

Established in 1974, JPPF is the world's first supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development.

In an age when global solidarity is needed to address various challenges, JPPF is expected to play an increasingly important role as a parliamentary caucus with a long history and tradition of leading Japan's diplomacy in the international community.

In every issue of JPPF Newsletter, we will carry "News" on activities and initiatives related to population and development issues.

News:

- *SDGs and Beyond: International Parliamentarians' Hybrid Conference on ICPD25 Commitments*

[Editorial responsibility: JPPF secretariat]

News

SDGs and Beyond: International Parliamentarians' Hybrid Conference on ICPD25 Commitments

On February 15 and 16, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) celebrated their 40th anniversaries with an international parliamentarians' hybrid conference.

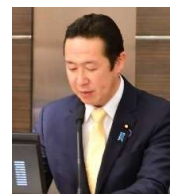
Population issues have changed dramatically over the past 40 years. Demographic transition in many Asian countries has resulted in population ageing and extreme fertility decline, bringing with it concerns about the rising burden on social security and a decline in the number of young people who will become the backbone of our future societies. The rising living standards around the world and continued population growth mainly in Africa are exponentially increasing the burden on the environment, causing climate change and other environmental problems.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 to be achieved over the period from 2016 to 2030. We are now at a halfway point. At this conference, discussions touched on how we achieve the SDGs and how our society should be in 2030 and beyond, with a focus on population issues.



Opening Session

At the opening session on 15 February, Hon. Hitoshi Kikawada, State Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan and Secretary-General of JPPF, served as the master of ceremonies. H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chair of APDA, first gave an address on behalf of the organizer. He noted the positive impact that APDA and AFPPD had on the world, and said that to create "a world where no one is left behind", all people needed to take ownership in tackling the issues of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.



He explained that while the tendency has been to lay emphasis on economic growth when talking about development, we should aim to put more efforts in the future into "respecting each individual, drawing out their full potential, valuing each other's cultures and traditions, and elevating humanity". He called for collaboration among parliamentarians and governments in respective countries, UNFPA and other UN agencies, civil society organizations such as IPPF, and the private sector.

As Chair of AFPPD, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan and Executive Director of JPPF, called attention to the UNDP's Special Report on Human Security, for which he co-chaired the report's High-Level Advisory Panel. He explained that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the first significant decline in the human development index (HDI),



Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF)

Established 1 April, 1974

Chair: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa (7th Chair)

Membership: 73 (As of 28 February 2022)


Secretariat: Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

TEL: +81-3-5405-8844

FAX: +81-3-5405-8845

E-mail: apda@apda.jp

Website: <http://www.apda.jp>

Back numbers are available from this link 

<https://www.apda.jp/en/topics.html>

which had been improving before then, and that the health crisis has become critical. In this era of the “Anthropocene” marked by a significant anthropogenic impact on the Earth’s ecosystems and climate, development approaches should take into account the issues of inequality and unstable global environment and should focus on achieving equitable human development. He called upon the participants to join in the discussion of population issues in the Anthropocene.



Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Chair of JPPF, congratulated APDA and AFPPD on their anniversaries on behalf of JPPF, and reported that in two years’ time, JPPF will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. When JPPF was established in 1974, the greatest crisis facing humanity was “population explosion”, but in the last 48 years, the world’s demographics have become increasingly more complex and diversified. She pointed out that the issues of population, food, and water, in particular, will continue to be important issues. She said that Japan is one of the first countries in the world to face the issues of low fertility, population ageing, and population decline, and expressed hope to promote knowledge sharing of Japan’s best practices and lessons learned with the rest of the world through APDA’s and AFPPD’s networks of parliamentarians.

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, sent a video message, in which she congratulated APDA’s and AFPPD’s 40th anniversaries and thanked their 40-year collaboration with UNFPA. UNFPA is currently working towards meeting concrete goals of (1) ZERO maternal deaths from pregnancy and childbirth, (2) ZERO barriers to family planning services, and (3) ZERO gender-based violence, child marriage, and other harmful practices. She expressed hope to strengthen collaboration with APDA and AFPPD to meet these goals.



Lastly, H.E. Hiroyuki Hosoda, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, congratulated APDA and AFPPD on their 40th anniversaries. As urgent issues that countries and regions of the world need to work together to address, he first mentioned climate change, which will require efforts to achieve the optimal energy mix through energy policy. He then referred to infectious diseases as another urgent issue and emphasized the need for policies that strike a balance between promoting testing and vaccination and strengthening health care systems on one hand, and maintaining economic activities on the other. He said that both issues require a response from the perspective of “human security” of how we ensure the health and lives of each person, and that such a task is “indeed a major challenge facing us politicians”. In conclusion, he commended the achievements and efforts of APDA and AFPPD of the last 40 years, and expressed hope that APDA and AFPPD will continue to contribute to addressing future global issues. He then declared the opening of the conference.

Keynote Speech: Anthropocene and Human Society: Toward a New Theory

Dr. Mariko Hasegawa, President of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies

Commentator: Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of AFPPD



Looking back on the past perspectives on global environment and population issues, Dr. Hasegawa presented Paul Ehrlich’s equation: $I = PAT$ (where I (impact) can be obtained by multiplying P (population), A (affluence), and T (technology)). She explained that to reduce environmental impact, it will be necessary to control the impact from population, rethink our stance on affluence, and introduce innovative technologies for carbon neutrality and resource recycling.

Geologically we are now in the “Holocene”. But a proposal has been put forward to call this era the “Anthropocene” for the extraordinary impact that human energy consumption is having on the planet. She explained that although it remains to be seen whether this proposal would be adopted, it is a testament of the significant impact of human activities on the globe.

As for extremely low fertility in Japan, a study shows that the sense of joy increases among parents with their first child as compared to having no children at all and it rises further with the second child; however, the increase is smaller with the third child. On the other hand, the feeling of burden of childrearing rapidly rises as the number of children increases. She explained that as a result, most people wanted two children as a compromise. Since the sense of joy and burden of childrearing determines the number of children, removing the economic burden of childrearing is particularly important as a measure against low fertility. She pointed out that community ties and support for child-rearing are needed. She explained that difficulty in obtaining such support in cities is also contributing to increasing the sense of burden and to low fertility.



Session: SDGs and Beyond: Activities of the Parliamentarians and Civil Society Toward the Attainment of the SDGs

1. Population and Water – Lessons from Asia and Japan

Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, Chair of JPPF, presented the correlation between the issues of water and population from multiple perspectives, including scarcity of water resources and importance of water resource management, the link between access to safe water and infant mortality, and climate change, particularly the dramatic increase in wind and flood damage in the Asia-Pacific region and its effects. To achieve the SDGs and improve the quality of life (QOL) of individuals, she called on the participants to work together as an international community in sharing and applying lessons learned and knowledge gained and to take a new step in reframing population issues.

2. Global Governance on Health Policy

Hon. Dr. Janette Garin, MP and former Minister of Health of the Philippines, explained how she promoted vaccine programmes and other efforts as the Minister of Health, and noted that the lack of government budget for the health sector had been a major challenge.

3. Role of the Legislation: Legislation on ODA Report at the National Assembly- Japan’s Contribution

H.E. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of ICT and National Guidance of Uganda and former President of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), touched on his experience of establishing the Uganda Parliamentarians Forum on Food Security, Population and Development (UPFFSP&D) and FPA, and explained how, in collaboration with APDA, the forum has promoted the work of parliamentarians on population issues.



4. Global Issues and Population: Japan’s Role- Agenda of TICAD and Toward SDGs

H.E. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, noted that he himself is the Director of JPPF, and congratulated APDA and AFPPD for their 40th anniversaries. He mentioned the Anthropocene, an era in which human activities have come to have a fatal impact on the global environment. He emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic was part of such human activities and that how we address population issues will have a direct bearing on the state of our societies. As the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) will be held in Tunisia this year, he said that Japan will also address population issues from the perspective of promoting socioeconomic development and increasing people’s well-being.

5. SDG’s Role in Industry

Mr. George Nakayama (Senior Advisor and former President and CEO of Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.), as Chair of the Keidanren-Japan Business Federation’s Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, noted similarities between traditional Japanese business principles and the SDGs. He explained that Keidanren is working on achieving the SDGs based on the business principle of “Sampo Yoshi”, which means that a business should benefit both the seller and the buyer as well as contribute to society. He then presented some of the specific examples of Japanese companies’ initiatives overseas.

Dr. Souhail Alouini, former MP from Tunisia, who chaired the session, summed up each presentation and concluded the session by saying that he would like to welcome Foreign Minister Hayashi and others concerned to TICAD8 in Tunisia.



APDA/AFPPD 40th Anniversary Ceremony

At the opening of the ceremony, the participants watched a video message from Dr. Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of IPPF. Dr. Bermejo touched on the achievements of Hon. Takashi Sato, former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and a founding member of both APDA and AFPPD, and expressed appreciation for Japan's partnership with IPPF.



Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Vice Chair of APDA, used his own experience and concrete examples to show how population issues are at the root of various problems in our society, and also spoke about his aspirations for the future. Mr. George Nakayama, Chair of Keidanren's Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, gave an address on behalf of the business sector, saying that collaboration between APDA's and AFPPD's member parliamentarians and the business sector is essential for thinking about the future of humankind from the long-term perspective. H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA, thanked the participants. He noted that the leadership exercised by former Prime Ministers Nobusuke Kishi and Takeo Fukuda at the time of APDA's establishment 40 years ago formed the foundation of APDA's activities, and said he would like to renew his resolve to further contribute to promoting sustainable development around the world. H.E. Karen Makishima, Minister for Digital of Japan, congratulated APDA and AFPPD, saying she hoped that the two organizations would achieve greater successes on the heels of their 40th anniversaries.

In an award ceremony, H.E. Fukuda presented certificates of appreciation to those who have made outstanding contributions to APDA's activities. A certificate of appreciation was also presented to Hon. Dr. Taro Nakayama, former Chair of APDA and JPFP, Hon. Kayoko Shimizu, former Acting Chair of APDA (former Director General of the Environment Agency of Japan), and Hon. Wakako Hironaka, former Director of APDA and former Acting Chair of JPFP (former Director General of the Environment Agency of Japan), and Dr. Hirofumi Ando, former Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, who has supported parliamentary activities on population and development from their early days. On behalf of Hon. Dr. Taro Nakayama, his son Mr. George Nakayama accepted the certificate. Hon. Ayano Kunimitsu facilitated the ceremony that was conducted in a cordial atmosphere throughout.



[Day 2]

On 16 February, AFPPD organized a thematic meeting. First, Mr. Björn Andersson, Regional Director of UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO), gave an opening address. In Session 1 on "Addressing Gender Equality", Hon. Abdus Shahid, MP from Bangladesh, chaired the session, and Mr. Romeo Dongeto, Executive Director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) reported on the situation in the Philippines. In Session 2 on "Healthy and Active Ageing", Hon. Damian Drum, MP from Australia, chaired the session, and Dr. Rintaro Mori, Regional Adviser for Population Ageing and Sustainable Development of UNFPA APRO, gave a report. In Session 3 on "Youth Empowerment", Hon. Malikzod Parvina, MP from Tajikistan, chaired the session, and Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP from India, reported on the efforts made in his country.



There was a lively exchange of opinions during the discussions, in which Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, Chair of JPFP, presented the "Onigiri Project", a local SDGs project by high school and university students in her hometown Shizuoka. The project is a campaign by both young people and companies to send a 100-yen donation whenever a customer buys an onigiri rice ball. She said, "We parliamentarians should collaborate in developing innovative methods so that similar activities can take place in various parts of the world".

The AFPPD Secretariat invited comments from the participants on the draft statement summarizing the gist of the sessions. The statement was adopted at a later date.

Following the meeting, the 92nd Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD was held with Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of AFPPD, presiding. Several countries expressed interest in jointly implementing some of the projects planned for 2022. The meeting came to a close after affirming future collaboration with the National Committees on the projects.



JPFP Secretariat
TEL: +81-3-5405-8844
FAX: +81-3-5405-8845
E-mail: apda@apda.jp



Supported by
The International Planned Parenthood
Federation (IPPF)