



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 parliamentarian 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:

- *Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Hybrid Meeting on Population and Development Held*

[Editorial responsibility: JPPF secretariat]

News

Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Hybrid Meeting on Population and Development Held

At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo 28 years ago in 1994, an agreement was made that while population issues had tended to focus on the problem of "numbers", the focus should be placed on the "health, choices, and rights of individuals".

Just prior to the ICPD, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), which served as the secretariat for the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF), and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD). Some 300 parliamentarians from 117 countries attended. They agreed that "population issues should be fully integrated into sustainable development policies and programmes", and put out a recommendation to "initiate international agreements based on new and wide-ranging socioeconomic policies supportive of sustainable development and create a society in which the dignity of all human beings is assured". This recommendation was reflected in the ICPD Programme of Action and has led to today's SDGs.

It was again in Cairo with these historical underpinnings that APDA, together with the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), organized the Arab and Asian Parliamentary Meeting on 2 March. The meeting was held with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and with the cooperation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Held in a hybrid format and hosted by the House of Representatives of Egypt, the meeting connected the venue in the House of Representatives of Egypt with online participants. A total of 80 participants from 27 countries participated, including some 60 participants from 21 countries meeting face-to-face at the venue.

At the opening ceremony, H.E. Hanafi Jabali, Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives, delivered an opening address, followed by addresses by Hon. Abdelhady Qasabi, President of FAPPD, H.E. Hala El-Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Egypt, H.E. Rania Al Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt, and Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director for UNFPA Arab States.

On behalf of the organizer, H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of APDA and former Prime Minister of Japan, gave a video address, in which he thanked all those involved for their efforts in organizing the conference. He noted that in the Anthropocene in which human activities are rapidly expanding the burden on global environment, the current approach to development is exacerbating inequalities and imperiling human security. He called upon parliamentarians of each country to work together towards building societies in which all people, and particularly those who are most vulnerable, have equal opportunities and can fulfill their potential. He urged the use of technology for recycling renewable resources in the economy so that we can live in harmony with the global environment.



Recently before ICPD, APDA and AFPPD organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD)



Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF)

Established 1 April, 1974

Chair: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa (7th Chair)

Membership: 74 (As of 25 March 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>

Sessions included presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Session 1: Promoting Youth Engagement and Women's Empowerment Towards Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action
- Session 2: Human Security for Achieving Sustainable Development
- Session 3: Human Rights Approach to Address Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Sustainable Development
- Session 4: Role of Parliamentarians in Achieving the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda

In Session 2, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (MP from Japan; Chair of AFPPD; Executive Director of JFPF) made a presentation titled, "COVID-19 and Beyond: Japan's Challenge and Contributions to Global Health". He stated that pandemics from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases are security threats with serious consequences on people's lives and livelihoods and that it is important to efficiently set up crisis management systems to deal with such pandemics. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the withdrawal of the United States from WHO has expanded the diplomatic space in which middle powers are expected to play greater roles. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, was established as an international partnership for vaccination and vaccine distribution. Also established was the COVAX Facility, in which high-income countries provide funding that also contributes to distributing vaccines to low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, Hon. Prof. Takemi mentioned the release in February of UNDP's special report, *New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene*, for which he served as the co-chair of the report's Advisory Panel. He called for collaboration among parliamentarians in addressing threats from the perspective of human security, building a new structure for global governance and creating more harmonious societies.

Mr. Jun Shimmi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan (Ambassador for Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD); Ambassador and Special Envoy for UN Security Council Reform Affairs, Human Rights and International Peace and Stability; Ambassador for International Economic Affairs) then made a presentation on Japan's international contributions based on the concept of human security, an important pillar in Japan's diplomacy. The concept of human security is of increasing importance as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change grows more serious. He explained that it is important for parliamentarians, governments, and other stakeholders to promote international cooperation based on the concept of human security. As the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) will be held in Tunisia this year, he mentioned efforts made in the fields of development and health through TICAD as well as urgent issues of youth employment and empowerment and support for children, including improvement in nutrition.

The experiences and lessons learned in Arab, African, and Asian countries were shared during the conference. It was pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted progress in implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, left a serious impact particularly on education and employment of youths, and increased the risk of gender-based violence. H.E. Hanafi Jabali, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt, reported that a bill passed in Egypt that bans female genital mutilation (FGM).

In Closing Session, Dr. Fadoua Bakhadda, Regional Director of IPPF Arab World, emphasized that the test for fulfilling the ICPD Programme of Action was to ask whether women were enjoying access to reproductive health (RH) services or young people were enjoying the rights in terms of decision-making processes. She also noted that this meeting was a driver to enhance the understanding of parliamentarians on population issues as it is not strong in some Arab countries and hoped for a stronger partnership among IPPF, UNFPA and APDA for further progress.

On the next day on 3 March, the participants visited the National Council for Women. Established in 2000, the National Council for Women is the national machinery in Egypt for improving the status of women and empowering women. The Director of the Council provided detailed explanations on the council's efforts in guaranteeing political, social, and cultural rights, ensuring social justice, and achieving equal economic opportunities (such as equitable access to loans for starting a business and ensuring equal pay with men).

The Director highlighted with praise the significant contributions Hon. Abdelhady Qasabi, President of FAPPD, has made in empowering women in Egypt and in addressing gender issues more generally.

The participants then visited the Olympic Center under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Egypt, where they were welcomed by H.E. Dr. Ashraf Sobhi, Minister of Youth and Sports of Egypt. H.E. Dr. Sobhi explained activities supported by the Egyptian government for youth empowerment.

The meeting and the visits were covered by numerous media outlets. It was also featured on the home page of the website of the Ministry of International Cooperation of Egypt.



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



Supported by
The International Planned Parenthood
Federation (IPPF)