



# **The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population**

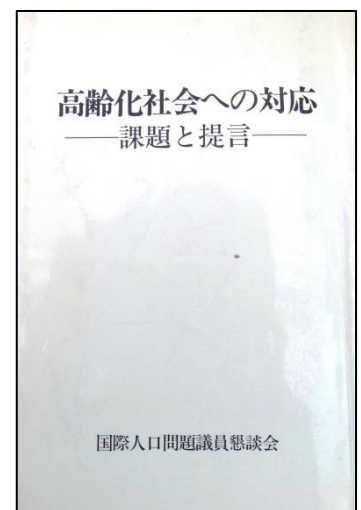
## ***NEWS LETTER***

No.47 July 2016

### ***Toward an Aging Society: Issues and Recommendations,*** **The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (1983)**

The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) was established in April 1974 as the world's first non-partisan parliamentary group to concern itself with population issues. Established with the objective of "researching population issues and other related issues, such as resources, food, the environment and international cooperation, and proposing measures to address these issues", the JPFP was set up by members of Japan's parliament who were strongly moved to act by the potential for crises in natural resources and feeding the world's people arising predominantly as a result of population increase.

In 1973 just before JPFP was founded, a group of Japan's parliamentarians led by Hon. Nobusuke Kishi, former Prime Minister, visited different countries around Asia on a formal tour to study their populations. These parliamentarians saw for themselves that rapid population increases represented a considerable obstacle to the social development and longer-term economic growth of developing countries, and they became strongly aware of the importance that Japan's international cooperation efforts would have in this area. Since its founding in 1974, JPFP has worked together with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA; renamed in 1987 as the United Nations Population Fund) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) to help promote the work of parliamentarians throughout the world in the area of population and development. During that time JPFP has also been passing on to developing nations the lessons that Japan learned as the first non-Western country to successively undergo a demographic transition.



33 years earlier in 1983, JPFP published a book entitled *Toward an Aging Society: Issues and Recommendations*. This book was an expression of concerns about the aging of Japan's population, which was then proceeding at an unprecedented pace, and it offered recommendations on the basic

direction to be taken for the measures and principal policies to be adopted in response. The book also contained contributions from a number of leading Japanese experts active in this field at the time, including Dr. Yoichi Okazaki, Director-General of the Ministry of Health and Welfare's Institute of Population Problems; Dr. Toshio Kuroda, a special adviser at the Nihon University Population Research Institute (NUPRI); and Dr. Tadashi Fukutake, Director-General of the Social Development Research Institute.

The introduction and table of contents from this book can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

***Toward an Aging Society: Issues and Recommendations*** (Japanese Only)

[https://ssl.whp-gol.com/apda.jp/dl/i/aging\\_challenges\\_recommendations\\_index.pdf](https://ssl.whp-gol.com/apda.jp/dl/i/aging_challenges_recommendations_index.pdf)

If you are interested in the complete book, please contact the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), which serves as the JPPF secretariat (tel: +81-3-5405-8844; fax: +81-3-5405-8845).

With the aim of making a contribution to policy formation in this area in countries throughout Asia, APDA is undertaking a data analysis and dissemination project on the issue of aging in societies. As part of this project it has arranged for Dr. Kei Takeuchi, Professor Emeritus at both the University of Tokyo and Meiji Gakuin University, to write a review of this book.

### ***Toward an Aging Society: Issues and Recommendations***

Extract:

Published in 1983, this book presented a forward-looking view of Japan's population problem at the time. As the book was not offered for public distribution, however, it is little recognized that parliamentarians with a compelling awareness of a forthcoming population issue applied the knowledge of demographers to examine the social impact of aging to such breadth and depth at the time when aging was hardly recognized as an issue. In this context, the book is a testimony to the pioneering nature of this initiative of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF), which is the world's first nonpartisan parliamentarian group addressed to population and development. The book also presents many insightful views including forecasting present-day policy initiatives and indicating potential complications in implementing countermeasures for declining birthrates. Although initiatives for aging based on some of the keen insights presented in this book had been adopted, the impact of today's aging society has been much more rapid and serious than imagined at the time.

Therefore, reviewing the contents of the book today more than 30 years after it was written is both interesting and thought-provoking.

Click on the following link to read the review in full:

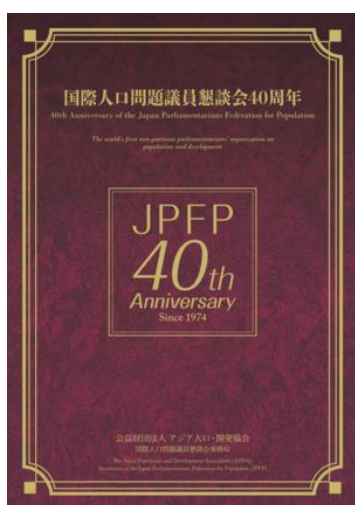
## Bibliographical Guidelines on Aging-Related Materials (Part II)

<http://www.apda.jp/en/publication/research.html>

Lastly, the following publication was released in 2014 to commemorate JPFP's 40th anniversary. You can find it at the following link:

### JPFP 40th Anniversary

<http://www.apda.jp/en/jpfp/about.html>



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