



JPFP Newsletter

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

March 2025

African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development on the Role of Parliamentarians in Harnessing Population Data Held in Tanzania

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) organized the African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development: *The Role of Parliamentarians in Harnessing Population Data to Foster Inclusive Social and Economic Development* in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 24-25 February. The event was accredited as a "TICAD9 Partner Project" by the Government of Japan and was co-hosted by the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) and Tanzania Parliamentary Association on Population and Development (TPAPD), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Japan Trust Fund (JTF), as well as cooperation from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Pathfinder International.

The conference was attended by a total of 70 participants from 16 countries, including the Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment of Ghana, Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of South Africa, Members of African and Asian Parliaments, UN organizations, and civil society organizations. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to share the participants' experiences and challenges, promote mutual understanding and cooperation, and strengthen their activities.

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TICAD Feature Article #2

Progress of Initiatives by the Tanzanian Parliamentary Association on Population and Development

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) has been working in close collaboration with the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), as well as national parliamentary caucuses on population and development, to carry out various initiatives across the African region. Interviews with Tanzanian Members of Parliament and other stakeholders have reported progress resulting from initiatives implemented by APDA and the Tanzania Parliamentary Association on Population and Development (TPAPD).

In 2022, APDA and TPAPD, with support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), commissioned experts to conduct studies aimed at reviewing laws and policies that might hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tanzania. Based on the findings, a [parliamentary workshop](#) was held in Dodoma, Tanzania, in September 2022, during which the following three key policy directions were decided upon, and various initiatives have since been undertaken in line with these directions.

1. Work toward the amendment of the Marriage Act

In Tanzania, three out of 10 girls are married before the age of 18. Recognizing the seriousness of this issue, TPAPD decided to initiate efforts to amend the Marriage Act. In 2023, a motion was proposed to Parliament to raise the minimum legal age for marriage for women, and work on the amendment is currently in progress.

2. Work toward the enactment of the family planning law and policy

Since the 5th Government position on family planning, there has not been any clear guidelines on family planning in Tanzania. TPAPD, serving as a “think-tank” on population issues, is addressing this gap by engaging in advocacy within Parliament to promote the legalization and policy formulation for family planning in the country.

3. Work toward the formulation of education policies that provide a conducive environment for women and girls to study science subjects.

Significant progress has been made in this area. The education policy now includes a provision aimed at providing a conducive environment for women and girls to pursue science subjects. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education introduced the Samia Scholarship program in 2022 to support students undertaking studies in STEM fields. This scholarship covers 100% of university tuition fees for students who achieve high scores on exams and are admitted to programs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine. In the 2022/2023 academic year, a total of 636 students received the scholarship, of which 261 were female (41%) and 375 were male (59%). This program serves as a strong incentive for girls to pursue education in STEM fields.

Another remarkable success for TAPDP in collaboration with APDA is the establishment of the Zanzibar Representatives Association on Population and Development (ZRAPD), which has spearheaded efforts to advance population agenda in the Isles’ legislative and government bodies.



IPPF: Japan Funds New \$400,000 Project to Support Maternal and Reproductive Health in Afghanistan

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) launched a new project in Afghanistan on 12 March with support from the Government of Japan. Key activities include strengthening 21 health centers in Logar and Parwan provinces to provide essential reproductive and maternal care services. The project is expected to deliver approximately 120,000 health services to the local population, benefiting over 40,000 people. It also includes additional initiatives aimed at addressing a broad range of critical needs. (Full text available on the [IPPF website](#))

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The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), the world's first supra-party parliamentary group dedicated to population and development issues, was established in 1974. The purpose of its establishment was stated as follows:

“In support of the basic principles of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (currently the United Nations Population Fund: UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), we hereby establish the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population, to study population issues and related matters such as natural resources, food, and international cooperation, and to propose appropriate policy measures”. JPFP was launched with 119 supra-partisan members of parliament, with former Prime Minister H.E. Kishi Nobusuke serving as its first Chair.

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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