ideal for the workshop objectives. All the participants showed great enthusiasm for the topics discussed and expressed empathy for the challenges facing the groups visited in the provinces.



Management should work to develop confidence in these groups and that the Government of Cambodia and donor communities should pay more attention to them. Also, that the education system should be systematized in accordance with contemporary international trends. Finally, there should be follow-up meetings in the future, with compilations of and sharing of all proceedings. More participation in population issues through fora and the sharing of best practices among parliamentarians such as with this project is important.



○ Discussion on Draft Statement

Chair: Hon. Nidup Zangpo, MP, Bhutan

After a heated discussion among the members of parliaments, chaired by **Hon. Nidup Zangpo**, the Draft Statement was amended and finalized for unanimous adoption.



○ Closing Session

“Wrap-up Statement”

Hon. Dr. Pen Pannha, MP; Vice-Chair of CAPPD, Cambodia



The five sessions of the meeting highlighted important aspects along the theme and inspired new perspectives on the topics discussed. The eminent resource persons shared valuable information and experiences, engaging the participants in lively and intensive deliberation. Subsequently, the two-day study visit allowed the participants to observe first-hand the status of education, health and development in the provinces and to observe demining activities. On the final day, all the participants in the meeting reaffirmed the important role of parliamentarians in the field of population and development and unanimously adopted the statement following rounds of discussion and finalization. In the spirit of solidarity, partnership and responsibility, the four-day project is now drawing to a close.

“Closing Remarks”

H.E. Kenya Akiba, Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare; Deputy Executive Director of JPPF, Japan

This project was mainly implemented by JTF that was established by the Japanese government to support parliamentarians' activities worldwide on population and development. It is with great pleasure that representatives from Asia and Africa have gathered

here, making possible a fruitful region-to-region exchange.

For three years, APDA through its projects has rigorously examined the practical roles played by parliamentarians in promoting population programmes and gaining a better understanding of ODA among the constituents. Discussions centred around the need for good governance in the achievement of the objectives, as well as enhanced collaboration among Asian and African parliamentarians. At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) that will be held in Japan this year, we will be sending a strong message that sustainable development lies in population stability.

On behalf of APDA and JPPF, I would like to sincerely thank CAPPD and the Cambodian National Assembly for hosting this initiative and for the extent of their cooperation. Let us work hand in hand for the future, mindful at all times of the mission entrusted to us.

Courtesy Call to H.E. Samdech Heng Samrin

H.E. Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and Honorary Chair of CAPPD extended his warm welcome to the Asian and African delegates during the courtesy call at the



National Assembly Palace. H.E. Samdech Heng Samrin highlighted prideful achievements that Cambodia has accomplished in population issues, as well as active participation of the National Assembly in the regional parliamentary and inter-parliamentary fora. He also expressed his hope that this project would provide a platform to share knowledge and experience to find new solutions to sustainable development.



“Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks”

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
22-25 January 2013

Statement

We, Parliamentarians, as representatives of 17 Asian and African countries, gather in Cambodia to set out a course of action to prioritize population issues on the national agenda and maximize aid effectiveness through the APDA-CAPPD project “Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks”.

I. We reaffirm the facts that:

- 1) Population programmes are the foundation of national development; without stabilizing the population, sustainable development will not be achieved.
- 2) Population programmes facilitate environment that improve humane dignity and allows people to make responsible choices for the future society.
- 3) Population programmes including reproductive health are managed through well-informed choices aimed at improving the well-being of individuals, especially of those who live in poverty.
- 4) Population programmes enhance the status of women and women empowerment, which contribute to creating social and economic development and eradication of poverty.
- 5) Population programmes are among the most cost-effective approaches to long-term development which pave the way to sustainable development.

II. Based on these facts, we make the following policy recommendations:

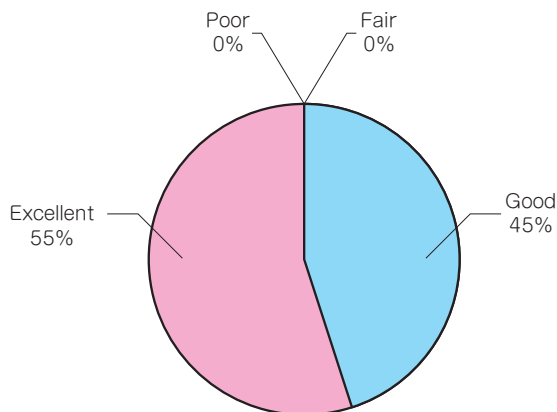
- 1) We urge fellow parliamentarians to form common understanding on this issue and work towards creating and enabling environment.
- 2) We urge our governments to integrate population and development issues into the formulation and implementation of the national development programmes as the basic principles of national development policies and international assistance programmes.
- 3) We urge national and international institutions including aid organizations to provide persuasive, evidence-based and concise data to be utilized to formulate policies and programmes, advocate fellow parliamentarians and create support from the constituents.
- 4) We endeavor to promote national, regional and international coordination and cooperation and facilitate the sharing of good practices.

III. In closing:

- 1) In celebration of the success of the project, we express our thanks to CAPPD and APDA as the co-organizers, as well as to the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Japanese Government, UNFPA, IPPF and other partner organizations for supporting this project to prioritize population issues .
- 2) Parliamentarians' role, activities and the platform where they can work effectively are imperative in addressing population issues at the grassroots based on people's needs. In order to achieve the ICPD PoA, we commit to parliamentarians activities on population and development.
- 3) We urge international aid organizations to continue to support and expand such activities, seeing the achievements that APDA has made to strengthen Asian and African parliamentarians' activities during the past 30 years.

Post-Project Evaluation Results

Questionnaires were administered immediately after the Project was completed. Overall, the Project was highly rated by participants. Fifty-five percent rated it as *Excellent*, 45% as *Good*, and 0% as *Fair* or *Poor*.



The participants' high satisfaction with the Project can be seen in the following breakdown:

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|
| Meeting Presentations | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% |
| Meeting Discussion | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% |
| Study Visit Observation | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% |
| Study Visit Presentations | 30% | 60% | 10% | 0% |
| Study Visit Discussion | 40% | 55% | 5% | 0% |

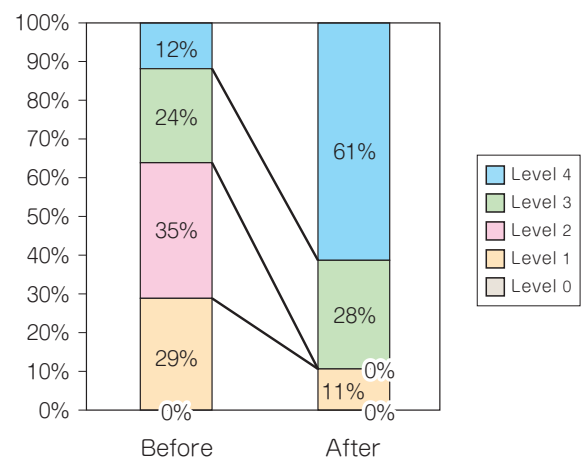
Most of the participants were able to *gain new knowledge* (55% *Excellent*, 40% *Good*, and 5% *Fair*); and *identify policies/programmes that can possibly be transferred to your country* (45% *Excellent*, 40% *Good* and 10% *Fair*). Respondents to the questionnaire also considered the programme a fruitful project to *share experiences, good practices and lessons learned* (55% *Excellent*, 40% *Good*, and 5% *Fair*).

Forty percent responded *Excellent* and 55% responded *Good* when asked whether the Project met the objective of *facilitating communication and networking among participants*. The Project was also able to contribute to *re-strengthening parliamentarians' commitment to the topics discussed* as combining *Excellent* (55%) and *Good* (45%) produced a total of 100%.

To determine an approximate baseline of understanding as the means of analyzing the impact of the Project, participants were asked to rate their levels of understanding of the topics below before and after the Project.

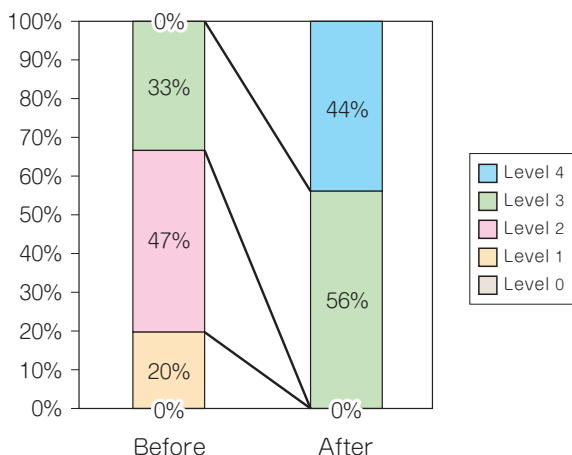
(1) Strategies to increase Parliamentarians' involvement in policy-making, legislation and other actions

After the meeting, level-4 understanding rose significantly from 12% to 61%, while level-2 decreased from 35% to 0%.



(2) Requirements for successful ODA projects

The questionnaire results show that the Project enhanced Level-4 understanding from 0% to 44% and Level-3 from 33% to 56%.

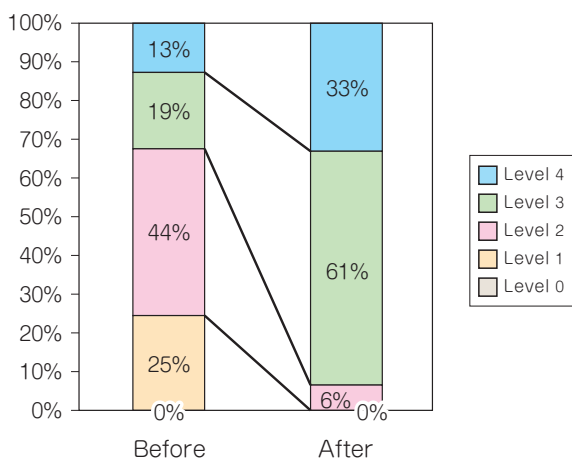


The majority expressed their commitment to follow-up the issues of the Project:

- 16 respondents will *Make recommendations to the Government/ Parliament*
- 15 respondents will *Promote parliamentary activities on population issues*
- 14 respondents will *Discuss the issues with other MPs*
- 13 respondents will *Participate in other relevant meetings/conferences*
- 13 respondents will *Make comments to their constituency*
- 10 respondents will *Submit the Statement to the Government/Parliament*
- 10 respondents will *Contact Parliamentarians from other countries*

(3) Emerging population issues

Level-4 understanding increased from 13% to 33% and level-3 from 19% to 61% after the Project, which led to a relative decline in level-2 understanding from 44% to 6% and level-1 from 25% to 0%.



These results demonstrate that the Project's capacity-development objectives were successfully met. APDA and CAPPD will be in contact with the participants and National Committees on Population and Development to follow-up with further developments.



Participants' List

○ *Members of Parliament and National Committees on Population and Development*

1. Hon. Safi Kamal, MP Afghanistan
2. Hon. Nidup Zangpo, MP Bhutan
3. Hon. Karma Wangchuk, MP Bhutan
4. H.E. Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister;
Chair of CAPPD Cambodia
5. Hon. Dr. Pen Pannha, MP;
Chair of the Commission on Legislation and Justice;
Vice-Chair of CAPPD Cambodia
6. Hon. Ho Naun, MP;
Chair of the Commission on Public Health, Social
Works, Veteran, Youth Rehabilitation, Labour,
Vocational Training and Women's Affairs;
Vice-Chair of CAPPD Cambodia
7. Hon. Ouk Damry, MP;
Member of the Commission on Legislation and
Justice; Secretary-General of CAPPD Cambodia
8. Hon. Chhit Kim Yeat, MP;
Vice-Chair of Commission on Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation, Information and Media of
the Senate Cambodia
9. Hon. Lork Kheng, MP;
Treasurer of CAPPD Cambodia
10. Hon. Em Ponna, MP;
Chair of Bunrany Hun Sen Development Centre
..... Cambodia
11. Hon. Nin Saphon, MP;
Chair of the Commission on Public Works, Transport,
Telecommunications, Post, Industry, Mines, Energy,
Commerce, Land Management, Urban Planning and
Construction Cambodia
12. Hon. Pum Sichan, MP;
Vice-Chair of Commission on Public Health, Social
Affairs, Veteran, Rehabilitation, Vocational Training,
Labor and Women Affairs Cambodia
13. Hon. Ker Chan Mony, MP;
Member of the Commission on Public Works,
Transport, Telecommunications, Post, Industry, Mines,
Energy, Commerce, Land Management, Urban
Planning and Construction Cambodia
14. Hon. Shantaram Naik, MP;
Chair for Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice India
15. Mr. Manmohan Sharma,
Executive Secretary of IAPPD India
16. H.E. Kenya Akiba,
Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare;
Deputy Executive Director of JPPF Japan
17. Hon. Chibingu Paul Lackson Zacaria, MP;
Chair for Health and Population of Parliamentary
Committee Malawi
18. Hon. Mariany Mohammad Yit, Senator Malaysia
19. Hon. Khin Maung Lay, MP Myanmar
20. Hon. Win Kyi, Myanmar, MP Myanmar
21. Mr. Manohar Prasad Bhattarai,
Secretary-General of Legislature-Parliament Secretariat
..... Nepal
22. Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, MP Philippines
23. Hon. Jun Omar C. Ebdane, MP Philippines
24. Hon. Augustine B. Torto, MP;
Chair of SLPAGPD Sierra Leone
25. Mr. Henry Leigh, Officer of SLPAGPD Sierra Leone
26. H.E. Dr. Tissa Karalliyadda,
Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs ..
..... Sri Lanka
27. Hon. Dr. Porapan Punyaratabhandhu, Senator;
Secretary-General of AFPPD Thailand
28. Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Senator Thailand
29. Hon. Biraaro Ganshanga Ephraim, MP Uganda
30. Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, MP Uganda
31. Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, MP;
Vice-Chair of VAPPD; Vice-Chair of AFPPD Vietnam
32. Hon. Dr. Truong Thi Thu Trang, MP Vietnam
33. Hon. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu;
Chair of HIV Prevention Association of Ho Chi Minh
City; Former Vice-Chair of AFPPD Vietnam
34. Ms. Nguyen Thi Chung, Officer of VAPPD Vietnam
35. Mr. Nguyen Thoai Bao, Officer of VAPPD Vietnam
36. Hon. Vincent Mwale, MP Zambia

○ *Ministries and Government Officials*

37. Mr. Sim Khengkham,
Vice-President of National AIDS Authority ... Cambodia
38. Mr. Holl Phal,
Director of Elderly Department, Ministry of Social
Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation... Cambodia
39. Ms. Prok Maykanitha,
Deputy Director of Elderly Welfare Department
at Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth
Rehabilitation Cambodia
40. Mr. Theng Pagnathun,
Deputy Director General of Ministry of Planning
..... Cambodia
41. Mr. The Chhunhak,
Ministry of Women's Affairs Cambodia

42. Mr. Men Sam Oun,
Personal Assistant to H.E. Men Sam An Cambodia
43. Mr. Jhi Sithy Cambodia
44. Ms. Dao Leuany, IRD Secretary Cambodia

○ **Resource Persons**

45. Mr. Chukmel Santepheap,
Deputy-Director of National Social Security Fund For
Civil Servants, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and
Youth Rehabilitation Cambodia
46. Mr. Chhum Bunrong,
Secretary General of Cambodian Mine Action and
Victim Assistance Authority Cambodia
47. Mr. Heng Ratana,
Director-General of Cambodia Mine Action Centre
(CMAC) Cambodia
48. Dr. Hor Bun Leng,
Deputy Secretary-General of National AIDS Authority..
..... Cambodia
49. Ms. Kim Siphath,
Director-General of Gender Equality and Economic
Development, Ministry of Women's Affairs
..... Cambodia
50. Mr. Pech Sambo,
Director of Department of Education, Youth and Sport
of Kampong Chhnang Province Cambodia
51. Mr. Poch Bunnak,
Deputy Secretary-General of National Committee
on Population and Development of the Council of
Ministers Cambodia
52. Mr. Poch Sovanndy,
Deputy Director-General of Planning, Ministry of
Planning Cambodia
53. Mr. Prak Vun,
Director of Kampong Chhnang Provincial Health
Department Cambodia
54. Mr. Pum Chantha,
Director of Pursat Provincial Training Centre, Ministry
of Labour and Vocational Training Cambodia
55. Dr. Tung Rathavy,
Ateral and Child Health Centre, Ministry of Health
..... Cambodia

○ **Embassies**

56. H.E. Masafumi Kuroki,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Japan to Cambodia Japan
57. Mr. Shinichi Tamamitsu, First Secretary of the Embassy
of Japan in Cambodia Japan

58. Mr. Yasuhiro Nakai, Second Secretary of the Embassy
of Japan in Cambodia Japan
59. Mr. M. Rajamurugan,
First Secretary of the Embassy of India in Cambodia
..... India

60. Mr. Raja Saifull Ridzuwan,
Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Malaysia in
Cambodia Malaysia

61. H.E. Cho Tun Aung,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Myanmar to Cambodia Myanmar

62. H.E. Fazal-ur-Rahman Kazi,
Ambassador of Pakistan to Cambodia Pakistan

○ **UNFPA**

63. Dr. Derveeuw Marc G.L.,
Representative of UNFPA Cambodia Cambodia

64. Ms. Pen Sophanara,
Communications Associate Cambodia

○ **RHAC**

65. Dr. Var Chivorn,
Associate Executive Director Cambodia

66. Dr. Soun Bophea,
Youth Programme Manager Cambodia

○ **CAPPD and National Assembly Secretariat**

67. Mr. Eng Vannak Cambodia

68. Mr. Sonn Sok Heng Cambodia

69. Mr. Chea Penghour Cambodia

70. Mr. Sen Monorom Cambodia

71. Mr. Noun Vannara Cambodia

72. Ms. Mith Chanlinda Cambodia

73. Mr. Bunmeng Lay Cambodia

74. Mr. Seng Thy Cambodia

75. Mr. Seng Sopanhna Cambodia

76. Mr. Peang Samon Cambodia

○ **APDA**

77. Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa Japan

78. Mr. Farrukh Usmonov Japan

79. Ms. Tomo Imamura Japan

○ **Interpreters and Rapporteur**

80. Mr. Ben Visnow Cambodia

81. Mr. Kry Meng Ang Cambodia

82. Mr. Khan Khisrun Cambodia

83. Mr. Sopangna Cambodia

Acronyms

| | |
|--------------|--|
| AFPPD..... | Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development |
| APDA..... | Asian Population and Development Association |
| CAPPD..... | Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development |
| CMAC..... | Cambodia Mine Action Centre |
| FSW..... | Female sex workers |
| FEW..... | Female entertainment workers |
| IAPPD..... | Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development |
| ICPD..... | International Conference on Population and Development |
| IPPF..... | International Planned Parenthood Federation |
| JICA..... | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| JPPF..... | Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population |
| JTF..... | Japan Trust Fund |
| MDGs..... | Millennium Development Goals |
| ODA..... | Official Development Assistance |
| PoA..... | Programme of Action |
| RHAC..... | Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia |
| SLPAGPD..... | Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development |
| TFR..... | Total Fertility Rate |
| TICAD..... | Tokyo International Conference on African Development |
| UNFPA..... | United Nations Population Fund |
| UXO..... | Unexploded Ordnance |
| VAPPD..... | Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development |
| VCCT..... | Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing |

Messages to Japanese ODA



"I am personally very thankful to the Japanese Government for funding this conference, which globally is going to change the lives of many people in many countries".

(Hon. Chibingu Paul Lackson Zacaria, Malawi)

"The Japanese government has been very helpful and generous in reaching out to Asian and African nations on relevant issues affecting the future and sustainable development of the poor nations".

(Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Philippines)



"We are grateful that Japan is in forefront in ODA projects. Even they have problems, they do their best to help other countries. Japanese government, Japanese ODA and Japanese public deserve our appreciation".

(Hon. Shantaram Naik, India)

"Japanese ODA is a great help on different matters, especially in the developing countries. After population issues development issues must also be covered in such events".

(Mr. Manmohan Sharma, India)





"Extending profound cordial regards and sincerest gratitude for extending their help and support to the developing countries all over the world. Japan should continue such activities which are very useful for addressing the matter under reference".
(Hon. Safi Kamal, Afghanistan)



"Japanese ODA is very useful for many programs. Hope they will sponsor more projects".
(Mme. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, Vietnam)

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle". Japan assists those countries that economically weak to come up quickly".
(Hon. Biraaro Ganshanga Ephraim, Uganda)



"Very welcome the Japanese ODA and hope that ODA will support for more programs in the future".
(Hon. Dr. Truong Thi Thu Trang, Vietnam)



"Thanks for all the support to the capacity development project. Request for support to population Forum in Parliament of Uganda and other Parliaments participated in the projects".
(Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Uganda)



"We are grateful for the support they are giving to parliaments to improve their capacity on their involvement on population and development issues. They may not see it but their contribution is improving the lives of people out there".
(Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia)



"I sincerely thank with utmost pleasure both the Japanese ODA and Japanese Government for organizing such like the APDA. They have really made a big difference in the way countries help their neighbors".
(Anonymous)

"With this type of experiences from such programmes, members from each country should be able to replicate what have earned in their country".
(Anonymous)



"I would like to congratulate and commend Japan's effort for being generous and their contribution on this particular issue - the population issue in Asia and Africa".
(Hon. Mariany Mohammad Yit, Malaysia)



"The Japanese ODA to resource constraint countries are highly important and would like to suggest movement in the days to come".
(Mr. Manohar Prasad Bhattarai, Nepal)



"On behalf of the Kingdom country and the people of Bhutan I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the Japanese government for all the financial aid and support in this field".
(Hon. Nidup Zangpo, Bhutan)

"All of us recognize ODA of Japan is a dynamic engine to make Associations of Parliamentarians for Population and Development in the region move forward to achieve development, prosperity and sustainability".
(Hon. Ouk Damry, Cambodia)



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