



JPFP Newsletter

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

May 2026

AFPPD High-Level Ministerial and Parliamentary Forum Held at Women Deliver 2026 Conference

Women Deliver is a global conference that brings together stakeholders from around the world to advance discussions on policies and actions promoting the rights, health, and gender equality of women and girls. This year's conference, held in Melbourne, Australia, attracted more than 6,000 participants from 189 countries.

On 27 April, on the sidelines of Women Deliver 2026, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) convened a High-Level Ministerial and Parliamentary Forum. The event brought together more than 100 participants from over 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, including prime ministers, ministers, parliamentarians, and representatives of international organizations and civil society. The Forum provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views on advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality, and concluded with the adoption of a Call to Action setting out key priorities for future collaboration and action. Addressing fellow parliamentarians, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD and President of JPFP, reaffirmed AFPPD's commitment to providing leadership on population and development issues and to strengthening regional and international cooperation in addressing shared challenges.

The event was organized with support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), in cooperation with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Pathfinder International.



TICAD9 Follow-up Parliamentarians' Meeting Held in Egypt

On 28–29 April, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) convened the TICAD9 Follow-up Parliamentarians' Meeting: Strengthening Policy, Financing and Legislative Engagement for Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was organized to review progress and follow up on the recommendations and priorities identified during the policy dialogue and TICAD9 thematic event jointly organized by APDA and FAPPD alongside the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) held in Yokohama in August 2025. With support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the meeting brought together more than 80 participants, including parliamentarians, government officials, representatives of international organizations and civil society, and experts from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Japan to discuss population and development challenges and the role of parliaments in addressing them.

In her opening remarks on behalf of the organizers, Hon. Dr. Makishima Karen, Vice Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and a member of

the APDA Board of Directors, emphasized the importance of advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and investing in women and young people to ensure that everyone can enjoy the right to live a healthy life. She also highlighted the critical role of AI and digital technologies in supporting sustainable development and called for stronger partnerships between Japan and African countries, stressing the importance of continued dialogue and mutual learning in addressing shared challenges. Thematic sessions explored responses to increasingly diverse and complex population and development challenges, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), population ageing, youth empowerment, gender equality, food security, humanitarian crises, migration, and climate change. A parliamentarian from Morocco noted that while important progress has been made in strengthening legal frameworks to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and promote women's empowerment, a key challenge remains ensuring that these laws are effectively implemented and translated into meaningful change on the ground. A parliamentarian from Tunisia highlighted the need to respond to rapid population ageing, while a representative from Algeria emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing continent-wide challenges such as climate change and population mobility.

In the health session, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) presented its support for advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Egypt. In 2017, Egypt had the world's third-highest level of out-of-pocket health expenditure as a share of household spending. Following the enactment of the Universal Health Insurance Law, the country has been gradually rolling out the scheme across all 27 governorates, with nationwide coverage targeted by 2030. To date, approximately six million people in six governorates have been enrolled, and Port Said Governorate has reported a 40% reduction in the proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure. Participants also learned about Japan's broader support for Egypt's health sector, including the provision of medical equipment, capacity-building initiatives, and assistance to health facilities serving Sudanese refugees and medical evacuees from Gaza. The meeting also featured a presentation by the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), which showcased its efforts to strengthen human resource development and research through investments in higher education and youth, particularly in the fields of health, energy, water resources, and digital technologies. The meeting reaffirmed the critical role of parliamentarians in addressing population and development challenges and provided an important opportunity to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between Japan and African countries in the follow-up to TICAD9.



JPFP Project Team on “Life Safety Education” Holds Meeting on Children’s Internet Regulations

On 18 May, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) Project Team (PT) on Life Safety Education held a meeting on children’s internet regulations, inviting Professor Takeuchi Kazuo of the University of Hyogo as a guest speaker. The meeting was moderated by Hon. Terata Shizuka, Secretary-General of the JPFP’s PT on Life Safety Education. At the outset, Hon. Dr. Abe Toshiko, Chair of the PT, delivered opening remarks and expressed her expectations for discussion on this highly relevant issue.

In his lecture, Prof. Takeuchi introduced the current situation in which more than 80% of first-grade elementary school students and 97% of first-year junior high school students use the internet. He also explained that smartphone use has spread even among elementary school children, while nearly all junior high and high school students now use smartphones. He presented data showing the increase in troubles related to social networking services (SNS) and online games beginning at the elementary school level, as well as the growing trend toward younger-age cyberbullying. Regarding institutional measures, Prof. Takeuchi explained that Japan has promoted initiatives such as the principle of mandatory internet filtering for minors under the 2008 “Act on Establishment of Enhanced Environment for Youth’s Safe and Secure Internet Use”. However, he stressed that existing systems have not been able to keep pace with the rapid spread of smartphones and SNS, underscoring the need for new institutional frameworks suited to the times. He also noted that some countries are struggling with how best to regulate

children's internet use, and that challenges remain regarding the effectiveness of age-verification systems. Prof. Takeuchi concluded by emphasizing that, in order to protect children's safety online, it is essential to provide age-appropriate education on information ethics and to foster digital literacy. He further highlighted the importance of setting household rules from an early age and making sure children's voices are heard, rather than viewing these issues only from an adult perspective.



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.

[Read more](#)

APDA

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

[Read more](#)

Supported by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

IPPF

♥ DONATE

APDA is a certified public entity for the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon.
This is awarded to individuals or organizations that
donate substantial funds to a certified public entity for
the benefit of the public.

DONATE NOW

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

2-19-5-8F, Nishi-Shinbashi, Minato-ku,

Tokyo 105-0003 Japan

TEL: +81-3-5405-8844 FAX: +81-3-5405-8845

E-mail: apda@apda.jp Website: <https://www.apda.jp/en/>

【Editorial responsibility: APDA】



Designed with BEE