



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

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The 30th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development

*Addressing Population Issues from a Life Cycle Perspective with a Focus on
the Youth and Elderly*

On November 27, the 30th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development was held at the International Conference Room of the 1st Members' Office Building of the House of Representatives, on the theme of Addressing Population Issues from a Life Cycle Perspective with a Focus on the Youth and Elderly.

The Meeting opened against the unexpected backdrop of the dissolution of Japan's Diet ahead of national elections. Following the Organizer's Address given by H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, former

Prime Minister of Japan, Chair of APDA and Honorary Chair of JPFP, the Opening Address of Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Chair of JPFP, was read on his behalf by Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, a Vice-Chair of JPFP, before the main proceedings began with the Keynote Speech by Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPFP and Chair of AFPPD. Attendees numbered around 100 in all, and included parliamentarians from 15 Asian nations, representatives from national committees on population and development, senior figures from the Japanese government, representatives from international organizations, NGOs and experts in the area of population and development.

In the sessions that followed, the speakers talked about the significance of Japan's sharing its own outcomes and lessons in this area, and about initiatives taken by parliamentarians from the cradle-to-grave perspective of people's life cycles.



Speaker: Prof. Dr. Makoto Atoh, Director Emeritus of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS), Japan

Session 1

Demographic Transition and Population Aging – Some Lessons from Japanese Experiences

Prof. Dr. Makoto Atoh's speech on this theme followed on from his talk at last year's Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. As well as

providing a wealth of data from the start of Japan's demographic transition through to its aging population, Prof. Atoh described some of the lessons to be drawn from Japan's experiences during that time.

Session 2

Parliamentarians' Roles: Policies and Measures in Varying Stages of Demographic Transition

The speakers at this session were Hon. Kimsour Pirith from Cambodia, Hon. Phonethep Pholsena from the Lao PDR, Hon. Samakova Aitkul from Kazakhstan and Vice-Chair of AFPPD, Hon. Thamrong Dasananjali from Thailand, Hon. Wang Longde from China and Vice-Chair of AFPPD, and Hon. Dewi Coryati from Indonesia. Each spoke about the various issues that had arisen during their own countries' demographic transitions. They also spoke about measures that they had taken in response in their capacity as parliamentarians.



Speaker: Dr. Takao Suzuki, General Director of Research Institute, National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, Japan

Session 3

Concrete Measures for Super-Aged Society: Toward a New Paradigm for Healthy Aging

One defining feature of Japan's aging population is the increase in the number of elderly people aged 75 or over. This growth in the older (75+) age population is occurring more rapidly in Japan's major cities. This

phenomenon is expected to drive a steep increase in demand for medical and nursing care services. Dr. Suzuki introduced the audience to some of the initiatives being taken that focused on getting people to live healthy, long lives, in order to delay the decline in functioning that inevitably arises as we age. These initiatives targeted people starting from middle age, promoting better nutrition in their diets, preventing dementia and sarcopenia, and stressing the importance of exercise.



Speaker: Dr. Takashi Inoguchi, President and Chairman of Board, University of Niigata Prefecture, Japan

Session 4

Optimal Policies across Asian Countries at Different Stages of Demographic Transition

Dr. Inoguchi pointed out that as recently as the 1950s, Japan was still sending surplus labor

overseas. He went on to stress the importance of supporting the formulation of policies that would provide appropriate responses to changes in society that are difficult to predict.

JPPF 40th Anniversary Reception



In 2014, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF) celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1974, as the world's first parliamentary group on population and development. It has since gone on to act as midwife to different regional parliamentarians'

associations around the world. To commemorate the event, together with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the body that acts as the JPPF's secretariat, the JPPF hosted a reception on November 27 at a location in central Tokyo, where it celebrated its work and successes over those 40 years. The reception was attended by 120 guests in all, including participants and relevant parties from a number of countries in Asia who attended the 30th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

With Hon. Aiko Shimajiri, Secretary-General of JPPF, acting as master of ceremonies, the reception was opened by Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama, a Vice-Chair of JPPF, who read welcoming remarks on behalf of Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Chair



of JPPF, and who spoke about the milestones in JPPF's activities to date. He was

followed by H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, Honorary Chair of JPFP and Chair of APDA, and Hon. Taro Nakayama, a former Chair of JPFP, who expressed thanks for the support that the JPFP had received to date, and who expressed their hope that even bigger developments awaited the organization in the future. Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPFP and Chair of AFPPD, expressed his thanks to those participants who attended despite a national election being underway. He then called for stronger collaboration between parliamentarians in Asian countries so as to develop a vibrant agenda of activities for the future.

Guests included Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, and Mr. Tewodros Melesse, Director-General of IPPF, who congratulated the JPFP on its anniversary and praised it for its contribution to the management of world population issues.

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