

AFPPD Annual Regional Conference Held in Manila

On 3–4 September, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) held their annual conference in Manila, Philippines, themed “*Fulfilling Commitments to ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”. Co-hosted with the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and supported by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), with cooperation from Pathfinder International and FP2030, the conference highlighted key issues for the Asia-Pacific region.

In the opening session, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD and JPFP, reflected on the progress achieved since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which marked a global shift in focus toward individual empowerment, and emphasized that achieving peace requires the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) and the protection of the rights of women, young people, and older persons. Sessions addressed urgent regional challenges, including protecting children from social media risks, and the central role of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in sustainable development. In the closing session, Ms. Fukuda Tomoko, Regional Director of IPPF East & South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR), urged parliamentarians to take key actions, including ensuring consistent funding for SRHR programmes, supporting community-based civil society organizations, and engaging actively in international decision-making on population and development.

On the following day, participants visited Meta Philippines to discuss combating Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and promoting safer digital spaces, reaffirming the importance of strengthening policies and legislation.



Policy Dialogue on the Africa-Japan Partnership for Population and Development

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA; JPFP Secretariat) convened the *Policy Dialogue on the Africa-Japan Partnership for Population and Development* on 20 August, inviting parliamentarians from African countries, on the sideline of the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9). In the morning, the delegates made a visit to the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS), where Dr. Hayashi Reiko, Director-General of IPSS, delivered a presentation titled “Population and Development in Africa, Japan and the World”. The afternoon session took place at the APDA office, where Hon. Prof. Takemi Keizo, Chair of APDA, welcomed the participants. This was followed by a presentation by SHIONOGI & CO., LTD. on the “Mother to Mother SHIONOGI Project”. Subsequent presentations included Dr. Hala Youssef, Adviser of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Regional Office, on “Young People’s Sexual and Reproductive Health” and Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi, Regional Portfolio Director of Pathfinder West and Central Africa, on “Pathfinder’s Projects in Africa Focusing on Youth Engagement and Empowerment”.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) and Forum of African Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FPA), with the support of UNFPA, Japan Trust Fund (JTF), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).



IPPF Director-General Dr. Alvaro Bermejo Meets with Parliamentarians

Dr. Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), made his final visit to Japan in August and paid courtesy calls on parliamentarians and other stakeholders, including Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, Chair of JPFP; Hon. Hitoshi Kikawada, Secretary-General of JPFP; and Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of APDA. During the meetings, they exchanged views on IPPF’s ongoing initiatives on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the importance of collaboration with Japanese parliamentarians. Dr. Bermejo also expressed his appreciation for Japan’s continued support.



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

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