



# JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)  
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

June 2023

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## Toward JPFP's 50th Anniversary #1

The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) is the world's oldest parliamentary group on population and development, founded in 1974. JPFP has strongly supported the establishment of regional parliamentary fora and national committees on population and development around the world and created a groundbreaking framework of parliamentary networks. In the lead up to its 50th anniversary, key milestones will be highlighted over the next several issues.

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## “JPFP's contribution to conceptualizing Sustainable Development”

Japanese politicians, who were involved in JPFP, played a central role in the formation of the concept of “sustainable development”, which is the basis for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This concept was introduced in the report by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED; commonly known as the Brundtland Commission) that was established in 1984 upon Japan's proposal. Former Prime Minister H.E. Fukuda Takeo, who was Chair of JPFP that time, and other Japanese politicians made a proposal to the UN for the creation of this commission through the Japanese government, and it was established with contributions from Japan<sup>[1]</sup>.

Representing the Government of Japan at the UNEP Governing Council Session of a Special Character held in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 1982, Hon. Hara Bunbei, Director-General of the Environment Agency of Japan (who was also Director of JPFP), stated that an Eminent Persons' Meeting should be formed at the UN to address global environmental issues and that Japan was prepared to make financial contributions for that<sup>[2]</sup>. In the following year, the WCED was established by the UN General Assembly

The WCED, chaired by former Norwegian Prime Minister H.E. Gro Harlem Brundtland, undertook a series of consultations from 1984 to 1987 and in February in its final year held the final official meeting in Tokyo, in which the Tokyo Declaration was adopted. In April, WCED released the report “Our Common Future” that defined sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

## JPPF CHAIRS



**Mr. Nobusuke Kishi**  
Former Prime Minister  
1974-1979



**Mr. Takeo Fukuda**  
Former Prime Minister  
1979-1990



**Mr. Shintaro Abe**  
Former Minister of Foreign  
Affairs  
1990-1991



**Dr. Taro Nakayama**  
Former Minister of Foreign  
Affairs  
1991-2007



**Mr. Yasuo Fukuda**  
Former Prime Minister  
2007-2012



**Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki**  
Former Minister of Justice  
2013-2017



**Ms. Yoko Kamikawa**  
Former Minister of Justice  
2019-

[1] Interview with Former Prime Minister H.E. Fukuda Yasuo

[https://www.apda.jp/en/news\\_activities/interview/no001.html](https://www.apda.jp/en/news_activities/interview/no001.html)

[2] The 8th APDA Meeting Minutes, Keynote Address by Hon. Okita Saburo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 1992.

[https://www.apda.jp/pdf/p02\\_apda/The\\_8th\\_APDA\\_Meeting\\_en.pdf](https://www.apda.jp/pdf/p02_apda/The_8th_APDA_Meeting_en.pdf)

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## Online seminar on Maternal Death Surveillance and Response

Together with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and World Health Organization (WHO), the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; Secretariat of JPPF) organized an online seminar on “Legal Accountability for Maternal and Perinatal Mortality and implementation of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)”.

MPDSR is a system of identifying, analyzing, and learning lessons from maternal and prenatal deaths in order to respond and prevent future deaths, and has been recommended by WHO and implemented in many low-and-middle income countries in recent years.

During the seminar, experts from UNFPA and WHO presented an overview of the implementation of the MPDSR system in the region, and roles of parliamentarians in establishing accountable MPDSR systems that are mandated by law. As panelists, parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Australia then shared their countries' experiences.

## Fostering Legal Accountability for Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)



**The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific Regional Office and the World Health Organization join forces in presenting a regional approach to fostering legal accountability for Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR).**

Establishing accountable MPDSR systems that are mandated by law, align with constitutional and human rights obligations, and meet the public health commitments of the State, is an important step forward in addressing maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths.

UNFPA and WHO will present an overview of the implementation of the MPDSR system in Asia and the Pacific region, followed by presentations from Eszter Kismodi, consultant expert on SRHR and Human Rights lawyer, on the tools for legal accountability in MPDSR. Discussions with Parliamentarians from the Asia and Pacific region will follow the presentation.

**Wednesday 28 June 2023**  
2pm BKK /4pm Tokyo/ 9am CET

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## APDA signed an MOU with 2 institutions for collaboration

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Center for International Development Evaluation (CIDE) at Seoul National University and the World Organization for Smart Sustainable Cities (WeGO), respectively.

CIDE is an eminent research center, launched in 2014, specializing in the evaluation of the international development sector. CIDE and APDA will aim to promote academic exchange and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

WeGO was established by 50 founding member cities in 2010, committed to the transformation of cities into smart sustainable cities. It has grown into an international association of cities and businesses in the smart city sector, with the membership of more than 200 worldwide. WeGO's Secretariat is based in Seoul, Korea.

Under the agreement, WeGO and APDA are set to collaborate in various ways to jointly promote the development of sustainable human-centered smart cities in Japan and South Korea.

■ WeGO website

[WeGO and APDA step up a partnership to strengthen smart city cooperation in Japan](#)

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## JPPF

Established in 1974, JPPF has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPPF, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

[Read more](#)

## APDA

APDA since its establishment in 1982 has served as the secretariat of JPPF.

[Read more](#)

Supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



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