



The 29th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

– Study Visit –

August 29-30, 2013

Baguio and La Trinidad, Philippines

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Programme Synopsis	4
○ First Day.....	4
<i>Cultural Interaction with National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Cordillera Region Media, Local Government Units</i>	<i>4</i>
Press Release	5
○ Second Day	6
<i>Forum “Population and Development Challenges of IP Communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region in a Pluralistic Society”</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Field Visit to Bahong: JICA’s Rural Development Project</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wrap-up Session</i>	<i>15</i>
Call to Action	17
Participants’ List	18

Overview

Following *The 29th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development* held in Manila, the Philippines, on 28 August 2013, the Asian delegation participated in a study visit to the Cordillera Administrative Region located in the northern part of Luzon on 29-30 August 2013.

The programme was hosted by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), as well as the governments of La Trinidad and Baguio City. It is a project which aims to equip parliamentarians with the knowledge, information and tools to enhance parliamentarians' roles in legislation and policy implementation in different cultural environments. This programme also hopes to foster partnership and networking to further collective efforts in addressing diversifying population issues.

The Cordillera Administrative Region, which was created in 1989, is a special administrative region for the indigenous tribes and is compiled of six provinces (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province) as well as Baguio City.

As elected representatives, parliamentarians have a crucial role in acting as catalysts between the government and people to ensure that resources are allocated and utilized in ways that meet actual public needs. In particular, population issues cannot be forced; therefore, deepening understanding of different cultures and values is of great importance.

Through active interaction and exchange with representatives from indigenous peoples (IPs) and faith-based organizations in this region, the importance of the role of parliamentarians in the context of cultural pluralism was underlined.

The Asian participants echoed that a study visit was instrumental in understanding the population- and development-related topics discussed at the 29th APDA Meeting, since there was a strong synergy between the conference presentations and hands-on experiences gained during the study visit.

The participants also stressed the need for regular meetings and study visits of this sort in order to tackle hand-in-hand existing and emerging population issues and achieve sustainable development.



Programme Synopsis

o First Day

Cultural Interaction with National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Cordillera Region Media, Local Government Units

On 29 August 2013, a seven-hour bus ride out of Manila heading north took the Asian delegation to Baguio City, the regional center of the Cordillera Administrative Region. The delegation was invited to the Cultural Interaction hosted by Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) at the PIA grounds. Participants were exposed to different forms of indigenous dancing and singing and engaged in exchanging with the local media, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Local Government Units.

Mayor Domogan, an Igorot of the Bago tribe himself, made an indigenous chant called Ogayam preceding his speech. He welcomed the delegate by explaining that Ogayam is sung on happy occasions for asking the blessings

On behalf of the Asian delegation, Hon. Longde Wang from China expressed his appreciation to the Mayor Domogan for his hospitality and to APDA and PLCPD for organizing this programme. He highlighted the fact that participants were able to learn from the Philippines specifically how to deal with the health issues of young people and cultural diversity. He then called upon fellow parliamentarians to join hands together to work for the common goals of addressing population issues and achieving sustainable development.



Dances were performed by groups of students from the University of Cordillera. After a while, parliamentarians were invited to join and most of them participated and danced joyfully.

The local media interviewed APDA for its work, history and expected outcomes, based on which a press release was issued following day (Please refer to P.5).



Press Release

Parliamentarians from Asia and the Pacific visit Baguio and La Trinidad for cultural visit on population and development issues

Local governments of Baguio and La Trinidad hosted a cultural interaction and study visit of parliamentarians from Asia and the Pacific aimed at exploring the dimensions and intricacies of culture and religion as key considerations in formulating and implementing population and reproductive health policies and programs. The parliamentarians are delegates to the conference titled The 29th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development under the theme of High Level Dialogue in a Culturally Pluralistic Society held last 28 August at the Intercontinental Hotel Manila, Makati City.

The three day activity, which was also attended by several national legislators from Philippine Congress, covered the various pressing issues on reproductive health, population and development, religion and culture, HIV and AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region.

La Trinidad and Baguio were chosen as the areas for the study visit for its very rich culture and traditions and the presence of strong support among the Local Government Units on population and development issues. Baguio City Mauricio Domogan and PIA Director Helen Tibaldo welcomed the arrival of the delegates through a dinner and cultural performance at the Dap-ay, Philippine Information Agency grounds yesterday evening. On 30 August, the participants were warmly welcomed by Mayor Edna Tabanda and local government officials. In the interaction and forum that followed after the arrival in La Trinidad, Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat gave a situational on indigenous peoples and critical policy initiatives that will promote and protect the rights and welfare of IPs in the Philippines.

The Asian Population Development Association (APDA) based in Japan and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) organized and hosted this gathering of parliamentarians to contribute in the on-going efforts to accelerate the achievement of the International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as one of the key issues to find workable solutions to address population challenges, while respecting different values in culturally different contexts. Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa, Manager of APDA's international affairs thanks Mayor Edna Tabanda for her invaluable support to the study visit. "The issues that the Cordillera people face today, such as environmental degradation, migration and lack of government services and poverty is similarly being faced by Indigenous People in the Asia and the Pacific. But with committed parliamentarians and local government officials, I firmly believe that appropriate policies and resources can be mobilized to address these concerns."

- **Second Day**

Forum “Population and Development Challenges of IP Communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region in a Pluralistic Society”

On 30 August, under the theme of *Population and Development Challenges of IP Communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region in a Pluralistic Society*, a meeting among Asian parliamentarians, local government officials, representatives from IP communities and project practitioners was held at La Trinidad Municipal Hall.

“Introduction” by Hon. Edna C. Tabanda,
Municipal Mayor of La Trinidad, Benguet



Welcome to La Trinidad! La Trinidad was named after the wife of Don M. Quirante, one of the early Spanish explorers who ventured into this mountain region. His beautiful wife was impressed by the exquisite beauty of this place. Today we call La Trinidad as a multicultural society.

La Trinidad is the capital town of the province of Benguet. Benguet is one of the provinces in

the Cordillera Administrative Region, which consists of six provinces and one city - that is the city of Baguio. La Trinidad is an urbanizing municipality and has a population of 119,000 in 16 Barangays. These 16 Barangays are the lowest unit of government. So we have the province, the municipality and the Barangays.

Our land area is very small, and it is mountainous. We have high production of high value crops, especially strawberries. We are called the “strawberry municipality” of the Philippines. We also grow vegetable and have started the small industry of coffee.

You will be going to one of the Barangays in the afternoon where you will see the situation and meet with the IP leaders there. It is about 10 minutes away from the center of the municipality. We hope you enjoy your short visit there.

“La Trinidad at a glance” by Ms. Joan Bacoling,
Planning Officer of La Trinidad

La Trinidad is located in Benguet Province in the Cordillera Administrative Region. We envision that La Trinidad a dynamic, self-sustaining, ecologically-balanced and peaceful place, where God-loving and healthy people live in an atmosphere of social justice and effective governance.



Our mission is to provide for adequate, dedicated and responsive services to enable our citizens to live in comfort, security and prosperity, through maximum utilization of resources, active people's participation, and active partnership with the government organizations, civil society and private sector. Our goals include: improved quality of life; accelerated economic growth; improved access to basic services and facilities; sustained green, clean and aesthetically-pleasing environment.

Here are some outlines of the city:

- Land Area: 8,079.51 ha
- Topography: Mountainous
- Climate: Cool at an average of 18.5°C
- Water and air quality: Generally Fair
- Geology: Vulnerable to Hazards
- Number of Barangays: Sixteen (16)
- Urban Barangays: 8 Barangays (2,740 ha)
- Rural Barangays: 8 Barangays (5,338 ha)
- Land use: Agriculture 38%; Brushland 10%; Built-up Area 10%; Forest 40%; and Others 2%.
- Population in 2013: 119,989
- Number of Households: 29,997
- Average family size: 4
- Municipality Population Growth Rate: 3.83% (compared to the national growth rate at 2.3%)
- Density: 13 persons/ha

- Major Ethnic Groups: Ibaloi and Kankanaey
- Average cultivated area is 0.5 hectare

Our main economic activity is agriculture, especially highland vegetables, cutflowers and strawberries.

The La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Post is the marketing center for the Province of Benguet where they can export vegetable to the whole country. As a highland vegetable producer, we were formerly known as the "salad bowl of the Philippines". As the Mayor referred to earlier, we are also known as the "strawberry capital of the Philippines". We hold the Guinness Book of World Record for baking the largest strawberry cake.

Wholesale and retail trade provide for 22% to the total employment. Financial services are growing and manufacturing, in micro and small scale, is also increasing: mostly woodworks, metal/ironwork shops and bakeries. With regard to the education establishment, we currently have a total of 37 private schools in the municipality.

"Welcome Message" by Hon. Edna C. Tabanda,
Municipal Mayor of La Trinidad, Benguet

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have been chosen as a venue of the study visit. The theme *Population and Development Challenges of IP Communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region in a Pluralistic Society* is now a core of our work.

The diversity has long time been marginalized and we hope that today's



discussion on population development will facilitate transnational exchange, replication of best practices in population development in Asia.

Such activities at the international, national and local levels are very appropriate for all, especially the policy makers. Population and development issues are closely related to local government programs, as well as those of national government and international policies.

We are pleased that we have the representatives from the different provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region here to interact with you regarding their situations. I hope that we will be able to learn through this interaction and that this interaction will be sustained.

We in the Benguet province, with the presence of our Congressman Baguilat, our institution, our government to be strong advocate of population and development because we know its enormous impact on the environment, education, women and children, and especially on IPs.

We would also like to inform our representative from Japan, that Benguet is the

recipient of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) projects. One of the Barangays is the recipient of the agricultural project of the highland integrated rural development project. And we have also a grant for the Benguet hospital, again from the Japanese government through JICA. Many of our people have been in Japan thanks to the exchange programs. We would like to thank the Japanese people for their generosity.

We have the third generation Japanese-Filipino descendants in Benguet. So we really have a beautiful friendship with Japan. We hope that you all friends here will also be able to establish exchange programs, networking and sister municipality in your own country. I believe that this would be the beginning of a beautiful friendship among your countries with the Philippines, specifically with La Trinidad.

I believe that this is one way of promoting peace among countries of the world. Again we are very happy with the meeting and interaction that happen here in our region. So thank you very much, PLCPD and Congressman Baguilat, to help us facilitate this programme.



“Opening Message” by Hon. Mauricio Domogan, Mayor of Baguio City, read by Mr. Rafael Sallocoy, Secretary to the Mayor of Baguio City

With regard to the demography issues in this area, there is a rapid movement of population from the rural areas to towns or cities, due to the latter attractions of better infrastructure like roads, institutions for your learning, better transport system, better hospital, employment opportunities and the lure of night life.

Due to this, the government has to increase their activities to meet the need of the fast growing population. Without appropriate measures, consequences will be more waste, more pollution, the scarcity of water and more crimes owing to the cultural differences of residence.

However, when these various cultures are internally understood or acculturated, then harmony and progress for us IPs and the people of Cordillera will bring about what we call the “unity in diversity”.

Attaining a state of balance between the population growth and resources cannot be attained by chance or accident, but must coordinate founded on a basic change of values and goals of individual, national, and the world together. All people are different, and the human transformation may be slow, but we have to proceed with the change. Yes, we the people of the Cordillera can.

On behalf of Mayor Domogan, allow me again to congratulate and thank you for your advocacy for population and sustainable development programmes in Cordillera.

“Keynote Message” by Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Representative of Lone District of Ifugao; PLCPD Vice-Chair for Luzon

This is a unique region because it is the only mountainous region in the Philippines. There is a legend in my province and in my tribe that in older times the heaven was closer to the earth and you could actually touch the sky.

We are a very privileged region as far as the IPs are concerned. Many of other IPs from Mindanao, southern part of the Philippines, and IPs from the central zone are amazed that there are IPs who are mayors, lawyers, doctors and congressmen in our region. It is because the majority of the 14 million IPs are marginalized in the Philippines. They are marginalized economically, politically and socially.



For example, mining now is booming in the Philippines, specially the south, Mindanao, and there are a lot of exploitations by mining companies. Especially, before the enactment of the indigenous people's right, many of these people were displaced from their homes by mining companies or farming and agricultural companies. After the enactment of the law on IPs' rights, when any mining company starts its operation, they have to get the consent of the IPs. The government's process is not perfect, but it is an example that the government is exerting its best to respond to the needs of IPs.



There are a lot of concerns about the education, as well as services to health. That is also one of the disadvantages of the IPs in the Philippines, especially those who are in the hinterland, those who are in the middle of the jungle or in the island. They rarely have schools and teaching servicing there.

Therefore, the Minister of Education started an IP educational framework to provide more resources and teachers for the IPs. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Development also has what we call the "4Ps" for the IPs. This is the conditional cash transfer program, poverty alleviation program specifically targeting the IPs.

The problem here in the Philippines with regard to the services for IPs is that, while here in the Cordillera, we all know that we are IPs and where we live. On the other hand, in the central Luzon and Mindanao, it is hard for the government agency to locate where the IPs are because they are marginalized within the mountains, in the forest. So that is why the services do not reach them.

So I drafted a bill that mandates the government to conduct a census on IPs to find out who and where the IPs are, so that services can reach them. I also authored a civil registration law for the government to be more IP-friendly. According to their culture,

normally IPs have only one name; however, in the civil registration, you have to put your Christian name. We would also like legalize tribal religious leaders to conduct marriage ceremonies according to their customs.

By and large, when it comes to population issues I do not think the IPs have enough understanding about reproductive health. That is also why during the previous congress it was very difficult to pass the reproductive health law. While congresspersons from IP tribes are not in favor of the passage of the reproductive health law, six of us voted yes.

In terms of the education in the Cordilleras, the area of Baguio City in Benguet is the center of education. There are a number of universities and people come from Manila to study here. In terms of our cultural heritage, some of our IP brothers and sisters have started to adopt modern technology. It is also true that the more marginalized you are, the more you tend to stick to the traditional livelihood or traditional norms.

I hope you will study about the situations of IPs in the Philippines, and when you go back to your countries, you will start working for legislation for the betterment of IPs in your countries.

"Situationer: Challenges of the Cordillera IP Tribes" by **Dr. Caster Palaganas**, Consultant of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

I am given an opportunity to share some issues with you, who are parliamentarians, who can be our allies, and who can be also our

advocate for the issues for the IPs of the Cordillera. I already heard Hon. Kumagai, the youngest senator of Japan, kindly expressing his wish to help us. We also want our voices to be heard when you get back to your countries.

I am not an IP, but working in this region for all years, I have been to many parts of the Cordillera and have seen the richness of the natural resources, such as forests, rivers and water resources. We have almost 11 mineral resources out of 17 rare earth elements used in the manufacture of modern technologies.

Unfortunately, we are still an agricultural country. I said unfortunate because we do need agriculture, but all with the high presence of the minerals that is needed to be an industrialized country, we have not reached that status. Despite the rich natural resources, one of the issues that we have confronted with is physical inaccessibility. In recent years, however, we have seen the construction of roads to reach remote villages.

When it comes to the general well-being, reproductive health and population issues, here in the Cordillera, we look at the co-existing with the spirit world and the natural environment.

Together with PLCPD, we did a community-wide study on Cordillera people's concerns of health and well-being in line with population issues. One was the insufficiency of services to respond to the basic needs and second was the problem related to funding and planning for health issues including sexual reproductive health, adolescence reproductive health, and sexually transmitted disease and HIV/AIDS. We also have community problems

such as lack of social services, underdeveloped water system, partial electrification and lack of access to irrigation facilities.

In addition, we need to build bridges so that school children can cross rivers to go to the nearest village to receive education. Some Barangays still have inadequate school facilities and inadequate teachers. They have multiple grades in the same classroom. These are development issues that IPs face and that have to be addressed by parliamentarians.

As you might have heard about this, we do not inherit land from our ancestors; we borrowed it from our children. For IPs in this area, and most probably in other parts of the world, they attach the most affection to their land.



As I mentioned earlier, this area is rich in natural resources, as well as minerals. To acquire minerals, miners come from different countries. They destroy our lands, rivers, river basins, which have affected poverty and development issues in this region.

Here are some basic facts of the Cordillera, as of May 2010

- Population: 1.6 million.
- Population growth rate: 1.7%
- Land area: 80,290 km²
- Local government units: 86
- Unemployment rate: 5.7%

The unemployment rate is high among nurses. Many of them are working in food restaurant chains and call centers. Underemployment is one of the serious problems.

Population issues are intertwined with social, environment issues, as well as the way of our livelihood. The Cordillera Administrative Region got the lowest allocation among 16 regions in the country in the proposed 2014 budget. If we do not have the budget, we cannot provide basic services to our people. I really hope that the parliamentarians can help us push for a higher budget for this region.

In order for us to achieve 100% education for all and reduce maternal and child mortality rates in the MDGs, we need to put money where the needs of the people are. I hope you can help our voices to be heard.



“Messages from representatives of IP Tribes and faith-based organizations”

Dr. Paulina Sawadan from North Abra Province:

Abra is composed of 27 municipalities, of which 9 municipalities are non-IP. One of the core foci of the department of education is to

attain the development of education and there are 5 colleges. We also have literacy programmes. Frankly speaking, Abra is dominated by non-IPs, but the IPs own the titles of the land. One of the problems in terms of population and development is that services are difficult to reach.

Pastor Paul Baguitay, Sr. from South Abra Province:

My family was from the most destitute part of Abra. Our challenge is in education, but over years we now have lawyers, doctors and nurses. However, some of them do not have employment, which is a serious issue.

Dr. Norberto Duran from Apayao Province:

Apayao was separated from Kalinga in equal division in 1995. It is composed of 7 municipalities. Apayao province has 80% forest cover. We have potential tourism values. We have programmes to protect forests and rivers for fishing.

Dr. Peter Cozalan from Benguet Province:

There are three major concerns: recognition of the existence of IPs; displacement of IPs from ancestral land by the government programmes; and mountainous terrains of Benguet making health, education and social services difficult to access. It was through the 1987 constitution that IPs and their rights were formally recognized.

We have a very poor local government unit and that they have no control over the resources. Since 1904, our mineral resources have been exploited by the mining industry.

In addition to the aforementioned representatives from IPs' communities, following representatives were present to engage in discussion and exchange with the Asian parliamentarians:

Dr. Imelda Parcasolo from Ifugao

Dr. Julie. C. Cabato from Ifugao

Rev. Henry Hakcholna from Ifugao

Ms. Sheena G. Bumangil from Kalinga

Ms. Lynn Madalang from Mt. Province

Rev. Jonathen Obar from Faith Based Organization

the Pacific region. We hope that we can start exchange programmes among the Philippines, Vietnam, and other countries.

Field Visit to Bahong: JICA's Rural Development Project

The delegates went aboard jeepneys and rode through village lanes to a community in Bohong.

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Brief History of BAHONG

BAHONG is one of the 16 Barangays of La Trinidad, the capital town of the Province of Benguet. Bahong is one of the tourist destinations of the Municipality being the "Rose Capital of the Philippines".

Bahong Land area is more or less 650 hectares, which is the 7th largest out of the 16 Barangays. The population is approx. 4,800. Bahong today is 80% catholic, and we now have five 5 different tribes namely:

Ibaloi: 70%

Ilocano: 10%

Bontoc: 10%

Kankanaey: 5%

Ifugao: 3%

Barangay Bahong used to be engaged in rice farming and vegetable production since its creation, but its land has already been converted to grow high value cutflowers. It is a lucrative farming business and 60% has been cultivated for rose gardens. We also have greenhouses grown chrysanthemums and anthuriums that are delivered to the Manila

Address by Hon. Nguyen Thi Kha, Member of Parliament from Vietnam

On behalf of the Asian delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your warm hospitality you have given us. We feel at home. Today we listened to your successful stories of how to take care of different indigenous people in the region, and I admire and respect your efforts. Especially, you are working diligently to improve the standard of living and address health issues for the people, and we learned from your experiences.

In Vietnam, we also have ethnic minorities who face difficulties. The government is trying to pay attention to improve their lives. As parliamentarians, we are responsible to make policies that take care of ethnic minorities not only in your country, but also in the Asia and



market. There are some farmers who are planting vegetable as other source of cash crop.

Barangay Bahong started to develop as a rural urban place. In the 1990s, JICA started the construction of irrigation system, concreting of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) and introduction of high value cutflowers, such as the Holland roses and chrysanthemums, in order to generate income and promote rural development.

Such assistance in building rural infrastructures including rural roads and irrigation systems and developing social services through capacity building for farmers has contributed to a drastic growth in agricultural products as well as improvement in health and education. As of 2000, 75% of farmers' income came from the cut flower production.

► 1989 - Sr. Theresa Uno, endorsed to JICA the cementing of roads, construction of irrigation facilities, domestic water and warehouses.



A pump house written that "Cooperation Philippine-Japan HIRDP (Highland Integrated Rural Development Project) (1990)"



A warehouse written that "(HIRDP: Highland Integrated Rural Development Project) Cooperation Philippine-Japan, 1990"

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The Bahong village people warmly welcomed the delegates with traditional songs. Following the presentations on Bahong by local government officers, a Questions & Answers session was held which provided the participants with opportunities to interact with the local officers and villagers and share their experiences in their respective countries.

The community people then moved on to teaching the traditional dance to Asian delegates and encouraged interaction as expressed in dancing, which promoted cross-cultural understanding and created a positive, united atmosphere.

While observing first-hand rose gardens and greenhouses for cutflower farming, as well as paved roads by JICA, local people repeatedly expressed their appreciation for Japan's assistance to Hon. Yutaka Kumagai, a Member

of Parliament from Japan, on behalf of the Japanese people.

After lunch with the local media, a Concluding Session was held, in which the delegates offered their feedbacks, followed by discussion and unanimous adoption of the "Call to Action".



Wrap-up Session

"Feedback from Participants"

Hon. Tissa Karalliyadde, Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs from Sri Lanka

At the conference, we had a very fruitful discussion on population and related issues from religious perspectives. I would like to share these experiences with my fellow parliamentarians in Sri Lanka. The study visit to the Cordillera region reminds me



of one of the Indigenous communities in Sri Lanka, which is also struggling to preserve their cultural heritage and tradition in the ever-changing society due to interaction with the outside world. All in all, this programme was a great educational value to us and some lessons learned will no doubt help us sharpen our own policies in our own countries.

Hon. Mariany Mohammad Yit, Senator from Malaysia

At the 1st day meeting, I was impressed with the last session on the youth with attention to HIV and youth-related sexuality problems. In Malaysia we were successful with regards to the family planning in the 1960's; however, we are now losing what we have achieved in the past. Therefore, we must find strategies how to handle young people. I have learned at the conference that we can adapt in Malaysia.



Our trip to the Cordillera Region was the most impressive. I must congratulate the IPs in the Philippines, especially in Bahong on their progress. I hope the APDA can host other events in other countries so that we can learn more. And truly I agree with Mr. Manmohan Sharma's comment that as part of the learning process we make friends.

***“Closing Message” by Hon. Yutaka Kumagai,
Member of Parliament from Japan***

I come from the devastated area that was hit by the great earthquake and tsunami 2 years ago, I would like to express to my deep gratitude to all of you, who extended us support after the great tsunami and earthquake.

On behalf of JPFP, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every one of you for very substantial discussion in the past three days. My appreciation goes to PLCPD, the government of la Trinidad, the government of Baguio City, the Nation Commission of Indigenous People and all those who rendered their support to make the meeting and study visit a success.

With this year marking the 29th such event, this parliamentarians' activities have greatly contributed to the development of the AFPPD activities since APDA was established in 1982 as a backbone of AFPPD.



JPFP together with the APDA would like to continue to facilitate parliamentarians' activities and programmes such as this in order to strengthen our partnership and concrete action to solve population issues which I believe will pave the way for a brighter future for all.

Call to Action

The 29th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development

30 August 2013
The Philippines

We, Parliamentarians from (number) Asia and the Pacific countries, gathered in the Philippines to commit ourselves to continuing and enhancing efforts to address population issues, contribute to the acceleration of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote sustainable and equitable development toward and beyond 2015.

We reaffirm that:

1. Addressing population issues are essential precondition for individuals' wellbeing and sustainable development;
2. Promoting parliamentarians' activities on population and development is crucial to strengthen our role, both individually and collectively, to protect and improve people's happiness and dignity;
3. Population measures and programmes should respect different cultures and values, and in consistent with the International Conference on Population and Development -Program of Action and related international agreements on population issues.

To this end, we parliamentarians commit ourselves to the following actions:

1. Put in place population programmes and measures that ensure respect for different faiths and cultures, which constitute the basis of people's lives and values;
2. As a bridge between the governments and people, work closely with culturally different groups to improve conditions that promote people's well-being and adopt practical, culturally-sensitive population measures (including modern methods of family planning) in respective religious and cultural settings;
3. Call upon the government to pay special attention to social, health and economic challenges that culturally different groups face and secure necessary means of subsistence and survival.

Using this common understanding as a platform for concrete action and further exchange, we parliamentarians pledge to carry out these actions and actively share the progress we make through parliamentarians' groups and networks. We also pledge to continue to further enhance partnership and collaboration among parliamentarians in order to advocate and address population issues as an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Participants' List

National Delegates				
1	Hon.	Ugyen Wangdi	Bhutan	MP
2	Hon.	Wang Longde	China	Member of Standing Committee; Vice-Chair of ESCPH Committee; MP
3	Hon.	Shen Yan	China	Member of ESCPH Committee; MP
4	Mr.	Xie Xiaoping	China	Deputy Director-General, Office of Population of Public Health and Sports, ESCPH Committee
5	Mr.	He Tuo	China	Senior Staff Member, Office of General Administration, ESCPH Committee
6	Mr.	Zhang Chuansheng	China	Director in Office of the General Administration
7	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary of IAPPD
8	Hon. Dr.	Chairun Nisa	Indonesia	MP
9	Hon. Dr.	Muhammad Oheo Sinapoy	Indonesia	MP
10	Hon.	Hj. Hairiah SH.	Indonesia	Senator
11	Hon.	Gusti Kanjeng Ratu Hemas	Indonesia	Deputy Speaker of Regional Representative Council
12	Ms.	Rina Hartami Widiastuti	Indonesia	Assistant to the Senator
13	Ms.	Lolly Suhenty	Indonesia	Assistant to the Senator
14	Hon.	Yasuo Fukuda	Japan	Former Prime Minister; Chair of APDA; Honorary Chair of JPFP; Former Chair of AFPPD
15	Hon.	Yukio Ubukata	Japan	Vice-Chair of JPFP; MP
16	Hon. Dr.	Toshiko Abe	Japan	Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Chair of the JPFP Gender Issues Committee
17	Hon.	Yutaka Kumagai	Japan	MP; Member of JPFP
18	Hon.	Somphou Douangsavanh	Lao PDR	Vice-President of LAPPD; Vice-Chair of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee; MP
19	Hon. Ms.	Viengmany Chanthanasine	Lao PDR	MP
20	Mr.	Bounlert Louanedouangchanh	Lao PDR	Executive Director of LAPPD
21	Hon.	Mariany Mohammad Yit	Malaysia	Senator
22	Hon.	Ahmed Abdulla	Maldives	MP
23	Hon.	Francis Marus	Papua New Guinea	MP
24	Hon.	Pia Cayetano	Philippines	PLCPD Chair for the Senate
25	Hon.	Bellaflor Angara-Castillo	Philippines	PLCPD Chairperson for the House of Representatives
26	Hon.	Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara	Philippines	PLCPD Vice-Chairperson for the Senate
27	Hon.	Walden Bello	Philippines	PLCPD Chairperson for International Linkages
28	Hon.	Teddy Brawner Baguilat	Philippines	Vice-Chair of the Committee on National Cultural Communities; PLCPD Vice-Chairperson for Luzon
29	Hon.	Terry Ridon	Philippines	MP

30	Hon.	Janette Garin, M.D.	Philippines	Undersecretary of the Department of Health
31	Hon.	Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman	Philippines	Representative of AMIN Party List; PLCPD Member
32	Hon.	Nancy Catamco	Philippines	Chairperson of the Committee on National Cultural Communities, House of Representatives
33	Hon.	Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica	Philippines	MP
34	Hon.	Tissa Karalliyadde	Sri Lanka	Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs
35	Hon. Dr.	Vitthaya Inala	Thailand	Senator
36	Hon.	Anusart Suwanmongkol	Thailand	Senator
37	Mr.	Nontawat Khongmoh	Thailand	Assistant to the Senator
38	Mr.	Ramon San Pascual	Thailand	Executive Director of AFPPD
39	Hon.	Antonio Ximenes Serpa	Timor Leste	MP
40	Hon.	Eladio Antonio Faculto de Jesus	Timor Leste	MP
41	Ms.	Charlemagne Gomez	Timor Leste	Gender and Legal Advisor, National Parliament, UNDP Parliamentary Project
42	Hon.	Nguyen Thi Kha	Vietnam	Executive Member of VAPPD; MP
43	Dr.	Nguyen Duc Thus	Vietnam	Executive Director of VAPPD

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

44	Ms.	Anne Harmer	Thailand	Regional Programme Coordinator of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
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International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Member Associations (MAs)

45	Ms.	Nora Murat	Malaysia	IPPF East & South East Asia & Oceania Region (ESEAOR)
46	Mr.	Gessen Rocas	Philippines	Executive Director of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP)

Resource Persons (Meeting and Study Visit)

47	Mr.	Jun Omar C. Ebdane	Philippines	Former MP
48	Prof.	Ernesto M. Pernia	Philippines	Professor at University of the Philippines College of Economics
49	Bishop	Rodrigo Tano	Philippines	President of the Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood
50	Ms.	Elizabeth Angsioco	Philippines	National President of the Democratic Socialist Women
51	Mr.	Percival Cerdana	Philippines	Commissioner at Large "National Youth Programs on P&D
52	Ms.	Heart Dino	Philippines	Student Council Alliance of the Philippines
53	Ms.	Lady Lisondra	Philippines	Former Youth coordinator of Family Planning Organization of the Philippines
54	Rev.Fr.	Rodolfo Vicente Cancino,Jr.,MI	Philippines	Head of Programs and Planning, The Camillian Fathers, Inc.
55	Ms.	Edna Tabanda	Philippines	Mayor of La Trinidad
56	Mr.	Mauricio Domogan	Philippines	Mayor, Baguio city
57	Mr.	Rafael Sallocoy	Philippines	Secretary to the Mayor of Baguio City

58	Dr.	Caster Palaganas	Philippines	Head of Social Department, University of the Philippines, Baguio
59	Dr.	Paulina Sawadan	Philippines	ABRA Tribe
60	Mr.	Paul Baguitay	Philippines	ABRA Tribe
61	Dr.	Norberto Duran	Philippines	APAYAO Tribe
62	Dr.	Peter Cozalan	Philippines	Benguet Tribe
63	Dr.	Imelda Parcasolo	Philippines	Benguet Tribe
64	Dr.	Julie C.Cabato	Philippines	Benguet Tribe
65	Rev.	Henry Hakcholna	Philippines	Ifugao tribe
66	Ms.	Sheena G. Bumangil	Philippines	Kalinga tribe
67	Ms.	Lynn Madalang	Philippines	MT.province
68	Rev.	Jonathen Obar	Philippines	Faith Based Organization
69	Ms.	Helen R. Tibaldo	Philippines	Director of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA)
70	Ms.	Joan Bacoling	Philippines	Planning Officer of La Trinidad

Additional Delegates and Observers

71	Ms.	Imelda E.Grupo	Philippines	Municipal Budget Officer
72	Mr.	Zenaida Brigida Pawid	Philippines	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Commissioner
73	Mr.	Teddy M. Quintos	Philippines	President, Liga ng mga Punong Barangays

The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

74	Mr.	Romeo C. Dongeto	Philippines	Executive Director
75	Mr.	Kisterjay Llever	Philippines	General Services
76	Ms.	Nenita Dalde	Philippines	National Advocacy Officer
77	Ms.	Maida Ojeda	Philippines	Communications Officer
78	Mr.	Dodie Lucas	Philippines	

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

79	Dr.	Osamu Kusumoto	Japan	Secretary-General/Executive Director
80	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	APDA
81	Mr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	APDA

Interpreters

82	Ms.	Kimiyo Machida	Japan	Interpreter
83	Ms.	Haruko Ota	Japan	Interpreter
84	Ms.	Kumiko Mima	Japan	Interpreter

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