
**Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project
on Accountability and Aid Implementation
for Population and Development Issues
Part III**

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**The Asian Population and Development Association
(APDA)**

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OPENING CEREMONY

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening Address

Hon. Yasuo Fukuda

MP, Japan

Chair of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF)

Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and colleague parliamentarians. I would like to welcome you warmly, and coming from far away. As a sponsor, it is a great privilege and an honour.

As you know, it has already been seven months since Japan experienced in our north eastern region the earthquake and tsunami disaster, which was followed by the nuclear crisis.



We are currently making every effort to recover from the great disaster, and we are seeing some light ahead of us. We will, of course, reconstruct, without a doubt. I hope that the next time you are in Japan that you will be able to see a remarkable change here in Japan. But in any case, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your participation.

This conference started in 2009 on a three-year term, and this is about the Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development Issues. This is the last year of our project.

Currently, we have a global population of more than seven billion people. Therefore,

the importance of population issues is becoming more and more serious and critical. But, on the other hand, in the advanced countries, we have issues of fewer children and aging population, while in the developing countries we are still seeing an increasing population. So, we say "population issues", it is a very diversified issue. There are different challenges that exist in every country.

But what we can say as a common issue is that we all live on this limited planet called the earth, and for people to live as a human kind, we need to work together with both the advanced countries and the developing countries to stabilise our population. The global population of seven billion must not be increased any further, and we must make an effort towards that end.

The focus of this project is to clarify the role and responsibilities of parliamentarians in addressing such diversified population issues. This year marks the 30th anniversary of AFPPD and APDA.

Thirty years ago, AFPPD was established by APDA and at that time, the understanding of population was very different among various countries. There was no unified understanding about population issues.

Therefore, our parliamentarians' activities were centred on educating the public about the population issue and its impact on the future of the planet. Later on, it is becoming more evident how human activities affect climate changes and sustainable supplies of natural resources, which are the problems that we had to take upon ourselves.

Currently, the population issue has now become the foundation of the global issue, and this is our common awareness today. The changes are taking place over the year, and also the focus of the parliamentarians' activities is changing from education to specific action. This is what we are now challenged with. We have arrived to what we are today, as a result of what we have achieved and accumulated over the past 30 years.

I hope that, this workshop will be fruitful and that your discussions will be very passionate and active. In addition to that, although you will only be here in Japan for a few days – it is a short stay, but I do hope that during your stay you will be able to enjoy the autumn of Japan. It is a bit early for Tokyo for it, but if you go to the rural areas, the autumn colours are very beautiful. I hope you will have chance for it.

Also, the Japanese food is totally safe and it is not contaminated at all from our nuclear crisis, so please enjoy the good food as well. And with that, we would like to start our conference.

Thank you very much.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

OPENING CEREMONY

Address

Mr. Masaki Noke

Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I feel honoured to be presenting to you, in front of you. Starting from Mr. Fukuda to the members of the parliaments who have been carrying out various programs related to development and the population, I would like, once again, to pay respect to you all and express my gratitude and appreciation.

I understand this is the programme which uses the support from the Japan Trust Fund for inter-country programme, through UNFPA. This is the third year of the project, and we are hopeful that the project will be very fruitful, building upon the outcomes for the past years. I would like to express my appreciation to the effort made by APDA in planning and implementing this project. Also, thanks to the support from the members of JPPF, this project has been carried out. So once again, I would like to express my appreciation.

As former Prime Minister Mr. Fukuda said, the population is on a continuous increase, and seven billion is the number we will reach on 31 October. In 13 years from now, another one billion will be added. In 2050, we would see the population of 9.3 billion. In general, in the developing countries, if the country is poor the increase in the population is higher and the increase of the population is impacting largely on the poverty, disease, employment food,

energy and the environment.

On the other hand, the birthrate, just a lower birthrate will not resolve the whole issue.



In our country, our low birthrate and aging society have been major issues in recent years. Getting out of this low birthrate will slow the progress of the ageing society in the future. They can not only alleviate social security burdens, but it can also lead to the revitalization of our society.

In our country, we are seeking that country in which human security is one of the major pillars of Japan's foreign policy, which aims at building a society and a country where each human being can realise their rich potential. The health issue, including the population issue is directly related to human security. So we regard this issue as major priority.

Among the MDGs, we are seeing very slow progress in the health-related areas including population issues, especially those covered by the MDG4, or reduction of child mortality, and also by the MDG5, or improvement of maternal health.

In the past, we had very high infant and

maternal mortality rates. We were able to overcome those issues because of the creation of the health service network and policy-making and implementation based on the population statistics and research on health services. Based on the results, we also developed the maternal and child health handbook, policymaking, and created the universal health insurance system.

The health area, including the population, is the area that we can share our successful experience. We should be proactive in this area, and thus last year in September, at the UN MDGs Summit, Japan announced its new Global Health Policy, including assistance of US\$5 billion over five years beginning in 2011. We will continue to carry out such commitments, and in order to lower the maternal and infant mortality rates, we would like to

extend further assistance with focus on strengthening health systems. We are hopeful that we will continue to contribute to the effort to save lives of mothers and children.

In order to carry out our efforts in more effective and efficient manner, last month in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we created a Global Health Policy Office in the International Cooperation Bureau. This is an indication that our foreign policy is focusing on the importance of the health programme including population. For a resolution of our health-related issue such as the health-related MDGs, we would like to be continuously proactive in tackling these issues. Finally, I hope for the success of this project.

Thank you very much.



Tuesday, October 25, 2011

OPENING CEREMONY

Address

Ms. Junko Sazaki

Successive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tokyo Office

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Junko Sazaki. I will be a new director of UNFPA office in Tokyo replacing Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami who has been very active in her role. I hope that I will meet your expectations.



advocating for stronger commitment and investment in population and development, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and gender. The great work of parliamentarians reviewing, revising, discussing and approving laws leads to greater advocacy, awareness creation, sustainability of action through more collaboration with civil society's organizations, even when the government changes with any administrative structure left and all the changes.

Unfortunately today, Ms. Safiye Çağar, our director of the Division of Information and External Relations (IERD), cannot participate in this meeting due to previous commitment; thus, I will be delivering a speech on her behalf.

It is a pleasure to join you today in Tokyo for the third meeting on Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development Issues. I would like to thank the host, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), for your organization in this meeting; the organizer, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA); the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); the Forum for African and Arab Parliamentarians of Population and Development (FAAPPD), for your organization and participation in this meeting.

As parliamentarians, you play a key role in

Networking among parliamentarians within the regions and among different regions, here we witness it is important for sharing experiences. Networking among parliamentarians in donor countries and in programme countries is also very important in order to effectively increase funds for population development, RH and family planning through promoting, understanding on how to tap more donor funds, with transparency and accountability through strategising to increase more national funds; national budget for RH, population and development issues.

We, the UNFPA, are very proud to be your partner. Distinguished guests, as you all know, the world's population is going to reach 7 billion on October 31, this year. The population is growing by 78 million people per year. That is almost the population of Germany. It is projected to grow from 7 billion to 9.3 billion by 2050.

This is three times more than the population of 50 years ago. It is a challenge for poor countries to both meet the basic needs of their population and ensure environmental sustainability. This becomes even more challenging in the face of rapid population growth, especially where these sectors of the population that have the least ability to support themselves are growing the fastest.

In 56 developing countries, for example, the poorest women across the countries surveyed were found to have on average six births as compared to 3.2 births for the wealthiest women in those countries. In Gambia, for example, one in five girls will become pregnant in their adolescence.

In Afghanistan, the total fertility rate is, on average, 7 pregnancies per woman. In Nicaragua, where I worked as a UNFPA representative - I just came from there - 25% of the births occurred in adolescence, mostly unplanned, not admitted; unrecognized by their male partners.

Increase in the number of large poor families lead to an increase in demand for fuel, water, food and other resources. Lack of access to water for drinking and agriculture is already putting pressure on about a third of the world's population and in many places climate change is expected to make the problem worse. This is the world we live in.

Increasing population and the search for resources make the poor, and particularly women and children, weakened agents of environmental strain. Climate change and food security are two interlinked threats to human security. Both are closely related to population change and stabilising population growth may give countries time to take measures to meet people's

needs while protecting the environment.

Preventing unwanted pregnancies and births through voluntary family planning and guaranteeing people the right to RH can help stabilise world population growth rates and moderate environmental impact. It may be one of the most cost effective ways of doing so. But while many poor women have expressed their desire for smaller families, they don't have the resources or information to exercise their basic right to decide how many children they want and when they want them.

About 215 million women in developing countries who would like to delay or prevent their next pregnancy have an unmet need for contraceptives. There is a "hand-to-hand" campaign on-going to reduce this number by 100 million by 2015. The total need for voluntary family planning is projected to grow by 40% over the next 15 years.

Yet, in the face of these demands, voluntary family planning programmes is one of the least-funded areas of development assistance. To meet the unmet need, global population assistance should now exceed US\$1 billion per year for family planning and increase to over US\$1.5 billion by 2015. Current assistance, however, is only just over half a billion; less than half of what is needed now, and only one third of what is needed by 2015.

In many countries, pregnancy and childbirth is the biggest killer of women. More than half a million women die in pregnancy or childbirth each year; one woman dying each minute. Ten million over a generation – lost, dead. No woman should die giving life.

Maternal death is the world's biggest

health inequity. The lifetime risk of dying in childbirth is as high as 1 in 7 in some African countries, as opposed to right here in Japan of 1 in 11,600, and 1 in 7,300 in developed countries, on average. It is unacceptable in the 21st century, and the impact from each needless and tragic death is much larger when you look at the big picture. When a mother dies, children, families, communities and the nation suffer.

This is because women's contribution to national economic development is significant. The death and disability of a mother raises death and illness rates for children; destroys families; takes children out of school, and lowers household and community economic productivity.

Addressing unwanted pregnancies through access to a full range of RH services, including skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetrics care and family planning will not only contribute toward stalling population growth and environmental degradation, it is also reducing the deaths of mothers and babies. Increasing demand for access to- and use of such services can also improve gender equity by empowering women to take part in family and community decisions, and give them better opportunities for gaining an education.

In many developing countries, providing full access to voluntary family planning would be far less costly in the long run than the environmental, social and economic consequences of rapid population growth.

Voluntary family planning programmes have a record of success in slowing population growth and saving women from dying in childbirth. In Thailand and

Malaysia, for instance, well-managed, fully voluntary programmes have led to significant changes. Researchers project that addressing the unmet need for family planning could reduce fertility by up to 35% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 15% in Asia and Western Africa. As part of this effort, the UNFPA works to ensure universal access to reproductive health and the rights (RHR) of all people to be able to decide how many children they want and when to have them.

An important factor in improving RH services in developing countries is the strengthening of national health systems. We must have health systems that can work for women when women are ready to deliver. Without strong, responsive health systems, developing countries will continue to be disproportionately affected by changes in climate and availability of food as well as access to health services.

We need your help to carry the message; to advocate for our common mandate and issues, and to remind leaders of their commitment to women and humanity. It is essential all the parliamentarians get the following message and understand them in depth, for advocating or for making laws, working with civil societies and the government. The first message: we must address unmet needs for family planning.

The second message is: we must ensure RH for all. Third, we must strengthen health systems. Fourth, we must integrate population issues and all responses for addressing climate change, and fifth, we must not let women and children die needlessly from things that can be prevented. If there is a will, there is a way. I know you are all here to work together. Together we are sure we can make it happen. Thank you very much.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

OPENING CEREMONY

Address

Hon. Ichiro Aisawa

Vice-Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

It is so significant and worthwhile that you distinguished parliamentarians gathered here today. As the Chief Secretary-General of the Japan-African Union (AU) Parliamentary Friendship League, I myself have been involved in various issues of African nations, and I really would like to keep up the good effort.

This is the 60th year anniversary for the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Unlike a multiracial country, it was very difficult for a homogenous country like Japan to embrace refugees, but it has been 30 years since we ratified this convention. Since last year, we have accepted some Myanmar refugees, who used to flee to Thailand and applied for resettlement to Japan. This was a first step, but a very big breakthrough for Japan. There are many parliamentarians that support the UNHCR operations, I have also been involved in these issues as the Secretary-General of the Parliamentary League for UNHCR.



Also, yesterday was the World Polio Day. Together with polio, we have to endeavour to eradicate HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases. The Global Fund is playing a huge role, and I am also a Diet Task-Force Director of the

parliamentary organization that supports the Global Fund, called the Friends of the Global Fund, Japan.

Through such experiences, and thanks to the good guidance given by JPFP Chair Mr. Fukuda, I have been working hard on population and development issues. As a member of parliament in Japan, and especially having focused on foreign affairs, I am strongly concerned about the absolute amount of ODA of Japan having been almost halved when it was at peak.

At the peak times, Japan's economy was brisk and in retrospect it was a bubble effect. In those days, the general Japanese citizens, or tax payers, were quite generous about Japan contributing to the rest of the world and they were even proactive.

But as the economy dwindled and plunged, you become really nearsighted and you become concerned about what is happening to you in the near future. Maybe this can be applied to other countries of the world, but I think that a swing of the pendulum of public opinion is quite large in Japan. So we parliamentarians of Japan should cast our direct eyes on the realities and reflect upon ourselves to validate if there was a flaw on our part.

In order to realise world peace and stability, as well as meet the MDGs'

deadline of 2015, which is coming near, we should strongly appeal to our constituencies, or taxpayers of Japan, that achieving the MDGs will serve in the interests of Japanese nationals and Japan as an ODA contributor. For that, we should be able to demonstrate our accountability.

We do have to be very careful about choosing the pertinent words, but in the proper sense we should be able to educate people, enlighten people. The Japanese ODA that we are talking here is all taxpayers' money. If they are to contribute to the democratisation, health and other various issues of the developing countries, we should be able to explain how much successful fruit they are bearing. If we are to provide funds, we should be accountable for that, and this is our responsibility as a parliamentarian.

Especially, when the economy is not performing well, if we are to dish out the money for the contribution of ODA, it is even more important that we should be able to assume full responsibility in terms of accountability for the successful examples of ODA.

For the recipient nations, I think the same level of accountability will be required of the parliamentarians of the developing nations. What kind of budget will be used for what nature of projects, and what kind of advantages will they bring to the people of the developing nations. I think this kind of scheme should be established rather robustly in respective partner countries.

I think the initial year and the second year of this project came forward, and this is the final year to conclude our initiative.

We would like to validate what went on in the year one, year two, so that we get to come to a fruitful conclusion.

Politics is all about obtaining trust from our constituents and the taxpayers, and in order to do that, politicians and the administration are required to maintain the transparency of our politics itself, as well as financial and budget processes. We also have to be mutually accountable and able to explain what the situation is. I hope that we can mutually validate the cost-effectiveness from the donor perspective as well as from the recipient perspectives. And not just desiring for this, we should make it tangible and make this happen by creating a robust system for it.

We are facing an unprecedented yen appreciation, so in a way, if we are to donate in dollar or Euro terms, we may be in an advantageous position. But we are still not certain what kind of negative effects of the EU financial crisis will pose to the global economic situation. The US economy is also attracting the attention of the world. We hope that healthy management of the finance and the economy of the world will lead us to a brilliant future.

The year for the MDGs to be achieved is coming shortly. We know that our population will have grown to 7 billion people by the end of this month. Still, in such difficult situations, let's hang on to our hope and assume our responsibilities as parliamentarians.

Thank you very much.

SESSION 1

Progress and Feedback from the 2009 and 2010 Workshops

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 1

Progress and Feedback from the 2009 and 2010 Workshops

Hon. Fredrick Outa

MP, Kenya

Curriculum Vitae

Hon. Fredrick Outa Otenio was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2007 in the general election in Kenya. He represents the constituency of Nyando in the Western part of Kenya. He currently serves on the Committee on Health, Agriculture; and is also on the Speakers Committee. Among the projects he has so far initiated are: the revival of irrigation that had initially collapsed; the building of orphanages; catering to the needs of widows in Nyando; attending to the aged and eye surgery; and the sinking of boreholes.

He holds a Bachelor's in Health Management from the City University of New York; a Master's degree in Theology from the International School of Theology; a Master's degree in Intercultural Studies from Biola University; and is presently working on his Doctorate of Philosophy through Biola University.

I have the privilege to be here once more to interact with you on matters pertaining to the population in the world. I will speak on the accountability and aid implementation and also, lessons learned from population and development-related ODA projects.

As you know, Kenya is a developing country, and like many others in the third world, Kenya's taxpayers alone do not generate adequate domestic revenues for implementing poverty reduction plans. For this and many other reasons, Kenya depends on ODA support to supplement its budget, especially on reproductive health (RH) and family planning, among others. This calls for greater transparency and accountability which are powerful drivers of progress, as is stated in the Paris Declaration.

Lack of accountability undermines poverty reduction and hinders economic growth by discouraging investment, and reducing confidence in the public institutions and systems. Corruption and lack of transparency which erode public support, impair effective resources mobilisation and allocation, and divert resources away from activities that are vital for poverty reduction and sustainable economic development.

Since the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, international donors to population and AIDS programmes have been called on to respond to the ICPD goals for expanded and holistic RH services. In an attempt to streamline aid policies and increase the effectiveness of development projects, donors signed the Paris Declaration in 2005, which defines aid effectiveness as an

encompassing national ownership, alignment with the countries' systems, harmonising donor activities, managing for results, and encouraging mutual accountability.

Since then, the government of Kenya, in November 2010, met to review progress and identify emerging issues and challenges that would inform a new policy for the period of 2011-2030 that is aligned to the constitution of Kenya 2010, and what we call in Kenya now, the Vision 2030 that we want to achieve.

Over the past 30 years, family planning programmes, with considerable support from ODA have succeeded in bringing about major changes in fertility patterns. Key elements in success have included securing political support, exploiting existing unmet demand, innovative delivery methods, multiple delivery channels, community-based outreach, efficiency management, quality services, information, education and communication, and training. However, the problem of how to sustain programmes without continued dependency on donors, and in some cases, increasingly ODA, has not been resolved.

Lessons that we have learned so far: one is, traditionally, the donors associated with the population and RH activities have been the bilateral aid of wealthy northern governments, and that is notably the U.S, U.K., Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavian countries, and the major UN multilateral institutions, notably, the UNFPA and UNICEF.

Over the last decades, however, North American and European donors have become increasingly reluctant to commit sufficient funds for sexual and

reproductive health (SRH). Needs are increasingly being met financially and in kind by Japan, although recent economic developments have limited its current contributions to development banks such as the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and other quasi-private such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Donors are not naturally philanthropic givers of gifts. Donors are subject to the national and international political interests that can influence their decision on programme and service support to the detriment of local needs. This is the case in the U.S. The anti-abortion stance of the Republican Administration, starting with that of Ronald Regan, has resulted in a policy that is known as "gag rule." That policy denies ODA for family planning funding to any foreign NGOs engaged in abortion counselling or referral, or advocates changes in abortion laws, regardless of the needs of the population being served. This policy has, however, since been repealed by the Obama Administration, and developing countries have started benefitting from the aid once again.

Globally, accurate figures on donor financing remain extremely difficult to find, despite repeated calls for establishment of an international tracking system. UNFPA estimates that a total global budget of US\$10 billion was allocated for family planning. Of this US\$1.4 billion was provided by ODA and US\$0.6 billion by the World Bank and other development banks; the remaining US\$8 billion was provided by developed countries' governments and private sources. Although donors have their own policies, governments must exhibit the political will necessary to effectively implement ODA-funded

projects and reforms. Political will is the one greatest obstacle for civil society in holding the government accountable for its use of ODA.

Public leadership is one of the key requirements for effective reforms. Pressure from domestic constituencies shapes policies in terms of donor harmonisation to the extent that some bilateral agencies, such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), need to keep their funding distinct in order to adequately respond to the Congress for their exact use of tax dollars. This prevents the Agency from pooling funds and requires recognition for the national origins of the development assistance. Additionally, there is pressure from legislative bodies of donor countries to use certain physical accountability methods that are not compatible with indicators prompted by recipient countries.

It is also important to raise awareness and acknowledge especially among young people to promote social acceptability, to reduce dropout rates, and improve the effectiveness of the use of contraceptives. To be successful, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes need to be well-targeted, with the precise need for information established, and messages need to be repeated and their impact evaluated. Similarly, population

projects have made contraception available to large numbers of people, but are still reaching to some.

In relation to that, under our new constitution in Kenya specifically we have decentralised and public participation in budgeting as governance goals. Kenya's consultative budget framework and the strength of the parliaments budget's office is commendable. Kenya is among the new African nations to establish a largely independent parliamentary budget office staffed by economic and technical specialists. Similarly, the new constitution has transformed the Parliament of Kenya from a budget of approving to a budget making parliament. Consequently, the budget preparation process is highly consultative and follows a well-stipulated budget cycle as provided for in the constitution.

In conclusion, I want to conclude that in Kenya, in the year 2003 our government enacted a Public Office Ethics Act and the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crime Act. This expanded the definition of corruption and economic crime to cover various forms of abuse of office, conflict of interest, misappropriation, theft and plunder of public resources. This is what we use today to be able to monitor the ODA funding that comes to our nation. Thank you.



Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 1

Progress and Feedback from the 2009 and 2010 Workshops

Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz

MP, Pakistan

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and formerly the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Population and Welfare, and represented the Parliament on the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council for 5 years. Hon. Dr. Aziz now sits on the Standing Committees for Health, Economic Affairs, Privatization, Rules and Privileges, and also represents her political party on the Working Council of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

Hon. Dr. Aziz received her Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and a Bachelor's of Surgery from Punjab University and worked as a medical researcher for two and a half years at the Department of Radiology at the University of California Medical Centre.

In my experience of coming to this wonderful workshop for the second time, I realise that the purpose that we are gathered here for this last segment of the on-going series is really to figure out what has been going wrong in terms of ODA assistance and the projects that are funded by that assistance, and to identify the disconnect: the disconnect that is between donor governments and recipient governments; the disconnect between parliamentarians in donor countries and recipient countries; the disconnect between the donor countries' implementing agencies and the populations in the recipient countries; the disconnect between parliamentarians in their own countries and projects that are being executed in their own countries.

Pakistan has been and still is a recipient of a large amount of donor assistance. Whether it is because of our role in the

war against terror, or if it is because of various national disasters that we have been plagued with over the past few years; we had a devastating earthquake in 2005 in which 75,000 people approximately lost their lives. And both last year and this year, we've had devastating floods. The flooding last year resulted in the displacement of over 20 million people, which is the largest displacement of human beings in recorded history. So because of these instances we have been the recipients of a large amount of donor assistance, bilaterally and also through multilateral organizations.

My experience over the past seven to eight years has been exactly what we have come to talk about here, today, and here in Tokyo last year, and is that parliamentarians in recipient countries often have no idea what is happening with donor money when it comes into our

countries. This is a technicality that I learned from my time on the Economic Affairs Committee, because our parliaments are not responsible for okaying the budgets for these programmes, therefore we are told that we do not have any jurisdiction to inquire into the feasibility of the programmes, into the progress of the programmes, and the expected outcomes and real outcomes.

This in itself is a huge problem when you are representing a constituency, when you are representing a people who have certain expectations, and you yourself as a representative of those people have no ability to look into the nitty-gritty of what is happening on the ground in your constituencies in terms of donor-funded programmes. I think that these kinds of interactions that we have here through this APDA workshop and various other interactions that I have had over the years with my colleagues from other countries is really the foundation for the kind of accountability that we would like to see.

Until and unless the policymakers from countries across the economic divide or the political divide or geographic divide, unless the policymakers from these countries get together and understand what's happening across the world, there is no way that you can expect, and my due apologies to any bureaucrats here, that you can expect the bureaucracy to come up with solutions to these problems on their own.

Bureaucracies are not inherently designed to have dynamic solutions to problems. At least this is my experience from my own country, as long as something is happening in a progressive manner, there is no reason a bureaucrat is going to change it. It is the politician or the policymaker who always

has to interject into the bureaucratic procedure and ask "can this be done better?" "Is there a better way?" It is when the policymakers ask those questions that you then force the bureaucracy to re-evaluate itself.

And the more astute the politician is, the more educated the politician is, not in terms of degrees or books, but educated in terms of what actually happens; educated in terms of what we learn from each other in gatherings like this. The more educated that a policymaker is, the better they can guide their bureaucracy to change towards a more transparent and accountable functioning for development projects, domestically-funded and internationally-funded.

I think that I am going to go into some examples from Pakistan itself that help to highlight these kinds of issues. I am not going to talk in particular about population and development because the ODA issues, of course population and development are a part of that, but they span a much larger horizon and my experience also is that when you present this broader horizon to your colleagues.

As we all know, not everyone is interested in population and development, not everyone is interested in agriculture, but when you present these issues in a broader, more holistic fashion, you get more and more of your colleagues interested in looking into how these donor-funded programmes are being executed in your own countries, and how they are planned, how they are evaluated. The larger horizon, the larger perspective, helps to get more people on board and it helps also to bring the bureaucracy more on board.

As you know, bureaucrats are not born and raised in one particular ministry. They spend two years here, three years there, they move from ministry to ministry, and it is important that, as policymakers that we talk to them as an entire cadre, not just the bureaucrats who happen to be working in the ministry of population today, or the bureaucrats who happen to be working in the Ministry of Health today, because when those bureaucrats move on to railways or to defence or whatever their next posting is, you have to start from scratch again with the new bureaucrats that replace them in the social sector ministries.

So, coming back to Pakistan, a couple of examples that I can share with you in terms of us trying to get a better sense of what ODA programmes are running in our country. I can give you the example again of the 2005 earthquake. The earthquake was devastating. As I said, a lot of people lost their lives and the response to the earthquake was first a rescue arm and then a rehabilitation and reconstruction arm. From Day 1, when the earthquake hit and a number of multilateral organizations and bilateral organizations just descended upon Pakistan because they wanted to help. It was wonderful for them to come, but there was no way for any one organization to know what the next was doing. This actually turned out to be quite a problem.

Let me just put aside the various countries, but within even the UN agencies, the WHO did not know what the UNFPA was doing. The UNFPA did not know what UNICEF was doing and we ended up with a lot of duplication of services; a lot of duplication of products that were being brought in to help in terms of healthcare and food and shelter.

At this point, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan suggested at the UN General Assembly, that there needed to be a "One UN". The UN needed to somehow have a system where the various organizations, or the agencies within the UN, needed to speak to each other in a better way so that it wasn't really then, in a crisis situation, the government of Pakistan that was helping to coordinate the WHO and UNICEF with the UNFPA, which is what we had to do, that it would actually be the UN that would coordinate itself first and then come to any government that it is helping.

The result of this proposal by the then Pakistani Prime Minister resulted in the One UN Programme, for which Pakistan is one of the pilot countries, and I believe Tanzania is another country and maybe Mozambique. These are the few selected countries in which the UN organizations have been asked to organize themselves within their own system, and organize themselves on the lines of specific issues. For instance, health would align UNAIDS, the WHO, parts of UNICEF and UNFPA; development would align UNDP with a couple of other UN agencies and so forth and so on.

Unfortunately, in the past 6 years we haven't really had a lot of progress on this within Pakistan. I know the government of Pakistan keeps asking the UN to show some results on their reorganization, but unfortunately it has resulted into a little bit of a turf battle back and forth between the agencies themselves. But we are hopeful that these kinds of efforts and initiatives will actually get the ball rolling on some kind of organization from the donor perspective. And then of course, the recipients have to organize themselves as well.

Another example of why it is so important to educate parliamentarians on issues of aid and transparency and accountability is that parliamentarians then become the global voice for change. As we all know, there are large multilateral institutions which have never been open to any kinds of inquiries or questions into their work because of a demand from many countries and many citizens of the world. Institutions like the World Bank have now also started to open themselves to inquiries and queries. They have an open portal where anyone anywhere in the world can submit a question online on any project that the World Bank has funded and receive a response on that.

Mr. Rao and I were recently at a meeting in Washington D.C. of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF, and in our very short meeting with the managing director of the IMF and the president of the World Bank, they were very clear on how they intend to open themselves up to parliaments, how they intend to establish and germinate a good working relationship with parliamentarians because these multilateral organizations which have in the past been very heavy-handed with countries. They have just come in and told you what to do and there were no questions asked. They have now started to understand that without parliamentarians on board of that it would be very difficult for them to expect any concrete outcomes in their countries.

And again, an example from Pakistan on this issue is we recently went back to the IMF for a loan which was approximately US\$11 billion. Of course, it is very unpopular. The government at the time, the IMF before said that they only speak to the government, which means they only

speak to the political party in power, because those are the people who hold portfolios. But an US\$11 billion loan is not going to be paid off by one government. It is going to be paid off by successive governments over a number of years. It was at an interaction with parliamentarians that the managing director of the IMF realised that unless the IMF spoke to those political parties that were also in opposition - because those are parties that will one day be in power - that it would be very difficult for them to expect the Pakistani people to implement any kinds of reforms that they were requiring through their loan.

I am going to conclude with one last example which I think is the most important in terms of why we are here today. This is how there has been a responsiveness to demands from parliamentarians in terms of transparency and accountability.

Last year I remember when we went to visit JICA with this group we were told that many times implementing agencies have their own mechanism for evaluation and their own mechanism to determine results. Whether the results are positive or not, and these forms, actually evaluation forms differ tremendously from one agency to the next. I know that since this whole issue of aid effectiveness has come up, both in Paris and Accra, and later this year in Korea, at the aid effectiveness conferences there has been a demand that the implementing agencies somehow uniform their evaluation process so that if there is a project run by USAID in education and there is also one by JICA in education in Pakistan, we should be able to compare the results from the two, just for our own sakes.

I am really very pleased that the implementing agencies have been so open to this idea, and that they themselves are looking into making this process uniform across different agencies and making the process open to many different inquiries.

I know that, when Mr. Rao and I were at the annual meetings at the World Bank I did also meet someone who ran a very, very interesting NGO. This is how NGOs are also coming on board. The name of that NGO was Publish What You Fund. It is a movement that is asking donor organizations and donor countries to, on one website, publish what they funded. If you have funded education for Pakistani school children, then let us see that come up on a website and let us see how your success in Pakistan rates with your success in Sri Lanka or your success in Cambodia. It is a very interesting way to demystify the whole aid system that has been, frankly, very mysterious and very secretive for a long time.

I think that at the end of the day, we are all here because we represent people or we work for people. If you are a parliamentarian, you represent them and if you are a bureaucrat you work for them. Our goal is the same: We want to improve the lives of the people we represent or we work for. To do that, we need to be able to be open, we need to be honest, and it is a two-way street.

I don't want it to make it seem like it should just be recipient countries demanding things from donor countries. No. Donor countries should also be able to tell the recipient countries when things are

going wrong there. They should be able to have a scorecard for local NGOs that are working in our countries to show us which NGOs are doing good work and which NGOs are not doing good work. They should also be able to have a scorecard for us on ministries that they have to work with and let us know through an open dialogue, you know, do they encounter corruption in these ministries when they come in with their funding. Who is asking for bribes?

When we have this open kind of dialogue within our own countries, if we know that someone is corrupt or somebody is not doing a good job in a ministry, that is our job to put that person to task, but unless you give us that information it is very difficult for us to hold anyone accountable or put anyone to task.

In conclusion, again congratulate APDA, AFPPD, UNFPA and the number of other organizations around the world that keep parliamentarians engaged and keep educating them and re-educating them. I know that a lot of times there is some discussion on why do we have to keep calling parliamentarians, but I think that out of all of the jobs in the world, parliamentarians have the highest turnover. We are here for three years, four years or five years. If we're lucky we'll get re-elected, if not, there will be a whole new set of people who come in who need to be educated just the way that we were, so I would like to thank the organizations that keep doing this.

Thank you very much.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 1

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk

MP, Cambodia

[Chair]

Thank you Hon. Dr. Aziz for your presentation relating to the problems in Pakistan among the parliamentarians and the government about ODAs, control mechanisms, monitoring, evaluation, and demonstrating good transparency and accountability. It was also proposed that donor countries, the United Nations, and APDA should keep parliamentarians engaged with information. I was also surprised to learn that parliamentarians have the highest level of job turnover – that was new to me.

I would now like to open the floor for you to give your ideas on the presentations of our two resource persons. Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa Amahlia, Indonesia]

Thank you for the wonderful presentations from Hon. Frederick Outa and Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz. I think that we have the same problem – all the parliamentarians here are experiencing the same problem – because our government does not even talk to us about the ODA, about what they receive from donor countries, or what the programmes are.

I believe all of us here think the same, but what do your colleagues in your countries think? We cannot talk about these issues only amongst ourselves; we need to inform our groups about these issues

because the government will not listen to only one parliamentarian. How can you help to make your colleagues and working groups understand this and those issues?



Secondly, how can we create more awareness? Hon Dr. Aziz, for example, is on the Standing Committee for Economics which is sometimes informed of ODA; there are some others, however, that are not members of Standing Committees – and some Standing Committees do not even know that ODA can go to various groups. How can we create more awareness on ODA amongst other parliamentarians that are not engaged with Standing Committees?

[Chair]

I believe this question goes to Hon. Outa.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

What I have learned so far, and I took it back home to our Kenyan parliament, is that some parliamentarians do not really even understand if there are ODA projects in their constituencies.

Last year I took it upon myself to bring a

Private Member Motion to parliament to compel the Minister of Finance to provide all the details of ODA projects in various constituencies in the country. When the minister came with the list, it was like a wake-up call for various members to come to know of certain projects in their areas. I then went ahead to the demand the accountability for each and every project, how much money was allocated or contributed and how much was spent. To a number of members' surprise, there was not any accountability for some projects at all; there was not any accountability to the locals and there was not even accountability to the donor countries. Conferences such as this one, help to inform parliamentarians and the information should not be taken lightly.

One measure that has been introduced to track the donor funding in Kenya is the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Committee, one of the highest offices that investigates suspected cases. Before, even if the money was lost, there was nowhere you could go. But under the new constitution, this system will enable the Kenyan government and citizens, to report any misappropriation of any ODA funds – including the Kenyan-funded projects.

I strongly encourage members who are here to do what I did; bring that private motion and demand that the minister who is in charge provide all the ODA funding details to the house for debate. That way there will be a way to keep track of funds, and most members will be able to know what exactly has come in.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

I would just like to add to that. It also depends how you present this kind of information to your colleagues. Every

parliamentarian is very different and has different interests, but the basic interest that everyone shares is to get re-elected. When you talk to them in that kind of language, you will catch their attention.

If you talk to parliamentarians – and I know this from my own experience – about women's rights in constituency X, sometimes an older male colleague will have a very different perspective on women's rights and might not be interested in that topic whatsoever. But if you present it to them as, "I have heard that this project is running in your constituency and it employed a certain number of people", the attitude then changes.

In our part of the world, patronage politics is how members get re-elected. Providing jobs and employment is something that every member will be interested in. It can be presented that way; then ask the members to go to their constituencies and find out how a project started without their knowledge, what the project is doing, and what the results are. They will then get a little more interested. Again, I can only speak from my own experience. I also did something similar to what Hon. Outa did; I have proposed an amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act of 2005. My amendment was presented in the House in 2008 and it has not yet been brought up in discussion in the committee.

At present, the Government of Pakistan is required to inform parliament if there is a request for a loan or grant of more than US\$100 million. What happens is that instead of asking for US\$100 million, the government will go for 2 x US\$50 million, so that they can bypass parliament and not have to inform us.

My amendment to the existing law requires that the Government of Pakistan would have to inform parliament any time they are going for a loan or a grant greater than US\$1.00, and they have to inform us 30 days before.

Another thing that happens is that the Ministry of Finance does everything they want to do and inform parliament later on, but this amendment requires that parliament is informed 30 days before – that is the only binding point in the amendment. I have not asked for discussion; I have not asked for a vote, because I think that you have to start with small steps. If you do something with just informing, then how can they disagree? If I say, “No, I want you to ask our permission” then they’ll say, “No”. Then it will be a vote and a discussion. So, I have started with a small step and I am hoping it will come up for discussion before this parliament retires next year.

[Chair]

Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

I have two reactions. Firstly, it is basically correct to say that parliamentarians do not have a say in the sourcing and implementation of projects supported by ODA loans or grants. The sourcing and implementation are done by the Executive Department, and in coordination and negotiation with donor agencies and countries.

However, I think that parliamentarians should not be marginalised; parliaments and legislatures have basic oversight functions, which we should be able to exercise. This should not only be as a post-

mortem because oversight would really be after the fact but also prescriptive, so that future sourcing of funds and implementation could be guided accordingly; more particularly, on the conditionalities of the assistance in the involvement of foreign consultants – and at the same time, the achievements and outcomes.

Number two, there are two types of ODA: loans and grants. With respect to loans, there has to be an interest component. In some countries, including the Philippines, we have to put up counterpart government funds and this has to be appropriated by the legislature. Again, that is an avenue where the legislature can really be involved, with respect to the implementation of ODA funds.

Regarding grants, most grants are not interest-bearing and there are not any conditions on a government counterpart. And for grants, the oversight functions would then have to be performed by the legislatures.

[Chair]

Hon. Outa, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

Situations differ country-to-country. Kenya’s experience is that the parliament today is not just there to rubberstamp. We have a new standing order and we have created parliamentary committees that now do the oversight. For example, all funding that comes from ODA must be approved by the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC).

Before the Minister of Finance can do anything or sign for loans, the

Parliamentary Oversight Committee (POC) must invite the minister who must explain why this loan is needed and what the security of it is. If the POC is uncertain or dissatisfied with the presentation, then that kind of loan will be declined.

Before, the Kenyan parliament was there to receive papers and rubberstamp them without any consideration. Today, however, oversight of the committees is paramount. This is what is really protecting the government – and even the citizens – of knowing what is being done with ODA funds.

We have a new constitution and in that the work of the parliamentary committees as an oversight mechanism is anchored so that they have the power to be able to summon the minister who will be charged, if any malpractice is detected. Our new constitution has really helped Kenyans to be able to correct what we call “transparency and accountability”, that was lacking before.

[Chair]

India, afterwards Ghana.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

We are meeting here with the view to strengthen or improve parliamentarians’ capacity, to ensure accountability and transparency for aid implementation for population and development.

From the conversations we have had, it is known that some of the members were not aware of what kind of assistance is coming to their own countries. If our members do not know the details of the loan that is being given to our countries, how can we expect a parliamentarian to

build their capacity for ensuring accountability?

I just wish to know whether donor countries are insisting on putting a condition that a loan or grant that is being given to a particular country, must pass through their country’s project so that it will be known to everybody how it is being spent; if not, what is the response or reaction of the loan-taking country to put this condition, in terms of loans or grant?

Will the donor countries try to impose this condition and if they do, will there be resistance from the receiving country? Will the donor country think in terms of sending the details to these members that are informed of ODA?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

I think that, from what I have seen, it is a double-edged sword. Recipient countries can very easily take the money into their budget, but then it becomes “budgetary support”. The donor country, then, really has no control over how the money is spent. Many times the countries prefer this, especially if they know that the oversight capacity of the parliament is weak. They would rather go for budgetary support because then they can put the money where they want and how they want it.

From what I know, many donor countries are resisting that; they do not want to put money in budgetary support because they want it to go to what their parliaments have identified as priority issues. It can work both ways. I think that what a lot of parliamentarians are doing now – especially what we do in the Economic Affairs Committee – is that if the ministry tells us that they are not going to give us

the answer, then we call in the donor agency, such as USAID, and ask them.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

How are parliamentarians able to improve their capacity building to ensure accountability unless they know the details?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

The thing is that it is an on-going process, you have to start somewhere.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

Parliamentary committees in Kenya are assigned their specific duties; like, in our case POC. This POC has more power to summon the minister on behalf of parliament and the minister is obligated to give answers.

If the minister does not give answers, the penalty is that that minister will be barred from doing any transaction until he gets the answer. The POC not only has the power to summon the minister but also to summon a representative of the donor country, so that light can be shed on funds in our country. This is how we now transact these matters.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

Whom do the parliamentarians ask to build their capacity to ensure transparency and accountability; the donor countries?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

When you are sitting in parliament, you cannot call a donor agency to build your capacity; you are calling them to answer your questions. Capacity building is taking

place here, at this conference. When you go back to your own country, you are capacitated.

[Chair]

Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

I believe Hon. K.S. Rao from India would like to say that ODA should be shown in the budget as an item.

Suppose a donor agency is supporting a population programme; it should be shown in the budget that the funds for a project comes from AusAID, for example. This way the funds will not go towards the support of the country's budgetary reallocation and it can be debated in parliament.

What is currently happening in Thailand is that parliamentarians want all ODA negotiations to be placed before parliament, but funding agencies resent this. The funding agencies do not want this to be specifically discussed in parliament because once it is discussed in the parliament it becomes very open. Under the new Information Act in India, anyone – even a normal citizen – can now request the information of a project that has been approved.

I think it is a good idea that all ODA projects are placed as part of the budget. It is not necessarily that they will be supporting the budget but these are the projects certain countries have supported, so everybody knows it. The pros and cons can then also be debated during the budget discussions.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

A supplementary budget is exactly how we do it in Kenya. For example, our revenue cannot really support the health sector and to provide quality health services, we need ODA. When a donor gives specific money towards, for example, family planning or reproductive health it must be indicated as “supplementary” in the budget. Kenya’s government will allocate it but as a supplementary they will say, “this ODA money is coming from JICA, this money is coming from UNICEF”. It must be debated and it must be shown, and that is why we needed the accountability in terms of how much was allocated from which donor.

There used to be a lot of abuse of the supplementary budget because there was not any accountability. It would be shown in the budget but the control of all of it was down to only one person: the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance was the only one answerable to the ODA donor agencies, and nothing would be brought to parliament for discussion.

With our parliamentary committees today, however, any funds that come in must be approved. As such, there are 27 committees on various topics and each committee has oversight of certain projects. These projects must be approved, even before the minister proposes the annual budget. Each organization must present their budget to the departmental committees for scrutinisation and approval. They are also expected to present quarterly accountability reports. If there is any suspicion that the funding is being misused, any individual – parliamentarians and citizens – can report this to the Anti-corruption Commission, which has been established under our new constitution.

In Kenya a number of ministers are facing corruption charges. Our country and donor countries are questioning the Minister for Water over ODA funds for what we call “drought mitigations”; the money spent is not commensurable to what the donors gave. If the minister is found guilty they will carry “political baggage” and other government officials, such as their personal secretaries, will also be held responsible.

[Chair]

Ghana, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

I believe we are all open to the kinds of monitoring activities and oversight that are provided, in order to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of ODA funding.

In Ghana, part of the process is that all such funding must pass through parliament for approval; the weakest link, however, is monitoring. The issue is providing the oversight during implementation and how, eventually, you can come up with some kind of prompting to find out if some aspects of the funding are being misused. In the end, as Hon. Lagman from the Philippines mentioned, it is all about the post-mortem examination of what has happened – and it is inadequate.

The role of the bureaucrats is well-known to be the one that deals directly with the funding and implementation process. I am very happy to hear the observation about the fact that the bureaucrats do not appear to be the dynamic people we want to see in charge, the dynamic instrument

of change. Politicians are the ones who should provide that. Unfortunately politicians are also limited to the Executive and we sit in parliament only to examine what has happened in the past. We need some kind of capacity in providing an on-going process of monitoring, which most parliaments do not have at the moment. I think that this is our weakness in Ghana: how do we provide on-the-spot monitoring during implementation?

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

Two things came to mind while listening to the resource persons' presentations. It seems the troubles we encounter in our part of the world are very much similar. We talk about the parliamentarians and also the bureaucrats but sometimes we come across situations where not only the parliamentarians but also the ministers are unaware of what kind of funding their ministries are receiving.

In Sri Lanka we have seen situations where bureaucrats play a very significant role in deciding what sort of money going to what project. It is important, as you correctly mentioned, that we continue to inform the parliamentarians and ministers, and also that we get the bureaucrats to come to those particular meetings. If we had some type of mechanism where we get the donor agencies to brief the parliamentarians, at least annually, we would get to know what sort of funding has come to our countries.

Secondly, as was mentioned, if you have a system to question the minister, the minister's secretary, and other relevant

officials in relation to the funding they have received from the different agencies, it would be worthwhile considering that sort of situation. Unfortunately, no such system exists in Sri Lanka at the moment; congratulations to Kenya, you have a system of questioning your ministers. In a certain sense parliamentarians find it difficult to question the ministers at times but it is an excellent system which we should try to implement.

At the same time we should create awareness among the other donor parties, especially to ensure accountability and transparency. We should also create general awareness, not only among parliamentarians but also among the public regarding what sort of aid is being provided for the people of that country.

[Chair]

Hon. Outa, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

Bureaucrats can, indeed, be found in both recipient and donor countries. Previously the bureaucrats in the Kenyan government system were the government officers who are in charge of the responsibilities. But we realised that unless you set up an independent body to investigate and conduct oversight, the bureaucrat will still have their field day.

In Kenya, now, if a minister is not aware of what is happening in their ministry they will be charged with negligence of "political responsibility". A politician who is tied to a ministry must be aware. This could still come back to parliament and I truly believe that the committee system that Kenya has been testing works. Under the new constitution the committees have

been given the mandate to even question even the president. And the committees are not limited to only the parliament. They can question the Executive, the president, any minister, and after they have collected all the information they hand it to the Anti-corruption Commission, who will investigate and charge these people in a court of law. Kenya has been changing very much.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

Excellent, I agree, but sometimes there are certain situations where the ministries are large and new ministers find it difficult to understand everything within a short period of time. After all, we do not know everything about the different topics such as water management, irrigation, or health. There are different sectors and there are different people who manage these sectors, so they also take some time. There are also a lot of funds that go into different levels and areas without their knowledge, thus they only come to know about it after quite some time.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

One commonality we have in the South Asian post-colonial countries is that we have ministers who are also our legislative/parliamentary colleagues. This is a problem.

We found that in Pakistan, if you call in the minister in and question him, he is also your parliamentary colleague and you have a certain kind of respect and decorum that needs to be maintained; especially also if the media is present in your committee meeting because you do not want to make your colleague look bad.

What we can now do in our committees is,

even though the minister is technically supposed to be there, we pick days when we know the minister is not available. That way only the bureaucracy comes and then we say and we do whatever we want without worrying about disrespecting the minister because the minister is not present. This is very interesting because the bureaucrats really do not like to come and sit directly in front of the parliamentarians; they love to have the minister present because the minister acts as a buffer. The minister will tell us to leave the topic, you oblige the minister, and then the bureaucracy gets saved.

This is maybe something that can be tried in Sri Lanka. We have a great time in our committee meetings, when the minister is not present, because then we can really question the bureaucracy and let them know that we are keeping a mindful eye on them.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

The role of the media has also increased in Kenyan politics. Even the parliamentary debates are televised live and that way the public will get to know what is happening in parliament.

That also applies to the committees. When the committees gather at any ministry in Kenya today, it is made public. The intimidation of the minister being there and decorum may not be the same because the media will pick it up and will televise it to the entire country, and that way the public will know that in “this sector” or in “this ministry”, there is corruption going on.

I personally feel strongly that the media need to be very independent, and that is something that we have introduced in our

parliament: the role of the media to televise even the debates in the House. It helps to bring accountability and transparency.

[Chair]

Are there any more questions or comments? If not, I would like to summarise some of the points of the resource persons and those raised by the delegates, most of which relate to the different mechanisms of monitoring and controlling accountability and transparency of the use of the ODA.

As Chair, I would like to share some of the experience we have had in Cambodia. We have several ways of keeping informed of ODA to Cambodia. The government must prepare and make plans to submit to parliament for adoption, as well as to the

senate, before the ODA project is implemented.

Perhaps we have good luck, but in Cambodia we have three leaders of the country that share the same ideas. The government, the parliament, the senate, and even the King, all talk together and keep each other informed. In addition, all of the projects have to be adopted and endorsed by parliament. We still, however, have the problem of creating a mechanism to monitor and evaluate ODA. We receive complaints from the opposition, and from the people.

Similarly to Kenya, it is stipulated in the Cambodian constitution that we have the right to call upon the minister to clarify issues to the House, as well as the media being published free for the people to gather information. Thank you very much.



SESSION 2

ODA Good Practices and Priority Criteria from Donor Countries' Perspectives

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 2

ODA Good Practices and Priority Criteria from Donor Countries' Perspectives

Hon. Chiaki Takahashi

Former State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Secretary-General of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), Japan

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Chiaki Takahashi serves as the Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) Caucus of the House of Councillors; Director for the Committee on Economy and Industry; and Secretary-General of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP). He is the former State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); as well as the former Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as I was kindly introduced, till very recently, I served as a State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I have been involved in this ODA, which is a theme of our workshop today. And also, as the Secretary-General of JPFP, I have also made various different surveys in your countries in the past. I would like to welcome you heartily to Japan.

The Diet is currently in session, and many committees are holding meetings and therefore the members of JPFP have found it difficult to attend this workshop although they wanted to. I apologise for it.

Today I would like to represent all of my colleagues to talk about ODA from the developed country's perspective. As you well know, on March 11th of this year, we had the great earthquake followed by tsunami. And I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you all for the support that you have sent to us from all your countries. We received assistance

from a total of 150 countries, including all your countries. So many of these countries have supported us – this is probably because we have also, as Japan,

made very great efforts in our ODA relationship, that we have built.

Currently we have the financial crisis that has developed in the EU, and including that, there are many other problems that surround us today in this globalising world. Of course I don't have to explain why ODA is necessary.

After the Lehman Shock, Japan's economic situation has been very bad, as all you know. Last winter, we thought we were really about to recovery from the Lehman Shock, but that was when the March 11th great disaster took place. We lost about



20,000 or more people who have lost their lives or still missing. And we still have a great number of people taking refuge. We are starting our reconstruction and recovery work, although it will take time.

The Diet session started this week to decide on the budget for reconstruction, of which we need a lot of money. And therefore, there has been a very heated discussion about what we do about our ODA. I feel that the relief support that we have received from your countries is really in return for the ODA that we have provided to you. But in reality, from the victims of the disaster stricken areas, there are questions as to whether Japan can afford extending support to other countries; and Japan should reduce its ODA budget because we are in such dire need of financial resources in our own country. When a disaster of this calibre takes place, we tend to become introverted, tend to look more domestically, and tend to neglect our friends overseas.

From many years ago we have been a donor country of ODA, and at one point, we were number one in the world. But these past few years, the budget for the ODA has been really scraped, and we have been declining year by year in our budget for ODA. We have come, unfortunately, to about only half of our peak-time budget. We would like at least keep the current budget level that we have, but we also find that to be terribly difficult. The project amount for the ODA is also decreasing. If you see the gross disbursements of yen grants and loans, we have increased a little, but net disbursements and grants are going down.

On a net disbursement basis, we rank fifth, and on a gross disbursement basis, we

rank second in the world. The U.S., from a few years ago now, has become the number one donor country. We are fifth, following the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany, but we would like to at least keep this fifth place.

This is what I strongly advocated during the time of my term of Senior Vice-Minister of MOFA. Unfortunately, however, because of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have to review all the different areas and allocate our budget for the reconstruction and the recovery of the disaster areas. So we will have to once again decrease our ODA budget. And for us, after we can allocate our budget to this reconstruction and relief work, we would like to once again look back on our ODA budget and increase the amount.

There has been a lot of discussion about the importance of ODA, and I need not to say because everybody knows. In fact most of parliamentarians understand the priority of ODA. But of course, the Japanese parliamentarians are elected through elections from their electorates, and whenever there is a great disaster like that that takes place, they would ask you questions as to why we have to give money to our friends overseas. We must explain clearly the necessity to provide ODA so that the electorates would understand it.

Compliance is very severe in Japan, and therefore we have to really be accountable for the money that we allocate for our ODA. We are developing a plan or a mechanism that enables us to be accountable to the public. With such effort, we would like to increase our ODA. What is the most important thing in order to do that? And the answer is that the people of Japan, who have elected us through

election, must be aware of the importance of ODA. In other words, we need the support of the people of our country. And then, what do we do to get the support from our people? That is the second question. For this, we have to show the project results to the people of Japan in a very clear way. But in the past, there were cases in which we were not able to explain the ODA projects well, or we were not able to exhibit good results to the people, and we were criticised a lot by the mass media for it.

Sometimes, recipient governments do not report to the parliament as to from which country they receive the ODA, so as to ensure transparency. It does happen every now and then, so this must be done properly. Also, a recipient country and a donor country conclude a contract on ODA, but sometimes, the contents of the contract are very unclear and ambiguous. Even when we go to visit our recipient countries, we cannot even tell what the contents of the contracts are. And in those cases of course, it is not only Japan, but if you should fail with ODA, the mass media will come immediately and go write a long article criticising our ODA and how we are failed in ODA. We have a lot of journalists and newspaper companies, and we have repeated criticisms targeted at the Japanese politicians. Especially when it comes to ODA, we are open to every type of criticism.

Then what are the challenges? On one hand, in Japan, we must provide ODA with clear contract with transparency so that it does benefit the people, citizens of the recipient countries. This is the issue of compliance, and this compliance must be sustained and the cost to do that is becoming very high. In fact, we should be able to put all the money into an actual

project activity, but in order to guarantee the compliance, the cost to sustain it is very high, and that is a current situation. On the other hand, recipient countries' good governance is also another issue. I talked about transparency, and in some of the countries, the people in power use the ODA for themselves, fatten their wallets, and that is the end of the ODA.

I went to an African country on a JFPF survey mission and visited a clinic in a rural area. I met a Japanese nurse helping there in this clinic. We really did supply quite a bit amount of money to this country for these clinics and hospitals, but she told us that they get almost nothing and that the money stops somewhere in the pipeline. In reality the people who are earmarked to get the money do not receive the money, and they were in a very deep problem. This is what I have heard directly from people working at the site. This is actually what happens. In order to avoid such problems, the recipient countries must, therefore, ensure and guarantee good governance; otherwise, even if Japan wants to sweat away to provide good ODA to our recipient countries, there is no way we can provide ODA.

It is not easy to solve this issue. There is a huge gap in thinking between the donor countries and the recipient countries. Something that the recipient countries take for granted may not be accepted by the donor countries. The donors must understand the situation of the recipient countries, since we must need sufficient explanation to ask fellow parliamentarians and relevant ministries to decide upon our ODA. So we would like to ask the recipient countries to consider this point. Therefore, what is a common challenge between the donors and recipients? On either side, the issue is that parliamentarians who

represent the citizens of the country do not receive appropriate information. For parliamentarians in recipient countries, they often lack the information on the ODA contracts and results of the project.

For parliamentarians of a donor country, we face a different challenge. We can get the information if we try, but when we ask for the information, we get flooded with so much précised detailed information that we get all confused, which make it very difficult to make political judgment and decision making. In other words, rigidifying compliance makes it very difficult for us to receive what we really need. So from the developed nation's point of view, I think the compliance which has becomes so intricately woven should be more simplified. It should be simplified so that the parliamentarians or our national citizens would be able to understand more clearly.

The recipient nations - this may not be the case of your countries - but in some developing nations, when the opposition party parliamentarians ask for an explanation on accountability, the ruling party says, 'Ok, you become a ruling party first, and then you can look for the information that you are looking for.' They just fence you off in that manner. Parliamentarians, both in the donor nation and the recipient nation, should be able to be accountable to the electorates, because they are elected by them. However, this is only an ideal situation and it's not really happening.

What can we do? See the population issue is something that you cannot force any kind of solution to the individuals. Public understanding is imperative for this issue; and parliamentarians have an important part to play to promote public

understanding. There are different sectors in ODA, and I was mainly in charge of the ODA in the infrastructure sector. In African and Asian nations, tens of billions of yen is provided to build ports and roads. However, when it comes to population-related budget, there are so many things you can do with only very limited amount of resource or money. When you make priorities, the voice of the parliamentarians will be very important. So in that sense, the roles that we can play are very important.

In order to increase population-related budget, we have to increase the number of fellow parliamentarians who are supportive of this issue in your respective countries, including Japan. It is important how we do that. Both in the recipient nation and the donor nation, we have to have many voices represented there to support population issues. So that is why we established a nonpartisan forum of parliamentarians' group on this issues, that is, JPFP. Through the parliamentary networking with our counterparts in Asian and African countries, we can share good practices of ODA being instrumental contributing to the developing nations, and we can identify the needs of the developing nations in order to alleviate the population issues. I think it's very important that we get to exchange such information among the recipient and the donor nations.

This is exactly what APDA is trying to do in Japan. However, I guess the backdrop of a shrinking economy in Japan and right after the big earthquake, not as much attention has been paid to the realms of population issues. But it is important that we continue to exert our efforts in a forum like this to exchange with each other to pursue population issues. Now, we should also

establish a mechanism in which parliamentarians can be responsible for the outcomes of such efforts.

We, parliamentarians, are responsible for explaining to our constituency, our people, that the ODA is being used for what purpose and is bringing what results. If the parliamentarians had a wrong choice and the result went wrong, then we should be responsible for that. Therefore, in order for ODA to go into the right direction, we should establish a mechanism in which the ODA can achieve good results in the proper manner. So the recipient nations and the donor nations should have a mechanism so that they synergise their efforts. Simple, reasonable and easy to understand, yet you could be accountable to the citizens of the respective nation.

What is most desirable in order to establish such a mechanism is that we are able to obtain necessary information. We need to establish an information control mechanism that can make simplify an intricate system of compliance. Maybe for some countries, it is easy to initiate ODA projects. However in most countries, it requires cumbersome procedures and paperwork, which sometimes make the process less transparent. More efforts should be made to simplify the process and make more explicit item breakdowns.

When I was serving as State Secretary of MOFA, I participated in signing ceremonies of ODA. I am no longer serving that position, but as a parliamentarian, I would like to assume my role by continuing to assume my responsibility to promote population-related projects, in cooperation with APDA.

I think this applies to the recipient nations as well. It is essential to involve

parliamentarians who are not necessarily a part of the ruling party. I hope you will encourage them to get interested in the population issues and get involved in our activities.

That is why I'm sitting here to exchange information with you. And I hope we can work hand in hand to continue our efforts to establish such a system. Even though each country may have different issues to be solved, if we can establish the system, the recipient countries can promote good governance by sharing information and exchange among the donor and the recipient nation. We always hope that ODA contributes truly to the developing nations. I really look forward to having your cooperation in this as we go forward with this initiative.

As I mentioned earlier, due to the great earthquake of the March 11th, we need a lot of resources to be able to reconstruct the disaster-stricken areas. The deliberations regarding the third supplementary budget formation will start this week. This is not the main budget, but it's an ad hoc budget. Deliberations on the first and second supplementary budgets already took place, but since it is not enough for recovery and reconstruction, so we are compiling the third supplemental budget. After that, we will be working on the main budget of next fiscal year. Japan's general budget is about 90 trillion yen, but the Japanese government will finance almost half of the main budget through bond issuance. Every year the funds are raised by issuing bonds, so we have accumulated debt each year.

The U.S. and EU countries are in similar situations, but because we had the great earthquake, we'll need about 12 trillion yen for the third supplementary budget

alone. And we are going to discuss how to secure financial resources. And we do have to cut the expenses, and also we have to do tax hikes. And we do need to discuss which tax to increase for our revenues. From our national perspective, people don't want tax to be hiked, if there are no expenditure cuts. So some kind of expenditure slashing does have to happen.

We do not want ODA to be among the expenditure slashing. People tend to be more inward-looking or introverted because of this calamity that happened in Japan, and most of our citizens would probably think that we cannot contribute money to developing nations overseas when we are suffering so much within our country. That's where we parliamentarians should make efforts to be able to convince our national citizens.

The TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting was held in May this year. The TICAD is all about trying to collaborate with African nations, Japan playing the pivotal role. I was one of the co-Chairs, and I did proclaim that we would continue our support to African countries, even we are having difficult times experiencing the disaster in Japan. We are going to discuss how to allocate for that. In order to continue this effort, we need transparent information from you.

We will also need to provide necessary information to our constituents, and in order to provide such information correctly, we need to solicit the cooperation of the recipient nations. In that sense, those of you who are here today, there aren't that many nations represented in this room here, but many

of you are Executive Members of the regional fora, so I think you have a considerable rippling effect. I hope, through our activities, we will be able to extend and deepen this parliamentary network within respective countries and involve many of your colleagues to form a stronger voice.

This may be a brief trip for you, but if you have any opportunity, please kindly come and see what is taking place in the Tohoku region. In the severely disaster-stricken area things are still very difficult but in other areas in Tohoku, you will be able to enjoy beautiful scenery when the colours of the leaves are turning into red and yellow.

Japan is prone to all kinds of natural disasters. My constituencies are in the western part of Japan, where during the summer a big typhoon hit that area and caused a lot of damage. Many people were killed and their houses were destroyed by this typhoon. Due to climate changes, the amount of rainfall was an unprecedented, and there are so many natural disasters that are striking all over Japan. Also, an earthquake can happen in any place in Japan, and preparedness for the earthquake is the major challenge for the Japanese government. But I do believe that Japan can rehabilitate and recover.

I was in Tohoku a week ago, and I believe that the rehabilitation is happening in a faster pace than we had contemplated. There are many complaints that are given from the local citizens, but still I think we are on our way of rehabilitation and recovery. Thank you very much.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 2

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien

MP, Vietnam

Vice-Chair & Secretary-General of the

Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (VAPPD)

[Chair]

Thank you very much Hon. Takahashi. I think that many of the countries represented here have received ODA for infrastructure and health systems from Japan. For example there are JICA-funded hospitals in many Asian countries that also support capacity building for health workers.

On behalf of all counties present here, I wish to thank Japan for their continued ODA support which has improved our standard of living, especially for health services. We also wish to express our sympathies to Japan for the Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, and hope that Japan will recover soon.

I now open the floor for comments and questions to Hon. Takahashi. The Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

Once it is validated or proven that the officials of a recipient country misuse ODA, do donor countries or donor agencies impose sanctions; will those countries still qualify to receive further assistance?

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

I also wish to thank Japan for the continuous assistance our countries receive, especially for health services and infrastructural development.

We had previously also been discussing transparency of the funds that our countries receive. We are of the opinion that donors should continue to create awareness programmes, not only among the parliamentarians but also amongst the general public of those countries. How much funding is going into which projects; how best can we utilise those funds for the development and the population-related activities?

[Chair]

India, please.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

In spite of the setbacks you have had this year, Japan has taken the decision to continue ODA to the developing countries, for which we are very grateful.

Are there any restrictions from the recipients of the assistance, or from the donors, on placing conditions that the loans/grants must go through the national budgets of the respective countries so that it is known to all how much comes from

ODA and for which purpose? That way there is the opportunity to check whether it is properly and effectively utilised, what the shortfalls are, and what we can do to improve – we will not be able to unless we know the details.

If recipient countries are not declaring ODA information or making it open on a public domain, donor countries could pass information on to members of regional forums. Members can then also make suggestions on how to put the assistance to real use. There will also be more satisfaction among taxpayers who will then see that their money is being put to good use in developing countries, which will create reciprocal goodwill.

[Chair]

Ghana, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

I wish to thank Japan for all the support Ghana has enjoyed from Japanese solidarity and friendship, and their commitment to see that we satisfy the development needs of our people.

Monitoring ODA depends on each country's ability to put a legal structure into place that will ensure that donor funds are transparently used and accounted for. This does not necessarily depend on the ability of the parliament or parliamentarians; if the structures are not in existence, parliamentarians are unable to perform their role.

In Ghana, we have the Public Accounts Committee which questions every single dollar that is spent, either through this system or even through our old internal

domestic fund mobilisation; however, this is for money which has already been spent. We are, therefore, now trying to develop a system that will monitor expenditures. But MPs are also so busy that sometimes it is difficult to monitor on the spot to ensure oversight as the money is being spent.

Are there any ideas you may have regarding this that you could share with us; how to monitor whilst expenditure is going on?

[Chair]

Zambia, please.

[Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia]

I would like to appreciate as well that Zambia has received a lot of ODA from Japan for a long time, which is highly valued by the people of Zambia.

Much of the ODA is tied to conditions on how to improve our good governance. European countries are especially concerned with recipient countries fighting corruption, before providing funds – as well as improving good governance, human rights, strengthening the office of the Auditor General and ensuring that the anti-corruption commission is functioning well. When funds come from Japan, however, there is not as much pressure. Is this a position Japan has taken, to not dictate how countries should govern themselves? I believe it is important that transparency and accountability are ensured in a country. Why does Japan remain so quiet on this matter?

[Chair]

Cambodia, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

We highly appreciate all the sympathy and support that we receive from the Japanese government, even while Japan is facing its own crisis after the Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami.

One important factor for Cambodia to receive funding is that we have good cooperation among ourselves, the government and the parliament to understand, endorse, adopt, and inform people of ODA projects. It is also important to work well and in close cooperation with the donor countries. Once they set the conditions, we cooperate with types of monitoring and evaluation.

[Chair]

Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

We are very grateful to Japan for having done an excellent job on including parliamentarians in the field of population and development; JTF has been active for over 10 years.

Does MOFA or JICA have a website that lists what kinds of projects they are implementing in which country? This would allow transparency for the people and civil society organizations could take it up further and find out what is happening with those projects.

[Chair]

Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

I would like to add to Mr. Khare's comment. Could evaluations be posted on the

internet and published to inform MPs of Japanese ODA evaluations? Recipient countries would like to know the opinion of donor countries on projects so that better oversight can be made.

[Chair]

Hon. Chiaki Takahashi, please.

[Hon. Chiaki Takahashi, Japan]

The situation is different in each country – what I presented to you was Japan's point of view, which each of you may interpret in different ways.

Regarding monitoring and evaluation – what Japan has done in the past is that when the budget is finalised, the results are disclosed and published on the internet. However, showing the process of structuring the budget is a challenge because of the enormous amount of information, and there are various projects going on world-wide. It will be necessary to do so in the near future but extra administration work is needed for that, which involves extra costs.

It was also mentioned that Japan tends to "keep silent", as donors. This could be because of the Japanese personality. I have visited a number of countries where Japanese ODA projects, such as infrastructure development, are being implemented. In some countries it is not made clear that Japan is supplying the funds and doing good work.

Japan's loans are, basically, untied. Even when Japan is the donor, there are cases that non-Japanese companies like South Korean or Chinese companies go and build infrastructures. Then the fact that Japan supplied the money becomes obscured.

There are some countries where the signboard advertising the donor is bigger than the building. In contrast the Japanese only post a small sign. This could make us out to be shy and silent people abroad but domestically we follow very strict compliance; therefore, we ask Japanese ODA recipient countries to do so as well.

I would also like to touch upon evaluation. Auditing is compulsory in Japan, to prove that money is being utilised appropriately. It is a very strict system that is checked thoroughly. The volume of data that comes from that, however, is huge. Parliamentarians are unable to grasp all the information, given the amount, making it a challenge to convey the all information to the citizens. The process should be much more simplified; however, compliance and simplifying things seems contradictory. Dr. Kusumoto can add to this.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

This conference has been organized by APDA but the basic idea for it has come from discussions with JPFP members.

I agree with the Hon. MP from Ghana – it is imperative to have legal structures in place. This conference, therefore, calls upon the members here to establish such systems and structures. As Hon. Takahashi had mentioned, Japan follows strict compliance and trusts that other countries do the same. Through conferences such as this our network of parliamentarians from various member countries can discuss ways to construct compliance systems.

This morning APDA Chair, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, touched upon the motivation for our conferences: that we must cross all borders and all fences to reach

parliamentarians. From that point of view, you, the parliamentarians, must be able to share different ideas and create a common system so that you can evaluate on an equal level.

Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, professor at Meiji University, will be giving a presentation on evaluation. We must take care that the When we evaluate we must take care that it is only being applied to the project that is established. Ordinary evaluations can be conducted and outcomes can be measured; however, our particular conference, as a project, is difficult to evaluate in terms of what benefits it brings to the citizens.

In a conversation with the president of the Japan Evaluation Society, it was apparent that they were unclear about how to use evaluation results. This is where parliamentarians must take on the role and responsibility for this.

How we collect ideas from the citizens and feed back to them. This is very important in my opinion.

How do we reduce complexity, while collecting necessary information at the time? We must think of a mechanism for this to realise its success. When we talk to civil society, we cannot say we used hundreds-of-millions of yen in an abstract way – they would say we are wasting budget. We must also show them the concrete and positive results that come from the money that is put into any project. It is difficult to show the results of evaluations. Parliamentarians must, therefore, collect the necessary information and implement the project differently than the bureaucrats.

[Chair]

I wish to pose a question to Hon. Takahashi, who has been working with ODA in various countries. Which country do you think is using ODA well, efficiently and transparently?

[Hon. Chiaki Takahashi, Japan]

This is a difficult question to answer. There are a number of countries that are using ODA well – and some that are not. We only stay in a country for short periods thus at times we cannot fully understand and evaluate the project as a whole. When it comes to infrastructural assistance such as building harbours and roads it is easier to gauge because the project is tangible.

Many projects are hard to evaluate and when it comes to population-related ODA projects it becomes even harder. ODA for population-related projects is smaller in comparison to ODA for infrastructural projects but we do know there are many countries that are trying to use the ODA as efficiently as possible.

Our Chair for this session is from Vietnam. I once travelled for six hours by car to the far north of Vietnam, in Hanoi, where I was very impressed with a project by an underprivileged minority group making chopsticks. There are countries and regions that need this type of product,

usually in the remote areas of any country. These projects are very beneficial but the infrastructure to reach these remote areas has to be built – this is the difficulty.

Japan is currently facing economic difficulties but if we can provide resources and form a contract with developing countries based on that we will be able to build roads with our ODA budget to transport resources – we are starting to do this already. This is a visible project which is easier to demonstrate the results of to the people of Japan. Again, when it comes to population-related projects and “soft” ODA it becomes more difficult to justify to the citizens meaning we have to explain the contents, outcomes and necessity very clearly.

[Chair]

On behalf of all members present, I wish to thank Hon. Takahashi for his presentation and providing us with information on ODA good practices and priority criteria from Japan’s perspective as a donor country.

We hope that Japan will successfully overcome the consequences of the 11 March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and recover its economic growth to keep its leading role in providing ODA to support the underprivileged. Thank you very much.

SESSION 3

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – I

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 3

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – I

Hon. K.S. Rao

MP, India

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. K.S. Rao was first elected to the Lower House of the Parliament of India in 1984 and is serving his fifth term. He is the General-Secretary and Vice-President of the A.P. Congress Party.

He holds a degree in Engineering and was born into an agricultural family. His family is in construction building infrastructure of roads, dams, canals, and power tunnels; as well as power generation and the manufacturing of sugar, cement and textiles. In addition, he is involved with healthcare, providing specialty hospitals with 300 beds. He has also been running a charitable trust, providing free vocational training since 1986 for more than 100,000 youth and women. He has also toured more than 50 countries.

First of all, let me express my sincere thanks on behalf of all of us, particularly the recipient countries, for developed countries like Japan which give assistance to developing countries in good gesture. I feel that people in advanced countries have a responsibility to look and help the people who are coming up, without which there will not be peace in society.

As early as 1975, one of the leaders, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, a son of Indira Gandhi, visualised the importance of population control and made the government to give the order of family planning control. He restricted the number of children to only two per family, by which there was a commotion; in fact, the government was thrown out.

The major reason why it failed is because it was never discussed in parliament with

parliamentarians or the legislative members. It was a government order to coerce the people for family planning. It is then understood by the world's nations and the United Nations that unless legislation is passed or a discussion is made in parliament in favour of population control, things will not move at all.

I am happy the United Nations has taken this up, and more particularly that the government of Japan and leaders such as Hon. Yasuo Fukuda were involved in this particular issue of population control. It is on-going, with great emphasis on population stabilisation.

We are all aware that the world's population is growing rapidly. India did not quiescence particularly because of the democratic nature of the country rule. But we tried to impress on the people

voluntarily to control population, and we have succeeded to impress upon the people of the middle class, upper middle class and some of the lower middle class also. But there is still something to be done for the poorer sections of society in the rural area, to impress on them to regulate the children. There are certain states like Kerala and southern states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, where population control has been successful.

We have realised that if all the women of India were to be educated and if the economy of the country were to be improved, population control would improve automatically – without question. We put emphasis on this and have made education compulsory up until 14 years of age. We have also laid emphasis on controlling the dropout rate. Our observation is that with every 100 people that start primary education there are just nine that go to university, meaning 91% drops out. The government has increased the budgetary re-allocation nine times in higher education since the last budget.

Similarly, healthcare has also improved. We have improved not only in budgetary allocation but also in appointing people and sending them to educate the villagers; appointed by name ASHA – ASHA in our language is “hope” – to impress population control and healthcare on the villagers. Fifty-to-forty years back, untrained people usually carried out healthcare services in India. Now almost 90% of the people give birth to their children at government hospitals, and in some states the figures are higher.

A group of journalists from Europe recently came to India to investigate healthcare, with particular emphasis on population control. They have seen the

difference. In states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand the illiteracy and poverty rates are still high, thus population control differs slightly from some of the more developed states such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Rajasthan.

The country has increased the budget in a big way for both healthcare and education, separate from welfare schemes. There is now also free health insurance for those below the poverty line; the poorest man in the country can take healthcare from any specialty hospital where the richest man in the country can take healthcare.

The corporate sector has been supporting Indian healthcare, and it has been proven that the Indian healthcare system and facilities have improved to the extent that people from Europe and the UK are coming to be treated in India. I am sure days are not far off when Americans will also come to India for healthcare.

Our country has achieved a lot in recent years. For example, the MMR has come down to 254 from 398 in 1997 and 1998. Similarly, life expectancy has increased to 74 years. There are now more hospitals, primary health centres, sub-centres and community centres, and almost all villages have a sub-centre, primary health centre, or a community centre. But yet, there is still a lot to be done.

India currently spends around 1.45% of the GDP on healthcare, and we want it to be increased by 2-3%. This expenditure is separate from private spending and state government spending in the country. We know that because the needs of the people – especially in the country – are primarily for food, shelter, healthcare, education and employment. Our

government is concentrating on all of these things. Once those people are educated and basic provisions are provided, we are very confident that we will stabilise the population and lower population growth, hoping to population stabilisation by the year 2045 – or maybe even before then.

Japan also included India in this assistance. As Hon. Takahashi was saying earlier, a lot of funding is going more towards infrastructure than healthcare. In this regard not only would India benefit from more funding for healthcare, but African nations as well.

The average number of children for a woman in 1950 was five. Today it is 2.5, and it will go down further. Similarly, in all other aspects of healthcare or population control, India is making all efforts to reduce the population or stabilise the population, which we realise is a necessity.

I am very thankful for you giving me the opportunity to highlight the points on which India has made progress, particularly on population control. Our country is developing, and our GDP – particularly the purchasing power – is said to have come to a level of fourth or fifth in the world. Thank you very much.



Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 3

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – I

Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara

MP, Sierra Leone

Chair of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development
(SLPAGPD) Resource Mobilization Committee

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. **Alimamy Amara** Kamara has been a Member of the Parliament of Sierra Leone for four years, representing the Bombalie District number 029 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

He is the Chair of the Resource Mobilization Committee for the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development (SLPAGPD), as well as the President of the National Youth League of the All Peoples Congress (APC) political party.

The Chair of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development (SLPAGPD), Madame Elizabeth Laval, was supposed to make today's presentation but due to circumstances beyond our control she could not come; she asked me to come. I believe she could have been a match to the honourable member from India because she also has a wealth of experience, at least 30 years as a member of parliament. In any case, I am here to give you our own side of the story with regards to issues related to population and development.

I was also asked by the speaker and the parliament in general to express our sincere, heartfelt condolences to the people of Japan. We have done that already as a government, through our president, given the unfortunate scenario of the earthquake and the tsunami that

took place on 11 March 2011 for which we extend our sympathies.

Sierra Leone

is relatively a very small country that has faced many challenges. But we liken this to the issue of the achievement of the MDGs at the ICPD. For us, the MDGs are very much cardinal and we will be making strides as a nation to strive to achieve the MDGs. Within the framework of the MDGs, we know the issue of eradicating poverty is very much topical in terms of population issues – in addition to issues pertaining to women's issues, and issues pertaining to health in general – and we are making efforts in that direction.



In the past, Sierra Leone had been noted to be the worst place on earth for a woman who is in the process of giving birth, facing risks in terms of losing her life. Today the situation is different. We have come up with a very good medical scheme and free healthcare, which had not been the case before. We are now giving free medical attention and medical facilities to children under five, lactating mothers, and pregnant women. We have seen drastic improvements since its implementation three years ago, and the results can be verified by UNDP.

We have also ensured that we multiply our effort in the area of food production, so agriculture becomes cardinal, and all other social amenities that are very much pertinent to the welfare of us as a people. But as we are making efforts as a nation, we have enjoyed the support and the partnership of other developed nations. This is where we placed emphasis on the MDG8 that talks about partnership between developed and developing countries.

This is where I want to also single out the Japanese people. They have been very much supportive through the JICA programme. As I speak, JICA is embarking on US\$10 million infrastructure project in Sierra Leone for supporting the government in procuring fuel to support us as a nation that will be going directly for the Ministry of Trade.

JICA has been very supportive in the area of agriculture, as well as in the area of health and building health centres. They support us in providing drugs for free medical healthcare. We have a very strong history of support from the Japanese people ranging from infrastructure, agriculture, health, education. I think that,

together with the assistance from other developed nations and international organizations, this has enabled us to enhance the welfare of our people which is very much cardinal if we are to exist as a people and as a government.

Parliamentarians have also made our own paths to ensure that if the population is to be enhanced and the welfare of the people is to actually be looked into, strong legislative rules must be drawn up. Sierra Leone has the toughest anti-corruption law in the world; no one, not even our president, can receive anything beyond the tune of US\$1,000 that is meant for the people of our country without passing it through to the People's Representative – that is parliament. We have it as a law – It is a must. It has also become law that all other programmes regarding the country's development have to pass through parliament. We are keeping a close check on that area. We also have the Public Procurement Act of 2005 which mandates people to ensure that all procedures are followed.

We have many programmes. But even if we are unable to attain the MDGs by 2015, we are very optimistic that we are going to do tremendously well in that area.

The Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development works together, lobbies, and influences legislation that has to do with population and development for the welfare of the people.

I hope I have informed you with regards to what we are doing in Sierra Leone to enhance and have best practices on the issues of population and development in general. Thank you very much.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 3

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects In Recipient Countries – I

Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk

MP, Cambodia

Secretary-General of the

Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk has been a Member of the Cambodian Parliament for 24 years and serves as the Secretary-General of the Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), and is also a member of the Legislation and Justice Commission.

He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a qualification as a Candidate of a PhD. in Law. He has had experience as a Medical Doctor and was the Vice-President of the Cambodian Red Cross for 16 years.

I am honoured and deeply interested in participating in this very important gathering. It is the time for us to review and reflect on the theoretical findings of the 2009 and 2010 workshops, and to formulate practical strategies that will guide parliamentarians in engaging in ODA processes. We can particularly reflect on the crucial global issues pertaining to the population in the regions.



I would like to humbly offer Cambodia's good practices and experiences on the successes in HIV/AIDS control and prevention in Cambodia, among other experiences of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs). This comes

as the result of the collaboration of legislative institutions, government, civil society organizations, development partners, people living with HIV (PLHIV), and the networks of most-at-risk populations.

We must also not forget that behind every statistic is a human face. The Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) drives home the message that HIV is a communicable disease that puts couples and families at risk. It is a family issue that calls for a family-centred and social approach.

I would like to share with you the experience of the strong political commitment of Cambodian leaders:

1- Guided by the commitment and wisdom of Samdech Heng Samrin,

President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the National AIDS Authority was created to be a leading mechanism of comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS since 1999. This mechanism has been extended to the local level countrywide. The 100% condom use programme was also implemented all over the country in 1999.

2- The National Assembly has endorsed several important laws related to prevention, mitigation and harm reduction to ensure the effectiveness of the comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS such as:

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013
- Law on Prevention, Combat Against the Spread of HIV/AIDS (adopted by NA in 2002)
- Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (adopted by NA in 2007)
- Law on the Control of Drugs (adopted by NA in 1996)
- Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims (adopted by NA in 2005)
- Law on Anti Cross-Border Crimes and Terrorism (adopted by NA in 2007)
- Law on Abortion (adopted by NA in 1997).

Cambodia has also ratified several treaties, conventions, protocols and important agreements, especially as a member of ASEAN, WTO and the UN in the promotion of public health and human security for the people of Cambodia as well as the whole region and the world.

The Cambodian Association of

Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD) was established in 2000 as the forefront for parliamentarians who are motivated and committed to the National Population Policy, particularly in activities for population and sustainable development, by becoming a member of AFPPD and working in close cooperation with UNFPA and other NGOs.

3- Stigma and discrimination against PLHIV, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and families have been reduced nationwide with deep and compassionate support from His Majesty the King; and the active engagement of Lok Chumteav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen, the First Lady of Cambodia and President of the Cambodian Red Cross, National Champion of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum in Responses to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, National Champion for the UN Secretary-General's Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health.

4- Cambodia has clear policies and strategies addressing Most-at-Risk Populations through the creation of an enabling environment, especially with the active participation of communities and faith-based organizations.

5- With the initiative of the Global Fund's support Cambodia can increase its effective prevention, care, treatment and support programs to reach its target group coverage, geographic coverage, and service coverage to nearly achieve the Cambodia Universal Target in 2010.

6- At the United Nations high-level meeting on Saving Mothers and Babies from AIDS Lokchumteav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen, the First Lady of the Kingdom of Cambodia, pointed out that in Cambodia the "Linked Response" approach that

brings Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and maternal and child health services together through a coordinated mechanism is well on track to ending HIV in children. Cambodia is committed to achieving the elimination of new HIV infections in children by 2015.

With the strong commitment and combined efforts of the National Assembly, the Royal Government of Cambodia and good cooperation with development partners, is reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence and harm reduction from HIV/AIDS as follows:

- HIV prevalence among the adult population has decreased from 2% in 1998 to 0.7% in 2010
- More than 90% of the general population has been made aware of HIV prevention
- More than 80% of the Most-at-Risk Population consistently use condoms
- More than 90% of eligible PLHIV have been receiving anti-retroviral treatment
- More than 70% of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) have been receiving social support, namely food/nutrition packages, health and education support, and vocational training.
- The review for the National Strategic Development Plan for comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS Update 2009-2013 was adopted in June 2010
- Strategic work plans and budget plans have been developed and reviewed for several line ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOH-NCHADS, MOWA, MOND, MOEYS and MOLVT) and for the high risk groups like drug users

(DU), and injecting drug users (IDU), men who have sex with men (MSM) and entertainment workers

- The integration of HIV, reproductive health, TB and antenatal care (ANC) into the “Linked Response” initiative has been accelerated
- The National Response has increasingly focused on key priorities, assisted by the participatory universal access (UA) target setting process.
- Although most UA targets set for 2008 were either met or surpassed, the status of some indicators implies that more efforts need to be made in order to expand services, especially HIV-infection prevention services, in order to provide to the population groups of high risk of HIV-infection, and minimize the impact of AIDS on OVC

On behalf of the Cambodian people and the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, may I extend my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to UNFPA, AFPPD and APDA and development partners for their technical and financial support that have made a great contribution to Cambodia’s successes. Thanks to the government and people of friendly countries, development partners, civil society organizations, UN for their funding support for HIV/AIDS response which has enabled us to achieve the MDG6. With this proud accomplishment Cambodia received an award from the United Nations on 19 September 2010.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has developed the third National Strategic Plan for comprehensive and Multi-Sectoral Response 2011-2015 with seven strategic areas. Also seven national working groups have been assigned to take the lead in managing respective priorities in each strategy and to monitor the progress against the targets. Along with this

initiative, we are mindful of capitalising on de-concentration and decentralisation of efforts to promote comprehensive and multi-sectoral responses to HIV/AIDS including gender equity to assure the sustainability of the response through the strengthening of national and local-national mechanisms.

Cambodia is using the three-one principle to achieve the three “zero strategies” namely:

- zero new infections
- zero AIDS-related deaths
- zero discrimination in order to assure, zero duplication, zero incoherence and zero waste.

With this sublime endeavour I would like to take this opportunity to request

bilateral and all multilateral donors, especially the Global Fund, to continue assisting the Cambodian people to deal with the second wave of HIV/ AIDS as part of the contribution to the regional and global effort, whereby the implementation of the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness is consistently pursued.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and profound gratitude to our hosts, APDA and JPFP, for their kind hospitality and excellent arrangements accorded to the delegation from Cambodia.

Finally, I wish the forum great success, health, longevity, and happiness to all participants of this workshop.

Thank you very much.



Tuesday, October 25, 2011

SESSION 3

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – I

Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien

MP, Vietnam

Vice-Chair & Secretary-General of the

Vietnamese Association for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (VAPPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien has been the Secretary-General of the Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (VAPPD) since 1994, and the Vice-Chair of VAPPD and the Vietnamese International Medical Parliamentarians Organization (VIMPO) since 2006.

He received his Medical Doctorate in 1979 and a Master's in Public Health in 1994 from Mahidol University in Thailand, and a PhD. in Public Health in 2000 from Hanoi Medical University.

Vietnam borders Laos, Cambodia and China; and is close to Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. There are 87 million people now in Vietnam – the third most populous country in South East Asia – after Indonesia and the Philippines; ten years ago Vietnam was ahead of the Philippines. The urban population constitutes nearly 30%, and life expectancy is 73 years. The main productions in Vietnam are crude oil, garments, seafood and agricultural export.

The Vietnamese parliament was established 65 years ago, and we are now in the thirteenth term. There are 500 members of parliament, 25% of whom are women, who are directly elected by the grassroots people. Among those parliamentarians, 30% work full-time – the others work in the local ministries.

There are around 10 Standing Committees in the Vietnamese parliament. Ours is the Social Affairs Committee which covers health, population, labour, and religion issues.

We have a patronage for two associations: VAPPD and the Vietnamese International Medical Parliamentarians Organization (VIMPO).

Over the past 10 years, Vietnam's economic growth has been at a very high rate. In comparison, population growth has reduced and Vietnam has now reached a replacement rate. The Vietnamese government and citizens have contributed to these factors, as well as the ODA and bilateral aid from different



countries; and from UNFPA and the WHO, among others.

The income per capita in Vietnam is presently very low, around US\$1,200. According to the research on the relationship between per capita income and health expenditures, the health expenditure in Vietnam is just 8% of the national budget compared to the average of 11% of countries in the same per capita income group.

The Vietnamese parliament is to settle the universal health issue by 2014. Sixty-two percent of Vietnamese citizens are covered; the settlement will give free health insurance to children under six years old, and the poor and vulnerable group. We also have a law to reserve 30% of the health budget for preventative medicine because we mobilised the private sector to contribute to the health sector, such as establishing a number of central hospitals.

The ODA for health and population-related issues shares a very small percentage of around 5-8%. Since last year however 52% of health expenditure comes from the government, and 48% from the people. We are almost rich and there is a minimum level of equity of healthcare. Financing health is different because we are facing different issues such as new diseases, aging issues, chronic issues and how to make health for equity.

Regarding the budget, ODA from outside to the government health spending is around 8-10%. The highest has been 10% during some years. Among distribution of ODA, 50% is given and 50% is a loan, which is borrowed from different organizations.

The Vietnamese Parliament is presently in session discussing how health expenditure funds should be allocated for 2012. Vietnam's national budget for health and population issues in 2011 was US\$3 billion; among that, the ODA from different sources totals US\$200 million per year which is only around 7% of the budget.

ODA is received through different channels. An estimated US\$65 million is received by international and local NGOs, as well as by the Ministry of Health and local authorities. Most ODA loans come from the World Bank, ADB, and some from bilaterals like JICA, Europe and Australia, which provide around 50% of the loans. Presently Vietnam is paying for the loans with 15% of the annual expenditure of budget, so we are still careful when we borrow money from outside.

Most ODA health funding – for prevention, population and reproductive health – comes from the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, FOA and EC. The ODA for HIV prevention has been at a high percentage over the last five years, at around 20% of ODA; ODA for malaria about 3.5%; tuberculosis is about 4%; mother and child health services are around 4%; others are for preventive and medical equipment and capacity building for the health system, mostly to support the disadvantaged.

In 2011 the parliament allocated US\$40 million for HIV and of that US\$8 million comes from the national budget and US\$32 million is ODA from various sources such as the Global Fund.

Coming from Vietnam's experience with ODA and the budget, we recommend that parliament check and approve annual budgets, especially for population and

health. It is a political commitment because if the government and parliament do not spend the national budget for one particular issue, it is very difficult to mobilise ODA and support from outside. Also, parliament should utilise ODA loans; we need to resign ourselves to borrow – borrow money now and pay for it later; at present, Vietnam pays debts of US\$5 billion per year. Monitoring must be done by parliament to inquire into accounting requests.

Parliament also plays an important role in being members of forums such, attending conferences such as this, or international activities for the new ODA to meet the needs of the citizens because there are still a lot of poor people.

How can they fulfil this recommendation? First, there should be capacity building for parliamentarians to be able to monitor ODA implementation. The Vietnamese parliament receives support for this from the NGO Action Aid. They are experts in analysing ODA; what kind of ODA is most efficient and which country provides suitable and efficient ODA.

Also, as Mr. Shiv Khare recommended, we should create a database for health and population ODA. I have a friend in the

Ministry of Health who was able to provide me with specific information; in parliament we actually only have very general and unclear information on ODA.

It is important to have mechanisms in place for parliamentarians to be able to get involved in issues such as laws and regulations on ODA. And I do see that many countries have mechanisms for members of parliament to be involved in ODA and its monitoring. We should make ODA more efficient. Much depends on the decisions of donors.

Ten years ago Vietnam borrowed more than US\$100 million to build community health centres. The World Bank requested that these centres be small, 70 square meters, as it was thought that most people would go to the hospitals instead. But at that time, our government and parliament did not agree with this recommendation. This was very important for the grassroots level, and we told them to make the centres bigger in order to meet the needs of the people – especially the farmers and the poor.

These are some of our experiences in ODA for health and population issues.

Thank You.

SESSION 3

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Ledia Amaliah Hanifa

MP, Indonesia

[Chair]

Honourable Members of Parliament, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to quote some of the statements made by our resource persons.

Hon. Rao mentioned that the people are responsible for each others' lives and emphasised the importance of communication between the government and parliament to rule this programme. Hon. Kamara outlined some of the ODA projects in Sierra Leone and how parliament is working very hard against corruption. Hon. Dr. Ouk focused on HIV/AIDS and the strategies to control it. And Hon. Dr. Tien said that it is important for us, as parliamentarians, to see whether we really do or do not need particular loans or grants. We now have 40 minutes for discussion. Hon. Dr. Aziz, please.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

I visited India a few years ago and we had a meeting at the Indian Election Commission. I thought it was very interesting how the Election Commission, through a decision of parliament, had capped the number of seats for the states in which there was too high of a population because usually the seats are by population.

I was wondering if Hon. Rao could elaborate on that because I think that it is a good way to make parliamentarians realise that the bigger their constituencies

get, in terms of the number of voters, the more difficult it is to serve those constituencies. And how the members in the southern part of the country had smaller constituencies in terms of voters, and therefore they were able to serve those constituencies with much more personal attention.

[Chair]

Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

My question is also to Hon. Rao. You mentioned that you will be able to control the population by a certain year. Looking back in history however, we have not been able to have control of the population. Although the overall rate may have gone down across the country, according to the new census, the absolute term of the population size has increased. I, therefore, do not know if it will be possible to control unless a drastic action programme is made.

My other question is for Hon. Dr. Ouk. What is the current situation of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia? Do you think it is more prevalent among young people or has the total number decreased?

[Chair]

Hon. Dr. Tien, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

I would like to ask Hon. Rao what the ODA support for health and population in India is? Does India receive ODA or give ODA to other countries?

[Chair]

Hon. Rao, please be the first to answer.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

Was Hon. Dr. Aziz asking about the Election Commission or the Medical Council?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

That the number of seats for northern India is capped, that they cannot increase the number of seats based on population.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

You mean to say parliamentary seats?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

Yes, parliamentary seats – if you could elaborate on that decision.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

True, that de-limitation of the constituencies was done about three years ago. The population is growing and the areas are sometimes not contiguous in some constituencies. In some parliamentary constituencies the population is more than 5 or 6 million; in other constituencies it is 100,000 or less than 100,000 people. So, the government of India and the election commission has decided there must be uniformity as much as possible in regard to the number of people a parliamentarian is representing,

and there must contiguity in regard to that. In doing so the population increase is substantial in certain states and controlled in other states. From one point of view, the number of seats should be in proportion to the number of people living there.

As mentioned earlier, there was a position from the state government that they should not be deprived of the number of seats which they have had earlier, so the consensus now is that we will keep the number of seats per state, as before, no matter what the population increase is there. We are continuing the same number of each state, unless it is divided, but geographical boundaries have changed and the number of voters in each state has changed.

Regarding the second question, it is realistically possible to control the population in India with the current democratic setup. The fact is that the rate of population growth has come down from 2.2 to 1.1 now – but still the population is growing. Parliament's honest desire is to control the population but you know very well that in 1975 it has bounced back. No matter which party was in power they did not have the strength to enforce or bring ruthless legislation in to control the population.

I am happy that the parliament has taken up this issue after three decades: the need to control the population. Now we are seriously thinking about bringing about legislation in some manner, not by quashing but by certainly impressing them or by making other ways.

In regard to the ODA assistance our colleague said the assistance is more in infrastructure than in health. The assistance in health is very low – it does

not constitute more than 3% of the budget allocation by the Government of India. In 2009/2010 ODA to India from Japan was around JPY218 billion, mostly for infrastructure like engineering, the metro project, roads, irrigation project, etc.

[Chair]

Mr. Manmohan Sharma has a contribution.

[Mr. Manmohan Sharma, IAPPD]

I would like to add to Mr. Shiv Khare's question. There is a stabilisation, we expect. There are always the data and figures available that by a certain year the population in India will stabilise – it will not either reduce or increase. The expectation is that this will happen by 2045.

Without any question, there are government policies. As rightly said by Dr. Rao, most of the ODA for India is being used for infrastructure. Our Minister has said, both in and outside of parliament, that there is enough budget for health services thus whatever ODA and other assistance that comes in is for infrastructure. The Minister has also told parliamentary groups such as IAPPD, "don't worry, go ahead, money is no problem on the health issues/services because India is growing." With the intervention of the present Health Minister the budget for health services is increasing.

I must congratulate Dr. Kusumoto of APDA for organizing meetings such as these. One of the components of these meetings is that we should go back and update our parliamentarians, which we did in India immediately after returning from last year's workshop. I was surprised that most

of the parliamentarians that we invited to our meeting – Hon. Rao was also present – did know about ODA. We informed them and gave them materials, and ultimately they have started intervening in budget speeches. There has also been a demand by parliamentarians that the ODA figures should be shown as a separate figure in the budget because now they are all mixed together.

Regarding the ODA that we receive, there are activities that are being carried out that fall under "good practices". For example IAPPD goes into the rural areas under instruction of the parliamentary committee where people are still not exercising or accepting contraceptives.

These are areas where the Church or other influences are still very heavy and people are having six to ten children – one family even has 13 children. IAPPD went there, had meetings, and we were told that there was unawareness of the presence of contraceptives because there was a gap; a gap between the officers/offices, gap between the delivery and education system. Everyone was scared of using contraceptives. We told them how to use them, after which they said that had they been told earlier, they would have used this all methods. So, we were successful in that and we will continue that activity. This is just for your information. Thank you.

[Chair]

Hon. Dr. Ouk, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Cambodia has declined; from 2% in 1998 to 0.7% in 2010. The Global Fund has played a large role in ensuring this decline. More than

80% of the Most At Risk Population consistently use condoms; we are continuing with the reinforcement of prevention mechanisms such as striving for 100% condom use. The private and state media in Cambodia have been strong supporters by creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, and harm reduction.

According to the Ministry of Health and the National Authority of Health, accessibility to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) has increased to nearly 100%, for which we received a commendation and an award from the UN on 19 September 2010. We also received an award in 2005 from then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Anan, for our successes in HIV/AIDS prevention.

In addition, just prior to coming here, the Ministry of Health of Cambodia declared that we have reached our goal for MMR. Our goal was to reach 250 per 100,000 births by 2015, and now it is down to 206. Thank you very much.

[Chair]

We will now start the second round of questions. Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

I saw from your presentation that most of the ODA used for purchasing something from outside; therefore, it looks like some of the ODAs which have been given are given to buy something either from that country or from outside. Do you think this kind of ODA is beneficial? In most cases, this is the ODA given to buy something from that country, but that is not real ODA; this is more or less an arrangement that you buy something from them.

And I have a second question. There are large aid sums written in your paper but if this is the case, why then is your country still so poor? This is a question for everyone, really. If you see the total amount of aid in real terms, I do not mean 50 years but maybe from 10 years, you can most probably distribute that money to the individuals and most probably they will all be well-off. But even then, the countries are very poor. Why does that happen? Is corruption the cause?

[Chair]

Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

The presentations given by Vietnam and Cambodia have shown encouragement in growth and in how to fight HIV/AIDS, especially in Cambodia. And in Vietnam the population is reduced and there is increasing growth. First of all, has it got anything to do with your ODA; and secondly, what specific policies account for that? There must be some intentional policy direction that would have accounted for these positive indicators.

[Chair]

Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

My question goes to Hon. Rao from India. When we travel to India, a wonderful country, we see richest of rich – and at certain times, the poorest of poor. There is a significant disparity of distribution of income. What is the percentage of the population who live below the poverty line and what sort of actions are you taking to

reduce the gap?

[Chair]

Thank you. We will give the floor first to Hon. Kamara.

**[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara,
Sierra Leone]**

On the issue of why we highlighted assistance given to us as a nation. Like I stated, we are of the opinion that the topic is referring to ODA's challenges and best practices so, we believe that we have to come out with regards to what kind of assistance we have been receiving. If you look at it the only difference lies that it is well-detailed what we are doing, what civil society is doing and what we are doing as a parliamentary advocacy group in parliament; what we are doing also as a government and the NGOs and other development partners.

I heard the question on whether India is a recipient or donor country. In Sierra Leone's case, we can see them as a donor country also because there are instances where India has been assisting us. But the message I want to register here, is to appeal to donors and developed countries. Now we are calling for partnership instead of assistance. As mentioned, some of these assistances can be pegged to a specific programme and sometimes to a nation. It may not be a primary target but because you do not want to miss it, you attempted to go bear it. What we are looking forward to is, come December, we will be having a national conference at which we are going to look at what we have to do as a nation to move forward.

As we have noted, India received JPY218 billion. Proportionately India is a very big

country but we are talking about this as a non-project in terms of infrastructure and development. And in fact, Japan is assisting us to help procure fuel to the tune of US\$11 million. Comparatively, it is small but because we need it somebody has to come and assist. But I think we can come together, identify programmes, and we see how we can partner.

Our Chair noted the issue of corruption. As I said, Sierra Leone has the toughest laws in terms of corruption because we have all realised in the past that if we can cut corruption then definitely we will move forward, given what we are blessed with as a nation.

We have a lot of reforms. We believe that when we talk about population and development, it encompasses everything in terms of governance; it starts from leadership to the very end. We are now looking at even coming up with the national policy on population. It is at cabinet-level, as I speak. Two months from now we are expected to come to parliament, where we are going to take a policy as a people how we want to see our nation develop as a trend.

We are working hard on issues such as HIV/AIDS, women's issues, and other relevant issues. We in our nation know that we cannot move forward when women are still faced with difficulties. When they want to give birth, we have difficulties with regards health issues. That notwithstanding, we are doing our bit, coming up with more health centres as, once again, we have to look at it in a more proper manner.

This is why next month also we are enacting a law that will ensure that at least 30% representation in parliament –

minimum – should go to women because we believe if we have to move forward as a nation they are very much pertinent. We are also looking at the issue of youth; how we can be giving chances for them to participate in decision-making issues in the country.

But the cardinal thing I want to say here: in as much as we appreciate assistance coming from friendly countries, we want to move forward. We are now calling for partnership. We have minerals, we have trade, and we have fertile lands. We have had some visitors from India who want to work with us to see how they can irrigate our lands. We do not have the technology – that is the fact. We cannot have it now but if you come together with a partner perhaps you will even save yourself in future to give us assistance.

So this is our emphasis now: that we have to come, or we call on people to partner with us in the area of fisheries, education, etc. This is also where I want to appeal to JICA, let them continue to focus on that area. We are not saying we do not want assistance but I do not think it would be proper to be giving assistance all the time. But if you partner with somebody then you will definitely over a period of time then the period will definitely grow – and so a strong person.

The issue of corruption, we are not envisaging problems from our end because we are very clear in the 2008 Anti-corruption Act. Anything to the tune of 5 million leones should be reported to government and parliament – it is a must. If you have been following what has been happening in Sierra Leone, you can agree with me that ministers have been prosecuted, parliamentarians, and business people on daily basis. It is

happening because we are now determined, we have learned our lessons. As a people who have gone through war, we have gone through difficulties; I believe we can do it on our own. So corruption is very very much topical and that is our own target if we are to achieve our aspirations.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

Sierra Leone has a lot of diamonds.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

All that put together, so we are now moving forward. We want to stop corruption and see how your partner can come with your techniques; we cannot process the diamonds. We have the third largest mines agreements going on in Africa, African minerals, consisting of more than 10 billion tonnes of iron ore. Based on all what we have gone through before, this is where we now have a policy. A lot of new policies have we are being put together but the benchmark is corruption.

My brother from Ghana can agree with me that we are very much determined, that our ministers, our parliamentarians, our business people, they are prosecuted on a daily basis so that we can move forward because our president has said, “25 years from now, God willing, we shall all be a communal country”, and we believe in that strongly.

[Chair]

Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, please.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

Mr. Shiv Khare said that when you use the name of the country for ODA, for instance

if it is tied, then it is not ODA. I have an objection to that, as a person in a donor country.

As Hon. Takahashi said, most of the assistance Japan gives through ODA is untied. But why do we give ODA? For the betterment of the world, so that peace in the world can be accomplished and we can guarantee the security, which will in the end also benefit the people of Japan. That is the logic we use to persuade the Japanese taxpayers that ODA is of greater benefit. Having said that, we do give quality ODA grants for population issues.

If cheap condoms from Japanese ODA are distributed in mass and if many “accidents” happen, the possibility of Japan gaining a bad reputation is high. There is more value in distributing high-quality condoms, demonstrating Japan’s skill and technology.

But ODA does not just directly link to the nation to develop the plan; ODA is just one of the models to show good intentions and if that is achievable then the recipient country should utilise their national budget, copy that process, and come up with their own scheme. Considering that process the assistance itself should not be maybe given from the developed country only.

I think the discussion of poverty alleviation is a cynical one because it is clear that we have made enormous efforts, but it is also true that the people cannot get out of the poverty cycle. In this subject area, not only economic- but also anthropological knowledge is necessary.

As a British scholar once said, it is “the white man’s burden” – he is very critical about the assistance procedure. How we

can catch up on that? And, to the extreme, what kind of development has passed? That is something that each country should think about. For instance if we use modern measures and if we push development, the result could be that you have nothing left. The definition of “richness”, I have been thinking about this for the past 30 years and still find it a difficult question to answer, and so we have to do what we can do, in the manner that best suits the country.

[Chair]

This is the very interesting explanation and perhaps we can discuss this further to hear different perspectives. Hon. Dr. Tien, please answer the question.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

I think that the first question was regarding what the population policy is in Vietnam for the successful reduction of the population? The population policy in Vietnam on family planning is centred around motivation. We have carried out a lot of activities to motivate people to have smaller families, for example one or two children. But the principle is motivation, not force like in China.

We ask government officials, such as parliamentarians, to set good examples, meaning also having only two children maximum; if they have three children, they should resign as parliamentarians.

We have an outreach programme, such as the parliament approving funds for the country’s family planning programme, so every province must adhere to that budget which is specifically allocated for family planning – not other areas. This is what we call target programme for nearly more than 20 years. Good examples of target

programmes are those that Indonesia had in the past.

And regarding ODA for population, I think this is very important. Most importantly, it should come from agencies such as UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO. UNFPA should be involved from the beginning, advising government leaders to create family planning programmes – because of the citizens' willingness to participate – and provide maternal health services. Vietnam is still quite poor; UN agencies such as UNFPA, and bilaterals such as JOICEFP, have come in and made a difference with even small amounts of money. This is very important because this is the initiative for the policy and family planning programme.

When the government and society recognise the benefits of the programme, then we will start to use our own national budget to invest in family planning programmes. I think, however, what is most important for population-related and family planning ODA is for the recipient countries to take the initiative improve knowledge of people. This is what Hon. Takahashi was referring to, ODA in the form of equipment, knowledge and skills to help professionals and local, provincial and central leaders, to understand and follow policies. I think this is the most of important.

[Chair]

Hon. Rao, please.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

The question was why is there so much ODA to India when the country is financially growing at such a fast rate? And that ODA is beneficial for donors, such as Japan for example.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

There are conditionalities with technical assistances.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

As previously mentioned, Japan's loan assistances are untied, which is an exception compared to many other countries in the area of institutional assistance. Hats off to them that they are not putting any strings on giving the loan. One of the reasons why India has taken so much loan assistance is because India felt that her infrastructure needed to be improved immediately. Japan has provided around US\$400 billion for improving the infrastructure in India in the coming two budget plans.

The country does not lose anything in this regard particularly. For example, India has the longest railway. The number of people and the cargo that is being carried is running into hundreds of millions of tonnes – that is a lot of pressure on the railway. There is a need to have a separate railway line exclusively for cargo for routes from Calcutta to Delhi, Calcutta to Bombay, for which the ideal assistance is around US\$2.4 billion. A lot of the ODA loans are used only for infrastructure because of the country's ambitious plan to improve the infrastructure.

Sri Lanka asked a question about the Below the Poverty Line (BPL) figures. Today, not even a single person in the country starves for food. There is no question. There is enough food, except that there is disparity between the rich and poor – particularly in the rural areas.

Then in regard to the census on BPL, the living standards vary from state-to-state. In

Bombay, it is expensive; in the village, it is much less. There are not any uniform parameters to decide on the BPL in the whole country. The government appointed a commission that said, based on 2000 calories consumption per head, that the BPL is 28%. But the government commissioned another committee whose parameters are totally different; they said the BPL stands at 70%. We wanted to make a uniform parameter based on the living cost in various states and they arrived with those percentages. parliamentarians believe that the BPL is no more than 40%. That is the reason why in the last 10 years, the present government has decided to concentrate more on the rural areas.

The budget allocation to rural development has substantially increased and we have even increased credit to the agricultural areas at least five times in the last five years. The BPL has come down in reality but I am not sure of the current figure because there are various parameters and various expectations.

In regard Sierra Leone's question, my friend was saying that they want a partnership more than loan assistance. That is a good idea and that is what the Government of India is always thinking in terms of entering into a PPP, in several projects in Africa in particular. Whether it is mining or industry, I proudly tell my friends from Africa that India was ready to enter into PPP in all those countries. The government of India has also announced a loan of around US\$2 billion to four countries in Africa: Ethiopia, Uganda,

Tanzania, and one other country. With regard to corruption, that is a matter for the country to control – it is not this forum that decides about it.

[Chair]

Hon Dr. Ouk, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

I received a question from Ghana on what the special law was for the success of the AIV/AIDS projects. In Chapter 3 of the Cambodian Constitution there are about 20 articles stipulating the rights of the people to universal access to medical care and protecting those rights. The law to support this is the Law on Protection and the Combat Against HIV. Supporting laws are those on human trafficking, sex exploitation, and the drug control, and the control of domestic violence. There are also convention agreements like CEDAW. These support the political will.

Cambodia receives very strong support from our leaders at all levels – even from the King and Queen. They have joined together with the government, the parliament, the private sector, and the public. We also have the media's support. They create awareness through radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines on prevention, harm reduction, and the stigma of the HIV.

[Chair]

I must congratulate all of you for making this a very interesting and fruitful session. Thank you very much.

SESSION 4

Parliamentarians' Involvement and Capacity-Building for ODA Accountability and Transparency

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 4

Parliamentarians' Involvement and Capacity-Building for ODA Accountability and Transparency

Dr. Yuriko Minamoto

Professor at Meiji University, Japan

Curriculum Vitae:

Dr. Yuriko Minamoto earned a Master's degree in Global Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management in the U.S. and a PhD from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology.

After working for the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), she became an international development consultant. During this time, she completed many theoretical studies on assistance, development management, and evaluation systems and methods. Furthermore, she evaluated many social development programmes in Asian and African nations. She is currently on the board of the Japan Evaluation Society (JES) and a professor at Meiji University.

First of all, it is my great honour to participate in this important workshop or the project and also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to APDA for providing me with this opportunity to share some thoughts on accountability and transparency issues of ODA with these distinguished participants.



The topic is the Parliamentarians' Involvement and Capacity-Building for ODA Accountability and Transparency. I would like to focus on the perspectives of policy evaluation, since one of my fields of expertise is policy evaluation and evaluation research. Also my practical experience is in international development,

to evaluate ODA programmes or projects by the Japanese government or by World Bank.

Currently it becomes increasingly important to evaluate ODA interventions, not only from the donor side, but also from the recipient/partner country side.

Partner countries' initiatives, in light of their own development policy – here, what I mean is their national development plan, five-year national development policy, and so forth. That is one of my main messages. In order for ODA interventions to be successful, national development policy for each partner country has to be clearly identified.

I would like to cover three points today. The first one is policy evaluation and programme theory. I would like to share

some common technical, but theoretical bases, for the evaluation policy. Secondly, the issue of ODA intervention related to aid effectiveness of ODA intervention – I would like to talk on the ODA modality and development policy. Lastly, some challenges for ODA accountability and transparency. I hope this will give you some base for the discussion following my presentation.

Meiji University will celebrate its 130th year this year. I belong to this Graduate School of Governance Studies, which has unique characteristics. We offer an English track to accommodate young governmental officials from Asian and African countries. We have students that are young government officials from most of your countries. They are funded by Japanese ODA scholarships, and right now we have about 40 international students. I really enjoy working with those promising young professionals to discuss the issues related to governance, public policy and public administration.

The first point of my presentation is on policy evaluation and programme theory. Please allow me to touch on some technical aspects of policy evaluation. Now, this is very simple policy structure of maternal and child health. If you see the policy, maybe the policy objective could be the improvement of the housing conditions of mothers and children. I am not a specialist in the field of population and health, so in front of specialists in those fields, I am a little bit timid, but let me use this very simple policy structure.

When we say policy structure, usually we can divide it into three levels: Policy is the first one, and in order to achieve this policy objective, the government has to think about how it will be achieved. The

strategies can be reflected into programme levels. For instance, in this example, “medical services are improved”. If medical services are improved, most probably this will contribute to the policy objective. Another programme could be the “nutritious status of mothers and children are improved”. Then most probably it will contribute to achieve these objectives. Of course, there are many other programmes to be considered.

Suppose this is the policy, then in order to achieve this program-level objective, several projects are implemented at the site. This is the implementation, and they use the budget in each project; for instance, this project related to the “clinic facilities well-equipped”. By the way, this policy structure is not the ODA programme structure, but partner countries’ developing countries’ policy.

Another project could be “medical staff retrained in order to provide good service”. So, they provide training courses, training seminars, curriculum development and so forth. These are projects at the site in order to achieve these programme-level objectives. In the long run, they contribute to the policy objective itself. These are like the layers of policy structure.

If we look at this programme, because we know improvement of medical service is not enough to achieve this policy objective. So the “nutritious status of mothers and children” programme will be implemented and maybe some other programmes can be formulated. In order to achieve this, several projects can be planned, implemented and evaluated.

So, this is the kind of concept of the policy structure. In reality, policy structure is more complicated but we can somehow

look at the whole policy from different levels of objectives.

This is a programme theory that is one of the very widely used evaluation theories. That means that policy objective could be described as end outcome. Outcome is some of the effects or impacts on the target group or the society or on the people, some changes, but in order to bring those changes, intervention is necessary. These are means, and here we use the word “outputs” in order to achieve “outcome”.

Output is tangible results, like clinic facilities were equipped. We can evaluate outputs in terms of how many new clinical facilities are introduced. But those tangible results may not bring this good effect on the society if the operation was wrong.

What I would like to focus on from this diagram is that it depends on where you look in the policy, the way you evaluate is different; the objective of your evaluation is different. Evaluation is never one unique policy process.

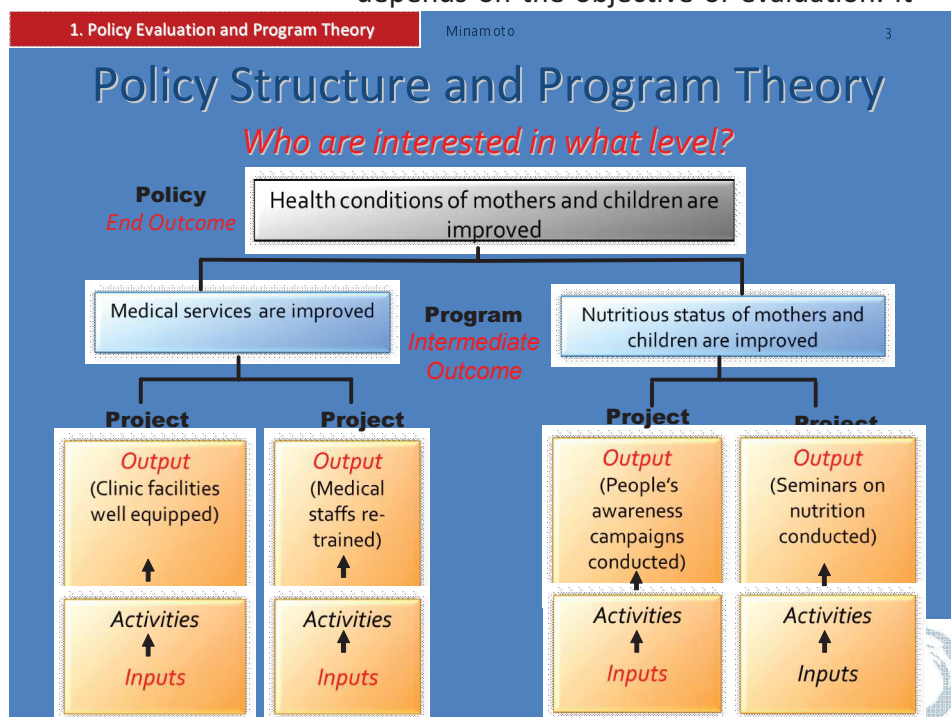
The important thing is that evaluation methods or objectives depend on which policy you will focus on. Who is interested and on what level; who should take responsibility or be accountable for what level of policy? This is very important.

At this project

level, who is interested the evaluation? Probably project managers, first of all, because project managers have a responsibility to implement that project with certain inputs and budget-efficiently. That is their responsibility. So project managers, or those who actually implement, executing agencies, or actually implement the project are interested in t project-level evaluation.

But maybe policymakers or decision-makers are more interested in the policy-level because policy makers should be accountable for the people to solve the social problems that they suffer. That means that even though project implementation was somehow successfully conducted, if maternal and child health is not improved, you cannot be accountable to the people for using their tax money. At this level, more policymakers or decision-makers should be interested. That means they should take responsibility for the evaluation of that level.

There are various different evaluations. It depends on the objective of evaluation. It



depends on whose responsibility you are talking about by conducting an evaluation because then the evaluation focus will be different.

If you would like to do the evaluation, the evaluation objective should be clarified beforehand. From my experience, especially with NGO programmes, sometimes it is very difficult to understand what the objectives are. They are doing so many activities but it was not clear to identify what kind of end outcome they were aiming at sometimes. Without that sort of strategy, planning process, it is very difficult to evaluate things, the policy especially.

Clarifying evaluation objectives is to clarify programme theory. Evaluation is for improvement; improvement of project management or improvement of the next policy formulation process. We want to know why something is wrong, otherwise we cannot utilise the results of the evaluation. If we cannot utilise the results for the next step it is a total waste of investment.

Programme theory indicates two levels of failures. Suppose that health conditions of mothers and children did not improve even after a certain intervention of the project – we would like to know why. Maybe it is because of problems related to the implementation. For instance, medical staff is being trained but if the quality of the curriculum or the quality of the teaching methods was poor, that is implementation failure.

If the project evaluation is good, everything is done as scheduled and the level the quality of the training is also good; however, if we could not achieve this result, there may be a theory failure.

We assume that if this project is implemented, then most probably we can get good medical services and that will contribute to the improvement in health conditions. This is the assumption, the theory, but that theory itself might be wrong. That means there might be other intervention priorities instead of the retraining of medical staff.

More than 10 years ago, I conducted the evaluation on the irrigation project in an African country. That was a Japan ODA-funded project. In Japan-funded ODA projects Japanese experts are usually stationed for two years to do, for instance, the technical transfer assistance. One of the Japanese experts came to me and said, “Dr. Minamoto, please evaluate what we are doing – daily activities – and the results individually.” He knew that Japanese experts, as well as an African counterpart, were doing quite well in their implementation process. They were according to the schedule and everything but they knew that the objective outcome, something like an increase in agricultural production, may not be met.

That means that in that area, even though the irrigation system has been constructed, the effect on the agricultural production and the effect on the farmer’s income might be very limited so, that irrigation project intervention might be reconsidered. That is related to the theory or assumption you made in the policy process. Again, depending on where you look at and who is responsible for those evaluation results, the evaluation focus would be different.

There are different evaluation foci and methodologies, such as outcome evaluation and impact evaluation, to look at effectiveness. This is one of the five DAC

criteria of the evaluation.

We are very much keen to see whether the policy itself really reflects the people's or societal needs through certain interventions and projects. In other words, does intervention make any difference? In order to check that outcome, we evaluate not only at the end of the project interventions, but also at the beginning. We call this ex-ante evaluation. During the policy process, we have to see whether or not the policy – including ODA interventions itself – really are relevant.

This outcome evaluation also relates to the necessity of the society or the relevance of the policy itself. But it should be confirmed at the beginning. After implementing all the projects and programmes and you evaluate, then we finally concluded that this failed. Instead, if we can do it before to see the relevance of the strategy or the intervention itself, it is much better. Also, looking at the project management means looking at the costs and efficiency.

Finally, I would like to discuss which levels of policy parliamentarians should look at. Evaluation; its origin is Latin. If you look at this word, it means “e” plus “value”. “E” means “to the outside”, extract to the outside, bring the value outside. That is what I learned from the dictionary.

Therefore, whose values are we talking about? That is very important. For instance, in the irrigation projects, the result was a 10% increase of the agricultural production. Is this successful or unsuccessful? This is value-related.

I have been involved in the poverty reduction project in Nairobi, Kenya. The improvement of people's lives was the

objective. For them, improvement means that they can send the children to school, or they can have meals twice a day in the slum area. These were their outcomes. You cannot really talk about rise of their income, which is usually the indicator of poverty eradication, but if you look at that community in depth, in their context, improvement of life means those two things.

That is very contextual – that is their value. If they can send their children to school, that is an improvement of life. If they can have meals twice a day, that is improvement in life in their context. Their value should be fully incorporated in the evaluation of those projects.

In this evaluation of the Kenya project, I was involved as an external evaluator. But maybe in order to know what “improvement of life” means to them, I am not the right person. Of course, you know that as representatives of the people, the members of parliament. MPs are well aware that people's values have to be incorporated into the evaluation system and evaluation criteria. That value would probably have to be incorporated into a certain policy and ultimate objective, and by doing that, we can be accountable to those people.

What is the policy agenda to be achieved? This should be really discussed or deliberated among the important stakeholders, including the MPs. Policy objectives or development plans should be discussed on the basis of the kind of cause and effect analysis of the social problems. You have to identify what the causes of problems are. Of course, these are not simple but that is where we start a certain policy process. Of course, during implementation some monitoring or mid-

term evaluation could be done to monitor the process.

I talked about accountability from the perspective of the partner country in relation to the donor country. With regard to ODA, there are two kinds of accountabilities. First, the donor countries should be accountable to their tax payers, and second, partner countries should be accountable to their people. With that, I would like to just quickly introduce to you the discussion about aid modality and aid effectiveness in the aid community.

There are three intervention schemes: project support, sector support and general budget support. Project support is usually bypassed in the national budget process of your country: off-budget. We set the time and build the roads, infrastructures during a certain period.

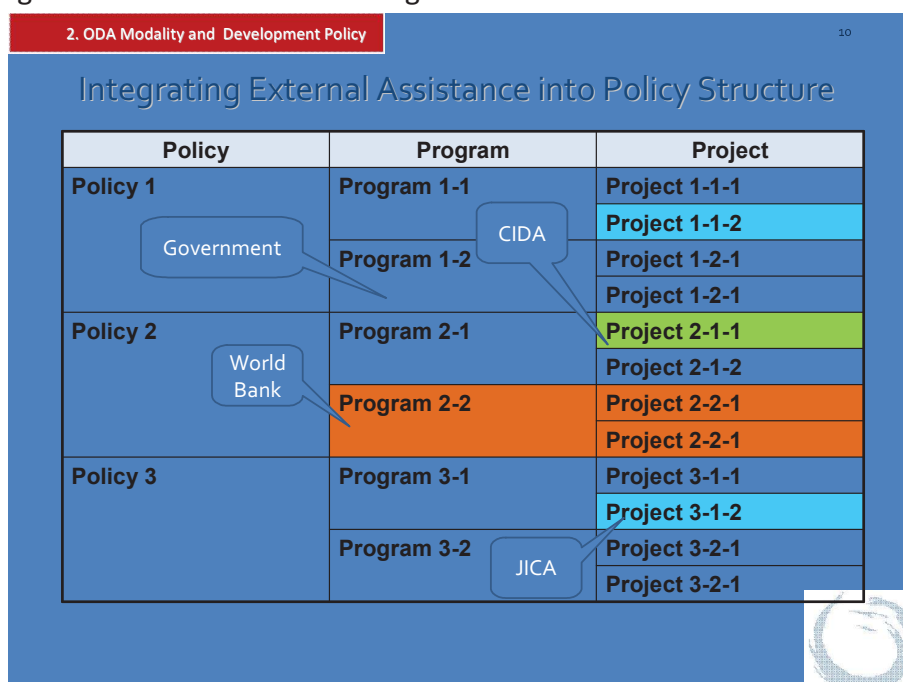
Usually there are issues of transaction cost, which means each donor implements those projects in different ways, so it is cross-transaction. Another issue is sustainability, which means, because this is off-budget, your government may not prepare for the recurring costs.

There are issues in the sector support or general budget support. These supports are on-budget, especially general budget support. Without earmarking, the objective is to increase ownership and strengthen domestic accountability systems of the

partner countries. Since they are put on general revenue, theoretically this may be the best way in terms of transaction costs, ownership issues, and accountability. However, the problem is, it is very difficult to look at the donors' accountability because the process is incorporated in the partner country's system, we don't know how the donor's money are used in what way.

There are many interventions from donors in terms of integrating external assistance into the partner country's policy structure. Suppose this diagram is your development policy. Your development policy should be provided with your ownership, and you will decide together with donors; for instance, this could be the World Bank, this could be JICA, this could be CIDA, and this is done by your government. It is very difficult to see the effect of this for the national policy, if they do it only project by project, only one shot of the project intervention by the donors. This is one of the issues that we have been discussing.

Behind those discussions there is the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005, at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness



in Paris. They have five principles, including ownership of partner countries and partnership with donor countries. In terms of ownership, partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies. Partnership is important since donors have to base their support on partner countries' national development strategies.

The last one is about the challenges for the evaluation. The parliament in the partner country plays a critical role in improving the partner country's ability to assume full ownership, which was declared in the Paris Declaration. An organization related to parliaments conducted a survey on Parliaments' Role in the Development Agenda. They identified some challenges through this study.

First, communication processes, that is, donor-government-parliament-civil society organizations interactions. Also, related to capacity building, like legislative function, research, budget competence, and audit documents.

Usually, in many cases, partner countries formulate the national development plan in donor-government interactions – your government and donors – on the administrative level. But the parliamentarians have not really been involved in that process. Some representatives of the relevant national committees should be somehow involved in that process.

Second is the relationship with civil society. This is related to how you set the policy objective. You have to really have good relations with the civil organizations or

civil society to set policy objectives.

Lastly is the oversight role of parliament. Of course, legislative and executive branches have different roles. Parliamentary involvement must be balanced with distinguishable, clear roles and responsibilities.

The donor side, they only go with government because their ODA counterparts are governments. They cannot directly go to the parliaments. It might be a different role. However, in formulating the whole development policy of your development policy, together with how the ODA intervention can be incorporated in a policy that could be done together with the parliament. Also, research and advocacy functions should be strengthened.

I will introduce just one case which I have been involved in the enhancement of evaluation systems of the Ghanaian government. A seminar on evaluation was hosted by JICA, and we invited more than 30 government officials to Japan. That was related to the quality of audit reports and that transparency and accessibility to do evaluation or audit reports by the parliament should be secured.

One of the suggestions is that networking like this parliamentarians' capacity building project is very important, networks among parliaments related to development issues. ODA is one of the means to achieve those development goals, so this project could be quite unique in that sense.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 4

Discussion

Chair: Cong. Edcel C. Lagman

Congressman, Philippines

Deputy Secretary-General of the

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Chair of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

[Chair]

Thank you very much, Dr. Minamoto, for that instructive intervention.

Let me underscore what Dr. Minamoto said in her preliminary statement, which will be appreciated by parliamentarians. She said that the ODA intervention must be in the light of the recipient countries' national development policy. Although she did not explicitly articulate the reverse of this, it could be implied that ODA intervention should not be principally based on the donors' own priorities.

I think transparency should be reckoned by certain standards, like fund-sourcing, the loan or grant agreement, the disbursement of funds and its utilisation, and the project's implementation. Accountability should also be measured by certain standards like the procurement process to the prosecution of the project and the variance and parity between targeted outcomes and actual results.

The floor is now open for your reactions and questions. Kindly identify yourselves for the record. Cambodia, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

What do you mean by the "failure of implementation"? Is this because of a

wrong decision or because it is not well-organized?

The second question is on aid effectiveness and modality. You mentioned the budget without an earmark. Is this a type of grant or is it ODA?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

The first question: "implementation failure" means there is something wrong during the implementation of the project – more specifically, at the activity-level. We are not talking about the results or outcome, but the activity. For instance, in this case, the retraining of medical staffs – is the quality of training materials adequate; are the teachers really qualified; are the participants really qualified? In other words, it is related to the management, managerial interests, or the managerial failures. But the difference from the theory failure is that we are now really talking about outcome. Probably for the policymakers the outcome is more important, but in order to know why outcome is not achieved, process implementation is also important.

Regarding the second question on earmarks, yes, I mean it in both grants and loans. And also you can mix it; for the grants, you can build the hospital by

Japanese grant and maybe technical assistance by grant and building by the loan – that kind of mixture.

[Chair]

Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

I just wanted to have one or two clarifications. When you write on evaluation focus, you say “outcome evaluation”, “impact evaluation”, “effectiveness”. What is the difference between these three because in my lay opinion, if you have an impact – which means it is connected to outcome – and if it is “effectiveness”, it means it has an impact.

The second question: why it is so difficult to have on-budget, and what is the difference between project budget and the budget for ODA?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

The reason why I use these words here as you said, these are slightly different. It depends on the organization and evaluation theories they use. What I may hear is that something focuses on the effects. Sometimes those “effects” can be summarised as “outcome” but it depends on the organization. It said “impact” as well. In the longer-term it could be the impact.

For “impact evaluation”, theoretically we have certain methodology to see the impact – not the facts, but the net impact. Net impact is that these outcomes affect the only caused by this project or not. It is one of the evaluation methodologies. And effectiveness – I use the word

“effectiveness” to see the outcome. OECD DAC used this word. I just picked up slightly different disciplines to describe the effects of the intervention.

The second question was on budget, why it is so difficult to provide? I can assume there are many things but in Japan’s case, ODA is actually under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, though many other ministries are also involved. That means that if it is the budget for health ODA, the Ministry of Health and Welfare gets involved. That kind of administration issue on our side could be one of the points.

At the same time there is the accountability in the donor countries. If we provide all the money on budget, in order to be accountable to Japanese people we will not know even some of what portion of our inputs is used for what result. It becomes difficult to identify how it has been used because together with other donors’ money, it will be used for the development. On the donors’ side, some countries are reluctant a bit.

I learned from a report that Ghana and Tanzania use some of their own budget support – 35% of the health sector is on budget.

[Chair]

Ghana, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

You asked the question and then you gave a response to it; who is in the evaluation process; whose values? That is very critical to our partner relationship between the donor and the countries involved. More and more, the question comes up because

of the kind of conditions that countries have to go through in order to be able to secure funding. Sometimes, in the end, there are issues imposed on us which do not particularly address the real values of the countries.

In the case of our relationship with Japan, of course we have not seen those kinds of hard-core conditions that have been imposed on us. But it is a very important question I wanted to explain further in terms of whether those conditions distort the value systems that the various countries try to project themselves.

Regarding aid effectiveness, do you think that the Paris Declaration is followed by the donor and recipient countries? It is a very attractive thing to allow our countries to own our policy and to do their own planning and allow them to have their own budgets – and then you come in. But, in the budget process, whether the process is managed by the government itself of the recipients, that is where all the issues on corruption, lack of transparency, and unaccountability come in. How do we address that?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

Related to the budgeting process, yes, it is very important for the partner countries to enhance, in a sense, that budgeting process. If we look at how donor countries react to the Paris Declaration, there are many projects going on in the respective countries to strengthen that public budget management together. This is mainly a project-based approach. Strengthening the budgeting process is one of the conditions to promote the Paris Declaration principles.

I recently read the study on Vietnam that in order to enhance those budgeting

processes of the governments, ADB, World Bank, JICA, and those different donors, harmonise their budget input into that project. That could be one of the possible means to enhance the budgeting process.

[Chair]

Would that clarify the comment and question?

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

Yes. But the aid effectiveness – is the Paris Declaration enough?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

Of course there are many things to increase the aid effectiveness I guess. But the Paris Declaration emphasises ownership and harmonisation of the donors, which is very important. The Declaration shows the principle. But under that principle, like I said, each donor or partner should work together to enhance the budgeting process and those interventions related to the Paris Declaration should be appreciated.

You also mentioned the value system. In external assistance, whose value importance should be decided in your society? The role of the parliamentarians is very important in that process. Not the donor-driven innovations, but your values are there. Then, how can the donors support you to achieve your value? That is also under the Paris Declaration implications, so you have to decide your policy value. Of course you are doing so, but the people's needs and dialogue with, not only donors, but dialogue with your civil society would be very important to reflect the value into the policy. First of all,

your policy framework is in the discussion with reflecting the people's needs, and then the donors just need to intervene in several parts. I think that would be the more idealistic way.

[Chair]

Vietnam, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

As a theorist, your presentation is good but actually in practice we are facing so many difficulties because this is the third and last instalment of this project on ODA and the roles of parliamentarians, so we know a lot of things.

My question is, what is the main challenge for parliament to get involved in ODA in your opinion? You have presented three kinds of challenges: communication, capacity building, and quality. But what is the main challenge?

My second question is that, actually, parliamentarians have two important roles. The first is budget and the second is oversight. In terms of oversight, I think every country is the same. Even last year we helped with a group of ODA evaluators from Japan, as per the request of the Director of the UNFPA Tokyo office who was also the leader of the evaluation team. I was asked to organize the visit of the evaluation delegation and to help to carry out the evaluation on Japanese ODA in Vietnam. We found many reports on the ODA carried out between the Japanese government and the Vietnamese government but these reports had never been given to parliament. Parliament does not have the knowledge from these reports and that is very difficult.

Given that you have carried out a lot of evaluation which model or country did you think used the role of the parliament well in ODA? We can learn from each other and we can learn the experiences, so we can solve this problem.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

I would like to answer the second question and that is, "I don't know". But I will tell you that those evaluation missions that I have been involved with is only between the donor-side governments – or JICA, its executing agency, and your governments' ministry concerned. As an evaluator, we cannot go beyond that, so that is why I really do not know. The thing is whether or not ODA intervention is really considered under the light of your development policy – that is where the difference is among the countries.

Recently I read the paper on Vietnam and it was sort of evaluated in that way in development policy. This also related to your first question on how the parliament should be involved. It could be different among the countries. It depends on what kind of parliamentary system you have. So I cannot say that this the most important, but in today's presentation the check-and-balance that I just briefly touched upon that clarifies the role of legislature and the executive in the policy process, well this is very much related to the discussion on democracy, so it is going to be huge but we cannot avoid that discussion I think; not only on ODA interventions but for the whole development of your country – you cannot avoid that so.

[Chair]

Vietnam, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

There has been a same trend in so many countries. Ten years ago, the Vietnamese parliament planned to make a law on ODA but the government did not want the intervention of the parliament on that subject. There is still no law on ODA because the government is postponing the proposal.

[Chair]

That is a comment. In the Philippines there is one law and one Executive Order on ODA, and there is a pending bill likewise on ODA. Sierra Leone, please.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

I would like to ask for your comments on the area of aid effectiveness and aid modality. From what you have said, I think in terms of policy outcome, the intention of the donor community is to assist the concerns from recipient countries, that is, developing nations. I am of the opinion, like you have observed, that the political aspect of it is also very important. When you look at the developed nations in the Asian area, they are very much interested in technical aid; their foreign policy is very careful in the area of “no strings attached” funds. You look at the West, they are very much concerned with being democratic; you have to ensure that your human rights are good, and all other things before assistance comes in, whether it be aid or a loan.

I would like to know what you think should be the future intervention of JICA from the Japanese perspective, if the policy outcomes – be it sectoral or project – should remain a concern to JICA because they must be assisting with the intention

that the people they are assisting should benefit from it. We all know that there are impediments with regard to governments having a total tick on the assistance because you are doing budgetary support, so I do not know what the future of JICA is in that perspective.

To end, I picked up on the issue of the variance in political systems with regards to parliaments. For us, donors do not participate in formulating the policy. It is the work of the Executive and the people concerned. You are expected to legislate; this is, before a loan has been coming to a country, it has to come to parliament. We have to look at it, as the people’s representatives, to see whether it is good. In most cases I find it very difficult as a parliamentarian or parliament as an institution, to block a loan or to block assistance between countries that I know will be important.

I also want to know what the tick is on the side of the Japanese government, whether they will be calling in future; that is, whenever you want to formulate a policy in which we intend to assist, should parliamentarians, or parliament as an institution, be involved? Our constitution does not allow parliament to involve directly in the very beginning except at a just assistance or otherwise. We are not mandated. We do it because it comes from cabinet and we still have to look at it as parliament and you give your own input.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

JICA has been extending the cooperation in the field of governance but those projects are mainly for the government, the executive branch, like strengthening the capacity of the government officials and also developing the laws, the legal

system. It is more the technical aspects, as you said.

This started 10 years ago so there is still not a lot of experience in that field, compared to infrastructure development. I am sure that the Japanese government and JICA would admit the importance of cooperation in the field of governance. But, as you said, the political system of the cooperation with the recipient's parliament, the Japanese government will not really going into that because of the sovereignty issue. From my perspective, I would say that in order to increase the capacity of the oversight role of the parliament, research functions of the parliament should be one of the areas to be supported.

Each parliament should have a research function – Japan as well – to support those parliamentarians to formulate a policy or a law. Adequate research to train those research staff members, or some fund for the research to support MPs' activities, I think this could be done; it is not an issue of sovereignty. But for the time being, maybe some donors do, but I do not see that in the Japan's case.

I heard that there have been some discussions in that field, or any filed, to support the legislative function of the parliament. In order to support that, you need to have data. You need to have some information about that. So that kind of environment to support the activities of the MPs could be one of the fields supported by external funds.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

I want to express a fear here. The experience in African parliaments is that if

you do not have the majority and you do not have the support of the government, perhaps even within parliament we may have the information but you find it very difficult to succeed to formulate a lobby between. I do not know if it is the same for other countries.

[Chair]

Thank you for the comment. Kenya, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

This is a clarification that I think was raised by my brother from Ghana, in terms of whose values, it is not really coming out clearly.

Something that we have seen in ODA projects in Africa whereby a country, for example like Kenya, would have to have their policy formulated and get into partnership with the donors. But the terms and conditions that are expected by the donors sometimes conflict with the interest of the recipient country. And in that case, in Kenya, we have seen a number of projects stalled because of the expectation of the donor countries. That is something that I would really like to see and would want you to clarify whether there will be another need to have the Paris Declaration, because it is really conflicting of the Paris Declaration.

There are a number of projects that I have seen in our country, including projects by the World Bank, whereby you go for a loan and they are putting their own demands, and if you do not meet those demands, the money will not be granted to you or who's policy.

Lastly I would like to know which projects where you in Nairobi in the slums? It

seems like you did well.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

The easier question, the last one, was that I have been involved in the slum of Kibera and three more other slum areas for the improvement of the people's lives there. It is run by local NGO but funded by JICA HQ. I am not a member of that project itself, but I evaluate. Like I said, it is very difficult to see their values from the outside. I give up evaluating that project by the conventional method that is external; instead I take a participatory approach.

Another point was, because of the time and the conditions as proposed by the donors, projects have had to be stopped. I know that it happened in many countries, so therefore the Paris Declaration is very important, but the Paris Declaration has ended – it was from 2005 until 2010. In November 2011, there is a high-level forum in Korea to review the Paris Declaration.

At the last high-level forum in 2008 in Accra they really stressed on the importance of political will of the partner countries. "Political will" means many things but from my presentation's perspective, political will is related to the ownership of the development policy because one of the concerns is that the partner country cannot predict when the budget comes, but the donor side also cannot predict how or whether or not this is being conducted in line with the development policy.

In general terms the parliaments of the partner country and the parliament of the donor country through the dialogue between them, for instance here in the field of population or health, might

influence the solution of both sides concerned.

[Chair]

Pakistan, please.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

I would like to go back to the comment that you made on capacity building in governments themselves, and then also the segway you made into research facilities for parliamentarians.

I just wanted to highlight how capacity building for bureaucracy has been going on since time in memorial. There is no way for parliament to actually assess what the result of that capacity building is. For instance, even for the National Assembly secretarial staff, I have submitted three times a question on who has gone for what capacity building and what has been the outcome. I do not get a response because the secretarial staff is very powerful. First they quashed, lost, the question in the notice office. I then handed it to the Deputy Speaker. He said that they are not willing to give the answer on it.

The point is that, we, in our young parliamentarians' forum, were very cognisant of this fact that if you go and just continuously building the capacity of just the bureaucracy, it has little or no effect for the parliamentarians.

For research staff, if you bring in the young graduates, they come for the training for one year, they get a great thing to put on their CV, and then they are off to the private sector. We cannot retain them in the government side. So, what we have done from our young parliamentarians'

forum is that we had the same kind of donor-funded programmes coming in for capacity building. We told them that you can come in and build capacity but not for the National Assembly secretarial staff.

The parliamentarians will highlight their own personal members of staff; people that they are familiar with, people that they know will be with them five years from now, 10 years from now. That staff member goes for the training and that way, the parliamentarian can get more work from them, they have a better relationship with them, and it is easier for the MPs to evaluate how good the capacity building programme really is. I just wanted to highlight that, since it is something that JICA is doing.

[Chair]

India, please.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

All of us here unanimously agree that the involvement of parliamentarians will improve the performance, the implementation, effectiveness of the aid. Satisfaction of the donors will be high when there will be proper utilisation in the recipient country.

We would like to know which are the parliamentarians that are thinking of building. Is it the donor country parliamentarians in general? Or partner countries' parliamentarians in general? Or the parliamentarians of the constituency where the project is being implemented? Would you like to involve some parliamentarians from us making evaluation of the project? I just wanted to know whether there is there a clear concept.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

I focus on the parliaments in partner countries in general.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

The point is that aid is not coming into the budget – it is not known to the parliament what aid is given. Now, there is no such information to the parliament.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

Yes, as you said, that is the problem. Especially that project-based support goes directly to the ministries or line ministries. Even the central government, so that is why I picked up the issue of aid effectiveness and aid modality. If it goes to the general budget support, or the developed budget support, it will be put into your general revenue without any earmark. In that case, that usual budgeting process will cover, including that ODA fund. Discussions are then based on your development policy.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

May we conclude that the Japanese government is interested in ensuring or in expecting us to see that this money goes through the budget?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

You are saying that it is also accountability on the donor's side, correct? Because parliamentarians have a very important role to develop your own development policy, reflecting the people's needs or society's needs. Of course, this project is mainly for health and population issues.

The second question you mentioned is about the consultants' involvement in

evaluation; when evaluation is being undertaken whether or not I am intended to involve the parliament? If that scheme allowed, it would be very interesting to do.

A very important thing in evaluation activities is that parliament is also one of the stakeholders in evaluation. We have other executing staff as other stakeholders, so the evaluator has to know how they perceive the project or programme intervention from all different stakeholders. In that sense, of course parliamentarians can be a part of that valuable resource.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

Suppose that ODA is going to India, Ghana, or Vietnam, or some other country. Do you have some information on whether parliamentarians are involved in evaluation in any one of these countries? Suppose the team goes from Japan to evaluate aid effectiveness. Are recipient countries' parliamentarians involved in the evaluation at the local-level?

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

I do not know about data but if you look at the different evaluation reports, there should be the list of who are involved in that particular evaluation.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

Professor, what they are saying is whether JICA or the Japanese government will see the need to involve parliamentarians, be it the parliamentarians on caucus groups on population or any specific groups of parliamentarians, or individually people who can agitate well so that they will be

informed of what the Japanese government is doing and how they can track these projects so that these projects will be known.

How can this be done with regards to non-interference on the political angle because you do not want government to mix up issues; you do not want to deal with other people except government – that is the fear.

[Chair]

Pakistan, please.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

What we hear time and time again from the donor countries' perspective is that "we cannot interfere in the sovereignty of your country". You do not need to interfere in the sovereignty of our countries.

We have a Pakistan-Japan friendship group in parliament. You have a minister that looks over JICA who is also a parliamentarian. If he or she or the friendship group wants to talk to their counterparts in our parliaments, this is not an infringement on sovereignty. It is easy to claim that "oh no, we can't say anything; we will only talk to your government". But when there is a will, there is a way and you can always use your ministers and your parliamentarians and have them talk to us directly. And then we will call our government in and ask them questions. It is easy to do.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

I can alternatively explain to you about the parliamentarians' involvement for this evaluation process. In Japan, the House of

Councillors has a committee on ODA evaluation but this only consists of the Japanese parliamentarians, not of the counterpart's parliamentarians – we don't have that system. This is a meeting for the parliamentarians. Now, this is a very innovative meeting and nobody had this concept that parliamentarians' involvement is essential in the aid effectiveness; therefore, no system existed. Now we need to create a system where parliamentarians can engage in the ODA evaluation.

[Chair]

Thank you, Dr. Minamoto, for your informative speech and fielding the questions from parliamentarians. And congratulations again on the 130th anniversary of Meiji University.

[Dr. Yuriko Minamoto, Meiji University]

Thank you very much I also appreciate your contributions and Dr. Kusumoto mentioned that this will be a bit to give you some clue of how to create a new system. Thank you very much.

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – II

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – II

Hon. Vincent Mwale

MP, Zambia

Member of the Zambia All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD)
Public Accounts Committee

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Vincent Mwale was re-elected for the 2nd term and is a member of the Public Accounts Committee of the Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD).

Previously, he worked as a Programme Officer for the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia for four years. He is a diploma holder in Planning and Management from the University of Zambia.

At the time I was leaving for this country my country was celebrating the 47th year of independence so it was holy days there and I did not have a chance to sit with people who could give me information that I needed. This is just my first week in parliament since I have been re-elected as a member of parliament. But I managed to come up with some information whilst I am here that I could share with you today.

Zambia has a population of about 13 million people. It is in the southern part of Africa. Thirty six percent of households



have orphans or foster children under 18 years old. Ten percent of women or 17% of men have completed secondary school. The total fertility rate (TFR) is 6.2 children

in urban areas and 7.5 in rural areas. Maternal mortality is 591 per 100,000 live births. Twenty-seven percent of married women have admitted need of family planning, and more than a quarter of the 15 to 19 year olds have already begun child bearing. HIV prevalence is 14%, really high, although we have made a lot of improvements from 20% over the years.

Zambia's national vision as espoused in the Vision 2030 is to become a prosperous, middle-income nation by 2030. To attain this goal, the country has taken stock and incorporated population factors in its social and economic programme, and both the fifth national development plan and now the sixth national development plan. This has been done with full cognisance of the impact that population has on development.

Zambia has rapid population growth due

to high levels of fertility. The country's population has grown from 5.6 million in 1980 to 13 million as of October last year. This growth is, in population terms, stemming from high TFR.

Given these high fertility rates, Zambia has a young population. The young age structure has significant implications for population and development as there is increased pressure on government providing social services such as schools, health centres and employment opportunities for young people.

The population age structure has also created a high child-dependence ratio that has placed a heavy burden on the working population. In this regard, Zambia recently carried out a situation analysis of reproductive health (RH) services for adolescents and young people in the country which identified the gaps such as high teenage pregnancies, inadequate access to RH services and information. A strategy to address the gaps identified is being developed.

Zambia now has a fully-developed sexual and reproductive health (SRH) policy which we have not had for a long time. Listening to the debate that we had earlier on with the presenter who just left, we depended on many donor countries to just come to our country and implement programs that they brought to us.

For example, I worked for the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia in my region before I became a parliamentarian. We worked hard to introduce condoms in my regions. We worked hard to introduce family planning contraceptives. It was really a difficult job to do. It was against traditional beliefs there. It was against faith in my region. We managed to break through that and introduce condoms and

contraceptives. But soon after we did that, USAID came to my region with the PEPFAR Program and they said, "No look, condoms are not good. You do not have to use condoms. Stop using condoms, because they promote promiscuity. Young people should not use them. Only commercial sex workers and people living with HIV should use them". So this was working against what we were doing as a country in the other programmes. There was no evidence that the PEPFAR was going to do us much good, but we allowed that to happen.

Because it was a donor driven kind of strategy, we did not have any SRH policy of our own. So they came and just did everything else which was contrary to what we were doing. Now that we have this SRH policy of our own, nobody is going to come to our country and tell us that it could evidence this way. We are going to rely on our own policy that we have.

Zambia has embarked on the following practices which in most cases, among others, have been undertaken by the Ministry of Health, Finance and Zambian All Party Parliamentarian Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD) in conjunction with UNFPA as well as mitigating the abovementioned challenges. Zambia recently revised its population policy and developed an implementation plan. Normally, we would have policies, but we do not know how to implement them. Now, however, we have a population policy and have developed an implementation plan to implement that policy that we have. The main aim of the policy is to ensure that population issues are at the centre of national development programmes at all levels. This programme which is operationalized from provincial to national level is funded by the government and UNFPA.

UNFPA in conjunction with the Ministry of Health has embarked on programmes aimed at addressing issues of making pregnancy safer. Through this programme, UNFPA initiated a project of creating booklets on safe motherhood in Mama Kits designed to provide essential materials needed for safe delivery. In addition, working with White Ribbon Alliance, Zambia has been offered, through the formation of Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) through the country, which includes a roving fund for transport. SMAGs have also been used to provide information on the importance of pregnant women delivering in health facilities, as well as utilisation of family planning services.

In rural areas, family planning materials are distributed through CBDs (community-based distributors), in line with the framework of family planning policy and guidelines which were also formulated recently. Additional projects include reaching out to community leaders sensitise them on issues of safe motherhood through a series of workshops, and to ensure their help for additional community-based work on the issue.

ZAPPD carried out a pilot project of distributing bicycles to constituencies for use by traditional birth attendants who have challenges of mobility. Alongside, on a larger scale, the UNFPA and Ministry of Health provided more bicycles to traditional birth attendants, including delivery kits.

To ensure a steady and adequate flow of RH commodities, including family planning, the government of the Republic of Zambia set up a RH Commodity Security

Committee comprising of officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, NGOs, cooperating partners such as UNFPA. This has resulted in an undisrupted flow of RH commodities and services for the past two years. We have had the big challenge where we introduce people to family planning commodities and then they do not have access to these methods and so they come crying, "You made us know these things, but you cannot provide us with services." But now at least this committee is ensuring there is a steady flow of commodities.

Through advocacy activities by various stakeholder including parliamentarians, modern family planning use has increased gradually from 8.9% of married women of reproductive age in 1992 to 26.5% in 2007. A case in point is a workshop that was held in July this year for parliamentarians to advocate family planning in other population and development issues in their constituencies. Further effort in support is required to increase access and use of family planning services, especially among women in rural areas in order to reduce the high unmet need for contraceptives.

In the recent past, the country embarked on its health vision to provide the health services as close to the family as possible by building infrastructure and strengthening health systems, including capacity building in training for provision of long-term family planning methods alongside strengthened commodity security, especially for rural populations. This included the provision of mobile hospitals which catered for far-fetched and hard-to-reach areas.

Thank you very much.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – II

Hon. Ledia Amaliah Hanifa

MP, Indonesia

Head of the Public Relations Division of the Parliamentary Women Caucus
Member of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Ledia Hanifa Amaliah is a Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives for the 2009-2014 term, a Member of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD) and the Head of the Public Relations Division of the Parliamentary Women Caucus of the Republic of Indonesia. She holds a Master's on Social Intervention from the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Indonesia.

This is the presentation on Indonesia's Good Practices for Population Related Projects. First, Indonesia's population is about 238 million but 60% of the entire population is on the small island of Java. The other islands do not have a really high population like Java does.

For the MDG Target 5A we have some problems in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), because in 2007 we reached 228 per 100,000 live births, but the target is 102, so we need to work hard.

Forty-three percent of birthplaces are at home; 50% are helped by midwives, but 40% by traditional birth attendants. This is one of the problems of our MMR. MDG5B. Fortunately this is on track, everything is on track here.

We have three functions in our role. The first is legislation. The second is budgeting and the third is oversight. We have 11 commissions in parliament. First is foreign

affairs; second is internal affairs; third is law and human rights; the fourth is plantation, farming and forestry; the fifth is infrastructure and transportation; the sixth is national corporations and small businesses; the seventh is natural resources; the eighth, women empowerment and child protection; ninth, health, labour, and population; and tenth education, youth & sport.

We have some period of the budgeting session and the problem is some of the ODA proposals come in the middle term of the budget session. It is difficult for us because we have to revise our budget. The budget is designed by the government.

The problem is the government never discusses with parliament, so after I



participated in last year's workshop, I tried to communicate with the commission of finance because they are the only commission that knows about the ODA. I have to communicate with them and now they have a special working group on government steps. So it is more controlled now.

The other problem is to ask my committee, the health committee, about ODA. Nowadays, we are discussing more the programmes and we have pushed them to combine it with the ODA programmes and to the ministry's programme. We were deciding what was appropriate and what was not.

But the other problem is that the budget is low, so if we have a grant or loan we have to add some of our national budget to get more intense to practice, to implement the ODA.

As I mentioned earlier, we have the problem of maternal mortality, so we have identified what the problem is and then the solution. We are working with KFW from Germany, UNFPA and ADB and from our own budget. We have to decide for the community how to serve them best.

I think this is what I have to present to you. Thank you very much.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – II

Hon. Fredrick Outa

MP, Kenya

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Fredrick Outa Otenio was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2007 in the general election in Kenya. He represents the constituency of Nyando in the Western part of Kenya. He currently serves on the Committee on Health, Agriculture; and is also on the

Speakers Committee. Among the projects he has so far initiated are: the revival of irrigation that had initially collapsed; the building of orphanages; catering to the needs of widows in Nyando; attending to the aged and eye surgery; and the sinking of boreholes.

He holds a Bachelor's in Health Management from the City University of New York; a Master's degree in Theology from the International School of Theology; a Master's degree in Intercultural Studies from Biola University; and is presently working on his Doctorate of Philosophy through Biola University.

In 1962 when we got independence, our population was only 8.6 million people. Today, if you come to Kenya, the population has grown to 40 million people. And we are projecting that in 2030, our population will grow to 70 million people.

Out of that, 43% are under 50. When you put all the structure, children under 18 years constitute at 55%. The population of young people between 10-24 is at 34%.

Those reproductive years, and that is between 15-59 represents 52%. The elderly, this is a problem that we do not have much – which I think is a problem maybe in Japan and many other developed countries. The elderly, that is 60 and above, they only constitute 5%. So you can see we have a lot of young people, and

that is a big problem in terms of unemployment.

Nevertheless, in terms of the access of health, Kenya has

significantly improved in the country due to the various interventions by both the government of Kenya and cooperating partners. We have seen the fight against malaria. We have reduced maternal, infants and child mortality rates. Despite the suspended aid by the donor countries, our government has really done a lot of commitment to bring healthcare to its people.

Such declarations are evidenced by our government giving a huge budget but in



the terms of 135 billion Kenyan shillings. The government has since then released almost 128 billion for the completion of various district hospitals or sub-country hospitals, so that in every district, there is what we call a district hospital. So far, we have completed about 21 of those hospitals that provide the healthcare service.

Our government, again, in addition, they have contributed 134 billion Kenyan shillings for the expansion and the rehabilitation of more, what we call, dispensary and health centres to be able to reach more people in rural areas.

The procurement is much more transparent, and this is because of the new constitution. Previously, the procurement was flawed and most of the money that was given to the healthcare service would be directed to individual pockets.

So far, that has been changed, like I said previously, by establishing a commission of anti-corruption so that any individual or bureaucrat that will found messing up with the taxpayers' money would be jailed. That is the progress that we have made so far.

There has been a lot of debate on the ODA funding. As far as we are concerned, apart from this progress, we also have some impediments in terms of the ODA funding from the west. As you are aware, the Global Fund has withdrawn their funding. But I want to say that our government has stepped in and they have given huge allocation to replace the Global Fund.

Some other challenges that we have also, is where we have discussed earlier, where the ODA and the donors' policy. In our country, right now we are struggling with the supplies of condoms whereby the condition from the west are dictating that in order to receive condoms to reduce birthrates in the country and also to prevent HIV/AIDS, there are certain conditions that are placed before our government that the procurement cannot be done by the beneficiary country that is Kenya, but they will only receive in return the condoms in kind.

Those are telling us that the government are trying to review our policies whether we will be able to continue to depend on the donor countries that are infringing into our policies, or will continue to ask the government to give more funding towards the healthcare service. Thank you very much.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 5

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – II

Hon. Ramesh Pathirana

MP, Sri Lanka

Member of the Consultative Committee on Health

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Ramesh Pathirana is a Medical Doctor with an MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) from Sri Lanka. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of New Port in the United States.

He has served in the Parliament of Sri Lanka for two years and is a Member of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Health, Education and Economic Development and Technology.

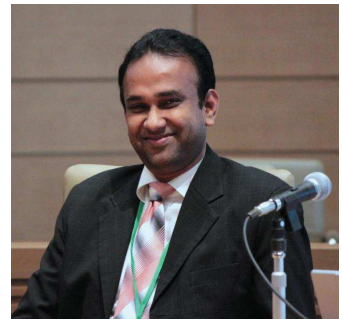
It is indeed a great pleasure to present my country's profile and credentials in front of the audience. I would like to start with some aspects about the global human population because I understand it was 1 billion in the year 1800, but it has been reaching 7 billion population within a very short period of time; same as the Sri Lankan population, which has doubled since 1950. Now it is reaching 21 million this year.

What are the challenges that we face? I know we share common missions, common goals and common objectives and common challenges in relation to growth of the population and also the development of our country. The basic challenges that we face in the areas of health, education, food, water, shelter and livelihoods and other issues in relation to the cultural and ethnic issues will highlight briefly in my presentation.

The areas of development: All of us face generalised economic development which would benefit the people of our

countries and also infrastructure, protecting the environment for the sustainable development, and also how to face the issues concerning urbanisation, which is going to be a real issue with the development of our countries; also the transport sector and energy, which has drawn a lot of attention all around the world now.

Sri Lanka is a country with 65,000 square kilometres, with nine provinces and 25 districts. As I mentioned earlier, our population is reaching 21 million this year



with a Sinhalese majority (75%), and with Tamils (15%) and Muslims as the other communities in the country.

I just need a basic SWOT analysis – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats – covering population and development issues. We have a very well-established health system, and a very satisfactory education structure in the country with a relatively educated work force. We have political stability after some times of turbulence in the country. We have a peaceful environment. All of you know we had interior conflict in the country; armed conflict, which ended a couple of years ago. We believe that we have desirable infrastructure for development and also we have an investor-friendly society.

What are the weaknesses? We have, as you know, the disparity in distribution of resources – especially in income. Rural areas are more neglected than the urban areas. We believe our workforce, especially the younger generation, lacks skills, and language skills need to be improved. Technology-wise, we are a little more behind than developed countries. We need more investment in the industrial sector. The agriculture sector has been neglected for a period of time.

But, we will have good opportunities in time to come. Ours is a country which is located between east and west. There is a lot of potential in and between the Middle East and the Far East. A lot of investors have come into Sri Lanka after the conflict in the country. Government policies are friendlier towards investment and we have potential to grow. The economy has been growing at a pace of 8% during the last couple of years, and we are surrounded by developing countries, fast developing

countries like China and India, from which we could get benefits. People are willing to learn about potential for investment development.

The civil disharmony in the country ended a few years ago and there had been certain labour issues and there had been ethnic issues between the majority and the minority communities in the country. Obviously, the economic recession in Europe and the unrest of the Arab Spring in the Middle Eastern countries have affected our economy also. We believe that our birth control has not been effective since the population has been still growing.

Considering these points, I would like to give a brief overview of the ODA situation. I think Sri Lanka has been a success story over the years. We thank ODA donor countries and donor partners, including JICA, UNICEF, other UN organizations, the World Bank, and others, for providing a lot of assistance. Due to their help, due to the professionalism of different sectors of the country, and also due to the help of the successive Sri Lankan governments, we improved health indicators.

Our life expectancy has risen to 72 for males and 78 for females. IMR is really low: it can be compared to most of the developed countries, like 14 per 1000 live births. MMR is again very low: 35 per 100,000 live births. Vaccination: we, 100%, cover the entire area. Institutional deliveries, almost all the mothers can now go to the hospitals for their deliveries. We have an aging population which is said to be one of the fastest aging populations in the world some five years ago.

Education, we have universal free education, primary, secondary and tertiary.

We have a very high level of primary education: 97.5% of children complete their primary education, but we lack good tertiary education institutions. We have about 10 universities in the country but we need more professionals, more institutions to provide training for the country. All this has come from, especially the success stories in the health and education sector, ODA from different countries.

IDP are the Internally Displaced People in the northern and eastern part of the country due to the armed conflict. Some 200,000 people were displaced, but now 90% of the IDP students are going to school.

Infrastructure-wise, we have achieved electricity 99% coverage. The government has the ambition to provide electricity to everyone by the year 2012. We largely depend on thermal coal power and hydropower for the electricity.

Telecommunication had an enormous goal during the last 10 years with 20 million telephone lines for a population of 21 million. Water supply: we have managed to provide safe drinking water to at least 80% of the population, with effective flood control and sewage systems.

Transport: we have seen remarkable road development. The first highway in the country will be opened next month, which is 110km long. We have strengthened and will further expand the rail network. New ports are being built in the country with the assistance of the donor nations, and with all that, the economy has grown extensively during the last couple of years with the GDP growth of 8% during the last two years and the first two quarters of 2011 had also recorded 8% growth. Per

capital income has grown up to US\$2400, and the government has ambitious plans to make it US\$4000 by year 2015. Inflation, poverty and unemployment are all in the single-digits.

I need to pay attention to two important points. One is the tsunami that struck our country badly in 2004. Actually, we have come out remarkably well because of the resources we had and also the commitment of the people of the country and also with the assistance of the donor agencies. 40,000 people died in the tsunami, and 500,000 were made homeless with 20,000 houses destroyed with vast damage to infrastructure. Everything became resolved; all people were resettled within two years, infrastructure was developed within five years, and almost all livelihoods have returned to normal by now.

The other point is on the IDPs due to the armed conflict. The conflict ended in 2009 but by then, after all the years of conflict, at least 200,000 people were made homeless. Now we have successfully resettled 180,000 people within two years. Infrastructure, roads, telecommunications, electricity has been restored up to 80%, and most importantly, each family has been provided with some form of livelihood during the last couple of years.

These are the success stories, but importantly, as we discussed yesterday and today, there have been a few drawbacks also. Some of the donor countries and agencies have served in vested interests; regional interests to build power in their region, and also certain unfavourable terms and conditions that are attached to these loans and the grants forwarded to the countries. We have seen some of the agencies try to create

disharmony amongst the communities in the country. They tend to deploy their own workforce rather than recruiting the local workforce, which is a negative factor. We have seen in relation to their development like this, at certain times, the environmental assessments are a little weaker than we anticipated.

How to achieve the best we can is the question here – it is what we have been discussing during the last couple of days. It is important that we consider the country to provide what is best needed for an area

and a particular country. We must also consider local needs, and follow up vigorously over a period of time; during the time they allocate grants or aid for that particular project. Importantly, we need to strengthen the links between the donor parties and recipients.

Most importantly, the people of the area or the country should be kept aware, and the representatives and parliamentarians should be well informed.

Thank you very much.



Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 5

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara

MP, Sierra Leone

Chair of the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development
(SLPAGPD) Resource Mobilization Committee

[Chair]

Thank you very much. We now have the merit of posing questions to the Resource Persons. The floor is now open. Cambodia, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

I would like to ask Zambia about the, still high, prevalence of HIV/AIDS. What are the mechanisms that your government will start to implement? Also, do you have a master plan for protecting the health of your population?

[Chair]

Vietnam, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

My question to all the Resource Persons; how is ODA for health services allocated in your countries?

[Chair]

Japan, please.

[Ms. Wakako Hironaka, Japan]

I have a question to the representative from Sri Lanka. I was very much impressed by the success stories that you described because until a few years ago your country

was facing trouble. What contributed to the successes? You mentioned ODA yet there are many countries that have ODA but not using it successfully. Is it because of the size of your country, the traditions, or leadership? What do you think it is?

[Chair]

We now ask the presenters to respond. We will start with Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

The answer to the question from Vietnam was that we get about 8-9% of the budget of Sri Lanka from ODA.

In relation to the question posed by Japan, it is a multi-factorial one. I personally believe it is education that laid the foundation, so the Sri Lankan parents can concentrate very much on education; number 1 is education, number 2 is education, number 3 is education. The difficulties with the conflict are gone, so now the different communities – Singhalese, Tamils, and Muslims – can pay attention to education.

After the conflict, because of the educational background, the infrastructure, and because we had a good workforce, with the continued attempts made by the successive governments – despite war –

we had been able to achieve so much success in different fields. Health and education was the mightiest one and the key factors. With that now go ahead with infrastructural development.

I sincerely thank JICA again for providing so much help to Sri Lanka for infrastructural development; they are carrying out a lot of different projects in different parts of the country.

[Chair]

Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

Hon. Dr. Tien asked how ODA is allocated for our health budget. In relation to our national budget, it is 20% but specially for the health budget for 2011 and 2012 it is only 0.1% because the ODA started several years before. These are the funds of programmes that will finish in 2013, 2014 or 2015.

The main resource for ODA for maternal health and family planning programmes is the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for nutrition and decentralising health system. The second is from Korea for setting up a few district hospitals, from Germany for the maternal health system and the community health system in the east Nusantara province, and the other is from UNFPA for health. The grant we receive is from the Global Fund.

[Chair]

Zambia, please.

[Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia]

What has brought down the levels of

HIV/AIDS prevalence in my country is, first of all, political will. We were at a level where the prevalence rate where 20% – one in every five people was HIV positive. Because of that, there was a lot of political will. Politicians had to talk about HIV and they had to make sure to bring out strategies to bring down the prevalence rates.

We developed a national HIV/AIDS policy as a country in a very consultative manner and a National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework was developed. All institutions were encouraged to come up with HIV/AIDS workplace policies to ensure that the topic of HIV/AIDS was addressed as much as possible to sensitise people.

There was also good will funding from the donors, so most of the programmes that we came up with as a country were very well-funded by donors, so we enjoyed a lot of support in terms of funding. So that helped us improve the situation up to the levels where we are now, at 14%. But suffice to say that only less than 10% of the population has actually gone for HIV testing. So we don't have many people testing, and we don't know what the reasons are for that but I think that is an area that we need to dwell in. I think these are the things that account for the reduction of the prevalence rates.

Coming to the second question on how much ODAs is coming in for health in Zambia. There is so much money coming in for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and maternal health from donors; JICA is one of them, and USAID and the Scandinavians are funding many health programmes in my country. When I come across how much in terms of funds and figures, I can send that to you.

[Chair]

Kenya, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

In Kenya, ODA for the national budget is about 15% from last year's and I think it is declining – it could be going down to 10%. But from last year, only on health issues, we have only 7% on ODAs support and education is at 3%.

[Chair]

The floor is again open for the second round of questions. Mr. Shiv Khare, please.

[Mr. Shiv Khare, AFPPD]

I just wanted to intervene a little bit with Sri Lanka and with Japan. Is it true that one of the reasons why Sri Lanka has made some progress is because the civil war has ended. The second issue is that the Sri Lankan population is not as high as the other countries' in the region, like Bangladesh, Pakistan and India; their populations are very high. Sri Lanka had a successful population control programme, which also has resulted in an educated population. Of course, government policy is responsible for having seen to the size of the population and the education system. I think those are the contributing forces.

[Chair]

Vietnam, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

I agree with Mr. Shiv Khare on how he explained Sri Lanka's success.

When I was studying as a demographer in South Asia 20 years ago, the civil war was

happening in Sri Lanka. Some southern states in India are good social indicators, especially on population control. They have reduced population growth and to make more family planning for people.

The second thing I want to ask all of the presenters is what is the ODA for preventive direction? That is very important because if the ODA only reaches infrastructure, such as just building the hospitals, I do not think it will have a lot of effect for the people. The main thing is how can the ODA support care for tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, nutrition, maternal health? This is very important for the poor for the community.

[Chair]

Ghana, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

I have not heard anything yet about the direct role of parliament in assuring oversight, aside from Kenya. Is there something you can brief us on this?

[Chair]

We shall now respond. Kenya, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

I do not know the precise figures off the top of my head but the ODA funding that we get for health is at 7%. Of this, I would say that around 5% goes to preventive cases for fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The Kenyan government has become more open, very accountable and inclusive. As mentioned, we have a new constitution that has established the Office of Anti-

corruption so that the participation of the citizens is also inclusive in terms of budget-making. We also have what we call a very strong parliamentary Select Committee. This is where all the budgets are done and approved. So, we have a very strong system in Kenya today.

[Chair]

Zambia, please.

[Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia]

I do not want to speculate as to how much goes towards prevention or infrastructure development in the health sector. But like I said, there is good will and most of the funding goes towards preventive measures.

We have a big problem in my country right now that was seen as a scandal, where people would go to so-called “mobile hospitals” from China; fully-fledged hospitals but in vehicles with whatever sort of equipment you need in a hospital. Everything that we procured cost us about US\$53 million. There was an outcry in the country, “why don’t you put up structures; why don’t you build the hospitals rather than have these mobile ones?” “We don’t have good roads, and what if they break” – and issues relating to maintenance and so on.

There was a huge debate as to whether that was needed or not. I think that is what the Chinese government could provide and were in a hurry to provide health services to our people. That is the sort of ODA I can remember that goes towards establishing hospitals but I think that most of the ODA goes towards programmes such as preventive measures or training of personnel.

The role of parliament: our system is pretty much the Westminster system, where our parliament is open, and there is a committee system. We do not get as involved as the Kenyans at the budgeting-level; we are sort of a rubber stamp when it comes to the formulation of the budget. Most of the time we discuss the expenditures side and not the revenue side in our parliament. We spend a lot of time looking at expenditures and we are very much involved in that area. But we are very involved in scrutinising accounts, after expenditure. When the auditor general does the report they audit and report to parliament.

We also get reports from different line ministries on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and maternal mortality. These ministries have got to table their annual reports to parliament and those annual reports are scrutinised by portfolio committees to see whether these ministries are doing their job correctly.

[Chair]

Apart from the traditional functions of parliamentarians, what you have been championing; what kind of examples of advocacy have you been carrying out; how do you work on population and development-related issues at the parliamentary level, be it individually or from a caucus perspective?

[Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia]

The All Parliamentary Group on Population and Development in Zambia (ZAPPD) has been involved in distributing bicycles to traditional birth attendants in all our constituencies to enable them to have some mobility.

We do have such caucuses that really come in and intervene in certain issues. We have a caucus on the attainment of the MDGs in our country and that caucus really focuses on MDG5. Apart from the traditional ways that parliamentarians operate, we have certain caucuses like that.

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

Coming back to the important question regarding the prevention aspect of health, we are concentrating a lot on health aspects but contrary to what you mentioned, we do not have that much tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS in our country now. We have combated virtually all the communicable diseases in our country. We concentrate on non-communicable diseases but we need to put more attention to the prevention of non-communicable diseases which is on the way now.

Unfortunately, some of the donor agencies do not concentrate on the local needs. Say, for instance, we get a lot of funding for vaccination programmes. 100% of our children are vaccinated and there is very good control. We have not recorded a single case of whooping cough or polio for the last 20 years. But we still get a lot of funds for the promotion for the vaccination programmes, whereas we get less funding for the non-communicable diseases such as the prevention of heart diseases and cancers that we need to concentrate on. We request the donors to pay more attention to those diseases, which are going to be the killers in time to come.

Regarding the question from Ghana, unfortunately, our parliament also does not have sufficient control over the mechanism to interfere with ODA. It is the same scenario unfortunately unless the members privately intervene and talk about something and question in the parliament regarding what formal assistance and what can be done with this particular money that the country has received. There is no active interference; there is no active mechanism for the members of parliament to get involved with the activities of concern.

[Chair]

Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

To Ghana: we have a five-year-term development programme. We are asking ODA for the same period but the problem is that it is not the same period as ours. So if you ask about how we can interfere with ODA, the regulation is that everything coming in from abroad as ODA has to be processed in the Blue Book National Development Planning agencies (BAPPENAS).

Blue Book National Development Planning agencies are based on the national budget and the parliamentarians are discussing the national budget. Then the national budget is defined to the ministry, and this is where we do parliamentary oversight here. We are working together to do the evaluation, so we have the oversight of this.

The process that can we do as individuals and not as institutions, as I said, we have to push our party faction. We have nine party factions in our parliament, and the

finance committee and the health committee, to pay more attention on this. During the factional or committee position in every plenary session, we can push to or put the ODA on faction position paper. Nowadays we have a working group on the government's debt in the eleventh commission. So, nowadays we get more information on ODA from the government and commissions.

For our budget session, every 16 August, the president declares next year's budget planning. The term is until 30 October, when the final decisions on next year's national budget are made. The ODA proposal deadline is 15 October because between these dates we can revise our budgets.

The other question was from Vietnam. We have target decreasing MMR and we are focusing on preventive health and community health services. We have basic emergency obstetric neonatal care (BEONC); we have 1,579 BEONCs out of 9,133 community health services. In one of the provinces we are supported by Germany, and UNFPA is supporting the maternal health programme on preventive community health services, as well as family planning. ADB supports local government and community health services.

[Chair]

We are delighted to have you here as a member of the parliamentary female caucus back in Indonesia. What are some of the best practices you have made and challenges you may want to share with us?

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

Actually, our caucus is not really focusing

only on population issues but we do really focusing on health, especially for maternal health and community health services. The other thing is the birth insurance. We have birth insurance for a mother who has not yet been covered by health insurance. It is not only for the poor but for all women who are not covered yet by any health insurance. We think that we have to should advocate the women more to get more birth insurance, so we can reduce the MMR.

[Chair]

Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

I heard Indonesia say that most of the ODAs would be coming after the budget session, so that they are not captured in the national budget.

In the Philippines, there are two aspects of the General Appropriations Act; one is the funded appropriation, and the other is the unfunded appropriation which could be funded if revenues are more than what has been scheduled or there are loans or grant proceeds which would be coming within the budget implementation period. This could catch ODAs which are not yet matured while the budget was being prepared.

[Chair]

India, please.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

Population control is a major problem in the world. We, parliamentarians, coming from various countries in this context of effectively using the assistance, are of the

opinion that now we understood that neither the Government of Japan nor the recipient countries would be interested in providing all the information to us on their own. MPs are ready to see that the information comes out of the government. Then we can go through.

In India we have got another facility. We have passed the legislation on the Right to Information for any citizen in the country. Any Indian citizen can ask for any kind of information, including the agreements between foreign countries on assistance. So we will ask government for the right for information, or as some of our colleagues have said, through a private member's bill or in a question hour. We will get the information, scrutinise the information, and then we will correspond with the Japanese government. Then we can even think about participating in the evaluation of the projects that have taken place with the assistance from ODA.

[Chair]

Lao PDR, please.

[Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena, Lao PDR]

I think that Lao PDR needs to prepare for the implementation of ODA supported by the foreign countries, in terms of how to monitor and how to evaluate the efficiency.

[Chair]

Pakistan, please.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

Thank you, honourable Chair. I think that there is a lot to be learned from the case of Sri Lanka because this is a country

within our own region, in South Asia, which is excelling on almost all social sector indicators. Being a country that has come out of decades of armed conflict that in any other situation, in any other country in South Asia, it might have resulted in crippling effective social sector programmes.

In Sri Lanka I think it was much to the credit of the political leadership because education and health remained high on the agenda, throughout successive governments and despite armed conflict, they were able to achieve what they have today.

I was not aware that most of these programmes were done through ODA assistance but having learned that today that is also a great indicator in that it is possible to use ODA-funded projects to achieve your own country's developmental plan, which is what they did in Sri Lanka. I think that is what the rest of us need to learn how to do, whether it is through the Legislature or through the Executive, we need to ensure that whatever programmes run in our country are not just a "flash in the pan", so to speak, but that they actually result in reaching long-term developmental goals.

[Chair]

Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you Cong. Lagman. We need to have more control of ODA and I think we should have a session to revise our national budget. The Philippines' idea of the budget session is really impressive and maybe we should talk more about that.

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

Thank you very much for the good comments coming from Pakistan. Education and health remain the two vital factors in relation to the social development in any country. Apart from that we think that democracy is also playing a great part and you need to have the multi-sectoral political parties which are all interested differently regions and different policies to govern the country towards the correct side. After all, our

efforts should go to the ground level to benefit the people of each and every country, so that we can hopefully achieve success together in time to come.

[Chair]

I want to thank the parliamentarians from various countries that have contributed here in this session, especially those who shared their wealth of experience. We are looking forward to your continuance assistance and work in that country to alleviate issues.

Thank you.

SESSION 6

ODA and the Role of Parliamentarians

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 6
ODA and the Role of Parliamentarians

Mr. Shin Sakurai

Japan

Former Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Mr. Shin Sakurai is a former Member of Councillors and the former Director-General of the Agency of Environment of Japan.

As the second Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), he organized a number of international parliamentarians' conferences on population and development.

It has been quite a while since I last saw you as I retired from parliament four years ago. First of all, I would like to heartily welcome you to our program supported by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). APDA, who is organizing his conference, asked me to speak about the roles to be played by parliamentarians in the ODA process. At first I was a little hesitant since it has been a while since I retired from my work, but I spent 25 years of my political life committed to parliamentarians' activities on population and development. I served as the AFPPD Chair and organized a numbers of international parliamentarians' conferences, so I thought it may be not a bad idea to share some experiences that I went through over these years.

JTF was created when I asked the Japanese government to establish a fund to support parliamentary activities on population and development. When I was organizing numerous international parliamentarians' conferences as the AFPPD Chair, I felt a

strong necessity for funds in order to support such activities. The then Ambassador Sato at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the then UNFPA Executive

Director, Dr. Sadik, exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish JTF within UNFPA. As a founder of JTF, I am very pleased to learn now that this fund is being used for this programme to build the roles of the parliamentarians within the process of ODA which will actually build a collaborative relationship among the parliamentarians of the world.



All of you who have gathered here are parliamentarians. Parliamentarians are representatives of the people chosen righteously by the people and are to reflect people's voices under the system of democracy. Activities of the parliamentarians have very important

bearings on solving population issues. Population issues involve human life and death, and each number reflects the life of each individual.

Population issues are also issues of lifestyle. How many children will a family have or not have, and when? These are important decisions made by families and affect their lives immensely. No one is able to force such decisions on the individuals. All we can do is enlighten people about population issues, build understanding for each and every one and provide equipment and services that are necessary leading up to such solutions.

Parliamentarians are instrumental in identifying public will, and relaying it to policy making. We are also responsible for connecting our people with the government and international agencies. In this sense, parliamentarians play a major role in solving population issues. Parliamentarians understanding the meaning of population issues and their effects on the lives of individuals, the global environment, food and climate changes – and parliamentarians exerting efforts to allocate national budget to population and sustainable development – will serve as a basis for each country to engage in global challenges.

Our role goes beyond budget formulation. Our essential role is to convey the effects of population issues to our citizens, to our people, so that they will understand the issues well, and modify their behaviour. Population issues will not be solved unless there is a good amount of understanding on the part of every individual.

An AFPPD General Assembly was held in Niigata in 1999. The former minister of foreign affairs, honourable Taro Nakayama, the then Chair of JPFP and APDA said,

“Changing the world sounds like a formidable task but when individuals change, the world changes”. His words were woven into the Niigata Declaration, an official declaration of the AFPPD General Assembly.

The world is comprised of each and every individual. There is no way the world will change unless we can effect changes in each individual. Parliamentarians represent each individual as representatives of the nation. It is a matter of course that parliamentarians, who are responsible for policies in each nation, are unable to solve issues facing us without assuming their own roles.

Parliamentarians, like yourselves, who are engaged in the issues of population and development are perhaps most concerned about how to solve challenges of global scale such as climate changes, environment issues and food issues which we face.

Secondly, how can we avoid tragedies such as unwanted pregnancies; how do we prevent the increase of poverty with the growing population due to lack of education; how do we eradicate poverty? You can see that compelling concerns in our daily lives and global challenges are all under the umbrella of population issues.

Opportunities to listen to popular will have been increasing in Japan in recent years. For example, I witnessed increasing instances of providing opportunities for local populations to speak up in public hearing settings at times when local plans are being prepared. Most of such settings are provided as an arena for the administration or executive organs and local citizens to have dialogues, and unfortunately parliamentarians are not

included.

As a result, some discussions based on exceptional interests will be interpreted as popular will. Parliamentarians who were elected based on just election are not playing a full role here.

In part, parliamentarians are responsible for such situations. We end up being just one seat in the political party once we are elected as statesmen. We often end up being emerged in political strife instead of discussing necessary policies for the nation. This is unavoidable as long as party government takes place but at the same time, if each parliamentarian is just one legislative seat on the Diet floor, then you no longer represent your own people.

JPPF, the Japan Parliamentarians' Federation for Population, was established in 1974 as the world's first non-partisan parliamentarian group on population and development. Most regional parliamentarians' activities on these issues in various parts of the world have been inaugurated inspired by JPPF's initiatives.

JPPF started out as a non-partisan group. Even if a fierce political battle is fought between the ruling and opposition parties within the legislation process, practical discussion regarding population issues took place in a peaceful atmosphere and there was never any horn crossing regarding the approach toward population issues. In short, those with lofty visions gathered regardless of whether you were among the ruling or opposing party. They formed a common understanding and based on such understanding, have supported policies related to population issues and ODA.

Our predecessors and parliamentarians

representing different nations have promoted the building of regional parliamentarian groups and national committees working on population and development issues. I myself feel very proud to be instrumental in such initiatives, and it was my great pleasure to be able to do so. Regional parliamentarians' groups working on population and development issues have been established in all the regions of the world. Solving population issues by making use of this parliamentarians' network, I hear, is the aim of this year's gathering. I feel this is a breakthrough plan that will embody the spirits of the parliamentarians' activities.

National committees have been established in many countries so far, but not necessarily all the committees can execute their plans as situations differ from country to country, and some committees are still searching for ways to function effectively. In such situations, what kind of roles can parliamentarians play?

The first role a parliamentarian can play is to reflect popular will or public opinion to policy making. This will include legislative proceedings. As I mentioned earlier, it is true that the administration is trying to heed the voices of the citizens more often, but it is indispensable that parliamentarians should be a part of the dialogue between the two parties – if the voice of the citizens is to be heard justly. Parliamentarians are responsible for conveying appropriate policies to the government and evaluate whether the outcomes delivered from such policies were valid or not.

Policies will be made through discussions for legislation and budget committees. Committees on audit take care of

validating the outcomes. We discuss budget and expenditures pertaining to national administration comprising vast fields of complexity in a limited number of days, which allows very little time for the discussion of individual categories. How do we deal with the issues of population and development, which is our common agenda within such limitations? We will certainly need concrete tactics for that.

The next important role, I believe, is to gain public understanding and to mobilise the budget. For developed countries, it is expenditure for ODA, and for developing countries it is prioritised budget allocation for population-related activities. Until around the year 2000 Japan was known as the top ODA donor country in the world to support international development and had made great contributions, especially in resolving population-related issues. However, due to the government's financial deterioration, ODA has been on a continuous declining trend ever since then and I deeply regret this situation, as a person who has always supported ODA.

One of the reasons for this decline is the worsening of living conditions of ordinary people in developed countries. In such an environment, it is harder to gain public understanding on ODA for the purpose of improving the livelihood of people in developing countries. Parliamentarians and APDA, which serves as the JPPF secretariat, made utmost efforts to advocate people but it will take a long time to change this situation.

Needless to say, that the biggest reason for this ODA decline was the fiscal deterioration due to the increase of social security costs but I believe there are also other factors. What I would like to point out is that the result of a population

programme has never been shown to parliamentarians or the general public in a concrete manner such as how much improvement was made for the future or how much was achieved by aid implementation organizations.

We often request such data to aid organizations. Unfortunately, the information provided was not sufficient to convince the general public. Implementation organizations that actually carry out the programmes try to strictly follow the conditions set by the donor organizations. I think giving explanations on the meaning of the programme to parliamentarians or people should be given not by the implementation organization, but by the donor organization. This is an important role that they must fulfil. We take it a serious issue.

We know that very good projects are carried out on the national levels. However, the useful information from those successful projects is not fully gathered or shared with us. In Japan's case, public polls show that the majority of people see population issues as a priority area for ODA which is encouraging given the limited amount of information. But it may not yet be strong enough to push the government.

Allow me to touch upon the recommendations from people's points of view. I believe the roles of parliamentarians are to advocate people to reflect the public's opinions in the policy, and to mobilise the budget. In addition to those I believe making recommendations on ODA programmes from the people's point of view is also their role. I have observed various ODA projects and often found them only reflecting the experts'

ideas or a very narrow view of the experts'. In other words, they were ODA projects which did not really fulfil the needs of the people or improve living conditions.

Let me give you one example to explain this, the Rajasthan case. In 2006 I visited the villages of Harijans, close to Udaipur in the Rajasthan region in India. In those villages, the HIV prevalence rate was high and the infected villagers were promoting HIV prevention activities and family planning activities with the support of UNFPA and IPPF. At the same time, an afforestation project was carried out for desertification prevention funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the same region. The person in charge was proud of the afforestation achievement but I was not fully convinced because I saw people doing nothing in the daytime with no job to do after the afforestation project. I therefore proposed a recommendation of planting medicinal plants between trees to generate income and to help alleviate HIV/AIDS symptoms in the regions.

To work to support oneself is fundamental for the dignity of human beings. Aid must not be a charity. I believe that ODA must be a means to restore self-support, pride and human dignity in the region. However, the government officials or aid organization officers who were implementers of ODA seemed satisfied by doing what was instructed in the project and did not seem to think about incorporating the needs of the region.

When I presented my recommendation, the JBIC person in charge did not quite understand my intention and was astonished. I disheartened that thinking the project could have reflected local needs if parliamentarians had been able to participate in ODA policy formulation.

However, I heard at a later stage, that JBIC took up my recommendations and took necessary measures.

Another case is one in Indonesia. In Indonesia there was a series of projects. In the mountains, they were cutting trees and there was a river-works project at the midstream as well as a housing improvement project nearby. As long as you continue to cut trees, the soil will continue to flow into the river and the riverbed will rise. Then you will have frequent floods and it can negatively affect the public hygiene of the residents. It is natural to assume that the issues will not be resolved through such a scattered approach of multiple projects.

There are negative effects of bureaucracy when a project is led by a government because of the lack of a coordinating role in the vertical divided system. It is a politician who can work as a coordinator. When parliamentarians think hard about the local needs, they do not have to focus on certain sectors separately. They should be able to grasp the big picture, coordinate the national development policy and utilise ODA in an effective manner. Therefore, I believe that parliamentarians have a major role to play to tailor-made ODA reflecting local needs comprehensively.

How can we specifically resolve these issues with specific measures? From the point of view of a recipient government organization or international organization, the role of MPs in developed countries may be simply to just get the budget. Let me repeat this point once again: there is not enough information for MPs to convince voters of the importance of ODA and get the budget. Today, unless there are thorough explanations to persuade the

general public, MPs cannot work on their own to mobilise the budget.

APDA, serving as the secretariat of JPFP, has been greatly concerned about this situation. If aid organizations cannot provide sufficient data, then the national committees on population and development of each country should be involved in the planning and evaluation of population-related ODA, and exchange the implementation results with each other through the parliamentary networking. With this, they should be able to understand the true needs of developing countries and obtain sufficient information to convince voters in developed countries.

This means that we have come to realise that this is about fulfilling the essential role of parliamentarians should intrinsically play; that is, participating in the national development policy planning as representatives of the people and evaluating it as the result of the budget execution.

I believe it will be difficult to sustain or expand the scope of ODA unless we establish a mechanism which holds parliamentarians accountable for the result. You are the parliamentarians, so if you tackle the issues with all your effort, you can influence the policies of your country. By taking advantage of the parliamentary network we have established, parliamentarians in developed and developing countries can work together to tackle the same global-scale issues.

I am retired now, but I am delighted to see that the seeds I have sown in the past are producing new activities around the world. I am certain that our will has been carried

over by many parliamentarians. With pride as the representatives of your people and with all your effort, please tackle these issues for the future of your country and your people. Then we will have a bright future in front of us.

Finally, I would just like to raise awareness among the parliamentarians who are here today about what I am engaged in now. March 11, 2011 marked a historical event in Japan. The north eastern part of our archipelago suffered a massive earthquake and tsunami, and that massive tsunami that devastated the northeast area of Japan.

During the four years since I retired, I was thinking about the next activities that we should embark on. I think if society is to impose more burden on this earth, maybe, we will explode and we may be dispersed in the universe physically. Even if we do whatever we can, no matter how much money we make, no matter how we love our children and grandchildren, the society cannot exit if we cannot still retain such a system. We have been extracting all the petroleum from the Middle East and burning this oil to have a better life. We have negatively affected the environment and this may lead to consequences that are bigger than earthquakes and tsunamis.

Most of mankind lives in the northern hemisphere. Since people are leading a life suited only to humankind's comfort and their interest, the Arctic Ocean's glaciers have started to melt. We can now go through that area from Russia to Europe. But in the southern hemisphere, in the Antarctic area, there has not been too much change in the glaciers. This serves as evidence that humankind is not being friendly to the earth, especially in the northern hemisphere.

In the past centuries, we have made leaps and bounds in science and technology. We should use our science and technology to not have a negative impact on the earth by not imposing too much on the global environment. We should have good stewardship on the earth, so we can prolong the life of this planet.

I am no longer active as a parliamentarian, but from the global environment perspective, I am speaking to the parliamentarians beyond partisan awareness. I am trying to lobby to these active and engaged parliamentarians. This will serve as a good cause to establish a

good budget. Instead of just thinking that establishing the national committee on population and development is enough and there is nothing to do further, we should relay what we have studied about population issues for the decades to the newborn babies and also to the grown-ups who have lived without such perspectives. They should understand why it is so important to lead a lifestyle to sustain the global environment.

Unless we have a new frame of mind, there is will not be a happy future for mankind. Thank you very much.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 6

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo

MP, Ghana

Deputy Majority Leader

Chair of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD)

[Chair]

We can only change the world if the individual changes. This is a very powerful statement that Mr. Sakurai made. He also believes that the role of parliamentarians has to do with the popular will, which has to do with the legislative role, the educational role, budget role, and validating outcomes through evaluation. The floor is open to any of those who want to comment.

[Hon. Ledia Amaliah Hanifa, Indonesia]

You had named an ODA case in Indonesia. I just want to know if there has been any communication between the Japanese parliamentarians and, for example, JICA about the targets that they should reach through ODA? And will it be part of the deal with the recipient countries? Secondly, how can you evaluate the programme? You have seen that there are some problems with the implementation of ODA, so how can the Japanese parliamentarians intervene on this? Did the programme have to be suspended?

[Chair]

Mr. Sakurai, please.

[Mr. Shin Sakurai]

I have been involved with these issues

since the 1980s. At the very beginning, developing countries in Asia and Africa they were going through a very difficult stage. We had no problem in getting the budget for providing food aid to the Asian and African countries in the 1980s, and I went to observe some programmes and found the aid was properly used for improving their lives.

In recent years, however, since emerging countries have come to be really wealthy, I was concerned that the Japanese government officials have not conducted enough surveys on the needs of the developing nations. So, from now on we have to change our viewpoint. What is important is how we can stop leading a self-centred life and establish an environment in which children can grow in a sound manner. Dr. Kusumoto will provide some supplementary comments.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

I was an assistant to Mr. Sakurai, and at that time, there were no concrete strategies and we did not have this kind of system for reflecting parliamentarians' opinions in ODA. Therefore, one-by-one, case-by-case, he made recommendations to JICA and the government. At that moment he was one of the leaders of the ruling party, so what he said had very big impact. Mr. Sakurai's recommendations to

JICA or JBIC were considered as those of the ruling party itself. That was why his opinions were well reflected into the projects.

As he mentioned, in the case of Rajasthan, the experts were only focusing on afforestation. They were working hard but they did not go to the length of considering people's needs beyond their specialised fields. Mr. Sakurai had a lot of experience in many fields, so he came up with an idea of income-generating projects for the local people and proposed this idea as an additional sub-programme.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

As parliamentarians, we work in the field for grassroots-level contact. We are also ready to put our efforts into seeing that the assistance that you gave is put to proper and effective use. If you put it to use, by taking it to the parliamentary discussions, the question hour, motions, etc., your people will not fight in giving the money to the other countries – even when there are economic problems or natural disasters. That will possibly motivate your people, your parliament, your parliamentarians to give more and more assistance to the developing countries. We are very happy about that.

We have accepted globalisation. Even then, nationalism is working more. Some developed nations are bringing more nationalism into their policy, only to exploit the developing countries – certainly not to assist. Their plain concern is only to find the market for their product in the developing nations, rather than providing assistance to reduce the disparities in the nation too.

In this regard, our observation on

population control in India is that, aside from healthcare, education is fundamentally important. We have seen that families that have received a lot of education do not have a lot of children. Those who are uneducated are not controlling the number of children they are having. Will the Japanese government provide assistance for improving the skills of the people in the developing countries so that when education is increased, the issue of population control will be solved?

[Chair]

Mr. Sakurai, please.

[Mr. Shin Sakurai]

You are exactly right. In India, Vietnam, or whatever country, only the parliamentarians know of the exact situation because that is their job. Dr. Kusumoto has followed these issues for over 20 years, so please talk to him. I would also like to nurture and foster young parliamentarians in becoming experts in the area of population area and hopefully I can be of some assistance.

I have lived for 78 years and six months. Looking back on my life, I have written a book titled, "I have finished the journey of politics". In that book, I have written that I was brought up in a very poor family with eight children, and I had to earn my food since I was four years old. I was the fourth child but the third child died immediately after birth; I have five younger sisters.

As a child, my work was taking care of animals. First I raised rabbits and when the rabbit was grown up, it was sold and I would cry for about a week. After that, I raised goats. When the goat is grown up it gives birth to a kid, and then I milked the goat, boiled the milk and peddled it to the

village people. My family did not own any land, so I went to the mountain or riverbed and get bushes and plants to feed the goats and rabbits twice a day – morning and evening, every day.

When I was in the fifth grade, I was taking care of oxen, which were used for cultivating the farm. So, I have had to earn my food since I was very young. Nowadays you have farm tractors but we had to use oxen for farming. We had to work hard to put food on the table. I look back into my childhood in the book.

Prime Minister Kishi started parliamentary activities on population and development in Japan. In the beginning I accompanied those great politicians like Prime Minister Kishi to various developing nations and I learned a lot from these experiences. When I saw those people in need, I was always thinking about how I could help these people. I racked my brain to the best of my ability, and I am proud of that.

During your stay in Japan, I would suggest that you formulate ideas that can convince Japanese politicians and the Japanese Government that Japan should provide assistance to your country. Tell us what you need and persuade the Japanese politicians and government that we should give assistance. Dr. Kusumoto will help you but if you need any further information I can help you whenever necessary.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

Thank you very much, Mr. Sakurai. If you have any requests I will make sure to communicate that to the Japanese Government though JPFP.

To answer to Hon. Rao's question, I think Japanese ODA is incorporating what you

have said as one of their "Human Security" targets. The issue is how we can make it oriented towards the social needs. The concept is there but energising it is what parliamentarians have to work on.

There are a series of questions about the nature of ODA. For example, the idea of "selfless devotion" may sound like a beautiful idea but most of the time it may try to hide something. A successful scenario is to have a relationship that is improving others' circumstances and that leads to improving ours – and vice-versa. With this, the relationship can then be sustainable.

In this sense, ODA is part of foreign diplomacy, so we have to create something which will benefit the people of Japan. That will be building trust, protecting the environment, world peace, and stability. These are not directly related to being profitable but these can lead to benefitting the people in Japan, and ultimately lead to the benefit of the people in the world.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

Germany and Japan are helping recipient countries by developing those countries' skills. Skills are the most important element necessary now for almost all developing countries. As a master in skills, particularly with keeping population control and education on your mind in mind, is the Government of Japan thinking in terms of providing similar kinds of assistance for developing skills in developing countries?

[Chair]

Sierra Leone, please.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

In addition to what Hon. Rao said about appealing to the Japanese government to assist in terms of developing skills in developing countries, I also appeal that they consider finding ways to empower parliamentary caucuses in developing countries; or, where possible, individual parliamentarians, given their diverse needs in the area of population and development-related issues, if we are to achieve our goal here.

I say this because if they continue with the thinking of being technical in terms of aid and the non-interference in the sovereignty of a country, it will be difficult for us to impact what we are here for. As it came out this morning and even yesterday, there are limits to how parliamentarians do intervene in some issues given their political set-ups in their respective countries. I agree whole-heartedly that skills development is very pertinent but we can also look at population caucuses at the parliamentary-level and, if possible, individual parliamentarians who would be there to face the heat to advocate using the media, working with other civil societies.

[Chair]

Are you saying that they should take it further?

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

Further, yes. I am very determined to make an impact and we could collaborate with JICA or other organizations at that level to impact the lives of a given community, depending on their aspirations. That could be used as a case

study. But perhaps I would find it difficult to counter what JICA and the government of Sierra Leone are now collaborating on.

Perhaps limitations and political issues will not even allow me to interfere with their collaboration. When our honourable delegate is talking about skills, it is at our own level. We are all educated but you can get other technical aid because, as I understand, the area given is other technical aid.

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

Apart from developing the skills, Sri Lanka's experience is that you have to empower women because they are the ones looking after the families. Female literacy is something very important for developing a society. If you educate females, they will look after the family, ensure that children go to school, and ensure that proper nutrition is given to their children. As much as we pay attention to skill development of the younger generations, it is equally important that we continue to empower women of society.

[Chair]

At the tail end of his presentation Mr. Sakurai said, "Aid is not charity. It is to restore trust, confidence, and human dignity". All this shows the policy-level Japan is taking aid through. He wants to equip us with knowledge and understanding of ourselves, so that we will not see aid as charity but as something that will restore our trust, confidence and our dignity as human beings.

I have another issue which I want to clarify. You said that at present evaluation of the ODA programmes are not done well enough; what kind of review is taking place?

[Mr. Shin Sakurai]

I was referring to my environment while I was growing up. I wanted to talk about that I did not ask for the charity. You have to make your best effort and try to survive.

For instance, you need to build schools for education but they have to be school buildings that will be used with well-trained teachers. Once the school is built, you have to use that to educate children in order for them to survive; you have to teach them about agriculture, fishery, forestry, etc. As children grow up, they have to teach their children, which is called “disciplinary education” in Japan. This includes vocational training and teaching customs and practices that help people live harmoniously in the community – and this should be continued.

You have to work to earn money to make a living. Therefore, it is important to create an environment where you earn from what you work in. That has to be based on the conditions of your own country. That type of information is something we can think about together but you know what is best for the people in the context of your country.

I am originally from the area in Japan where there is the most amount of snow; as a child we would have piles of between three-to-four metres of snow. But now, in the same region, we only have 1 metre of snow because of global warming as a result of our lifestyles.

How we should live is something we have to study; in addition to schooling, we have to learn how to live. You get the money for what you work for, and you have to make an environment for it. Through ODA, parliamentarians working on population and development issues should set a new perspective to achieve this goal and work for it.

I served as a parliamentarian for 26 years and I served for eight years as a local assembly member – a total 35 years in politics. I think that politics is the most interesting and worthwhile field to work in. If you think that there should be a change, then you can legislate and change the system. This way, you can create a mechanism where people can get the money for what they work for. Please keep working on for parliamentarians’ activities on population and development.

If you think something is worth trying, you should do that hand in hand. I have tried a lot of new things in my hometown. As I mentioned earlier, in my area, we used to have three or four metres of snow in winter, so the first floor of a house was built on a two metre high pillar so that the first floor does not get buried in the snow and you can have a much more comfortable life. I changed a system and ensured that the tax be waived for such construction fees. In 20 years, most of the houses were following that kind of structure, improving the lives of the people in the region.

This is just one example. Since I have been working with population and development issues, I have learned a lot and I have done what I can one step at a time.

I am sure you have a lot of ideas but if you are unsure of how to execute or fund them, please consult with us. I can

promise you we can give you the best support we can provide with our experience. It does not matter which party is in power, be it the DPJ or LDP.

I hope you will make full use of the parliamentarians' network on population and development. I have been involved in these activities for the last 26 years with

such interest and passion, and I truly hope that this meeting will be useful for the rest of your political activities. Thank you.

[Chair]

Let us give Mr. Sakurai a round of applause and we will call this session to an end.

SESSION 7

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – III

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 7

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – III

Cong. Edcel C. Lagman

Congressman, Philippines
Deputy Secretary-General of the
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
Chair of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Congressman Edcel C. Lagman received his Bachelor's of Law and his Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) from the University of the Philippines.

He was first elected to the House of Representatives of the Congress in 1987. He has been Chair of various major committees such as the Committees on Agrarian Reform, Human Rights, Overseas Employment, and Appropriations; and is presently serving as the Minority Leader. He is the principal author and sponsor of the Reproductive Health Bill and has been advocating for 12 years now.

The Philippines' economy has not liberated itself from the clutches of fiscal deficit. Apart from exports and domestic government revenues, the Philippines relies on external sources, including Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), ODA, and remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The amount of ODA is lower compared to export or OFW remittances, but higher than FDI. For the last 10 years, ODA loans have totalled around US\$10 billion.

In 2010, and for the last ten years, JICA has been the biggest source of ODA loans to the Philippines with the infrastructure sector being the biggest recipient of ODA. For 2010, there were 30 ODA loans supporting the Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7,

which translate to US\$2.91 billion, about 29% of all ODA.

With respect to ODA grants, as distinguished from loans, as of 2010, the total grant amounted to US\$2.25 billion, or roughly only

20% of the total ODA availments. The social reform and community development sector has received the highest grant assistance amounting to 41% of all ODAs or roughly US\$931.12 million for 162 projects. Australia's aid accounted for the largest share of grants at about 28%.



This paper looks into two projects aimed at the promotion of maternal health: 1. Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project; 2. Maternal and Child Health Project. These projects were carried out in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and JICA respectively. Phase Two of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project was, likewise, supported by the World Bank with the Department of Health as the implementing partner.

The first phase of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, amounting to US\$36.8 million, was undertaken from May 1995 to June 2002. At this time, the Philippines had one of the highest MMRs in Southeast Asia at 209 per 100,000 live births, and the highest fertility rate at 3.8 per woman. To respond to this, the government began introducing programs on maternal health. The project commenced with the aim of strengthening women's health and safe motherhood services for the disadvantaged Filipino women. This was the very first health sector project supported by ADB that was primarily concerned with the improvement of women's reproductive health.

From 1995 to 2002, this project had the inclusion of general reproductive and emergency obstetric medical services and supplies in 550 hospitals and rural health facilities. About 1.4 million safe home-delivery kits were also given to midwives. Over five million copies of home-based mother records in local languages were distributed. These records were used by health centres for prenatal care and monitoring. Vitamin A capsules were also given to lactating women and iodine capsules were distributed to women of reproductive age nationwide.

As a result, both the frequency and quality of prenatal care increased over time in areas where the project was implemented. The proportion of babies delivered by trained birth attendants also increased; maternal mortality decreased over time. More pregnant women classified as high-risk consulted with health professionals and were satisfied with the services. Moreover, according to the performance report of the ADB, the project strengthened the capacity of the Department of Health to more effectively plan and manage women's health programmes and donor-funded projects.

The second phase of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, amounting to US\$16 million covered, and will cover, the period from 2005 to 2012. It aims to significantly improve maternal health, which is the MDG that is most seriously off track. The overall objective of the project is to increase facility-based deliveries by upscale attendance. This project is of critical importance because 11 women still die daily in the Philippines of maternal causes. And after an initial substantial decrease, the maternal mortality ratio has stagnated and is still pegged at 162 per 100,000 live births. That is bad – but it is not as bad as in other countries. The two components of the project are local delivery of the integrated project service package and national capacity to sustain the project services.

The Maternal and Child Health Project is the other case study. The Maternal and Child Health Project is a partnership of the Department of Health, the provincial and municipal governments of Biliran and Ifugao provinces, and JICA. The project was from 2006 to 2010 and its objective was to lower maternal and neonatal

deaths by involving local communities in the implementation of safe motherhood programmes. The project areas were the entire province of Biliran, a total of eight municipalities, and 3 of the 11 municipalities of Ifugao.

The project was implemented in two contrasting areas. In Ifugao, that is a mountain area, the figures are relatively good with respect to maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. It is much better than the national average. But the other province of Biliran is one of the worst places with respect to maternal and infant mortality and morbidity; however, the results were really good because in the case of the mountain province in Ifugao, there was an increase in facility-based deliveries although it is a mountainous place and it is very high to traverse from one place to another to a health facility. The more important thing is that in the province of Biliran, there was a great increase in maternal health attention and there has been a reduction of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

Summary of observations and lessons learned: When we invest in mothers, we are also investing in children, in families and in human development. I think that is our true mission. The achievements of the

projects show that even areas with the worst health indicators like Biliran can significantly improve with the implementation of carefully thought out projects. There is no question about it. A successful campaign for maternal and newborn health requires strong political will and financial commitment from both the national government and donor or lender or creditor agencies.

In conclusion, the projects discussed above are good practices that demonstrate the returns of investing in health. The promotion of reproductive health is cost-effective. According to UNICEF in 2002, family planning and contraceptive use can bring more benefits to more people with less cost than any human technology now known to mankind.

It is recommended that in order to maximise the beneficial effects of the projects, provinces and municipalities where there is the greatest need for improvement in reproductive health services must be prioritised, both by the donor countries and the recipient country. It is also recommended that more grants than loans should be available and more Millennium Development Goal assistance than infrastructure. Thank you.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 7

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – III

Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo

MP, Ghana

Deputy Majority Leader

Chair of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2005 and served as the Minister of Youth and Sports. Currently, he is the Deputy majority leader and Chair of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD).

He holds a Bachelor degree in Education (Psychology) from University of Cape Coast and a Master of Arts (International Affairs) from the University of Ghana. He worked as a development consultant for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 2001 and as a Policy Analyst for the Institute of Policy Alternatives from 2002-2004.

At independence, Ghana's population was about 7.1 million; in 2010, the population estimate was 24 million. This has shaken a lot of people and we are asking ourselves how our population has shot up so dramatically, from 7.1 million to the current 24 million.

There is a feeling that in Ghana we need to establish population control; therefore, in the sub-region we have been one of the first countries to initiate and promulgate a law that will take care of our population growth. This law was revised in 1994 and presently we have a law that was established in the National Population Council, a reflection of what the constitution itself has indicated. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana stated the issue of population growth in Ghana and the need to control it.

To give it a legal framework, there are several laws that have subsequently been discussed that are promulgated and various acts of parliament have been passed that would assure that population is seen as a development issue.

In Ghana the decentralisation policy, which started in the 1980s and found expression again in the 1992 Constitution, has insisted that all development planning in the country must take population issues into consideration. The NPC, which is the appropriation council, is mandated to promote the integration of population in development planning at all levels and to work closely with the political analyses of the country – especially district assemblies, to design and implement population programmes and activities.

The National Population Council is the assembly that builds the capacities of individuals in other assemblies to ensure that they understand development issues that are confronting us and vis-à-vis to understand population growth so that in their planning they take everything into consideration. This has worked out so well that in the training programme the Division of Science and Technology at Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology was asked to develop training models on how to integrate population into development activities. These models have shown a lot of good results to the extent that we no longer use consultants in development planning in Ghana. Planning is done by local people who have helped the assemblies, or who continue to help the assemblies to form lead policies with population at the back of their minds – and how to ensure that population does not outstrip our resources.

ODA funding in Ghana is painfully 20% of our total government budget and 10% of GDP. In 2007/2008 there was a movement in Ghana to limit our intake of ODA and assistance from the World Bank and other places thus ODA assistance to Ghana was just 9.8% of GDP.

Ghana now has a new aid policy. In the past it used to be to tackle poverty so we, like most African countries, were working with the poverty reduction strategy. Today we do not want to use that as a framework for our development; we are more concerned about human development.

So there are various acts of parliament that are taking root from the Loan Acts of

1970. Socially, there is the Financial Administration Act of 2003 and the Financial Administration Regulation of 2004, which are for the institutional arrangements for the management of aid in the country in such a way that you just do not “go in” for aid. Proper procedures need to be followed which should be scrutinised by parliament.

Parliament itself has initiated some capacity building projects and we have some on how to monitor aid implementation. The Committee on Budget Formation and the Public Accounts Committee now receive live coverage on television; the public can see politicians struggling to answer questions. In most instances, the recommendation is made that people should pay for the losses but it is not desirable.

HIV is an issue that we are all concerned about. Ghana was rudely awakened to the dangers of HIV when it was reported that the HIV situation in Ghana was about 3.5%. A campaign on it was mounted and it went down to 1.7% – now we hear that it is about 1.5%. It is still there, we have not been able to free ourselves out of it. There is a united front to fight to AIDS, to produce quality population, and to ensure that population is kept within limits.

Today we can also boast of a growth rate of 13.5% and by the end of the year the GDP growth in Ghana, according to the World Bank, will be 14% which will be the highest in the world. We are hoping that it will be sustainable and consistent with our desired development plans. Thank you.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 7

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – III

Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena

MP, Lao PDR

Chair of the Social and Cultural Committee

Chair of the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena received education in France and worked as a paediatrician in Lao PDR.

He was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2002 and served as the Vice-Chair of the Social and Cultural Committee of the Lao National Assembly from 2006-2010. Since 2010, he has been Chair of the Social and Cultural Committee of the Lao National Assembly and Chair of the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD).

I will share with you good practices and lessons learned from population and development-related ODA projects in Lao PDR.

The National Assembly has adopted a National Development Strategy (2006-2020); based on the national development needs and the internationally recognised development goals, including the MDGs. Strong support for the achievement of the maternal and child health goals is essential.

With regard to MDG4 and MDG5, Improve Maternal and Child Health, the Lao government is committed to the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) programme to reduce maternal and child mortality and has given a high priority to improving reproductive health services since 2004.

The Lao Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) programme integrates the development of Skilled Birth Attendants, the National Nutrition Policy and National Plan of Action on Nutrition.

To help the most poor and vulnerable, the MNCH programme increases the availability to emergency obstetric and neonatal care. The Lao government plans to provide free health care to poor pregnant women and their children. This will significantly decrease maternal and infant mortality and improve the lives of children and their mothers.

The Integrated Mother and Child Health services, supported by the UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, JICA and others, strives to provide immunizations, antenatal care and family planning with mobile outreach teams.

The project learned that families have a high interest in family planning, immunizations, health and nutrition, education, and the integrated management of childhood illnesses.

Working in rural areas, the programme finds a great need to strengthen the health delivery programs to provide consistent preventive and curative services. Integration of programmes decreases duplication and fragmentation of activities between UN agencies and within the government. Utilisation of scarce human resources and cost-effectiveness are improved with integration.

Lao PDR is pleased to report the following successes. The under-five mortality rate declined from 170 to 98 per 1000 live births and the infant mortality from 104 to 70 between 1995 and 2005. The Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) coverage has increased to 69%. The National Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign, organized by the National Committee for Mother and Child in collaboration with the Ministry of Health led by the President of Lao PDR, aims to reach 95% of the target population.

The MMR has been reduced from 650 to 405 deaths per 100,000 live births. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased from 28% to 43.1%. The TFR has decreased from 5.6 in 1995 to 4.5 in 2005. Births attended by skilled health personnel have increased from 17% to 23%. To improve safe motherhood and save babies' lives, the Lao government is supporting the training of 1500 professional midwives by 2012.

MDG 6 is on target. HIV prevalence is approximately 0.2%. Education, disease treatment and prevention continue to

maintain a low prevalence. Malaria prevalence has decreased, and progress is being made in tuberculosis case detection and treatment. Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation has improved and efforts continue to reach 80% of the population by 2015.

One factor in saving lives is the development of the Lao postgraduate medical training program, through the University of Health Sciences, which aims to provide at least one paediatric graduate for every province. In 1996, there were seven paediatricians in the entire country. Today there are 61 paediatric graduates, working in 15 of the 16 provinces.

Paediatric graduates in teaching hospitals in Vientiane and provincial centres are the paediatric teachers for medical students, family practice residents and health care workers. They support the Neonatal Resuscitation Training programme, which has been conducted at provincial and district hospitals throughout the country.

These improvements in maternal and child health are key factors to achieving reduction in poverty; poverty has been reduced from 46% to 18.96%.

Parliamentarians need to support an increase in health sector funding. We need to ensure that the population has the opportunity to participate in decision-making and the implementation of socio-economic development plans. Parliamentarians need to advocate for Reproductive Health and Maternal Health Services.

Our role is to approve policies and oversee implementation of laws that promote gender equality and universal access to reproductive health services. We need to

provide oversight of socioeconomic development supported by ODA, so that the aid will be effective in improving the lives of the people.

The Lao National Assembly has approved laws to oversee and implement ODA-supported government projects. These laws include Anticorruption Law, Oversight by the National Assembly and Decree of the Prime Minister on the Management and Utilisation of ODA. The laws define the government's supervision, monitoring, inspection and evaluation of ODA.

The role of the Lao Association for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD) is to oversee government implementation of socioeconomic programmes and people's participation.

The Lao healthcare budget will be increased from 4.6% to 9% and the Lao education budget will be increased from 9% to 17% of the National Budget.

With such positive changes, together with the coordination and cooperation between parliament, government and the continuous support of development partners, I believe the MDGs will be reached by 2015.

Participation in this workshop has given me a great opportunity to share and learn about best practices. I would like to express my sincere thanks to APDA for your warm hospitality and excellent preparation for this event.

Thank you.



Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 7

Case Studies: Good Practices for Population-Related Projects in Recipient Countries – III

Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz

MP, Pakistan

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and formerly the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Population and Welfare, and represented the Parliament on the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council for 5 years. Hon. Dr. Aziz now sits on the Standing Committees for Health, Economic Affairs, Privatization, Rules and Privileges; and also represents her political party on the Working Council of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

Hon. Dr. Aziz received her Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and a Bachelor's of Surgery from Punjab University, and worked as a medical researcher for two and a half years at the Department of Radiology at the University of California Medical Centre.

I was thinking about what good practices I could relate from Pakistan in terms of population-related programmes. We do have some success stories, which I am happy to share with you. These practices depend heavily on the country's individual context, and variations across different provinces affect the success or failure of a programme tremendously.

I was listening intently this morning when our colleague from Zambia mentioned the mobile hospitals and how that was not a success story for you. For the Population Ministry, JICA funded a number of mobile service units which turned out to be fairly successful for us. Although we have population welfare centres, it was very difficult to get people to actually come there. There was a lot of stigma related to it. Villagers felt embarrassed or shy to go to a population welfare centre because

everyone knew what happened there – you were only really going there for reproductive health-related things. They felt uncomfortable. Also, because the number of centres were few and far between, it was immensely difficult to convince people to walk far distances to access services at these service centres.

With the help of JICA, we had these sub-district mobile service units. Each district got about three-to-four of the units, depending on the size of the district. They were not very large. They had enough services to cover the expanded reproductive health package, as well as some general medical ailments such as coughs and colds and weighing babies.

This was pretty successful in that the units would travel once a week to various areas within the sub-district, and people in the

villages knew that the service unit would come on a specific date. It was so successful that in some parts of the country where the religious clerics were not keen to advocate for reproductive health openly, they would come to the service centre and ask the doctors of the mobile unit to either give their wives a tubal ligation or provide their wives with injectables or contraceptive pills. It actually fostered a good relationship with the religious clerics and the Ministry of Population.

Another good practice that we found in Pakistan has been the involvement of politicians. We have one district where the district mayor decided to get a vasectomy at one of the population welfare centres. He not only got the vasectomy, but he openly told everyone in his constituency at various political rallies and public meetings that he had gotten a vasectomy at that service centre.

Without any other input or any other efforts on the part of the government, the number of vasectomies in that one district increased by 3000% in one year. It just required the local politician to endorse, to say that he had done it himself, and for the public to see that it was something they could do. It helped dispel many of the common misconceptions that men have when it comes to vasectomies: that it will affect your manhood and various other things. But because this politician was so eager to share his experience publicly, people actually found confidence in the procedure, and not only in the procedure, but they had confidence in the public sector facility that was providing the procedure.

These were a couple of good practices that we have had. But along with the good

always comes the bad as well. We have had our share of bad ODA-funded programmes as well. This I think also stems largely from the lack of political ownership of these programmes that come in.

We have had at least 3-4 different community midwifery or traditional birth attendant programmes that have run throughout the country and millions of dollars have been spent on them but none of these programmes are successful. There is no political buy-in for them. There was little or no regard to the varied cultural practices within the country.

For instance, in one part of Pakistan, births were traditionally attended to by mother-in-laws, so when this programme came in and trained very young girls in the villages, nobody wanted to use them because it was the older mother-in-laws who did these procedures. The training of these girls was in vain because the community itself did not have enough confidence to call them at the time of the deliveries.

There are other programmes that we have had for, for instance, community midwives which are running right now. This again is having huge problems because in the 18th amendment of the Constitution last year, which went into effect on 1 July 2011, has effectively given all of our powers in the social sectors to the provinces.

We have abolished the concurrent list and only the provinces now can work on health and education and population welfare, women's development, and social welfare. All of these ministries and programmes at the federal level stand dissolved.

This in itself is a huge problem because, forget the donor-funded programmes and

them not knowing how things are going to transpire now, we in the government do not know how things will transpire now because it is very complicated for a country not to have a centralised health policy or an education policy; it is very difficult for a country where the legislature has no power to even debate these issues. Since it has only been three or four months since this has gone into effect, we are still trying to figure out how things will transpire.

Our community midwife programme which is currently mid-cycle is having huge problems because USAID and JBIC do not know who to talk to. According to the law they have to go through the Ministry of Economic Affairs in conjunction with the Ministry of Health but now there is no Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Economic Affairs is handling things for provinces which have friendly governments. There is one province that has a very belligerent government and the Economic Affairs Ministry is finding it difficult to work with them. These are some technical problems that we are facing on the side of donor-funded programme issues.

In conclusion, I would like to make a proposal. It is very good to share our best practices in our own individual countries, and many times we do learn from each other. But what happens when we leave this workshop; what is next? It is good for me to learn of programmes from the Philippines because I might be able to pick and choose things that might work in my own country; but on the whole, as parliamentarians who look at ODA and social welfare programmes, where do we want to go from here? I think that this

requires a little bit of out-of-the-box thinking.

I am going to pick up on a thread that our honourable colleague from Sierra Leone addressed in the last session when he asked why JICA cannot talk to individual parliamentarians. This might be something that APDA could look into. If it is difficult for JICA to talk to an individual parliamentarian, any Japanese charitable foundation can work with the technical assistance from JICA in an individual constituency. It might be interesting as a case study to them to do a comparative analysis five years from now on how well has that project worked in that individual constituency in comparison to programmes that are run through donor governments where the elective representatives do not have political buy-in or even knowledge of what programmes are taking place. I think that those kinds of comparisons and case studies will really help us to take this to the next level.

We have discussed many times over the past three years that it is an issue that ODA goes from one government to another and that parliaments do not know about it; that budgets do not reflect these things. There is the example of Kenya where they have been able to successfully change their constitution to reflect these issues, but for many countries it is difficult to actually go in and change constitutions that quickly. There has to be, in my opinion, a parallel track to use for comparison. It will be an interesting topic to discuss in five years from now, to see how well political buy-in leads to the success of programmes.

Thank you.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

SESSION 7

Discussion

Chair: Hon. K.S. Rao

MP, India

[Chair]

The floor is open for questions and answers. Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Amaliah Hanifa, Indonesia]

My first question is for the Philippines. We know that you are fighting for the RH Bill, and we know it is not easy for you to do that. I just wonder if there is any support from some donor countries to champion this RH Bill for supporting for an academic paper or drafting or programmes that reflects public opinion. There may not be the money but is there a strategy?

The second question is to Ghana, Lao PDR, and Pakistan. I do understand that there are difficulties with traditional birth attendants.

When I went to Lao PDR last year we visited a midwives' school. They have to work alongside the traditional birth attendants which is not easy for them. Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz said that the community midwives are very young, so the older generations do not believe in them. I just wanted to know whether ODA in your countries goes to these programmes.

Could Pakistan elaborate a little more on the issue of community midwives? Are they the same as ordinary midwives, or are they skilled people?

[Chair]

Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

There are two kinds of support that you mentioned. One is financial, and the other is programme or project. With respect to financial support, foreign donors and agencies are hesitant to make that for two reasons: they do not want to be involved in the raging controversy over the RH Bill, and they do not want to inflame what the opposers are saying that the RH Bill is foreign-influenced or foreign-dominated.

With respect to projects and programmes, yes there are. I mentioned two case studies with respect to the women's health and safe motherhood project, and the maternal and child health project which are really successful projects implemented through ODA intervention.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

The difference with the community midwives and the traditional birth attendants is largely that the traditional birth attendants are unskilled and the community midwives are skilled. It was a new cadre that was developed by the Government of Pakistan. It is primarily funded through ODA, but again the biggest problem is not training these girls; the biggest problem is the competition that they face from the traditional birth

attendants in the villages. Those traditional birth attendants, as Hon. Rao would know, are very powerful women in each village. They are not paid by the government, so they earn a lot of money from delivering babies.

When the community midwife who was trained by the government and is being paid by the government, and is supposed to do delivery for free in the villages comes along, those traditional birth attendants do not let them hang around long enough. These are the major problems that we face with the actual service delivery on the ground. If you look at it on paper, it looks great but on the ground this is a big problem.

What we have found is that the only way you can counter this is by changing the demand, educating the clients that they should go to the skilled attendant, rather than the traditional attendant, because the skilled attendant will provide for a safer and cleaner delivery. That, however, takes a really long time to establish.

[Chair]

Sierra Leone, please.

[Hon. Alimamy Amara Kamara, Sierra Leone]

I have a question for Ghana. Telling by the theme of this workshop, accountability and aid implementation in our countries is of concern to the Japanese government and APDA. Apart from Liberia, Ghana is the first to realise independence from the British. Fifty or so years later we are here in Japan, discussing issues that have to do with aid, how accountable we are as leaders and as governments – and how we go about that.

I want to know from your individual thoughts whether you think we are doing justice to ourselves or whether we are old enough to move from this kind of thinking? Within the sub-region, there is still aid coming from the British. I still feel that foreign people are regulating us and telling us what we should do. Do you not think that it is time for us to agitate for people to believe in the Western approach that is the British conditionalities may appear dictating to us? Now we are democratic, before it was a jungle justice. The stronger people are empowered, they do what they want in the one-party system. But because of the conditionalities we are now giving information on our human rights, and transparency and accountability.

I have concerns with Chinese and Japanese aid coming in. Politicians welcome it but to what extent is it assisting us? If it is not, can we consider asking them to lessen the conditionalities? I have a problem with dealing with government-to-government. Let us have some case studies like I have just highlighted. I want you to respond to that, given your background in politics as a country and the kind of leadership where they are expecting you to provide for West Africa as a country.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

These concerns are very genuine. I know that every African will be concerned that even after several years of independence we still depend on seeking aid and support. Ghana is one country that is suffering this kind of self-reproach when it comes to going to ask for aid. I can tell you without a wink of an eye that it is not acceptable that at this very moment; we have still fallen so much behind others in terms of

progress and development.

But the reality is that reality is dictating our circumstances; the reality of it is that we are still a “new” country. We became a country on the day we were granted independence. Other countries had been in existence several years before. It is not an excuse in any way because we do not need to reinvent the wheel but a bulk of our population has yet to realise education and individual development. We are carrying this whole bulk into history, into time, and so we have a problem with it. But in Ghana there is free maternal care for women who are pregnant.

There is often a gap between what you want and what you can provide. That gap is often covered by aid. Ghana has set up three accounts for oil revenues at the discovery of oil: the Stabilisation Fund, which is used to close that gap; the Heritage Fund which will ensure that, at the end of it all when there is no oil in Ghana, there will be an account for young people for the future when they inherit the country they can use it; and then there is another account which is going to be used to security for loans and which we are going to use to develop infrastructure. This is an approach hopefully will change things in the country. I do accept your passion that it is good and we should begin thinking about standing on our own, without blaming everybody for inadequacies.

[Chair]

Zambia, please.

[Hon. Vincent Mwale, Zambia]

What are the maternal mortality rates in Pakistan? And I would like some

clarification from the Philippines. You say that because of the strong Catholic Church in the Philippines, people do not believe in artificial family planning. What did you say they go for; what really helps?

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

The maternal mortality in Pakistan, until recently, was thought to be over 400. In 2006 we did a district health survey in which we did a verbal autopsy on maternal mortality for the first time, but in selected districts. The data from that survey projects maternal mortality to be perhaps around from 300 to 320 but this is not entirely accepted across the board. We are waiting for our next population census in which we have included maternal mortality questions into the survey to find out from the entire country what the numbers might be.

[Chair]

Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

The people in my country believe in family planning and contraceptive use – it is the Catholic hierarchy which does not. Surveys show that the Filipino public wants the RH Bill to be enacted but the main opposition comes from the Catholic hierarchy. It is not even from the entire Church, because with respect to the provinces in the rural areas, they know what is happening on the ground. Either they are certainly in favour, or they are just not talking like the Catholic hierarchy.

I would like to make that clear; the people want RH but it is the Catholic Church which opposes the enactment of the law.

[Chair]

Cambodia, please.

[Hon. Dr. Damry Ouk, Cambodia]

The Philippines addressed the good use of ODA in women's health or maternal health. I agree that this is also an investment in children, and also in the rest of development too. Cambodia is of this mentality as well; we have started to place more priority on women's issues and strengthening their capacity. The First Lady is promoting the campaigns on maternal and child health, and we have seen a lot of improvement. In 2005 the MMR in Cambodia was 461, but in 2010 it was recorded to have gone down to 206. We have accomplished our commitment to MDG5 early. Investing in women also relates to MDG1, MDG3, and MDG4 which also relates to all of national development.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

The central figures in RH advocacy are the women and their children. One of the anchors of this Bill is the promotion of human rights; more particularly, the rights of women and couples to decide fully, freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. This bill will help to empower women through education and employment as part of the productive workforce. That is why unremitting pregnancies and high-risk pregnancies should be avoided. A woman is not a woman if she cannot have control her own body.

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

My question is to all the panellists. I would like to know from each country, out of the budget allocation, what percentage goes to the health sector and education sector separately. Also, out of the capital expenditure, what sector consumes the highest amount?

[Chair]

In India we are spending about 1.45% on healthcare, and we plan to go to 3% in the coming years. This is aside from what is being spent by the state government-side, private individuals.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

The appropriations in the Philippines for health and education are far from the UN prescription. I think we are similar to India, with respect to health and education allocations.

Regarding capital outlays, unfortunately the present government has even reduced those – not only for public works. There has been an increase but it has generally been decreased, including the capital expenditures for state universities and colleges – and that is unfortunate.

[Chair]

Ghana, please.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

In Ghana the budget allocation for education is around 25% which is perhaps one of the highest in Africa. I do not have the current figure for health but it is lower than that for education.

[Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, Pakistan]

In Pakistan, both health and education are provincial subjects to begin with, meaning provinces have had to provide in their own budgets, and I do not know what they are doing. For health, 0.7% of the federal budget is allocated; for education close to 1%. This year was the last budget in which we were doing that; from next year, the federal government will no longer be providing health and education budgets. The number one expenditure in the budget for us is debt servicing, and number two is defence.

[Chair]

Ghana and then Kenya, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

I have a question to all. I would like to hear your opinions about religion affecting the reduction on what we call “family planning” because in most cases we have religion interfering. Some religions do support family planning, some do not.

On a side note, Kenya’s population has shot to around 40 million since independence. One theory for this is that it is because Kenya has been hosting the influx of refugees coming from Sudan, Somalia and that were coming from Uganda. These refugees give birth in Kenya.

[Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, Ghana]

Thank you for sharing that explanation. Ghana gained independence in 1957 with 7.1 million people; Kenya gained theirs in 1963 and there were 8 million people – almost the same figure. Fifty years down the line Kenya is recording a population of 40 million and Ghana one of 24 million. I

was wondering why there was such a dramatic gap. Perhaps there needs to be more border regulation in Kenya?

Ghana’s population growth is less than 3%, which is less than the African average; and the fertility rate is 4 – also less than most the African average. But the use of contraceptives is one of the lowest in Africa so people begin to ask, “how is it that the population growth rate and HIV prevalence is low when people are not using contraceptives?” Maybe it is because of moral religion, that people are being religious. We do not know.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

To answer the question from Kenya, allow me to quote the bible. Jesus Christ said, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s (Matthew 22:22)”. With respect to family planning and contraceptive use, these are secular matters which should be affairs of the State, not of the Church.

In Europe, as well as in Latin America, the Catholic Church has already deferred to this State with respect to the formulation and implementation of policies on reproductive health, including family planning and contraceptive use. I think that should also be the position of the Philippine government.

[Chair]

Lao PDR, please.

[Hon. Prof. Dr. Phonethep Pholsena, Lao PDR]

I would like to share three points. The first point is that from Indonesia about Trained

Birth Attendants (TBAs). We are promoting TBAs in the rural areas but we do not have access to the mountainous areas. Ninety-percent of women deliver at home so the TBA goes to the rural area to check if it is a high-risk delivery. If it is not, the TBA can help but if they know it is high-risk with complications, they send the mother to the health centre so that the birth is assisted by a midwife.

Regarding the second point on religion, Lao's policy is to space children, not to control the number. Abortions are illegal in Lao so there are four methods for spacing

children: the birth control pill, injectables, condoms, and IUDs. It is really cheap. Regarding investment in the health sector, the government allocates around US\$13.22 per person per year. The National Assembly is trying to increase the health budget from 4% to 9%.

[Chair]

This was an excellent discussion. I express my sincere thanks to all of you for cooperating and conducting this Session.

Thank you very much.



SESSION 8

Group Discussion Presentations

Thursday, October 27, 2011

SESSION 8

Group Discussion Presentations

On behalf of Asian delegation

Hon. K.S. Rao

MP, India

We held detailed discussions on how to maximise the effective utilisation of ODA that is given to developing countries by what you have experienced, by your grassroots level links with the people directly and with the government, and our position as parliamentarians, and also as members of this forum.

We came to the consensus that MPs can definitely play a key role in ensuring that ODA is put to maximum use for the desired purpose so that the people in recipient countries can be benefited. The people of the donor country will also be happy that their assistance is put to effective use and that their good will is spread in those recipient countries. They will then not blame their own parliamentarians for giving assistance to developing countries.

We all felt that this will motivate the Japanese people and parliament to increase their assistance to these developing countries which is essential not only to the developing countries but also to the developed countries by virtue of acceptance of globalisation. The globe has become a village over the last few decades, so any impact, any occurrence in any country will have an impact on the economy and on the living standards of the people of other countries also today. Actually it is wisdom for all the developed countries to come to the aid of developing

countries so that the world can be in peace for a period without any problems or any bitterness.

The members of the Asian delegation have discussed to put in the resolution that we, MPs and members of AFPPD, assisted by the ODA of Japan, express our sincere thanks for their good gesture. We are increasingly convinced that we can play a complete role in monitoring the effective use of ODA assistance for the benefit of the people of recipient countries and to the satisfaction and appreciation of the people in donor countries.

We have some suggestions in this regard. We suggest that selected parliamentarians of recipient countries get involved in the monitoring as well as the evaluation of the ODA assistance. We feel that education and skill development, with emphasis on women in particular, is equally important as reproductive health in stabilising the population.

We request the Japanese government to extend ODA to education also by increasing the aid multi-fold. Our members are very clear in regard to this increased percentage of grants and to increase the loan assistance multi-fold.

Some of the members suggested all the parliaments of the recipient countries should have oversight committees on ODA

to monitor and assess the policies on this negotiation, regiments of the negotiation of availment of the loan or grant.

Some of the members felt it is desirable to have this assistance on the public domain through various websites. Some members are of the opinion that NGOs along with parliamentarians can be included in oversight committees to monitor and evaluate. Mainly, the assistance that is

being given must be based on the needs of the recipient countries depending on the circumstances prevailing in those countries and the priority of the needs in those countries.

These are the views of the Asian delegation at this workshop.

Thank you very much.



Thursday, October 27, 2011

SESSION 8

Group Discussion Presentations

On behalf of African delegation

Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo

MP, Ghana

Deputy Majority Leader

Chair of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD)

Curriculum Vitae:

Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2005 and served as the Minister of Youth and Sports. Currently, he is the Deputy majority leader and Chair of the Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development (GPCPD).

He holds a Bachelor degree in Education (Psychology) from the University of Cape Coast and a Master of Arts (International Affairs) from the University of Ghana. He worked as a development consultant for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 2001 and as a Policy Analyst at the Institute of Policy Alternatives from 2002-2004.

In order to put our discussion in context, we looked at three different approaches. First of all, we asked ourselves what ODA seeks to achieve; what institutional frameworks are targeted to ensure that funding makes meaning to the people and to the donor; then, what government structures should exist to ensure that in the process the money is properly utilised.

We recognise that ODA normally supports budget processes and the budget itself, and also addresses development needs. We also realise that ODA supplements local efforts and sustainable development, and again, it deepens and enhances good governance practices.

In order to have this done effectively, we thought that some institutions are required in each country which ODA targets for support. When they are

strengthened, funds can make more of an impact. These are parliament and parliamentary committees, ministries, departments and agencies, and civil society organizations. These are all very critical and interested parties who need to benefit from the funding, and also who need to have an interest in how the funding is based.

Then, we recognise that there are some governance practices that need to be put in place. These are to ensure good governance institutions such as human rights institutions, anti-corruption institutions, auditor-general institutions, independent inner-track commissions, which are all very important for this purpose.

But there are indeed some challenges that we recognise which confront ODA funding.

In our respective countries we realise that there are either non-transparent approaches of inadequate transparency and accountability. In one country in particular, we realised that the funding does not go through parliament, which is a big challenge. We also recognise the inadequate information delivery on ODA funding. In some cases, ODA support initiatives do not go through parliament, as I indicated earlier. There are poor accountability and monitoring mechanisms; there is either low or poor monitoring making accountability a problem. Then there is non-compliance with loan or grant agreements, mostly by recipient countries, creating the problem of delays as a result.

Earlier on, the challenges were all from the receiving countries' side, not the donor side. We realise that there is sometimes late disbursement of funding or no disbursement at all. After all the agreements have been signed and all other issues have been taken into consideration, no disbursements are done over several years and the projects suffer.

There are also rigid conditions attached to some of the agreements. Sometimes they insist on, for example, specific legislations before agreements are signed. Again, sometimes there are double standards. You support governments and say you want to pass through governments, and then sometimes they go ahead to support some institutions outside the government circles. It becomes a problem; coordination becomes a problem. Accountability issues also are raised.

With the background I have given, we then ask ourselves, what should we do to ensure that we have a clean way forward to ensure more effective use of ODA and

more effective delivery of ODA to the receiving countries? We said that it is important for donors to insist on parliamentary approval to address issues of transparency and accountability. When ODA is given, part of the agreement should be that the people, through parliament, must approve the loan agreements.

Secondly, they must provide and publicise information on websites and sometimes create material on all ODA funding so that people have a reference and know what is happening. If they have done monitoring and assessment and have found something, they should publicise it so civil society organizations, individuals and parliament itself can make reference to those websites and see what is happening. You want to know what has happened with the funding.

Again, with reference to building strong institutions, capacity building should continue and be widened for not just members of parliament, but also civil society organizations and other organizations that are critical stakeholders and whose inputs on ODA funding are important to their success.

We think we must also support the networking of various parliaments. The reason being that you need to share good practice and address governance issues, which are still a problem with some countries. When you are able to network parliamentarians meet from across the regions, across the countries, share ideas, and the possibility is that issues that have been difficult to control or to address come out and there will be some best practices that can be copied.

We also think that there must be

harmonisation of the donors themselves on project support. Sometimes there are multiple approaches to the issue at different places in the country and it confuses the people; it confuses the receiving country and accountability becomes a problem. We think that donors themselves will have to harmonise their own approaches to support projects and donating in their respect.

We need also to strengthen particular NGOs or civil society organizations that are the watchdogs for human rights abuses and issues of accountability. They have to be specifically targeted so that parliament is not the only one that would provide the needed oversight and monitoring, but other organizations which are also interested in these things would also have to be strengthened as well.

We also need to target specific government and governance institutions. Those that I mentioned earlier are areas which we think would benefit. Human rights institutions and other anti-corruption institutions should be strengthened so that they can build confidence in themselves.

We are looking at all this with the background knowledge or belief that indeed, as was mentioned by one of the presenters, aid is not just charity. It is to build confidence in people; it is to strengthen the ability of people to manage their lives and it is also to ensure human dignity. If that is the case, we have to take it very seriously and ensure that the proposals we have made on the way forward should be looked at thoroughly. Thank you.



SESSION 9

***ODA, PPP/CSR, Nutrition and Prevention; New
Approaches and Models***

Thursday, October 27, 2011

SESSION 9

ODA, PPP/CSR, Nutrition and Prevention; New Approaches and Models

Hon. Rio Praaning Prawira Adiningrat

Belgium

PA Group Managing Partner

Curriculum Vitae:

Rio D. Praaning Prawira Adiningrat is founder and Managing Partner of PA Europe, PA Asia, PA Russia, PA Middle East and PA CSR. In 2004 he established the Public Advice International Foundation (PA International) through which elder statesmen and former top business executives provide advice on international socioeconomic and cultural issues, on a non-profit basis. Rio advises various Governments, multinational companies, non-governmental organizations and foundations.

Over 20 years of experience in the area of strategic advice for more than 400 clients in all parts of the world taught Praaning that Corporate Social Responsibility, if possible in combination with Public Private Partnership policies, are crucial for a company's "license to operate" and for an effective resolution of regulatory, socio-economic and political problems.

The presentation actually describes the kind of problems all of us are facing in our countries. I am going to throw a number of numbers and statistics at you. It is not because they are necessarily true, but they do describe the picture.

In so far as I can see, ODA is going to have to change because we are all going to have dwindling budgets for development aid as they have been sharply reduced in all of the northern hemisphere states. What is the consequence of that, and how are we going to cope?

Let us first of all have a look at what lives below the poverty line. What is the consequence in terms of malnutrition? Obviously, this is a direct relationship

between being below the poverty line and not having enough to eat. In square numbers, 13.1% or 1 in 7 people on our earth are malnourished. What bothers me most is that 178

million of these people are children. What bothers me even more is that if we do not provide the right nutrition to children in their first 1000 days of life, we create the next generation of impoverished people; if you do not feed your children well enough in the first 1000 days, they will not be able to go to school properly. They will not live their lives as they could have.



Unfortunately, one can see hunger is concentrated in the south. From another angle, this map shows you where disasters strike, be it manmade or natural. We cannot prevent natural disasters but what we can do is we can prevent the number of people that fall victim to disasters. Imagine just one example of schools. If we built our schools with too much water in the cement, the school will crumble in an earthquake and kill the children.

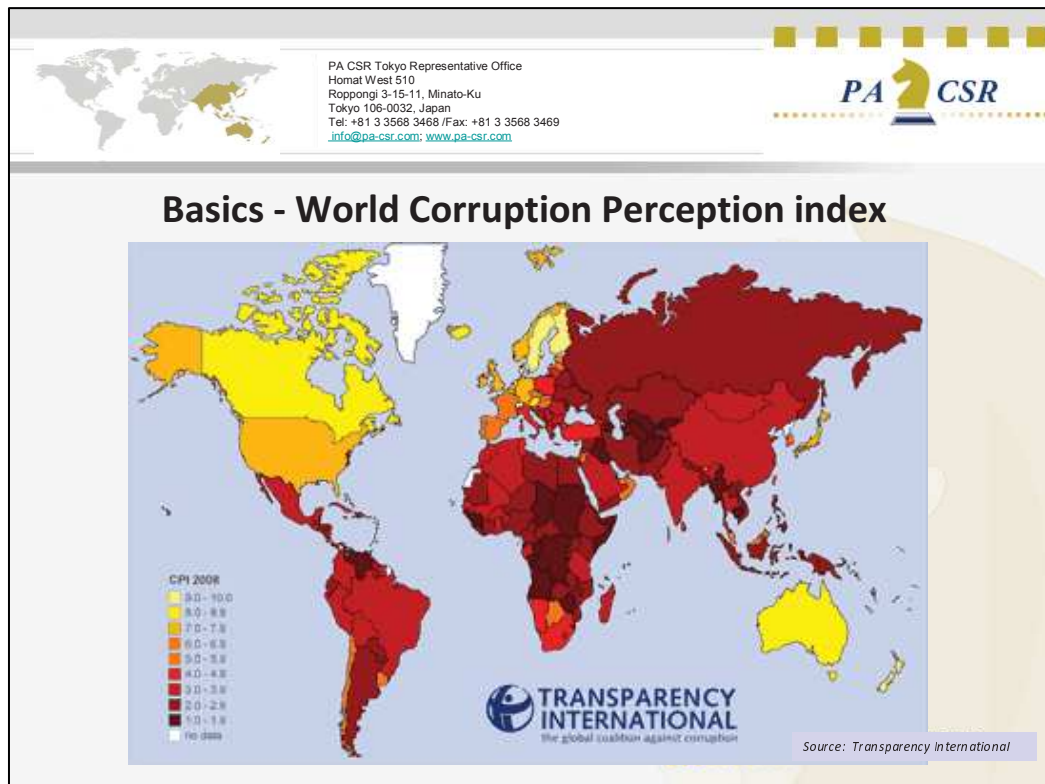
If you look at the world corruption map and combine that information with the disaster map, you will see that there are unnecessarily more victims where corruption is rife.

Let us have a look at the development of the ODA disbursement of the EU, China, US and Japan. These look like interesting numbers, but if you compare these numbers with market and trade numbers, they are of course very much higher than the ODA numbers.

Let us have a look at what happened to trade in between 1999 and 2009. The first conclusion is that the vast amount of trade and investment is dwarfing the amount of development aid and that suggests an improved relationship of the two in view of current and expected crises

We are in Japan, so I thought to honour our host by looking at how Nippon Keidanren discussed its responsibilities. This is the organization of the world's largest companies and, of course, the largest companies in Japan. They have made the statement that corporations have an important role to play as social entities and they have to contribute to society at large in ways other than serving the interests of their shareholders. In their charter they have included that they should seek dialogue with a wide range of their stakeholders, including shareholders, and so forth.

In Japan there have been acrimonious



discussions, as you may well remember, between what was once considered “left” and what was once considered “right” wing. In the end, these very difficult discussions lead to an understanding, and it is called the UN Global Compact which includes human rights, labour rights, environment and corruption as four themes divided over 10 principles.

But frankly, being an advisor to both governments and companies, I ask myself the question, “When was the last time that a CEO, when meeting a Prime Minister said, ‘Let us discuss human rights?’” This is maybe too lofty, maybe not very practical.

In 2011 we have been confronted with what is called the “Arab Spring”. The Arab Spring has brought something to life that has given almost everyone, those inside the Arab world and outside the Arab world, a totally new perspective of life. I have been privileged to be advisor to one government in the Gulf for more than 30

years and I have seen change. Actually, yesterday morning I arrived in Japan from the Middle East and I was discussing with governments, industries, and trade unions, as well as with civil society. Society is rapidly changing, creating new forms of communication; creating new groups, creating new interest groups, and establishing them by law.

Another phenomena is the internet. Some people have asked what is the largest democratic development in the world these past years. I am inclined to say it was the crisis over melamine put into milk in China, killing quite a lot of babies and around 290,000 babies were made ill. What is democratic about that? Well, within 24 hours, all mothers in China, started to dump dairy products which were suspect. All of a sudden, all households in China, no matter what anyone in any political faction were saying, were responding by their own interest. That is what the internet does for you. What is important to remember is that



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- **Investments of EU**
 - In the ASEAN: €12.1 billion
 - In Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP): €20 billion
 - In Russia: €10.4 billion
 - In Latin America: €12 billion
- **Investments of US**
 - In Asia: USD 454 billion
 - In Africa: USD 31 billion
 - In Russia: USD 7 billion
 - In Latin America: USD 202 billion

- **Investments of China**
 - In Asia: \$43.55 billion
 - In Africa: \$5.49 billion
 - In Russia: \$359.23 million
 - In Latin America: \$3.68 billion
- **Investments of Japan**
 - In Asia: \$23.3 billion
 - In Africa: \$1.5 billion
 - In Russia: \$306 million
 - In Latin America: \$29.6 billion

PA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY


whatever people pick up from the internet is not necessarily correct, and may be quite untrue. But it is taken by people and it leads to conclusions, and the conclusion in China was to no longer consume Chinese dairy products. Since that event, half of all dairy industries in China went broke and no longer exist. Half of all dairy products in China are now imported from abroad, not by an active government, not by anyone's design, but the design of the people who wanted to protect their children: democracy.

Social media: in London we have seen what that may present us with – and riots were said to have been fuelled by social media – even to the extent that Britain is crediting itself as a cradle of democracy and transparency, almost forbids social media to do what it was doing; a reversal of roles. It confronts all of us, and particularly politicians, with the question, “Shouldn't we have much more governance in the government?”

Governments require more governance and industries require a “License to Operate”. Industries are confronted with the same question that the management of the companies are now really considering whether they have a license to operate? This is not a piece of cake – this is the public's will.

If a group of people these days do not want you as a miner or as a producer of chemical products you have a difficult landscape as an energy company. In the end you may lose so much money that you wonder if it is still worth the investment. As a consequence, all managers, CEOs, and more importantly, all CFOs, are worried about a license to operate. This is the unwritten license by local societies: do we want this company here?

This requires new forms of cooperation and communication and that must involve local society. Whether political systems are ready for it or not, companies cannot wait until politicians have sorted out their problems. Because they have an investment, they must get on with the business and if the government does not help them communicate with local society, they will do it themselves. I am, literally at this moment literally, part of a group of companies that just started to communicate, to operate with local society itself. If you do not do that, demonstrations, uproar, and blockades occur.

Civic society and NGOs are responding to this. They feel there is a new climate, a new environment. Before I went to the Middle East last week, I was in Brussels chairing a meeting with about 600 NGOs; there were 3000 aid workers all together in a meeting called AIDEX. We were there with the world's most effective, active, respected larger and smaller NGOs. They all had the same experience. It used to be a simple left/right spectrum that they were working with. That is rapidly changing. They know at the NGO side that indeed budgets of ODA are getting down and they do not have the same funds that they used to have. At the same time, they are feeling that industry reaches out to society.

Let me give you this example. I was at a meeting in the Middle East and a company said, “We want to mix with local society. We want to do business with them, so who do we take? Who is the representative of this village? Is that a leader of a tribe? Is that an appointed governor with no legitimacy? How do we find that out?” All of a sudden, viable NGOs grasp what is going on and say,

“Take us. We have legitimacy on the ground. We know what is happening on the ground. We know the people. Let us be the bridge between you in the street and us because we are a part of civil society.” As a consequence, there is an emerging understanding, and I am thrilled by it.

I may have been in the past, I will admit, a bit to the right of the political centre; not very much, but to the right. I am not saying I am to the left. I am saying I am now trying to merge my own thinking into something that includes both. Actually, this is what happens on the ground. The interests of civil society and of industries are melting together. We can let it happen, or you as politicians can actually help promote it. But then you must of course be on the ground with the people – and I am sure that you do.

This positive development is sure to have come just in time, because the global economy is experiencing problems. I am not particularly worried about it, I must tell you. I believe in seasonal movements. I do not think there is ever a line that only goes up, nor will there ever be a line that only goes down. There is a Greek wisdom, and the Greek wisdom is, “the way up is also the way down.”

Although it is the first time since decades that the Chinese are mothballing their largest vessels, which signals a dramatic slowdown of international transport, which signals a dramatic fall in products being produced at one end of the world and transported to another end. Although that happens, I am not particularly concerned because in seasonal movements it is sometimes necessary that you have winter. A lot of people have complained, and I do feel a lot for the

people that are sitting in Wall Street but there have been a lot of complaints about how the economy is being run by banks and bankers. I think much of the criticism – and I say that as an advisor on merger and acquisitions – much of that criticism is actually correct. Money has been spoilt and money has been thrown around. As a consequence, something had to stop it. It is not the individuals; it is actually the economy that has done that. It is sort of natural winter.

You need the winter in order to get back to spring. You need to weed out what you no longer can use and let it die. It actually will fertilize the ground for the next season. Just as in real life, it is not as if trees or plants or flowers come all of a sudden from one day to the other. You can see already in the ground what is going to happen next.

Interestingly, there is this new understanding of a more cooperative spirit. If finally the global economy gets to a point that is bloomed to spring, I am fairly convinced that the structures that we then have – after all the misery that we have to go through right now – those new structures will cope with society, industry and investment much better. While understanding that we are living through winter, we must prepare for the next step: spring.

How do we cope while it is cold and while we do not have any product because it is winter? This is where Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) kick in. As I just said, there is already a mood in society to go there. What you see in the U.S. is that groups of people come together to share whatever they have in order to ensure at

least their children can still go to school and are fed.

There are things that we forgot because we were so individualised and concentrated on ourselves. By necessity, we re-find that we can cooperate and pool resources in order to get along a lot farther. It is not just in the U.S. – in Europe it is quite the same. I can see many private, small, individual, sometimes emotion-based steps; people helping themselves. You can cooperate and if you really understand how you can mix in industry; with the money that they have, with your own industrial capacity. There is perhaps unemployment but there is industrial capacity and you can actually move forward.

With three universities and chaired and led by three different professors – one from industry, one from government and one from civic society – our group has been working on the science of CSR. We have tried to understand through a scientific method, first of all, what it is. Many people talk about CSR – if you type in CSR, Corporate Social Responsibility, you get many different definitions. Also, when you ask a company, “What do you do in CSR?”, they will proudly produce a nice booklet with pictures of smiling children. Nice to have smiling children but CSR is something else.

The PPP-CSR definition is a contractual profit-oriented collaboration between the public and private sector in order to fulfil the public sector’s responsibility in providing public services to the citizens while acquiring reduced corporate rates through a combination of CSR, development aid, and third-party funding. If you do not agree, let me know. We are holding a series of international meetings

to study whether this definition is correct or not, so please help us forward and help yourself forward; if we all globally come to one definition, at least we can see how we should do it and whether it is done correctly.

There is also a new definition for CSR, and this is very important to note. I am saying this particularly to our Indonesian colleague because Indonesia is among one of the very few countries where CSR is enshrined in law. The only problem with the law is that it does not define what it is. There is then a big fear, particularly among industry, that it is going to be used as a wrong way to extract money from industry without giving it to society in a proper manner. It is a concern and the minister of industry, Mr. Hidayat, shares the concern. As a consequence – interesting that there is a law – but what is CSR?

I have had many fights with my own clients, with CEOs, with CFOs, about what CSR is. But I maintain that the “C” of “corporate” means that whatever you do in terms of social responsibility must be corporate. What is the most essential issue of a corporation? It is profitmaking because if it does not make profit the corporation cannot exist. You lose your employment. How do you make profit? Very simple, you have a successful business model or a business plan. On the basis of the business plan or business model, you attract funding from a bank, from society, from wherever. That is a corporation.

What we claim after years of study is that unless CSR is part of your business plan or business model, it is not CSR. It may be nice, it may be humanitarian, but it is not corporate.

The value of putting it in your business

plan is that at the moment that it is going to be sustained. It means that CSR stands and falls with the success of the company. It means as long as the company is profitable it will because it is part of the business model is to engage in CSR.

This definition identifies something very important. There must be an organic relationship between the profitability of a company and the profitability of civic society. I am privileged to work with three big multinationals that all have adopted the same thing. They have reversed the tendency to buy in what they need to produce their products in the cheapest place on earth, which usually happens to be China. They have stopped doing that. They have reversed that and have started to invest in the locality where they produce the products. That takes a little bit of investment and a little bit of time and a little bit of confidence that the people will produce a good product but in the long run it is cheaper. It has a lower carbon footprint. It also creates a license to operate because suddenly the people living next door to your factory have a big reason why they want you to stay; because they deliver a service or a product to you as a company with which they keep their families alive. It was not very difficult to think of but it just had not been done yet.

I mentioned the “mothballs”. We can deliberate as to whether it is true or not but if Chinese companies mothball their ships, we have lower volumes of transport – period. As a consequence whatever people are eating or buying is increasingly being produced locally. This is again another interesting trend.

No one is steering this. There was no agreement at the top level at the UN to decide that there should be re-

regionalisation. It probably would not work if there had been. As a consequence, re-regionalisation has happened as a natural phenomenon and the biggest industries play into that. They reserve money and they invest in local society where they help them establish new Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are helped to success so that they sell their qualities products to the companies. At the same time, these same SMEs can sell the product to anyone else. There is no direct lifeline after a number of years, so they can exist on their own. That is, what is what one could say, sustained.

Let us have a look at the key advantages of the combination of PPP and CSR.

1. It speeds up bureaucratic procedures.
2. It internationalises local projects which creates fresh wind through sometimes murky environments.
3. It helps avoid corruption. I can again testify from my own experience that when you have civic society in a transparent way working with your company, civil servants who may wish to misappropriate some funds will be very careful because everybody is looking. If there is a relatively free press, before you know it, your name is in the papers. That stops you from doing it.
4. It puts people first.

CSR is an organic link between enterprising, profit-making and social development. The more *organic* this link is, the more long-term profit is secured.

The second conclusion is a “double business plan-based CSR”. It ensures sustained long-term corporate and societal profitability; Governments of South can facilitate together with Governments of North through new forms of PPP/CSR

oriented development aid. This is supported by the International Finance Corporation.

Governments from established and emerging economies may wish to connect their ODA/regional development budget and programmes to industry's CSR "double business plans".

We can have a complete alignment of ODA per project; of investment from private sources, of facilitation by national and regional governments, assistance from foreign or domestic NGOs, and support from multinational organizations. All of that can be grouped around even a smaller project – and certainly around a major project.

It always helps to look at examples. We cannot avoid drought. In certain regions of the world it simply does not rain enough. What happens when a country experiences drought and it is required to do new research to create new alliances and to create something that does not exist yet? What we are trying to create are huge underground lakes through the use of new high-tech biotech inventions. In fact, one can inject a certain material into the earth that is eaten by bacteria, by microorganisms. The microorganisms excrete a certain material and that material glues to cracks in the rock bottom under the soil and closes it. As a consequence, you can save rainwater in the wet season and create huge underground lakes.

On top of those underground lakes, you can create the best possible plants in order to provide for food, furniture, and construction materials with a low carbon footprint. You can produce products in coordination and cooperation with the government. Industries can have a very good show in the market with these new products.

The prevention example: The European Commission at a certain point in time addressed a country in the south. The fish quality was so bad that they did not want to allow that fish to enter the EU. There could have been political fallout but instead that research led to a new alignment – totally new, not existing before – between governments, the buyers in the European Union, and the sellers. Through a special scheme of funding and financing all the equipment and training and education to test heavy metals in fish led to a very rapid improvement of the situation. Most importantly the sellers and buyers engaged in joint inspections before the fish would leave the country of origin. As a consequence the ban was not materialised. The EU was happy with the enormous progress and now there is 30% increase of fish export.

PPP/CSR can be applicable to crises because you can work together with multiple parties to prepare for manmade obstacles. Thank you very much.

Thursday, October 27, 2011

SESSION 9

Discussion

Chair: Hon. Vincent Mwale

MP, Zambia

Member of the Zambia All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD)
Public Accounts Committee

[Chair]

With the issue we are facing of dwindling amounts of ODA to our governments and with a lot of pressure from the citizens in the donor countries about whether their countries should keep giving us grants, CSR and PPPs look like the way forward; this looks like the new approach that the world should be taking up now to ensure sustainable development in both the donor countries and recipient countries. The floor is now open for discussion. The Philippines, please.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

I would like to play the devil's advocate so that Mr. Praaning's concepts can be canonised.

Do civil society groups represent the masses of the people or do they represent the empowered elite who seek to perpetuate themselves in power both in government as well as in big business? May we get your reaction to this? The ideal really is: "people first". But what is the reality on the ground? It is profit first, before people. CSR is an atonement for corporate greed.

[Chair]

India, please.

[Hon. K.S. Rao, India]

If corporations were to fulfil social responsibilities then there would not be any problems in the world. Unfortunately the corporate sector focuses only on profitmaking. Your suggestions have all been excellent but I would just like some clarification on the prevention example of the "ban of all fish export" in the beginning and the "growth of fish export" in the end. And also, you mentioned that the ODA budget is dwindling. Could you please clarify these two points?

[Chair]

Mr. Praaning, please.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

These are very good, and understandable, questions. I always appreciate the devil's advocate – that is the only way to get to some kind of clarity in terms of transparency.

I fully agree with the Philippines. In the past CSR was often a fig leaf behind which companies were just doing as they were doing before. It is also true that we have been called in to help write reports about things that actually did not really happen in the sense as they were promoted.

Let me give you three remarks. First of all, whatever is being presented as "CSR" in

our view must be based on one and the same view definition globally. That is why definitions are so important. In legal terms if you want to prove something you must look at all the factors, elements, and ingredients of an understanding. If they do not match, it is not what it is said it is. That is why it is so important to have a definition. Please agree on a definition yourselves because if we all frustrate the discussion by having different understandings about one and the same word, we are not going to bring it any further.

Secondly, how can you recognise that CSR is actually successful? It is not what you publish; it is the fruit that it bears. Only if civic society really makes progress, only if employment is created, and only if there is more income for society as a consequence of CSR, then it is successful CSR. Is there corporate greed? Absolutely. But if anyone claims that you can do without profitability, you are in a different society. I run a company; if I do not make a profit I cannot guarantee that tomorrow I can pay my staff. If that happens two years at a stretch, I probably will have to close down some of the businesses.

Where we land into another domain is where you exploit. What is the definition of “exploitation”? People much smarter than me have written books about that. I know that in India, for instance, there was criticism that women were used in sweatshops and being exploited for very low wages. That should not happen.

At the same time, it was argued that it gave women the opportunity to get out of their households, emancipate themselves and to earn money. The smartest of those women started their own companies and they – a proven fact – started to run their

businesses in an appropriate manner.

What may not be seen as “acceptable” to the Western eye may be quite necessary to grow from one phase of development into another. We cannot measure everyone with the same pieces of information. We must look at the situation in situ and be honest and transparent about it, and communicate about it.

In my personal view, unless you are totally legitimised in what you do and credible in the reasons why you do it, you may make mistakes – because we are humans – but you will see the fruit.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

Of course business has to be for profit, otherwise no one will go into business. But the question really is the level of profit. For example, there are petroleum companies in the Philippines making gasoline. They could engage themselves in CSR but that would just be window dressing.

My first question was not fully answered with respect to whether civil society groups represent the masses of the people or whether they represent the elite power blocks which try to perpetrate a strong hold on government and big business.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

I think every society, of course, has the right to organize itself. This is a principle in the United Nations and it is very difficult to judge from one country to the other how much “better” you should do. It is difficult to judge each individual case per country. If you look at what laws and regulations you have established in your countries, usually it is not that the law is insufficient;

usually, it is society that allows people to get away with not implementing the laws. I am afraid to say that that is a combination of governance of government, not governance of industry.

If I look at each case in which I was personally involved, and if I try to understand where matters have to start changing in order to improve the situation, it is usually a mixture of factors but it all starts with the government. If the government does not have governance and if the government does not have transparency, then it already misses out on its responsibility to its own people. Once that happens it is like the famous “spoiled fruit” in a basket. If there is one spoiled fruit – and if that fruit happens to be the government – you will see the entire basket deteriorate and it is very difficult to stop that.

It is correct that there is a lot of abuse of laws and regulations but that is because, first of all, there is not a trias politica, which is the division between the different parts of government and those that have to control. If things are going wrong there, then whatever comes out of that system will have structural problems.

If we want to have a look at the problems that the Philippines is referring to – including massive gains that may be incorrectly made – it is a legal system that must produce a solution and it is a democratic process that should control it through transparency. This is where we always plead in certain situations for new individual bodies that provide the discussion with data and economic statistical information that is beyond any party’s grip. Without such an independent source of information it is very difficult to say what is appropriate for an industry to

make a profit and what is inappropriate.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

One last point. My question really was not with respect to the legal infrastructural or legal environment. It was about the composition of civil society.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

Of course.

[Cong. Edcel Lagman, Philippines]

That is an antagonism between these groups – the labour and peasant group versus civil society. Civil society would be more in the upper strata, compared to labour and peasants.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

I think this is where it is important that we have our definitions right. “Civic society” is that vis-à-vis industry and government, and the third party is anything that is not the other two. It simply means everyone has to work for a living and must try to survive with the means that it has. What it boils down to is that there should not be a difference between the way you earn your money, whether it is in the city or outside the city.

All the matters being presented here are holistic in a way, realising and underlining that today you cannot isolate certain issues in society. It hangs together and if you do not see it, civic society will see it and they will respond to it.

Regarding the questions from India, I will start with the easy one. How can you start with a ban on fish and then a growth of fish export? The problem is very nasty and

very handy because a problem is the shortcut to a solution; if you do not have a problem, you will not have a solution.

In the country concerned there was an enormous problem with the lack of clean water, lack of appropriate means to conserve and preserve food, and not enough cold stores and not enough logistics to transport the fish. That had already been a problem for many years and that led to the catharsis that the European Commission simply said, “now we will stop importing your fish”. As a consequence what happened was that the real cause which led to the potential ban led to massive modernisation, innovation, education, training, and removing a number of highly corrupt civil servants. As a consequence, the whole scene started to vibrate modernisation, discipline, and that led to a higher quality of fish. Since so much had been invested in human capital and in all the instruments to make sure that the fish was clean, there was a larger demand for that fish and the fish export grew. Apparently you need a fairly nasty problem to force yourself to a solution.

You had one more question about the profit making/windfall. As you know, I would say that the more dangerous and most irritating problem of international money is “hot” money. This may be legal money but it strikes at areas to quickly establish something, grow it, leaving it and taking it out, causing a crash after money the money is withdrawn. This is a scorch, but you cannot blame the money for doing it. Have you heard of money that works for itself and makes its own decisions? It is again a matter of governance of a government to allow this, or not.

It is so attractive to see these numbers go up and to have some tax and some income

but you must be smart as a government, just like a business. In the end, short tracks in the economy usually do not work, so you must have mid- and long-term planning and you must understand how it works with international funds. Ask Greece. You must plan for that and not make yourself vulnerable for such actions or complain when the vulnerability is abused.

[Chair]

Kenya, please.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

I have been listening keenly but you really provoke a lot of thoughts in my mind concerning CSR.

In Kenya in 1979 a society gave a piece of land over 10,000 hectares with the approach of CSR. Japan, through JICA, donated money in order to go into partnership to build these 10,000 hectares. After they did that, because society does not really have a voice and also JICA's conditionalities to develop this land was through the government-to-government, they wanted to have this land so that they could get something in return.

These kinds of contracts do not really benefit the society who gave the land because the current government seem to be like recipients on behalf of the society. In this case, what would be the best approach to know that they would trade between government-to-government?

[Chair]

Indonesia, please.

[Hon. Ledia Hanifa, Indonesia]

I just want to reconfirm my understanding

about CSR, as you mentioned that Indonesia is in a unique position with this.

We know that we need the participation of three parties in order to develop society: the public sector, the private sector and, in this case, the communities. You were talking about profit. I just want to know whether there are any indirect profitable activities, activities that might give you profit but it is not direct. I think there are. Is that, from your perspective, part of CSR, or does only direct profit count?

Secondly, the participation of the community needs to be endorsed because sometimes people think that CSR programmes are grants, and not opportunities to empower themselves.

[Chair]

Vietnam, please.

[Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, Vietnam]

How can we apply the points you brought up in your presentation to a society that follows laws and regulations? CSR falls outside of the laws and regulations in a way. Secondly, is CSR perhaps comparable to Marx's socialism/friendship capitalism?

[Chair]

Sri Lanka, please.

[Hon. Ramesh Pathirana, Sri Lanka]

You were talking about probable economic transition that we have witnessed in the world today and using winter and spring as the comparisons. If this is winter, what is going to happen in spring? From a macro-perspective we have seen a gradual shift of the epicentre from West to East, with

China and India booming. What is your personal view; what will happen in 10 years' time, in 20 years' time, and down the line economically the world over?

I also have some concerns regarding what the data you have shown in the presentation. One of the graphs is on ODA disbursements from China, 2002 to 2007. It says the total in Southeast Asia US\$231 million. Do you think this is correct? Sri Lanka received more than US\$100 million during this period of time, so I personally believe this graph is not correct.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

It may very well be. Then I apologise but the numbers are there as an indication. The larger sense is the differences between ODA and others. But it is very difficult to get the right numbers on that, I must tell you. All the numbers are probably from OECD because that was the base. The difficulty is then what the definitions of everything are.

[Chair]

Mr. Praaning, please.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

All questions were about CSR and I am very happy with that because it is a crucial issue and we have to come to grips with it and use it optimally. Whatever criticism we have is great, so let us criticise each other until we have what we need to get on with what we need to do.

Firstly, Kenya's example of government-to-government, ODA, and then very poor consequences for civic society. The numbers on the actual, deliverable, realised sums of the development aid are

horrible. There are studies that identify that over 70% of all ODA did not work; that as soon as the projects were abandoned, you had bare land. Let me not go into the reasons, let me just state that apparently we did not do a very good job with ODA.

Why is money not used well? Money is a privilege for all of us, even in our private households. We can use our money in different ways: stupid and smart. If 70% is squandered it means that 70% was used in a stupid way. But stupidity is something human, and the only way that we can track what is happening and then correct it is through democratic systems – through control, through transparency, through information. So let us say, the “sinning”, if you want to use that word, will always go on so it is what you do about it and how much of a grip you have on it.

I showed you a model earlier and if you look at the paper, the model describes how you can integrate the different elements of ODA, civic society, and so forth. That model itself is fairly balanced and it gives almost equal rights to almost all of the people, meaning there must be a level of transparency that in government-to-government business usually is not there. By the mere fact that all the other partners are in and know what is going on you will have a more balanced and, therefore, more transparent relationship. I hope that this answers the question?

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

I would just like to know the advice you are giving to donor countries because you are coming up with a huge percentage saying 70% did not work.

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

That figure was from a study done by the Scientific Council of Government Policy of the Netherlands.

[Hon. Frederick Outa, Kenya]

As we speak, donor countries are still trading government-to-government. Why does donor countries still continue to trade through government-to-government, and waste the taxpayers' money? That is the advice I was really looking for. Like you have said, you are working with different countries. Have you advised Japan on how they use their ODA money overseas?

[Mr. Rio Praaning, PA Group]

I have not advised Japan. I have very good friends in the Japanese political system, and I try to understand but of course as a non-Japanese that is not always easy. But I also have that of course with many countries. I am an Indonesian by blood – and a Dutchman, and a bit of French, and a bit of German, and a bit of Chinese by the way. If there is blame to be going around, I probably have almost everything myself – plus whatever credit in those countries where it is available.

I think the real answer to ODA is that you need to have governance, transparency, and checks. That is the only way you can ensure that the money is spent correctly and that there is accountability in the whole system. Let me just keep it to that.

Regarding Indonesia's questions on CSR, yes, you have a different definition among certain circles but you do not have an official definition – yet. There is also not yet an extra law that operates your CSR law, as you know. You need two laws and the operational one is not there, so it does

not function yet.

You are right that profitability in the CSR sense does not have to be immediate at all. A company or an industry can actually invest in society, and not only in a direct sense, to allow it to produce a service or a good. It has to train and educate the people, so you have to start with investment and it will only come out when the product is going to be sold. Of course there is going to be a longer-term return on an investment from both sides. It certainly is not immediate.

With Indonesian Universities – the University of Paramadina, among others – we have studied where your buck as an industry delivers most to society. We have compared industrial investment in health, in education, and in the environment – all of which are laudable goals. What delivered the most results was education.

Allow me to quickly touch upon the macro economy. What you see continuously in the economy is that it rebalances itself, so if the economy goes astray there is a response after a while. What we have seen is a system that went increasingly out of balance in almost every respect. Over time

there will be a rebalancing almost naturally and the players who are part of that rebalancing act will find their role almost naturally, whether we like it or not.

Regarding the issue of CSR being “outside the law”, you are right – it should be under law and regulation. What I mean to say is that CSR is a responsibility of corporations, and the minute you start ordering corporations what to do, you are not in a free democratic market system. This is what corporations should do of- and by themselves – you cannot demand it from them. It is in their own self-interests that they do the right thing and if they do not, these days people will come back at you and close you down.

[Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, APDA]

Mr. Praaning’s presentation is quite different from the other topics we have been discussing during this workshop but the idea of CSR/PPPs is a way to find other funding sources.

[Chair]

Thank you all for your active participation.

SESSION 10

Discussion and Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations on Concrete Measures

Thursday, October 27, 2011

SESSION 10

Discussion and Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations on Concrete Measures

Chair: Hon. Fredrick Outa

MP, Kenya

At the beginning of Session 10, African and Asian delegates formed two separate groups to engage in discussion; one African, one Asian. Discussions were based on the proposed ***Conclusions and Recommendations*** draft, some of which was a follow-up on the “Issues and Recommendations” and “Plan of Action” that were put forth and adopted at the 2009 and 2010 Workshops respectively.

One representative of the African group and one representative of the Asian group then presented their discussion outcomes with proposed items to incorporate into the ***Conclusions and Recommendations*** before unanimous adoption of the document.

Under the Chairpersonship of Hon. Fredrick Outa MP, Kenya, various points of view were aired and debated to highlight the issues related to ODA accountability and transparency. The result of the session was the “***Conclusions and Recommendations***”, which was unanimously adopted by the participants on 27 October 2011.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Thursday, October 27, 2011

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Address

Hon. Yukio Ubukata

MP, Japan

Vice-Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

Thank you for your active participation in the three-day discussion. I am very pleased that fruitful discussions took place. Unfortunately our Chair, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, is unable to participate due to his official function, so I am here today to say a few words on behalf of JPFP before we close the meeting.

JPFP has supported the ODA contribution in the field of population as the first nonpartisan parliamentary group in the world established to work on population and development issues. However, our financial condition has worsened. Against such a backdrop, Japan's ODA has been decreasing since the year 2000 and the population issue is being affected negatively. I hope that ODA will be reinforced once again and we will be committed to it, I promise.

Fortunately, thanks to our predecessors' efforts, many nonpartisan national committees on population and development have been established all over the world. This is nothing but our asset and we hope that we can utilise these assets. We have a global challenge to meet, and parliamentarians of the developed and the developing nations should join hands and put our actions together. We feel that the roles that should be assumed by parliamentarians, as representatives of our people, are very important. Our original objective was that

we develop a de facto standard for ODA but as a result of three years of discussion, I think we have come up with an even deeper, more practical system to be built.



I once again pay tribute to your passion and dedication for engaging with so much enthusiasm in an ambitious academically-challenging theme while tapping into various social issues of the modern world. I hope that you will make use of what has been discussed in this forum for the legislative proceedings and system building when you return to your own countries.

JPFP will discuss this matter again to identify what Japan can do as a developed nation so that the deliverables from this forum will be instrumental in addressing the development needs.

I thank all of you for your contributions on behalf of the hosting organization, and sincerely hope that this opportunity will serve as a springboard to realising an even more substantial alignment.

In closing, allow me to wish you a safe trip back home. Thank you.

Thursday, October 27, 2011

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Address

Hon. Fredrick Outa

MP, Kenya

On behalf of the delegates from Africa, I would like to sincerely thank APDA for giving us the opportunity these past three years to come here to learn and train our minds to be able to go back to our respective countries with the acquired knowledge in order to improve the utilisation of ODA projects.

For the last three years, we have made Tokyo our home and the reception that we have received since then from the staff, we want to say may God bless you richly. We also stand by Japan during the reconstruction after the catastrophe that you have gone through. We, African nations, are standing with you.

We have seen Japan reaching out to us on many occasions. Where we needed funding for ODA, we have seen them. And this is one of the best countries in the world that does not even have any conditions in providing ODA. That is why when we come to Japan every year, we are not only coming as an African nation, but we are coming as a global nation. We truly want to make Japan and the people of Japan to be our friends in Africa. They are very welcome.

By the end of this closing ceremony, we plead that these workshops continue. This should not be the end because I have been coming here the last three years but today I just find myself in a midway stream. I need more training to be equipped so that we will be able to use this training effectively in Africa. That is really my request, and I plead to the Chair. I truly believe that the funding will continue as we close this seminar.

With those few remarks I want to thank all our colleagues from Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Zambia; and those who have been here before like Tanzania, Uganda and many other African countries. Our Asian colleagues have been very active and therefore we want to take this time to thank you very much. As we go back to home, we will take all your greetings to Africa.

But please, our plead is that we require APDA to take charge so that we can activate the African forum to have an active office where we can have an active forum to discuss the ODA matters in Africa.

Thank you very much.

Thursday, October 27, 2011

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Address

Cong. Edcel C. Lagman

Congressman, Philippines

Deputy Secretary-General of the

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Chair of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

Closing the Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development Issues – Part III, may be a misnomer. During our reception dinner, Hon. Frederick Outa proposed that there should be a continuation of this project so that we could have a Part IV, a Part V, Part VI, etc. so that Hon. Outa can improve his record of a perfect attendance.

I think it would be more proper to “suspend” rather than “close” this meeting. There is really a need for more meetings like this, particularly to validate what we have just approved as conclusions and recommendations.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation for Dr. Minamoto's statement that ODA intervention should be consistent, complementary, and supportive of recipient countries' national development

agenda. I think we will have to underscore that. The role of parliamentarians in ODA-supported projects is imperative, both on policy legislation as a prescriptive to our respective executive departments who are now the ones negotiating and implementing ODA projects, as well as to exercise other side functions to validate the projects in all phases of the ODA process.

We would like to truly appreciate Japan's continuing commitment to ODA despite its current fiscal and financial difficulties. I would like to thank all of the distinguished parliamentarians who actively participated in this forum. And finally, we wish to thank the organizing and host agencies and their staff for giving us again the opportunity to meet.

Thank you very much, *salama po*.

Thursday, October 27, 2011

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Address

Ms. Wakako Hironaka

Vice-Chair of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Thank you very much for your devoted discussions over the last three days. On behalf of the organizer of this event, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), I would like to extend my appreciation for your hard work. I am so grateful that some of you have participated in this meeting for three consecutive years.

This programme was established to address the following issues: How we can expand our support for ODA; what are the roles that we must take as parliamentarians; and how can we secure the transparency and accountability necessary to promote north-south cooperation. We have discussed:

- What is ODA
- Formulation and evaluation of ODA programmes
- What is law
- Purpose and implementation of law in law-governed societies
- Parliamentarians as representatives of people
- Parliamentarians as legislators
- Complexity of evaluation and audit and compliance
- Enforcement of compliance and its legitimacy
- Intensification and reduction of complexity
- Bureaucracy and parliamentarians

I feel that this programme, through discussions on ODA, has enabled us to face various issues that parliamentarians are confronted with today as representatives of the people and legislators.



By implementing this programme, parliamentarians have addressed the issues that no one had answers to and have come to make a proposal on resolution measures and the mechanism that enables parliamentarians of developed and developing countries to fulfil their accountability for their constituencies. I can say with pride that this has become an epoch-making programme in the world as parliamentarians have actually addressed areas that academics have yet to be deeply involved in. It is your passion that has driven this project and I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation.

Realisation of the outcome of this programme means fulfilment of the roles of parliamentarians. It will also promote people to participate in ODA or government development plans in a way which fits the culture and tradition of their country. I believe this will lead to more

self-sufficient development efforts in the countries. If both developed and developing countries can realise this, I believe we can truly act together, hand in hand, towards the same goal as people of the earth.

Today marks the end of this three-year project, but I believe it is actually the starting point of our project. We, as a secretariat, are making preparations to back up the activities. By fulfilling our true roles as parliamentarians in development

cooperation, I believe we can bring about improvement in this world we live in. It will be a great pleasure for us as a sponsor if we are able to see a fruit coming out of this project in your countries.

I hope we will have another opportunity to see each other in the near future. Once again, let me express my appreciation for your cooperation, and I wish you a great start for your new initiatives. Thank you very much.

**Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation
for Population and Development Issues**

Part III

27 October 2011

Tokyo, Japan

Conclusions and Recommendations on Concrete Measures

1. Parliamentarians in donor and recipient countries should:
 - 1.1 Share the understanding with the Government that good governance, compliance of laws and policies, transparency and accountability must be addressed for the effectiveness of ODA, and the involvement of parliamentarians is essential
 - 1.2 Develop an institutional framework to facilitate the delegation of authority and reduce complexity in ODA processes in order to access timely, appropriate information and respond to the need to adjust/improve/modify ODA programmes, where necessary
 - 1.3 Promote legislative progress in ODA processes to ensure that job descriptions are clearly defined regarding the allocation of duties, authorities, responsibilities and their limits.
 - 1.4 Delegate more authority to local project practitioners and decentralised management
 - (1) Grant relief or exemption from duties, if the reasons are considered to constitute extenuating circumstances (in line with the exemption rules of the International Accounting Standards for CPAs)
 - (2) Delegated local practitioners have the responsibility to aggregate appropriate information, reduce complexity, and be accountable for their duties
 - (3) The information aggregated by the delegated local practitioners should be available to the stakeholders, including parliamentarians
 - 1.5 Understand the ODA framework to review ODA processes, examine economic evaluations, such as cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency of ODA evaluations/audits – and improve this in accordance with the principles of validity and make relevant improvements
 - 1.6 Obtain and utilise ODA information for global issues and nurture people's awareness as global citizens
 - 1.7 Consider, in view of the dwindling ODA budgets, alternative sources of funding for development through a combination of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
2. Parliamentarians in recipient countries should:
 - 2.1 Understand Project Cycle Management (PCM) and Project Design Management (PDM) methods which could be followed for ODA programmes to ensure good governance, and transparency and accountability
 - 2.2 Recognise that ODA evaluation should be used for improvement, rather than criticism, and that ODA is implemented for the sake of countries' development and welfare
 - 2.3 Demonstrate to the Government that involving parliamentarians in ODA processes is crucial for understanding people's needs toward achieving their goal of national development
 - 2.4 Encourage Governments to utilise available ODA information for policymaking,

based on people's needs

- 2.5 Promote and utilise the parliamentarians' networks on population and development to discuss with- and make proposals to donor countries.
3. Parliamentarians in donor countries should:
 - 3.1 Make recommendations to donor agencies to delegate authorities to local implementing agencies, so that timely and appropriate ODA information is accessible, adjustment/improvement/modification of ODA programmes is more readily possible, and the reduction of complexity in compliance is promoted
 - 3.2 Utilise the ODA information acquired to sensitise the public for ODA effectiveness and its support
 - 3.3 Promote and utilise the parliamentarians' network on population and development to receive feedback from recipient countries and make proposals to the Government or donor agencies, if necessary
 - 3.4 Review the proportion of the ODA for population and development and to increase the proportion by grant-basis
4. Donor countries' government and donor agencies should:
 - 4.1 Clarify and simplify ODA financing frameworks
 - 4.2 Promote international donor coordination
 - 4.3 Make details public of ODA projects on donor agencies' websites in recipient countries (in English)
 - 4.4 Clarify allocation of duties, authorities and responsibilities in ODA processes
 - 4.5 Delegate authority to local project practitioners, so as to respond to the need to adjust/ improve/ modify ODA programmes without delay
 - 4.6 Grant project practitioners relief- or exemption from duties if the reasons are considered to constitute extenuating circumstances (in line with the exemption rules of the International Accounting Standards for CPAs)
 - 4.7 Consult closely with local implementing agencies to enhance the validity of ODA projects
 - 4.8 Set the same requirement standards for implementing agencies as those for donor agencies (such as unit-pricing)
5. Prospective outcomes, if the above measures are in place
 - 5.1 Parliamentarians will be able to work for improving ODA programmes to fulfil people's needs for both donor and recipient countries
 - 5.2 ODA will become part of good governance, transparency, accountability and the democratic system in both donor and recipient countries
 - 5.3 People in developed and developing countries will share achievements and challenges of ODA and work together to tackle global issues as global citizens

In order to sustain Parliamentarians' interest, and ensure that they are well-equipped with information to play a role in the ODA processes in their respective countries, they should be sensitised to make them advocates and drivers for ODA. To do this, we, the parliamentarians from 13 countries present, resolve that the "Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development Issues", implemented by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), be continued and sustained.

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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
FAAPPD	Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development
GPCPD	Ghana Parliamentary Caucus on Population and Development
HoR.....	House of Representatives
IAPPD.....	Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IFPPD	Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
JICA.....	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPFP	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
LAPPD	Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
MDGs.....	Millennium Development Goals
MOFA.....	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PA.....	Public Advice Group
PLCPD	Philippine legislators' Committee on Population and Development
SLPAGPD	Sierra Leone Parliamentary Action Group on Population and Development
UNFPA.....	United Nations Population Fund
VAPPD.....	Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ZAPPD	Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

