



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

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This photo shows JPPF Vice-Chairs Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko and Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama seated second from right in the front row and standing in the middle of the back row respectively

Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks – Part III, Zambia

On September 24-27, Part III of the *Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks* was held in the Republic of Zambia. Attendees numbered around 70 in all, drawing parliamentarians from 13 countries along with representatives from National Committees, senior government figures, representatives from international organizations, and experts in the field.

This event was jointly organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) in its capacity as JPPF's secretariat and the Zambia All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (ZAPPD), with support from the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Japan's representation was led by Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko and Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama, two Vice-Chairs of JPPF.

As JPPF's Secretariat, APDA has organized these projects for Asian and African parliamentarians since 2009 with the objective of improving accountability, transparency, and good governance for population-related ODA programmes, based in its view on the need to strengthen the effectiveness of the role and work of parliamentarians in this area.

This year's project served as a summary of past projects held in 2009-2011 in Tokyo, the 2012 project held in Cambodia, and the 2013 project held in Uganda, allowing participants to share the projects' remarkable achievements during that time. In particular in 2009, when these projects first started, in almost none of the African countries which sent participating parliamentarians that year was ODA reported on in their national parliaments. But as a result of efforts led by parliamentarians taking part in these projects to urge their governments to disclose ODA information, set up committees, and undertake reforms of their countries' systems, today ODA matters are reported in almost all of the countries that participate in these projects. The Zambian parliament was in fact hearing a formal report at plenary on the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project while project participants were visiting there as observers.



JPPF Vice-Chair
Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko gives
the opening address



JPPF Vice-Chair
Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama
gives the closing address

In addition, because these projects by APDA over 2009-2014 enabled an environment to be built in which parliamentarians could fulfill their accountability to their nation's citizens, they contributed greatly to advancing the democratic process in those countries. Not only that, they also attracted praise to the effect that "it is thanks to these projects that parliamentarians' activities on population and development in Africa has continued and will not be lost."

All the participating parliamentarians expressed deep thanks both for the support provided by the Japanese government for this project, and to JPFP for developing this initiative. The parliamentarians' desire for APDA-JPFP projects to be continued and expanded so that parliamentarians working on population and development issues can strengthen their network, share their experience, and advance policy dialog was amply reflected in the text of the Statement adopted for the project (which is set out in full below).

Asian and African Parliamentarians' Capacity Development on the Integration of Population Issues into National Development Frameworks - Part III

Statement

27 September 2014
Lusaka, Zambia

1. Preamble

- (1) We parliamentarians as representatives of 13 Asian, African and European countries¹ gathered in Lusaka, Zambia, commit ourselves to strengthening efforts to maximize aid effectiveness and integrating population issues into national development frameworks through this APDA-ZAPPD project towards the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond.
- (2) We underline the pioneering work of APDA and in particular its groundbreaking projects from 2009-2014 providing an important platform to recognize the role of parliamentarians in addressing population issues for a hopeful society.

2. Parliamentarians' roles

- (1) As parliamentarians, we reconfirm that our work goes beyond the representation, legislation, oversight and budget allocation; being accountable to people, we ensure that population programmes are implemented in a way to improve well-being of individuals and achieve sustainable development.
- (2) Utilizing the outcomes of APDA's 2009-2011 projects *Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Project on*

¹ Bhutan, Burundi, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Japan, Malawi, Romania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

Accountability and Aid Implementation for Population and Development with support from the Government of Japan and UNFPA, we are determined to examine and improve transparency and accountability of the population programmes ensuring the adequacy and necessity through a results-oriented approach.

- (3) We highlight such positive roles of parliamentarians that can advance the progress of population and development issues and even broaden the scope to other areas to achieve good governance of ODA and accountability to people.

3. Toward the Post-MDGs agenda

- (1) We welcome the outcome of the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) held in New York, U.S., on 22 September 2014.
- (2) We reaffirm that achieving universal access to reproductive health is crucial to promote people's welfare and sustainable development as it was agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, and that it must be given priority attention in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We endorse reproductive rights defined by UN documents as a key concept and a cornerstone of international development goals.
- (3) We reaffirm the importance of the Preamble and Principles of the ICPD that clearly state that population issues are dealt with in the context of sustainable development.

4. Call to action

- (1) In order to create a sustainable society where future generations can live in dignity, we parliamentarians, who assume accountability for outcomes, appeal to our own governments, international organizations and other development partners to take coordinated, multi-sectoral actions to produce optimum results.
- (2) Placing people at the center of development, population and development programmes need to be planned and programmed from the long-term and global perspectives that are conducive to human rights and people's welfare. We urge implementing governments and implementing agencies to review their programmes to be consistent with such perspectives.
- (3) We request national and international institutions including aid organizations to provide concise, persuasive, evidence-based data and information so that we can use it to involve fellow parliamentarians and convince constituents in our activities on population and development.

- (4) We promote Triangular Cooperation in which developed nations provide assistance for South-South cooperation to contribute to sustainable rural development, women's and young people's empowerment by developing high-quality merchandise that can enjoy success in the international market.
- (5) We parliamentarians make every effort to ensure the incorporation of ICPD beyond 2014 into the Post-MDG agenda.

5. In closing

- (1) In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), we recognize the remarkable initiatives that JPFP-APDA have taken in establishing parliamentary fora and committees on population and development and facilitating the parliamentary networking among different regions.
- (2) We express our thanks to the co-organizers, APDA and the Parliaments of Cambodia, Uganda and Zambia, the Government of Japan, as well as highlight the invaluable contribution of participants from respective countries and support from UNFPA, IPPF and other partner organizations to mainstream population issues into our development agenda.
- (3) Under the success of the APDA-JTF projects, parliamentarians' roles and activities on a firm footing are essential to address the population issues in the context of sustainable development. We commit ourselves to promoting our parliamentarians' activities beyond 2014.
- (4) Following our successful process to identify parliamentarians' essential roles in the field of population and development, it is crucial to enhance their capacities to perform substantial functions. We request international aid organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society organizations for their continued support and expansion of parliamentarians' activities such as this, considering the achievements that APDA has made to strengthen Asian and African parliamentarians' activities during the past 30 years.

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