



JPFP Newsletter

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

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IPPF: Now Is the Time for Solidarity to Protect Life and Dignity

On the eve of World Population Day, observed annually on 11 July, an op-ed by Dr. Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), appeared in the *Mainichi Shimbun* (10 July 2025, morning edition, page 9, Opinion Section). In the piece, Dr. Bermejo sounds the alarm over mounting threats to human rights and global health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

IPPF has long worked to uphold the life and dignity of all individuals and provide care that is inclusive and responsive to people's needs and choices. Dr. Bermejo emphasizes that supporting women in making autonomous decisions about their bodies and lives, ensuring access to quality SRHR services, is life-saving. However, IPPF's work is now facing unprecedented challenges. In particular, an executive order issued in the U.S. in January 2025 led to the loss of approximately US\$85 million in funding across 72 IPPF Member Associations. Nearly 4,000 clinics and mobile health units have been forced to close or reduce services, leaving around 8.5 million people without access to essential health care. This has raised serious concerns about a projected 3 million or more unintended pregnancies, along with increased risks of unsafe abortions and maternal deaths—particularly in Africa, where the impact has been especially devastating. Dr. Bermejo stresses the need to bring global attention to this crisis at the upcoming Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), scheduled to take place in Yokohama this August.

Founded in 1952 by pioneers including Hon. Shidzue Kato, Japan's first female member of parliament, IPPF has deep ties to Japan. As a global advocate of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)—the principle that everyone should have access to essential health services at an affordable cost—Japan has long understood and supported the mission of IPPF. Dr. Bermejo underscores the growing importance of Japan's role amid increasing global polarization around SRHR, stating, "Now more than ever, a country like Japan—with its balanced and moderate voice—serves as a vital bridge for dialogue and a safeguard against division". [Translated by APDA]



TICAD Feature Article #6

Progress of Initiatives by the Djibouti Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

In Djibouti, a parliamentary group dedicated to population and development issues, called *Groupe Parlementaire pour la Population et Développement de Djibouti (GPPD)*, was established in December 2019, with support from the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). As the first organization of its kind in Djibouti, GPPD has become a leading example of how parliamentary leadership can advance the ICPD agenda and the SDGs. As a concrete example, under the leadership of the GPPD's founder and first Chair, Hon. Hassan Omar, GPPD, in collaboration with the National Assembly of Djibouti and APDA, held the "Inter-Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on ICPD25" in February 2020, with support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and UNFPA. A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a "Roadmap" by participating parliamentarians from the African and Arab regions, aiming to further implement the ICPD25 Commitments and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. In 2021, GPPD convened a consultation meeting with representatives from UNFPA, APDA, and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD). Discussions focused on legislative and budgetary actions to address maternal and child health and gender-based violence (GBV). The meeting was broadcast on Djibouti's national television channel, Radio and Television of Djibouti (RTD), and reported in the leading local newspaper, *La Nation*. Hon. Omar later reported that GPPD had begun drafting legislation on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and maternal health.

In addition, GPPD, in cooperation with UNFPA, has conducted a series of consultation and awareness-raising workshops throughout various regions of the country. These gatherings brought together key stakeholders such as prefects, regional council presidents, locally elected officials, and members of civil society representatives, fostering an inclusive and participatory approach. Through these efforts, GPPD aims to promote the ICPD agenda, position population, health, and human rights at the center of the national legislative process, and contribute to the realization of a society where no one is left behind.



GPPD's Consultation Meeting in 2021

Activities for Strengthening National Committees on Population and Development

With support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), APDA implemented programmes in **Cambodia** (May) and **Jordan** (June) to promote parliamentary activities related to population and development issues in respective countries.

In **Cambodia**, in collaboration with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), a high-level policy seminar titled “Parliamentary Workshop on Cambodia Strategic Framework 2024-2030 for Accelerating the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action” was held on 12 May at the National Assembly in Phnom Penh. In 2024, Cambodia became the first country in Asia to adopt a national strategy dedicated to implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The seminar

provided a valuable opportunity to review the country's progress, achievements, and challenges in implementing the ICPD agenda over the past 30 years and brought together approximately 280 participants, including parliamentarians, government officials, and representatives of international organizations. The event also marked the 25th anniversary of CAPPD, during which appreciation was expressed to Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and APDA for their support in founding it.

In **Jordan**, in collaboration with the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), a parliamentary meeting under the theme “Investing in Youth and Gender Equality” was held on 1 June in Amman. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 participants, including members of parliamentary committees on population and development, youth, women, human rights and children, as well as experts and representatives from civil society. Amid the rapid social and political transformations facing countries in the Middle East, participants agreed that empowering youth and women is essential for promoting social stability and inclusive development and engaged in discussions on reviewing relevant policies and legal frameworks.

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Cambodia's high-level policy seminar in 2025

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

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population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

Supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

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