



JPFP Newsletter

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

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TICAD Feature Article #1

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was launched in 1993 under Japan's leadership, as a key international initiative for African development, driven by its strong commitment to the peace and development of Africa. TICAD was initially held every five years in Japan. Since 2016, it has been held every three years, alternating between Africa and Japan. This year, the 9th TICAD (TICAD9) will take place in Yokohama in August. In the lead-up to TICAD9, local voices and ongoing efforts in Africa to address population issues will be highlighted over the next several issues.

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) has been promoting the activities of parliamentarians on population and development not only in Asia, but also in the Africa and Arab regions. Prior to each TICAD, APDA has organized parliamentary meetings at home and abroad to deliver the voices of parliamentarians as policy recommendations to TICAD. One of the key milestones resulting from the efforts of JPFP and APDA was the inclusion of population and reproductive health as a significant topic at the 4th TICAD (TICAD IV) in 2008. Prior to TICAD IV, JPFP and APDA held a parliamentarians' meeting in Malaysia, where discussions focused on population and reproductive health, infectious diseases, and climate change, culminating in the adoption of a declaration. The JPFP delegation presented this declaration to the then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on 12 May, underscoring the importance of population and reproductive health^[1].

In his address at the TICAD IV Opening Session on May 28, H.E. Fukuda remarked, *"We consider this (population) issue one of the key themes of development. I have for some time chaired the dialogue among Asian and African national assembly members that share a common awareness of this issue and have continued my efforts to promote exchanges among these members. The issue of population in Africa is one that must be addressed for the development of the economy and the stability of society. It has a profound effect on the attainment of the MDGs^[2], with impacts on poverty, education, gender, the environment, and reproductive health^[3]".*

This was the first time a Japanese prime minister publicly addressed reproductive health at TICAD. The TICAD IV "Yokohama Action Plan" included the phrase "Support the international efforts to achieve universal access to reproductive health services^[4]". This high-level discussion significantly raised awareness of the issues of population and reproductive health and played a pivotal role in strengthening support for these initiatives.

[1] APDA, 2008, "*Population and Development Issue No. 102*" (Japanese) (p. 20).

[2] The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the precursor to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

[3] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad4/pm/address.html>

[4] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad4/doc/actoin.pdf>



Activities for Strengthening National Committees on Population and Development

In February, APDA and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), with the support of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), implemented programmes in **Turkmenistan** and **Nepal** to promote parliamentary activities related to population and development issues.

Each programme was developed based on the needs of each country. In **Turkmenistan**, with the help of UNFPA Turkmenistan and an expert, the programme aimed to facilitate the Parliament's understanding of the need to adopt domestic violence legislation and propose improvements to the model law through consultation meetings, as Turkmenistan is the only country in the region without domestic violence legislation. Approximately 30 participants, including parliamentarians and relevant organizations, took part in the event, engaging in active discussions and making proposals for amendments to the model law. They also recommended the formation of a working group to continue working on the legislation to address this critical issue.

In **Nepal**, on 22 February, a parliamentary workshop was held in collaboration with the National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development of Nepal (NFPPD)

to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). A total of 62 participants attended, including parliamentarians, government officials, experts, and representatives of UNFPA and civil society organizations. The sessions identified legal and policy priorities in response to changing population trends in order to advance the SDGs and ICPD agenda. It was proposed that parliamentarians play a crucial role in strengthening data collection, working on legislative reforms to address gaps in child marriage legislation and reproductive health (RH) policy, mobilizing budgets for this area, and promoting parliamentary oversight and accountability.



JPFP

Established in 1974, JPFP has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPFP, 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.

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APDA

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

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