



## The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

# NEWS LETTER

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### Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Investing in Youth Held in Tajikistan

On March 28 and 29, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), which serves as the secretariat of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF), co-hosted, with the Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli (Parliament) of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Investing in Youth in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The conference was supported by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



The main objective of the conference was to take stock of the progress made vis-à-vis the declaration adopted by the International Conference on Investing in Youth organized by APDA in October 2018 in Kazakhstan. The conference in Tajikistan was attended by 70 participants from 13 countries, including parliamentarians from Central Asian countries as well as senior officials from 12 government agencies and related organizations, ambassadors to Tajikistan from 10 countries, representatives of UN organizations, experts, and NGOs.

At the opening ceremony, H.E. Hajime Kitaoka (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan) read out the address from H.E. Yasuo Fukuda (the former Prime Minister of Japan, Chair of APDA, and Honorary Chair of JPPF) on behalf of the organizer. In the address, he expressed appreciation to the parties concerned for their cooperation in organizing the conference, and emphasized the importance of parliamentarians' activities in this field. Addresses were also delivered by the Deputy Speaker of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli, Assistant to the President of Tajikistan, Deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Deputy Regional Director of the UNFPA Eastern Europe & Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO), and the representatives of UNICEF and UN Women in Tajikistan.



In each session, there was an active and meaningful exchange of views on youth policy, legislation, and program implementation through presentations and discussions. Participating parliamentarians expressed sincere appreciation to the organizer APDA as well as for the support extended by the Japanese government and UNFPA. Parliamentarians from Kazakhstan also expressed appreciation for organizing the conference held in Kazakhstan last year.

The conference program was as follows:

- Opening Session
- Session 1 : Being Young in CIS Region – Harnessing Youth Potential
- Session 2 : Central Asia and Eastern Europe: Brain Drain & Brain Gain
  - Round table 1: Developing young people’s potential - Strengthening the relevance and quality of education
  - Round table 2: Youth transition from education to labor market participation
- Session 3 : Young People in CIS Region – Healthy Lifestyle Across Life Course
  - Round table 1: Young People in CIS Region – Healthy Lifestyle Across Life Course
  - Round table 2: Coping With Changing Lifestyle and Ensuring Gender Equality Across Life Course
- Session 4 : Round-Table Plenary
- Adoption of the Recommendation and Closing Remarks

On the 28th, participants toured health clinics supported by the Japanese government. Mr. Hideki Tanabe, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Tajikistan Office, and others gave a briefing, and health care professionals expressed appreciation for the support of the Japanese government and the Japanese people. On the 29th, participants visited



the Youth Center administered by the Tajik government in the Shahrinav district about 40 km from Dushanbe, and saw skills training and other activities of young people. Lastly, they visited Hissor Fortress, where they were briefed on the Tajik government’s initiatives to promote youth participation and employment creation in the tourism industry.

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