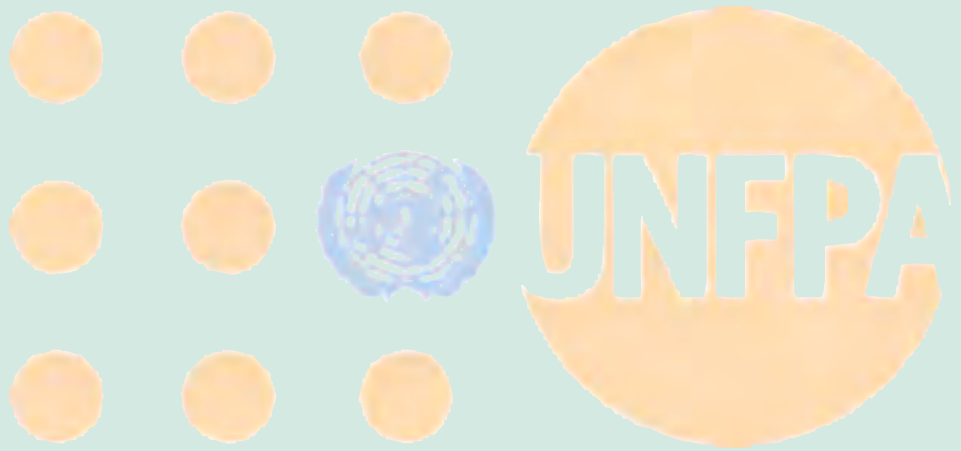


Advocacy Activities
for
Japanese Parliamentarians on Population and Development



**ODA
QUARTERLY
2005
on
Population and Development**



Issued
by
IPPF

Asian Population and Development Association

in cooperation

with

JOICFP and UNFPA Tokyo Office

ODA Quarterly2005

Issued by

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

In cooperation with:

Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tokyo Office

The purpose of this pamphlet is to inform the readers about the contributions and achievements that are being made by Japan in the field of global population problem by way of ODA offered to international organizations such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on a quarterly basis to promote their understanding about the importance of ODA activities.

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

1-5-1-3F Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

TEL: 03-3358-2211 FAX: 03-3358-2233

Email: apdatyoj@gol.com

Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

Hoken Kaikan Shinkan

1-10 Shinjuku Ichigaya Tamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843

TEL: 03-3268-5875 FAX: 03-3235-7090

Email: info@joicfp.or.jp

URL:<http://www.joicfp.or.jp>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tokyo Office

7F UN House 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

TEL: 03-5467-4684 FAX: 03-5467-8556

Email: unfpa@cronos.ocn.ne.jp

URL:<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>

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**Population/Development Issue and
Parliamentarian Activities**

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IX. Damage from the Sumatra Earthquake/Tsunami and Population

On December 26 of last year 2004, one of the biggest earthquakes in history registering 9 on the Richter scale occurred off the northern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia and the reports of damage from the tsunami are expanding by the minute. It is estimated to result in unprecedented damage with the number of missing and dead exceeding 300,000 and affecting more than 5 million people. It is seen as a typical plate earthquake as the region was on the periphery of the Sunda block. It created a massive seabed movement and generated an enormous tsunami that caused far greater damage than the direct damage from the earthquake.

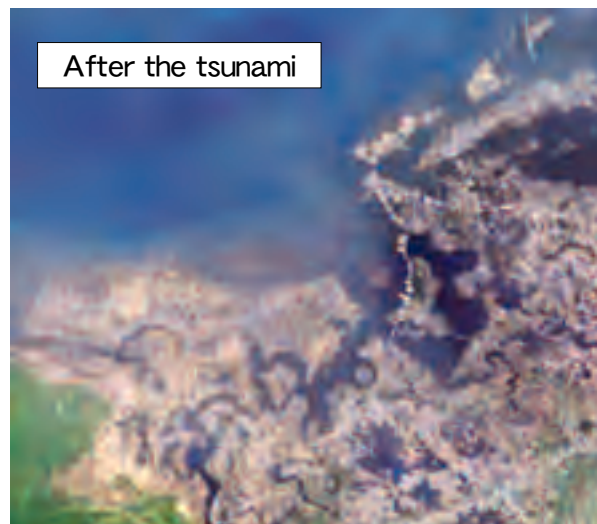


Photo: CRISP, National University of Singapore

(The coast of Special Territory of Aceh. Almost the entire flatland suffered damage from the tsunami and land subsidence is occurring.)

The tsunami crossed the Indian Ocean at a speed comparable to a jet plane of more than 700 kilometres per hour and brought damage to Sri Lanka and India. Sri Lanka in particular suffered the second largest damage after Indonesia.

The Japanese Government decided to offer 500 million dollars in emergency relief. Things are starting to show signs of international competition as even North Korea, a country suffering from severe food shortage and receiving food assistance, offered an assistance of 150,000 dollars.

Many issues presented by this tsunami disaster come to surface when seen from the viewpoint of population. Let us take a look at these population-related issues that emerged from the tsunami disaster.

As can be seen in the photo on the previous page, the magnitude of damage caused by the tsunami can be identified on satellite image. Since concentration of population in coastal regions is a relatively new phenomenon in Southeast Asia, an earthquake of similar

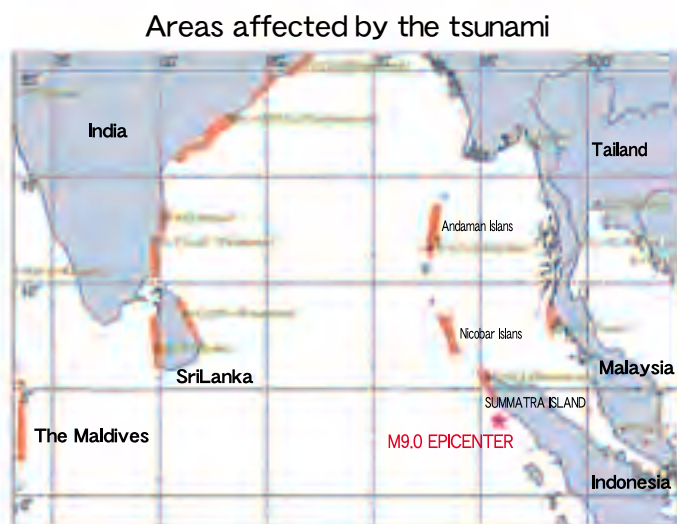
magnitude would not have caused the scale of damage brought by this quake had it occurred in the 18th century. It is said that population density had traditionally been high in the uplands and few people lived in the coastal regions of Southeast Asia. In fact, historical cities of Sri Lankan dynasty such as Anuradhapura and Kandy were located in the mountains and the cities were not built on the coast until the 19th century. Going back further in time, everyone in Thailand believes that the Thais, who are the dominant ethnic group in Thailand, came from Xishuangbanna in the Guangxi Autonomous Region of China via Laos. In other words, population in the relatively cool and dry mountain region increased in Southeast Asia and people did not move to lowlands until the carrying capacity of the mountains declined.

The greatest reason behind limited inhabitation in lowlands until the modern era is said to be the existence of infectious diseases. Lowlands did not offer comfortable living environment due to existence of pests and poisonous snakes in addition to risk of fatal infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue. Indeed, mortality rate was allegedly high and it is a well-known fact in Sri Lanka that population grew rapidly as soon as mortality declined after malaria mosquitoes were killed off by DDT spraying after the World War II.

In other words, concentration of population in the regions struck by the recent tsunami mainly occurred in the second half of the 20th century and the population of Southeast Asia grew rapidly in the coastal regions over this short period of time. Having experienced a large influx of population resulting from rapid population increase, these regions were inhabited by large number of poor people mostly living in simple barracks. This is the context in which the tsunami occurred.

1. Ethic Issues and Damage Control

Aceh Province of Indonesia and eastern Sri Lanka, which are areas that suffered the greatest damage, are both conflict-affected regions with ethnic separatist movement. As a result, the governments are experiencing difficulty in grasping the magnitude of damage and providing adequate support to regions where such support is most needed.



Ordinary international cooperation is being offered to the governments of disaster-affected countries, but this existing framework would not function properly in each area.

Ethnic issues cannot be solved easily. People become emotional and lose their level judgment when ethnicity is involved. An important point in dealing with international disaster is to protect the basic human rights of the people suffering from

damage and offer assistance needed from a humanitarian point of view, not to deal with ethnic issues. The Japanese Government has decided to offer assistance centred around U.N. and the need for framework of such U.N.-based multilateral aid has been renewed.

This tsunami disaster is starting to show signs of international competition over relief activities with a number of countries of the world rushing to send their emergency relief goods. There are mounting problems that must be addressed urgently such as human trafficking and orphans, removal of land mines, emergency medical relief and recovery of livelihood. We must not forget that people in socially vulnerable position suffer the most under these emergency situations. This is indicated by the fact that the number of child victims far exceeded the figure initially estimated in this earthquake. Emergency assistance in the area of population is also needed to protect women under emergency as occurrence of unwanted pregnancy owing to rape and shortage of family planning supplies would create serious problems for the future. Detailed and comprehensive measures are needed for this reason.

At the same time, we feel a strong sense of crisis in the present situation where assistance is offered when natural disaster is in the news but becomes scarce when it is not. The same is true for conflicts and wars. For instance, it is an undeniable fact that international interest in Afghanistan has waned after the war broke out in Iraq despite the efforts made by those involved. It is not the result of decline in number of people actually needing assistance in Afghanistan or substantial improvement in the country's condition. It goes without saying that ODA is part of diplomacy and that it must contribute to national interest and security through such process. However, we must keep in mind that it could take the efforts in the field of population and development that had finally begun back to square one if donors rush to offer assistance as if it were some competition when the issue is in the news but completely ignore it when it is not in the news. Going back to square one would give rise to a vicious cycle of increase in unwanted pregnancy, rapid population growth, spreading of poverty and increased likelihood of terrorism that may become a destabilizing factor in the international community. We should by all means move in the direction of increasing the well-being of the world through stabilization of the international community. In this sense, there is a pressing need to clarify the scheme of fundamental assistance based on long-term strategy and rigorously promote such scheme. In this context, it would be a very efficient strategy for Japan to contribute to the solution of global population problem by making use of her experience and advantage.

2. New century of International Cooperation

Although glimmered with signs of political spectacle, assistance efforts for the tsunami also offered new ray of hope. There has never been a case in disasters of any scale where assistance was offered on a global scale. As indicated prominently by the fact that a large number of tourists, mainly from northern Europe were involved in the tsunami disaster, "problem of distant land" no longer exists on this Earth. It reflected the present condition

in which all countries of the world are becoming a player as members of this small planet.

Strong demands are being made to Japan to increase her ODA contribution in the process of aiming to obtain a permanent seat in the Security Council of the United Nations. They call for Japan to meet the responsibility worthy of her status. In reality, it is not easy for Japan to increase her contribution due to serious financial condition of the country. However, Japan must become more strongly aware of the fact that “peace and stability in the world are the source of affluence” because the country’s wealth was built through trade after World War II. Overall development of the economy is not possible amidst expanding social uncertainties from conflicts and wars. We must remind ourselves once again that realizing peace leads to expansion of the market that serves as the foundation of profit and that prosperity is realized as a result. Japan should once again become conscious of the international assistance laid at the base of the country’s prosperity.

X. Population Problem in Emergency

As mentioned in the previous issue, Indonesia has been hit with one of the largest tsunami disasters in history. The tsunami went across the Indian Ocean and also caused serious damage to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. International support system has been organized to cope with this disaster and reconstruction is under way. However, a large aftershock occurred just recently as if it were trying to catch up to these efforts and further expanded the damage. Many people are consequently suffering damage with no means of resisting the enormous power of nature. This issue will pick up where we left off in the previous issue to dwell on the relationship between population problem, natural disasters and human disasters including international and domestic conflicts.

1. Disaster and Population

Population problem is a problem that must be approached from a very long-term viewpoint. Population has profound effect on vast array of global problems including environment, food security, economic development and employment as the root of these problems. For instance, what is the significance of high population growth rate that is continuing in Africa today? It is a case in which the difficulty of population problem is manifested. Needless to say, everyone is a baby when he or she is born into this world. If you have the warmth of your mother and rest of the family, adequate nutrition and hygienic environment, there is nothing else that you desire. However, you do not remain a baby forever. After 20 years or so, you will need everything that an adult needs including employment. This is an important fact that becomes a key factor in understanding the population problem. It means that a large amount of investment is needed over the period of these 20 years. For instance, the children that are born must be educated and the economy must become active enough to hire them after they graduate. A very contradicting and difficult response of increasing food production while preserving the environment must also be taken. The majority of regions that are currently experiencing high population growth rate are regions that used to have very high mortality rate due to infectious diseases such as malaria and waterborne infectious diseases. This high mortality rate was offsetting the high fertility rate in the past. There were also cases where fertility had been socially controlled by incorporating late marriage and non-marriage into the social system. Introduction of modern technology and values into these communities reduced their mortality and increased their fertility, resulting in rapid population increase.

A sober look at the present condition of Africa gives rise to a question of whether it would be possible to create employment within the next 20 years for the children that are being born now. One thing we know for sure is that, even if it were possible, it would be a difficult choice when one examines whether it can be realized while preserving the environment. Economic management alternates between optimism and despair based on

day-to-day profit. A long-range planning for such extended period of time is not always practical even for national economic policy. However, population determines the framework of our society in spans of 20, 50 and 100 years. Large-scale natural and human-made disasters have significant impact on this population structure in units of 100 years.

2. Conflict and Population

Typical examples of conflicts affecting population structure over an extended period of time can be found in our country Japan. The root cause of serious concern over falling birthrate and aging population that Japan currently faces goes back 60 years to the country's policy during and after World War II. Population growth was encouraged during the war under the slogan "Beget and Multiply." Then the war ended and many people had children, finding hope for the future in the sound of postwar reconstruction. This gave rise to baby-boomers who are now entering their retirement age. Japan's social structure changed thereafter amidst rapid economic growth, as the status of children changed from being an "asset" that contributes to labour force to a "liability" that requires large amount of investment for education. This is said to be the cause of the low birthrate that exists today.

The impact of World War II will continue to exert great impact on Japanese society for a more than 100 years. As this fact does not mix well with the economic policy formulated by the government, it becomes all the more important for parliamentarians to devise policies from a long-term viewpoint for the future of our country.

3. Emergency Measures

As we have seen, natural disasters and conflicts have major impact on population. Needless to say, emergency measures will become necessary for short-term impact in addition to measures addressing long-term impact. The performance of Japan's emergency relief team in the tsunami disaster won high international acclaim. The people that suffered damage cannot live without water, food, medical appliances, fuel and housing. There is also a sad reality of vulnerable people being the hardest hit people in emergency situation. Cooperation across national borders is needed to deal with these problems as they cannot be fully addressed by the framework of ordinary administrative system. Strong support of parliamentarians is needed within the country as they are able to work beyond ministerial interest. On the regional level, it is necessary to promote mutual cooperation based on trust by increasing the efficiency of assistance offered by respective countries. This is where the will of parliamentarians becomes indispensable because of their independence from the government.

In Japan, Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) organized by supra-party parliamentarians has been working actively to solve the population problems and attain sustainable development. Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

serves as its secretariat and held the 21st Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 29 and 30 of April in 2004 on the theme of “Population in Emergency.” Various discussions took place at this meeting with regard to the present status and future of international assistance for the tsunami disaster and the role played by parliamentarians in such assistance. The role of parliamentarians will be examined in concrete terms in the next issue based on the results of this meeting.

Call for Parliamentarians in Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) Activities

Dr. Taro Nakayama
Chairperson, JPFP

Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) has been engaged in international activities as the first parliamentary group formed on the issue of population and development in the world in 1974. JPFP carries much influence in the international community thanks to its achievements thus far and offers one of the few venues for Japanese parliamentarians to project their opinion to rest of the world. Former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi served as the founding chairperson, followed by former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda as the second chairperson and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe as the third chairperson. I took office as a fourth chairperson in 1991.

It was through the activities of JPFP that significant results including establishment of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), a parliamentary federation for the Asian region, Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), a parliamentary federation for the African and Arab region, and Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD) were attained.

The parliamentary federation for the Asian region has historically been chaired by the board members of JPFP. Former Agricultural Minister Takashi Sato took office as the founding chairperson, followed by Councillor Shin Sakurai and Representative Yoshio Yatsu who were appointed as second and third chairperson, respectively. In 2005, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda become the fourth chairperson.

JPFP has been taking initiatives in a broad range of international activities. In 1984, JPFP hosted the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population

and Development (ICPPD) alongside the International Population Conference in Mexico City. Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda served as the honorary chairperson at this conference. JPFP also organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) concurrently with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. Then AFPPD Chairperson Shin Sakurai served as secretary general of this conference. JPFP continued to sponsor parliamentary conferences alongside international governmental conferences such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) and the World Food Summit (WFS) and projected the views of parliamentarians from around the world to intergovernmental conferences. Tangible results including the conclusion of parliamentary meeting being reflected directly in the U.N. General Assembly document were attained at the ICPD+5 conference in 1999. At the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD) held in Strasbourg, France in 2004, AFPPD Chairperson Yoshio Yatsu served as the chairperson of the drafting committee and put together the Strasbourg Declaration.

Population and sustainable development is an issue that determines the future of humankind. The direct purpose of addressing the population problems does not lie in reducing population. Rather its purpose is to assist in such a way that would enable each and every person that was born to live with human dignity and live out their lives as human beings.

Parliamentarians have been elected directly by their constituents and are participating in national politics to reflect their views. In this sense, they play the role of connecting people with government and expressing their opinions on the implementation of budget from an independent perspective. Parliamentarians are therefore in the position of seeking the welfare of people from a long-term viewpoint instead of seeking immediate profit. This is another reason behind the great significance of parliamentary involvement in solution of issues related to population and sustainable development.

I would like to call for participation of parliamentarians in our activities that have produced results around the world. And to those that are already our members, I would like to ask for your assistance in appealing participation among your colleagues.

XI. First Tsunami Inspection Report

On December 26 of 2004, one of the biggest earthquakes in history struck Indonesia. The tsunami resulting from this earthquake crossed the Indian Ocean and inflicted enormous damage in India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and reached as far as Somalia in Africa. Representatives of Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF) conducted the tsunami damage inspection tour of Phuket, Thailand, Malaysia and Banda Aceh, Indonesia from May 1 to 8 as an Asian Population and Development Association Program with funding from UNFPA/Japan Trust Fund. The members consisted of Mr. Shin Sakurai (Councillor, LDP, Vice Chairperson JPPF), Ms. Kayoko Shimizu (Councillor, LDP, Secretary General JPPF) and Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama (Representative, DPJ, Secretary JPPF)

As can be seen from the schedule, the inspection team was able to visit Phuket Province and Phang Nga Province in Thailand and Banda Aceh in Indonesia under a very tight schedule. This substantial inspection was realized in such short period of time thanks to the full cooperation of UNFPA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Sumatra Earthquake/Tsunami Inspection Tour Schedule (2005)

May	Destination
1 (Sun)	Phnom Penh ⇔ Bangkok ⇔ Phuket/ Phang Nga Province
2 (Mon)	Phuket ⇔ Bangkok
3 (Tue)	Bangkok ⇔ Kuala Lumpur
4 (Wed)	Kuala Lumpur ⇔ Medan
5 (Thu)	Medan ⇔ Banda Aceh ⇔ Jakarta
6 (Fri)	Jakarta
7 (Sat)	Depart Jakarta
8 (Sun)	Arrive Narita

1. Purpose of Inspection

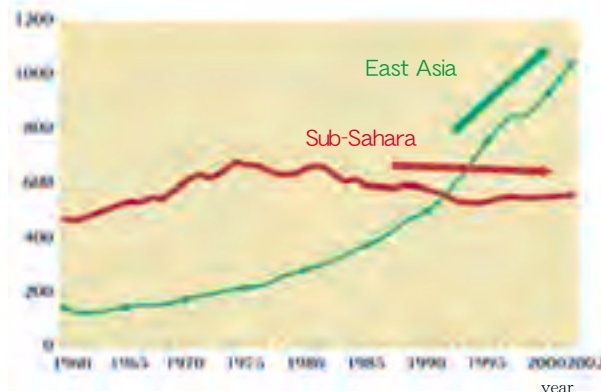
More impressive than anything else was the fact that emergency relief activities of Japan which was offered promptly before other countries for the tsunami damage had been highly appreciated. Japan's initial reaction and readiness of fund release enabled prompt response not only in bilateral assistance but also in multilateral assistance that was offered via international organizations and had been received with amazement by U.N. organizations and other related institutions. One could say that it was the result of effort that Japan made in integrated response against disasters by making use of her

experience in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. In the case of Phuket, Japan's Self-Defense Forces arrived for relief activities 2 days later from the Indian Ocean (off the coast of Malaysia) based on the Emergency Aid Dispatch Act. As Self-Defense Forces vessels were in exercise, they were carrying helicopters that played an active role in recovery of bodies. Maritime Self-Defense Forces were followed by the bright red helicopter of the Tokyo Hyper-Rescue Team (consisting of members from Fire Defense Agency, National Police Agency and Maritime Self-Defense Forces) and worked through the night to send in equipment and rescue the survivors. In addition, the medical unit of the International Disaster Relief Team arrived on the scene on December 30, 2004 and made significant results by treating 600 persons at their mobile clinic.

Being a region with active independence movement, entry of foreigners to Banda Aceh was severely restricted. For this reason, pilots had to fly by contact and check that there are no cattle on the runway prior to landing at the Banda Aceh Airport before the tsunami disaster occurred. Japan sent a JICA air control system expert in Jakarta to Banda Aceh after receiving the initial report of the tsunami disaster in preparation for receiving the supplies that have passed the entry formalities in Medan. In this sense, it was a form of assistance that Japan can be very proud of as it created the system for receiving emergency relief goods from overseas.

Thailand and Malaysia appreciated assistance from Japan but carried out reconstruction work on their own in terms of finance. It shows that these countries gained national strength as a result of the support Japan offered through ODA for the efforts made by respective countries.

GNP per capita (in US dollars at 1995 value)



Source: Monthly ODA News, June Edition

Asia lagged considerably behind African countries after World War II in terms of GDP per capita but attained enormous success and has surpassed them by far today. There is not doubt that ODA from Japan played a leading role in such success. ODA offered towards population problem via international organizations including UNFPA and IPPF played a part in such success.

ODA supported by taxpayer money made enormous contribution to the promotion of welfare in Asia. As Japan no longer became the only donor in Asia as a result of this success, it will be necessary for Japan to offer cooperation from an equal footing with the countries that were aid-receivers and make efforts to make the position of Japan even more friendly and profound than before. We have become keenly aware of the need to dispel stereotypes and come up with a new form of cooperation.

The summary of areas visited by the inspection party is as follows.

2. Phuket

While it was reported in Japan as if the entire region had been hit by the tsunami, there were areas in Phuket that hardly suffered damage. Reconstruction has advanced considerably as a result of all-out efforts made by the Thai Government to rehabilitate this foremost tourist attraction in the country. The phase has now shifted from emergency rehabilitation to livelihood recovery, and the greatest assistance in the present phase would be the return of



Presentation of fishing net

Japanese tourists. The inspection party visited the sites of livelihood recovery and medical assistance for fishers implemented by a local NGO named World Vision Thailand (WVF-T) as a project supported by the Japanese Government. The greatest assistance for these fishers who have lost the means of subsistence is to provide means for recovering their livelihood. The Japanese Government contributed funds to WVF-T to support provision of fishing net and repair of fishing boats in addition to supporting medical institutions and implementing reproductive health-related programs in cooperation with UNFPA. Utilizing NGOs was the most efficient way to offer assistance as NGOs in Thailand are developed and have high responding capacity.

3. Banda Aceh

An area devastated like a blast centre continued for 3 kilometres from the coast. The tsunami reached 20 to 30 metres in height and reminded people of the movie “Day After Tomorrow”. A power generation vessel weighing more than 2,000 tons that had been anchored offshore was washed 3.2 kilometres inland and lays its massive hull on the ground. Banda Aceh was first hit by a violent tremor of intensity 7 and the people that went outside of their houses after the quake passed were immediately hit by the impetuous tsunami. There was no room for prevention or response. It showed how powerless we human beings are in the face of violent natural disaster. Assistance from Japan was also highly appreciated here. Many people were grateful about the activities of the emergency relief team, medical team and nurse team that helped with the recovery of bodies.



Distribution of basic hygiene kit

Among many forms of assistance offered by Japan, instruction given by the Japanese Government to be “aware of women’s needs” and distribution of “basic hygiene kit” which was implemented in the emergency assistance offered through UNFPA were highly rated in the field of population and reproductive health. The system for birth assistance had been lost in

Banda Aceh after the Family Planning Association Hospital was destroyed and many doctors and nurses were killed by the disaster. But new life keeps coming into this world amidst these conditions. Construction of emergency child delivery stations with assistance of IPPF and JOICPF to cope with these needs was another noteworthy assistance.

4. Existing Challenges

Despite reports about trafficking and sexual violence in Phuket and Banda Aceh occurring after the tsunami, it was confirmed at the meeting with local media that such incidents did not take place. Once a rumour is circulated, it spreads with all kinds of exaggeration and no one takes responsibility regardless of the damage it causes. It was reported that high rate of mortality among women and children in Phuket was attributable to low status of women but it appears that it was not necessarily the case. They got caught in the disaster at the beach where they went to catch fish when the tide quickly went out before the tsunami. Biases and harmful rumours are important issues in this sense. Identification of bodies using DNA test still continues and accurate sex ratio among the victims remains to be unknown.

An important issue in the field of reproductive health in Phuket at present is the measure for Myanmar labourers that were victimized by the disaster. It is said that there are 70,000 labourers from Myanmar in Phuket Province alone in contrast to the mere 14,000 that are registered. Unregistered illegal labourers are in distressful condition as they are not eligible for assistance. While prevention programs are available for commercial sex workers (mostly consisting of Thais), measures are insufficient for indirect sex workers that occasionally engage in prostitution (often consisting of Myanmar). Additional assistance is needed in this area.

Banda Aceh is a region where independence movement is in progress and entry of foreigners to this region is still very restricted. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was forced to leave Banda Aceh upon completion of the 3-month emergency aid phase. U.N. organizations other than UNHCR such as World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are scheduled to leave by December 2005.

While it was not possible to prevent the violent natural disaster that struck Banda Aceh, there are matters that can be improved through our effort. It goes without saying that conflicts between countries and ethnic groups are the greatest obstacle of in modern society. In particular, poverty increases in regions



Disaster area in Banda Aceh

where with armed conflict accompanied by deterioration of social order as they do not attract investment which, in turn, reduces employment opportunities. Ethnic minority issues and historical resentments become increasingly radical in the vicious cycle and expand the chain reaction of conflicts and hinder the development. It would not be easy to improve women's health, expand women's choices and introduce family planning (which is the basic requirement for stabilizing regional stability) in such environment.

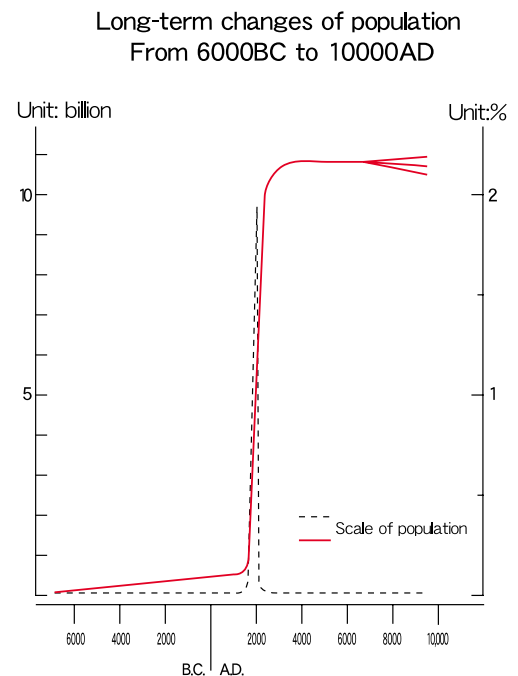
5. Future Measures

A strong achievement-oriented climate currently exists in the field of ODA today with ODA projects shifting towards those that can produce concrete results in short period of time. As a result, research projects studying the local situation are diminishing in scale and number. However, given the fact that ethnic and regional conflicts pose greatest risk to the modern society, proper implementation of ODA is not possible without understanding their structure. For this reason, a greater need exists for research on fundamental socioeconomic structure than for feasibility study. Proper assistance and risk management are not possible without such accurate information.

After the emergency phase, livelihood reconstruction assistance must be considered in conjunction with development. For this purpose, it would be important to incorporate the viewpoint of investment for regional development into livelihood reconstruction assistance, which means that it will be necessary to offer employment to disaster victims at the same time as reconstruction so that they can earn income. In the case of infrastructure reconstruction, it would be necessary in particular to devise a reconstruction plan that would serve as the base for post-reconstruction, support self-reliant reconstruction and have a spillover effect of further investment. In the field of population and reproductive health, the work currently performed by international organizations will be taken over by local NGOs. UNFPA and other international organizations have been making efforts to strengthen local NGOs for this reason. Concern exists over complete withdrawal of international organizations from Banda Aceh considering the fact that it is a region of ethnic conflict. However, delegation of reconstruction activities to local NGOs indeed means creation of new employment in the region. Continuation of livelihood reconstruction assistance using locally-procurable materials in such reconstruction process is very important from the viewpoint of spillover effect as well. In this sense, it would be necessary to actively pay close attention to whether the assistance is being offered effectively without interfering with domestic affairs so that reconstruction would advance in full-scale and local ethnic issues would be alleviated. In short, a forward-looking assistance is needed.

XII. Modern Day Significance of Population and Development Issues

Measures against declining birthrate and aging society have become an urgent necessity in Japan. This problem, which had already been expected since almost 30 years ago, inevitably occurs with the advancement of demographic transition from high fertility/high mortality to low fertility/low mortality. Japan is currently experiencing the most rapid aging in the world. However, aging in China will take place at twice this speed in the near future. Leadership in China must be giving serious thoughts about how to support this elderly population. While population is generally regarded as a humanitarian issue separate from international politics and international relations, population exercises decisive influence on the society of every country, directly involved in nation's politics and has clear impact on international relations.



Source: Jonas Salk, 1985 pp.238

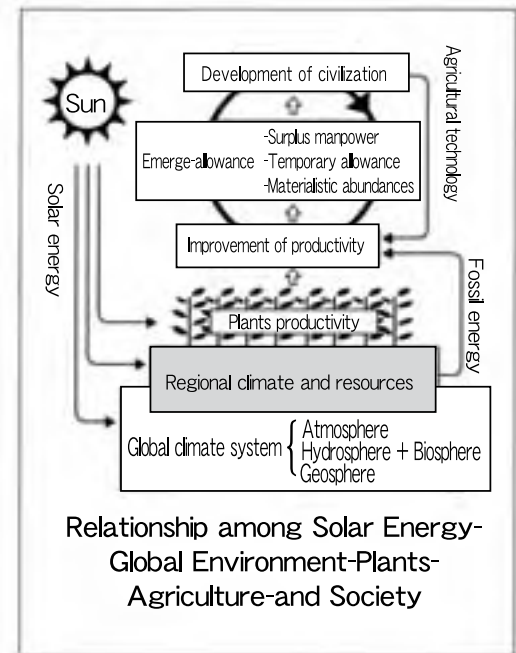
In Japan, awareness about population problem in terms of population increase in some parts of the world has waned considerably with increase of interest in declining birthrate and aging society of Japan. However, the relationship between carrying capacity of the global environment and population is the first item on the agenda when dwelling on the problem of population because we cannot survive beyond the limits of our Mother Earth. Let us take a look at this problem from this point of view.

The figure at above is a graph showing long-term changes in population by Jones Salk. One can see that population had remained at a very low level for a very long time. From the viewpoint of animal ecology, it is said that maximum number that large mammals like humans can exist on this planet without destroying the environment is only 10 million to 20 million.

But we have been increasing the population carrying capacity through accumulation of various discoveries and inventions such as use of fire, invention of agriculture and use of fossil energy. Solar energy is the energy that can be used permanently by all life on the planet including humans. This solar energy is fixed by plants and used by all animals.

We humans live by using this energy. Fossil energy such as petroleum and coal that support our livelihood are also solar energy from the past. World population is

approaching 6.5 billion today. How much solar energy are we humans using? And how far into the future will we be able to expand our population and economy? There are many ways to calculate this and there is no absolutely accurate method of estimation. However, a calculation using the Ecological Footprint method concluded that we have already exceeded the limit in the early 1970s. How should we cope with this situation? Should we create a dog-eat-dog world in which only the strongest dominates everything? That should not be the answer. Addressing the population problem is a process for creating a society in which people can live with humanly dignity.



1. Role of Japanese Parliamentarians

In 1974, former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi who was keenly aware of the importance of population problem called for establishment of Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF). It was the first non-partisan parliamentary group in the world for addressing the issue of population and development. The activities of JFPF led to establishment of Asian



ICPPD Opening Ceremony

Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), a network of parliamentary groups working on population and development issues in Asia, by former Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Takashi Sato. A decision was made at the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) (Cairo Parliamentarian Conference), which was held in conjunction with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, to start a parliamentary forum on population and development in the Africa/Arab region in response to a call from then ICPPD/AFPPD chairperson Shin Sakurai. Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD) was established in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1997 and was followed by the establishment of Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD) to cover the European region.

It is worthy of special mention that Japanese parliamentarians are responsible for creation of all parliamentary federations existing in the world today except for America. Japan is often criticized for not having sufficient voice in the international community comparable to her economic capacity and contribution. However, Japan's leadership is highly valued and her accomplishments are respected by the world in the field of parliamentary activities on population and development.

Such activities organically combined with Japan's ODA and demonstrated large influence on the international community. The fact that policies were reviewed mainly by JPFP, a voluntary parliamentary organization, and that these policies had significant impact on the international community deserves credit from the viewpoint of leadership demonstrated by Japanese politics in the world.

2. Importance of Japan's ODA

It remains true today when Japan makes international contribution that peaceful contribution is the area in which Japan has attained most results and has comparative advantage. ODA for population problems is an important area that completely coincides with the concept of human security which serves as the basis of Japan's ODA strategy. As ODA is implemented using the Japanese taxpayers' money, the most important criterion when parliamentarians consider ODA is whether they can explain the outcome to the people. ICPPD Conference in Cairo was attended by about 300 parliamentarians from 117 countries that gathered in response to invitation from AFPPD chaired by Japan. This conference, which was a great success, demonstrated the importance and interest that parliamentarians attach to these issues.

Considering the impact of Japan on international community, it is necessary to reiterate that the deep involvement of Japanese parliamentarians in the population problems would result in extremely high cost-effectiveness through "improvement of health for individual women and children," "creation of possibility for long-term coexistence with global environment" and "retention of voice in the international community based on previous achievements."

In reality, however, Japan's influence continues to decline by the year at the backdrop of relative decrease in her contributions towards population problems offered in the form of ODA. For instance, Japan had maintained the position



International Parliamentarians' Conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (IPC) held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

of being the largest contributor for many years to UNFPA, an organization with most extensive activities worldwide. However, Japan was surpassed by Netherlands and receded to second place as ODA budget was cut back due to fiscal restructuring and went down further to fifth place in 2005 after being passed by United Kingdom and Sweden. Japan's international presence in the population and development issue that has been built over many years of effort is also being lessened in these circumstances. Parliamentarians have the power to cope with this problem. We hope to make the effort to regain Japan's presence in the international community for the national interest of Japan.

APDA

(Asian Population and Development Association)

1. APDA and its activities

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) offers support to parliamentarians in the area of population and conducts research activities under consignment from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. In addition, APDA plays the role of connecting parliamentarians with government and private sectors through advocacy activities on population and development. APDA's activities are not limited to those within Japan. In addition to supporting the activities of Asian parliamentarians as the Tokyo Office of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), APDA is contributing to activation of international parliamentary activities by working together with parliamentary organizations on population and development in regions including Africa, Arab, Americas and Europe. APDA is also delivering numerous results by maintaining its identity as the research institution in Japan working on the issue of sustainable development. As the environmental problem becomes ever more serious, this may be a good time for all of us to think again about the underlying issues of population and sustainable development.

As the secretariat for Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), APDA also intends to step up its support for parliamentary activities on population and sustainable development which is another important aspect of parliamentary activities concerning population and development. We intend to respond positively to any opinion or request with regard to research and parliamentary activities relating to population and development, including the content of ODA Quarterly. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.



Participants of the 20th APDA Conference
(September 2004 in Almaty, Kazakhstan)

2. APDA and its relationship with JPFP

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) offers support to Japanese parliamentarians as the secretariat of JPFP. APDA also functions as AFPPD's Tokyo office and its chairperson's office.

JPPF is made up of: 1) General Assembly; 2) Executive Meetings; and 3) Working Committees Groups. General Assembly is convened twice a year as the supreme decision-making body by all of its members. Executive Meeting has chairperson, deputy chairperson, vice chairperson, chief secretary and secretary as its members and is convened on an irregular basis. Working Committee group consists of: 1) Committee on International Cooperation; 2) Committee on Domestic Measures; 3) Committee on Global Issues; and 4) Committee on Gender Issues, each consisting of members that are interested in respective issues.

Besides, APDA conducts the following activities through financial assistance from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

- 1) Organization of Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development (commonly known as “APDA Meeting”)
- 2) Dispatch of parliamentarians to Asian countries for inspection of population and development programs in respective countries
- 3) Publication and circulation of newsletter “Population and Development” and “Resource Series” which features various topics of population and development.
- 4) Providing analysis data on population and development in Asian countries upon request from parliamentarians

Contact:

**Asian Population and Development
Association (APDA)**

TEL: +81-3-3358-2211

FAX: +81-3-3358-2233

Email: apda@apda.jp



Inspection of Sumatra Tsunami Disaster Area by members of JPPF organized by APDA

NPO 2050

1. NPO 2050 as a citizen's group

NPO 2050 is a citizen's group that has been formed to build peaceful world and bright future for the children with foresight no later than the year 2050 which is the halfway point of the 21st Century. The group is carrying out enlightenment activities and development assistance by taking up issues related to population and environment around the world. In particular, 2050 is striving to solve global problems through poverty reduction and empowerment of women.



Knitting practice

Understanding among people and vision for world future among politicians are needed for Japan to make meaningful international contributions into the future. For this reason, NPO 2050 is organizing study tours to developing countries and holding workshops on the global population issue for parliamentarians and parliamentarian secretaries so that they can gain first-hand experience of the reality in developing countries. Regarding the population problem, the group is working to educate people by publishing 10 issues of the World Population Bulletin (Japanese) a year and translating an annual Population Reference Bureau (PRB)'s World Population Data Sheet in Japanese version.

2. World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision (medium variant) recently published by the U.N. reveals that: 1) world population will continue to increase from 6.5 billion in 2005 and reach 9.1 billion by 2050; 2) aging of population will advance on a global scale and the number of those aged 60 years and above will increase 2.9 times from the present 670 million (10.4% of world population) and reach 1.97 billion (21.7% of world population) by 2050.

The U.N. has incorporated the impact of HIV/AIDS into this estimate and the number of countries being seriously affected by HIV/AIDS has increased from 34 in the 1998 estimate to 60 in this estimate. Forty of these countries are located in Sub-Saharan Africa, 12 in Central America and 5 in Asia. Deaths caused by AIDS are also shortening the

average life expectancy in many countries; average life expectancy in southern Africa consisting of 5 countries including Botswana (where 36% of adults are HIV positive) and South Africa (where 19% of adults are HIV positive) has dropped from 61 years in 1985-95 period to 48 years in 2000-05 period.

It is affecting the economy and society enormously as many of those that die are men in prime of their life and about half of those infected are women and girls. It has become an issue with ramifications that go well beyond a public health issue and could even be vital to the country's survival.

The 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held in Kobe in July, followed by the U.N. Special Session in September for the fifth-year evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals which aim to reduce the population living in poverty and hunger by half and prevent proliferation of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The situation in Japan is also serious as cumulative total of HIV carriers and AIDS patients has exceeded 10,000. It is our desire that this will be the year in which this problem will be addressed seriously.

3. International AIDS Conference in Kobe:

AIDS is Not a Problem Outside the Country

The 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific was held in Kobe in early July and was attended by approximately 2,750 persons from international organizations, governments, researchers, people living with HIV and NGO members. The conference reminded us of the need for further enhancement of prevention, treatment and care in this region which is home to 60% of the world population.

According to the report presented by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) at the conference, there are 8.4 million HIV carriers and 540,000 died of AIDS in the region as of the end of 2004. UNAIDS warned that, although infection is currently concentrated among commercial sex workers and their customers, drug users using syringe and homosexual men, "HIV may spread to the entire country unless decision action is taken now." UNAIDS also appealed the need for action by presenting its estimate that, while additional 12 million will be infected by 2010 if the measures taken by the government remain at the present level, the number can be reduced by half to 6 million by urgently expanding the HIV/AIDS prevention program.

Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, stressed that "it is essential for measures against AIDS to be taken on the top government level." Meanwhile, UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific regional director Dr. Prasada Rao made reference to the spread of HIV/AIDS among youth and men who have sex with men in Japan and stated that "AIDS is no longer a foreign problem. Today, it is a Japanese problem, as well." It was a statement that made us reaffirm the importance of viewing HIV/AIDS as an imminent problem.

4. Support 40,000 Expectant Mothers Victimized by the Great Earthquake of Pakistan

UNFPA sent 6 visiting medical teams along with medicines, necessities and relief goods to Kashmir region which suffered enormous damage from the Great Earthquake of Pakistan to help the estimated 40,000 expectant mothers in the region. One of these teams delivered 3 babies at a local hospital on the first day in the provincial capital of Muzaffarabad. Female doctors, nurses and maternity nurses of each team are attending to an average of 250 patients a day.

Appropriate medical care, medicines and prenatal care are needed for these women to give birth without anxiety. Mothers and newborn babies require emergency obstetric care in approximately 15% of ordinary birthing cases. UNFPA is concerned that this percentage would increase owing to physical and psychological injuries from the earthquake.

For this reason, UNFPA is asking the international community for cooperation in raising 3.2 million dollars needed to procure maternal healthcare, emergency obstetric care and sanitary supplies. NPO 2050 launched a fund-raising campaign in response to this call. We are sending mails to our 1,200 members and affiliate organizations throughout Japan and asking for their cooperation. Goodwill will be collected and sent to UNFPA.

JOICFP

(Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning)

1. JOICFP commences emergency reconstruction assistance

Indonesia

More than 220,000 people were killed or went missing in Indonesia as a result of the Asian tsunami, December 2004. According to the information from the Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA), two maternity clinics were swept away by the tsunami with many other houses and buildings in Aceh Province, northern Sumatra where the damage was the most devastating. Several clinic staff engaged in community service also have gone missing. In addition, heavy rain that fell immediately after the tsunami brought further damage to the disaster-stricken region. The clinics were offering safe childbirth services as well as reproductive health services, including infant care, and these important facilities that played a central role in these services were lost. Implementation of community service also became impossible, as branch offices were lost. Staff and volunteers that escaped the damage formed an emergency medical team to help the disaster survivors. Medical teams also arrived from the neighbouring provinces of Medan and West Sumatra. Furthermore, teams comprised of doctors, paramedics, social workers and psychiatrists were formed at the disaster site. Family planning services were also offered to provide sanitary items, contraceptives and other items. These teams immediately got to work and set up a tent for an emergency obstetric clinic in a severely damaged district. Aceh had literally turned into a town of death but the dedication of each and every team member enabled the relief activities to continue. However, there is still a need for further assistance as the team members have been pushed to their limits. Support teams have arrived from the Jakarta office, but the activities for saving mothers and children have just begun.



Devastated maternity clinic (Aceh, Indonesia)
(Photo courtesy of IPPA)

Sri Lanka

There were many reports of child abuse, sexual violence and rape at evacuation camps in Sri Lanka, where more than 30,000 people were killed or have gone missing. The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) did not suffer damage to its building and immediately started offering medical services and counseling activities to disaster victims. The focus of their activities is in offering services related to emergency contraceptive methods and psychological counseling. Being a family planning association, FPASL is also paying attention to offering services in the areas of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS caused by sexual violence. Intense

reproductive health and rights-related problems are occurring frequently amidst extreme confusion at these camps, partly due to tension between ethnic groups. There is a need for further assistance, especially with consideration for women, in addition to emergency assistance for food and drinking water.

Assistance offered by JOICFP

In light of these conditions, JOICFP is extending emergency assistance as well as assistance needed during the transition period of recovery. JOICFP is utilizing its limited funds to support the initiatives of its partners from various countries of the world that are working in the area of reproductive health and rights. In addition, we have launched a campaign in Japan to call for support towards our relief work.



A village that disappeared overnight (Southern Province of Sri Lanka) (Photo courtesy of FPASL)

2. The challenge lies in realizing policy reflecting each and every person's voice-Beijing+10 Conference

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women at which the Beijing Platform for Action advocating gender equality was adopted with the agreement of 189 countries. A conference commemorating Beijing+10 was held in early March at U.N. Headquarters, New York.

This conference was originally intended to become a place to reaffirm the documents from the conference a decade ago and confirming progress up to now as well as the efforts that are being made for the next step. A political declaration for reconfirming the efforts that are being made in the world had been prepared for this reason. However, the United States, which is further increasing its conservative tendencies, demanded an amendment of the reaffirmation section of the Beijing Platform for Action's political declaration draft.

The draft amendment submitted by the U.S. sought to reaffirm that the Beijing Platform for Action "... do not create new international human rights and do not include the right to abortion." As is widely known, the Beijing Platform for Action does not promote abortion and this has been affirmed by governments, including that of the U.S., in 1995. The overall consensus was that it is not the time to carry a discussion based on the unique values of one country when "gender equality" is far from becoming a reality after 10 years have elapsed. Furthermore, this inequality continues to place a large burden on women in developing countries today. Concerned about this move by the U.S., the NGO community joined hands and carried out vigorous advocacy activities.

Caucus, a network of NGOs, plays a large role in international conferences. It is where information is exchanged and countermeasures are taken against proceedings of

intergovernmental conferences. In this case, the network announced a statement on behalf of NGOs that the language of reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action should remain as it is in response to the proposed amendment of political announcements by the U.S. Experience and capacity for understanding what kind of venue the U.N. is and where the most important points lie, obtaining information from the governments and taking action in line with the situation, are needed to get to this point. The action taken by these veterans from the West where the relationships and methods of communication between governments and NGOs are different was quite impressive.

Health and the rights of women were discussed and a document to be affirmed and adopted by the U.N. was prepared amidst such maneuvering. What was called into question is how to go about delivering the voices of each and every one of us to the policy decision level as it exerts influence on the domestic policy of each country and affects the implementation process of the Platform for Action. It also poses a great challenge for Japan because of the important role the country plays in the international community.



Plenary session filled with women

3. JOICFP Sumatra Earthquake/

Tsunami Assistance: Maternal Clinic Reconstruction Project

A mountain of rubble continued for several kilometres along the coast in the city of Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Places that used to be residential areas before the disaster are no longer what they used to be after the houses were swept away. Seawater that the tsunami brought in remained as puddles and was releasing a foul odour as the water stagnated. Sanitary conditions in the city appeared to be quite poor. A faint stench of death was there, presumably from the missing people that were buried under the rubble.

The Indonesia Family Planning Association's Aceh branch office and maternal clinic were being rebuilt by assistance from JOICFP. The clinic building survived, but sediment

poured into the building and medical equipment was washed away by the tsunami. According to the maternity nurse who was on duty, “The tsunami came about 30 minutes after the earthquake. I went outside because I heard a roar from the coast and saw the tsunami rushing in. There was a Caesarean birth just before this, so I helped evacuate the mother who had just gone through an operation to the second floor of the clinic and then carried the baby upstairs. The first floor was flooded immediately after that. We managed to save the mother and her baby but the entire neighbourhood was hit by the tsunami and there was nothing we could do for the people that have been washed away from the surrounding houses and were asking for help.”



Children at many primary schools in Banda Aceh are in need of psychological care

A wide-range of mid-term assistance, including psychological care for children and creation of income generating activities for women’s groups, is needed in addition to assistance related to health and hygiene, so that the people in the disaster-stricken areas can rebuild their normal lives and regain their mental and physical health. JOICFP is planning to continue its multidimensional assistance in addition to reconstruction of the clinic and office.

4. 2005 World Summit: For Further Advancement of Millennium Development Goals

The 2005 World Summit was held for 3 days from 14th to 16th of September at the U.N. Headquarters in New York and was attended by heads of state and government representatives from more than 150 countries. At the Summit, attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-which were prepared based on the agreement reached at the Millennium Summit five years ago in September 2000-was examined and a global commitment towards their future promotion was reconfirmed.

NGOs from around the world that are promoting reproductive health and rights carried out active advocacy activities for the World Summit in various countries. Their purpose was to include “securing universal access to reproductive health and rights by 2015” in MDGs. Existing MDGs consist of 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators. However, none of them contains dissemination of reproductive health and rights. In other words, no reference is being made to reproductive health and rights, which is one of the most fundamental and important activities in promotion of health when the entire world is trying to concentrate development efforts toward the attainment of MDGs.

JOICFP, APDA and NPO 2050 called upon other organizations concerned and submitted a petition to Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Machimura, asking for clear declaration in the Japanese representative’s speech of the commitment to continue the

promotion of various policies towards realization of universal access to reproductive health and rights for complete implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development. The petition won the support of many NGOs.

Inclusion of “Securing access to reproductive health” in the outcome document

Unfortunately, Prime Minister Koizumi’s speech, which was limited to 5 minutes, focused on declaration of Japan’s wish to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and U.N. reform, and did not reflect our desires. However, the outcome document of the summit, 40 pages long in English, contained “securing universal access to reproductive health by 2015” (Paragraph 57 (g)) and confirmation of "equal access to reproductive health" as a means for promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination (Paragraph 58 (c)).



For women’s health (Cambodia)

In a message addressed to NGOs around the world, Thoraya Obaid, Director, UNFPA, thanked them for the series of actions that led to the reference securing universal access to reproductive health being included in the outcome document, saying it was a major victory. She also reiterated the need for NGOs all over the world to work with UNFPA in reviewing MDGs based on this outcome document so that securing universal access to reproductive health would be included as an indicator.

UNFPA Tokyo Office

1. Towards enhancing our response to victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

Many women including pregnant women and girls fell victim to the Indian Ocean Tsunami that occurred on 26 December 2004. There are approximately 150,000 pregnant women living in the disaster-stricken area at present, and 50,000 of them are expected to give birth within the next three months. However, many healthcare facilities have been destroyed, leaving medical appliances and medicines in very short supply. UNFPA is providing emergency assistance with emphasis on the special needs of women.



Queueing for hygiene kits, Lambreh camp, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

Photo by Trygve Olfarnes

Photo courtesy of UNFPA

UNFPA requested international community for US\$28 million in the joint emergency appeal made by UN agencies on 6 January 2005. The Japanese Government responded promptly to this request by pledging US\$5.5 million on 13 January.

UNFPA is using these funds to provide reproductive health-related medical supplies from basic hygiene kit to medicines and medical tools needed for home birthing, as well as contraceptives, in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives-the three countries that suffered the greatest damage. UNFPA is also carrying out activities for surveillance and prevention of sexual abuse and violence against women that tend to occur frequently in disaster areas, as well as implementing social support programmes consisting of psychosocial care and assurance of safety for women, who shoulder the heavy burden of looking after their surviving families. Please refer to updates on the emergency assistance activities of UNFPA at the UNFPA Tokyo Office website (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>).

2. Current Status of Pregnant Women in the Affected Areas of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

In the preceding issue, we introduced UNFPA's activities in connection with the Indian Ocean Tsunami that occurred in December 2004. On 28 March 2005, one of the affected countries, Indonesia, was hit by another earthquake with the magnitude of 8.5. UNFPA has been continuously delivering supplies to ensure reproductive health and better hygiene for the displaced people with special focus on pregnant women. In this issue we would like to introduce a woman living in the disaster area.

Revita , a maternity nurse living in a shelter in Lambreh, Village of Aceh Province gave birth to a daughter Zakira in mid-January, about three weeks after the Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26 December 2004. She delivered her baby on a plastic tarp without using any medicine or soap, and cut the umbilical cord with a paper knife because in Banda Aceh, maternity wards in the hospitals were not functioning, and there were not enough medicine and sanitary supplies. About 30% of the 5,500 birth attendants in Indonesia died from the tsunami, and there was a shortage of doctors and nurses due to the disaster. In such a difficult environment, Revita was attending other people' s childbirths until just before her own. There was an estimation of 15,000 pregnant women in Aceh Province alone as of January, and they continue to live without basic obstetric care.



Revita with her baby Zakira, born in the Lambreh camp for displaced persons

Childbirth under insufficient medical care and shortage of medicines threatens the life of both mother and child. The number of maternal deaths may increase due to blood loss, in addition to tetanus and other infectious diseases. UNFPA is providing emergency assistance with emphasis on the special needs of pregnant women who tend to be overlooked in the time of disaster.

3. Update from the Affected Areas of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

- Psychosocial Care for Women to Enhance Self-Reliance

It has been over six months since the Indian Ocean Tsunami. UNFPA has been providing emergency assistance to the affected people, focusing on reproductive health services. In this issue, we will report on the psychosocial care for women and youth with the aim of enhancing their self-reliance, and prevention activities against sexual violence.



Woman and child waiting to receive a hygiene kit at a shelter in Banda Aceh ©APDA

In Aceh Province of Indonesia, UNFPA played the central role in building eight community centres for providing counselling to traumatized people. Collaborating with a few agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNFPA organised a free concert with Acehese singers. Indeed, it was the first concert held since the

Tsunami disaster, and it greatly encouraged many young people.

In Maldives, UNFPA has been working to prevent sexual violence and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS in the turmoil after the Tsunami disaster. Awareness-raising campaign was waged through the local media in order to reach government officials and health workers.

UNFPA will continue to provide basic hygiene kits and psychosocial care to meet the special needs of women. For an update on UNFPA's emergency assistance activities, please refer to the UNFPA Tokyo Office website (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>).

4. Launching “State of the World Population 2005: Towards Achieving MDGs”

UNFPA launched “State of the World Population 2005” on 12 October 2004. The theme of the volume is “The Promise of Equality: Gender Equity, Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals.” Five years have passed since the establishment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. On this occasion, State of the World Population 2005 examines the international community's performance towards achieving MDGs.

An independent chapter entitled “Partnering with Boys and Men” has been included to call attention to the importance of partnership between men and women in achieving gender equality. A case study from Cambodia is cited, where implementing legal and social programmes to enhance gender equality have improved the overall living standard for everyone.

UNFPA will keep up its efforts towards achieving MDGs. Please access the UNFPA Tokyo Office website (<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>) for downloading the full text of State of the World Population 2005.



State of the World Population 2005

About ODA Quarterly

Contained in this publication is only a fraction of programs that have been implemented under the support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). We will report the summary of our activities on a quarterly basis. We welcome your input about information you would like to see on this publication and ideas you may have regarding our activities.

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

1-5-1-3F Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022

TEL: 03-3358-2211 FAX: 03-3358-2233

Email: apdatyoj@gol.com

Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

Hoken Kaikan Shinkan

1-10 Shinjuku Ichigaya Tamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843

TEL: 03-3268-5875 FAX: 03-3235-7090

Email: info@joicfp.or.jp

URL:<http://www.joicfp.or.jp>

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tokyo Office

7F UN House 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

TEL: 03-5467-4684 FAX: 03-5467-8556

Email: unfpa@cronos.ocn.ne.jp

URL:<http://www.unfpa.or.jp>



**United Nations
Population Fund**



Asian Population and Development Association
3F Da Vinci Shinjuku-Gyoen Bldg.,
1-5-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022
Telephone : (81)-03-3358-2211
Facsimile : (81)-03-3358-2233
E-mail Address : apdatyoj@gol.com