

Advocacy Activities  
for  
Japanese Parliamentarians on Population and Development



**ODA  
QUARTERLY  
2003  
on  
Population and Development**



Issued  
by

**Asian Population and Development Association**

in cooperation

with

**JOICFP and UNFPA Tokyo Office**



# ODA Quarterly2003

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

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**Why Population is an Issue Today**

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**Population and Water**

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**Population and War Expenditure**

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**HIV/AIDS and Population**

# Contents

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<b>I . Why population is an issue today</b>	7
1.Ever-increasing population	7
2.Why population is an issue today	7
3.What needs to be done	9
4.ODA and population problem	10
<b>II . Population and water</b>	11
1. Population and water	11
2.Water shortage and population	12
3.Water and health	12
4.Water and food production	13
<b>III.Population and war expenditure</b>	14
1.Population issue, economic growth, war expenditure	14
2.Population issues and economic development	14
3.Economic development and population issues	15
4.Constraints of economic development	15
5.Poverty and population issue	17
6.Military expenditure and population problem	17
<b>IV. HIV/AIDS and Population</b>	19
1.What is HIV/AIDS?	19
2.What HIV/AIDS and war have in common	20
3.Requiring immediate action	21
*   *   *   *   *   *	
<b>APDA</b>	22
1. About APDA	22
2. Activities of APDA	22
1) Supporting parliamentary activities related to population and development	22
2) Advocacy activities	23





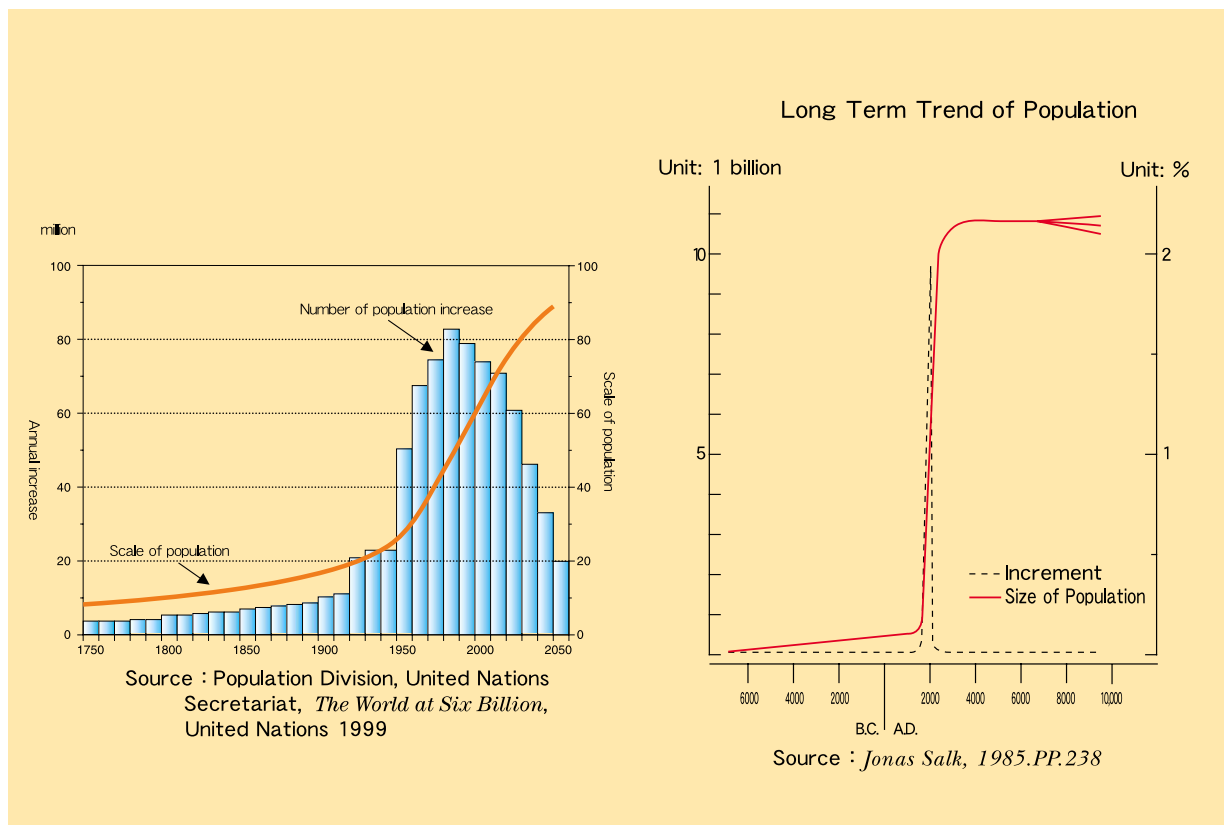


# I . Why population is an issue today

## 1 . Ever-increasing population...

Current global population has reached a formidable level of nearly 6.2 billion. The only wildlife comparable to human race in terms of weight is Arctic krill. Existence of shrimp-like Arctic krill has a completely different meaning compared to that of 6 billion human beings. Moreover, this number is predicted to keep increasing in the next half century.

World population prior to advent of agriculture ranged from 10 to 20 million, increased to 200 to 300 million around the time when Christ was born, reached 700 million before the industrial revolution and marked 1.6 billion at the beginning of the 20th Century. These figures should help you understand how large the present 6.2 billion figure is.



## 2 . Why population is an issue today

Population is positioned as one of sustainable development issues in the international community. This is written in the Millennium Development Goals adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit, which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in the year 2000 and attended by heads of state and prime ministers of the world.

The term "sustainable development" may be difficult to understand. It is defined as

"development that meets the needs of present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It represents an approach of carrying out development by taking environmental and other issues into consideration so that generations of your children and grandchildren can continue to live on earth instead of allowing those that are living now to eat up the resources.



United Nations Millennium Summit (UN Photo)

How many people can live on this earth on a stable basis? The answer to this question varies depending on the level of consumption.

However, an estimation based on the method called "Ecological Footprint" (productive land area required to support human consumption on a permanent basis), humanity has surpassed the equilibrium point in the early 1970s and is now using 130% of renewable energy and physical matter flow on earth. This means that we are eating up the global resources themselves (principal) even though we are supposed to live on cyclic flow (interest) of these resources.



Solution of population issue is essential for the survival of human beings on this earth. While 1% growth is regarded as low growth rate in economic terms, it signifies an increase that doubles every 72 years. When applied to demographic context, it means that population will increase fourfold in 144 years, eightfold in 216 years, 16 times in 288 years and 32 times in 360 years and 128 times in nearly 500 years.

Environmental problems, urban problems, energy problems and water resource problems. They are emerging as problems of global scale. All of them are also problems that do not exist had it not been for the problem of population.

Turning our eyes to developing countries, serious problems exist in the areas of poverty and water shortage. Women and children are placed under distressing conditions as a result of conflicts. Conflicts frequently occurring in various parts of the world primarily affect socially vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees and ethnic minorities. It goes without saying that "peace" is prerequisite for solving these problems.

However, a considerable portion of the present dire circumstances can be significantly improved through full dissemination of education/family planning and avoidance of unintended pregnancy. Although it is important to address each problem, these problems can never be solved unless clear measures are taken against the underlying problem of population at the same time.

### 3 . What needs to be done

The basic approach towards the issue of population and sustainable development is clearly stated in the Program of Action adopted at International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which was held in 1994 in Cairo. It was an international agreement reached by participation of more than 180 countries of the world in which a guideline of naturally lowering the



Afghan refugee women (UN Photo)

population increase rate through improvement of reproductive health. Reproductive health can be defined as health for giving birth to and rearing the next generation in healthy manner which inevitably requires improvement of women's health conditions and expanded right of choice for people that are in need of family planning.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) are the largest of many organizations that are engaged globally in these activities.

Understanding the importance of these activities, Japanese Government has been offering financial assistance to UNFPA and IPPF and has made enormous contributions towards the solution of global population issue.

Japanese NGOs are also striving to solve the global population issue by actively engaging in activities toward this end under cooperation with UNFPA and IPPF.

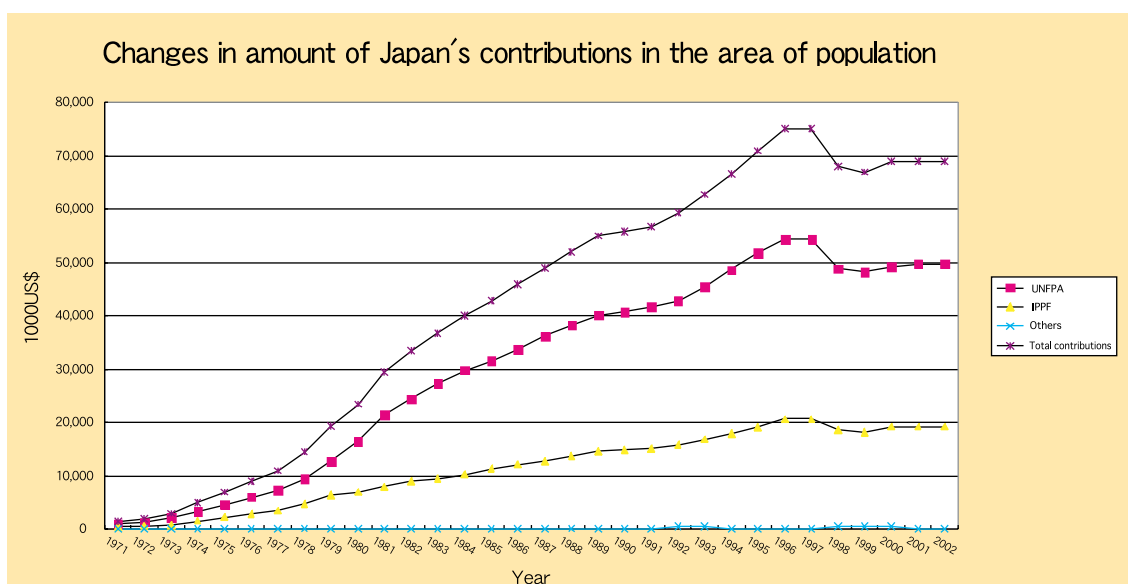
Introduced in this inaugural issue are some examples of programs that have been implemented to date by Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and UNFPA Tokyo Office with support from UNFPA and IPPF.

## 4 . ODA and population problem

Japan's international assistance in the area of population and water problems is offered through ODA (Official Development Assistance). Being the second largest contributor of ODA in the world, Japan's ODA contribution has extremely large impact on the developing countries. ODA is financed by the Japanese taxpayers. Why does Japan have to assist developing countries using taxes collected from her people?

Review of General Principles of ODA is under progress in Japan amid growing calls for overhaul of ODA in view of the country's financial crisis. In particular, ODA spent in the area of addressing world population growth is placed under scrutiny because of its seeming contradiction with the serious problem of low birthrate and aging population the country is facing.

The environment surrounding the population issue is also becoming increasingly difficult. For instance, the Bush Administration of the United States supported by the Neo Conservatives has stopped the payment of contribution to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). As a result, activities of these two leading agencies in international multilateral assistance are severely impaired, and their activities related to population, family planning and reproductive health are significantly diminished. Although we have managed to maintain the same amount of contribution from Japan in fiscal 2003 as the previous year, there is a trend to reduce the amount of ODA contribution owing to financial difficulties.



In this issue, we will look into the significance of contributions in the area of population for Japan and for humanity with focus on the problem of water resources.



## II. Population and water

### 1 . Population and water

The Third World Water Forum was held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga in March of this year. One-hundred and one countries attended the ministerial-level conference alone, and the total attendance figure reached 23,995. The water issue was discussed from various angles in the plenary meeting and in 351 sectional meetings. These figures indicate the growing concern over global environmental issues and represent increased global interest in the finite nature of world's resources.



The amount of water that can be used on a sustainable basis on this earth is determined by the water circulated by heat from the sun, and amounts to only eight one billionth of total volume of water existing on earth. Out of this very small portion, the volume that we can use in the form of river water and ground water is estimated to be one-tenth of this volume at the most, of which we are said to be already using more than 50%. Using water resources beyond the present level will seriously threaten diverse organisms living in rivers and lakes.

As the volume of water that can be used on a sustainable basis has not basically changed over time, the volume of freshwater resource available to each person will decrease with growing population. For instance, the population today is about 31 times larger compared to the first year of the Christian era when world population was 200 million. For this reason, the amount of freshwater resources currently available per person has decreased by  $1/31$  compared to 1 A.D. The amount of freshwater resources available per person has also decreased by  $1/4$  since the beginning of the 20th Century.

The Aral Sea in Central Asia is shrinking due to reduced influx from



Aral Sea (1974)



Shrinking Aral Sea (2001)

rivers Amu Darya and Syr Darya which is caused by withdrawal of water for irrigated agriculture. This giant lake, once the fourth largest in the world, is said to disappear by 2015. Depletion of water resources accompanying the increase in population and environmental destruction brought about by it, as symbolized by the Aral Sea, is occurring in various parts of the world.

## 2 . Water shortage and population

Shortage of water resources became a popular topic of discussion with the convening of the World Water Forum. Unfamiliar terms such as "water stress" and "water scarcity" emerged in the process. "Water stress" and "water scarcity" are keywords in discussion of water issues; they are concepts conceived from the viewpoint of the amount of water required for each person including the water required for agricultural production. "Water stress" refers to a situation where the value obtained by dividing runoff (the amount of water that runs off from the precipitation that fell on ground surface such as rain) by population of the region is less than 1,700m<sup>3</sup>. "Water scarcity" refers to a situation where this value is less than 1,000m<sup>3</sup>. One can see that the basic concepts for indicating water shortage are inseparably linked to the population issue and that water shortage is literally a population issue. Increase in population means increase in the amount of water need by that population.

Unfortunately, the session covering this important topic of interrelation between population and water was not included in the World Water Forum despite its seeming image of having covered every imaginable issue related to water through its plenary meeting and 351 sectional meetings.

## 3 . Water and health

### Infection route



Source: Health and Irrigation p.25

### Dreadful waterborne infectious diseases

Close link between water and health has been known since the old days. Today, it is believed that more than 5 million lives are lost due to water-related diseases including waterborne infections. The figure is more than twice as large as deaths caused by AIDS, indicating the fact that water and public health is still an important issue.



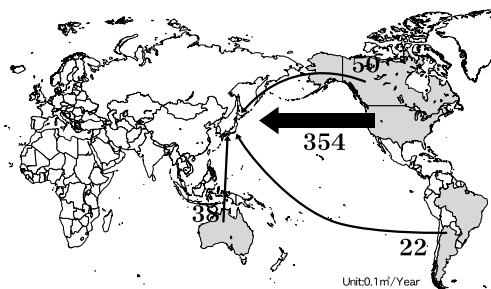
## 4 . Water and food production

Importing food means "importing water"

Japan is a huge importer of food. When calculated in terms of calorie, 70% of food ingested by the people in Japan is imported from overseas. In other words, our lives are highly dependent on import. Water resources are indispensable for food production. In average, 1,000 tons of water is needed to produce 1 ton of wheat. Since 7kg of grains are needed in average to produce 1kg of beef, 7 tons of water is consumed to produce 1kg of beef that we eat. Let us now estimate the volume of water Japan is importing in the form of food.

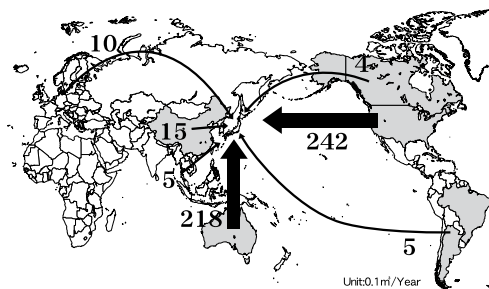
The figures were 48.6 billion cubic meters for agricultural products and 53.9 billion cubic meters for livestock products, amounting to about twice the volume of agricultural water intake in Japan. Global water shortage will therefore directly threaten people's lives in Japan.

Virtual Water Flow Accompanying  
Agricultural Import



Others 2.2 billion m³/Year  
Total Virtual Water Volume: 48.6 billion m³/Year  
Source: p.23, ARDC No. 26 Feb. 2003

Virtual Water Flow Accompanying  
Livestock Import (including meat)



Others 4 billion m³/Year  
Total Virtual Water 53.9 billion m³/Year  
Source: p.23, ARDC No. 26 Feb. 2003

The goal of the approach to population issue is not to reduce population. Rather, the goal is to create a society in which people can live in humane condition with dignity. ODA contributions made towards the population issue may appear unrelated to direct interest of the Japanese public; however, it directly plays a large role from the viewpoint of long-term food security. Indeed, it is an issue that has an important bearing on our lives. In other words, activities in the area of population is the most fundamental and important activity towards creation of "society in which people can live in humane condition with dignity," in addition to being an essential activity for making a promising future for people all around the world including Japan. In this sense, Japan's ODA contribution has an extremely important significance for the humanity.

### III. Population and war expenditure

#### 1 . Population issue, economic growth, war expenditure

I arrived at the border town of Wagha from the Lahore side of Pakistan to participate in a conference in New Delhi. I walked across the border and crossed the volatile Indian-Pakistani border overland via Amritsar. The tension between the two countries over Kashmir has been growing since India developed nuclear weaponry. A feature program on the nuclear crisis between India and Pakistan was aired on NHK on August 6. According to this program, risks of thermonuclear war occurred several times within the five year period in which India developed nuclear weaponry and Pakistan followed suit.

Needless to say, August 6 is the day atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Japan has the mission of appealing the nuclear tragedy as the only nation in the world to be bombed by nuclear weapons. What problems can nuclear weapons solve?

An international bus service that connects Lahore and New Delhi once a week has been started by reflecting the increased dialogue and easing of tensions between the governments of India and Pakistan. Having missed this bus, I had to cross the border alone. Hardly any interaction was seen near the border with only 2 persons crossing the border that day.

The tension in the border region is quite obvious from the jamming that covers the entire area. It was the site of confrontation with an eye to thermal nuclear war between India, the most populous country in South Asia, and Pakistan, the second most populous country in South Asia, that I came across.



Atomic bomb on Hiroshima  
(UN Photo)

#### 2 . Population issues and economic development

The visit to Pakistan was a part of field study of agriculture and population conducted by APDA. Following numerous meetings with ministries and agencies in the capital city of Islamabad, we conducted a field study in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) located on the border with Afghanistan. A large number of Afghan refugees had flowed in and settled there. The population in region is said to be increasing at the rate of 5% a year when social increase caused by influx of Afghan refugees is taken into consideration.

Thus, there are many developing countries in Asia and elsewhere that are experiencing

rapid population increase. In war-torn Afghanistan, average population growth rate between 2000 and 2005 is predicted to reach 3.88%. The increase rate in Pakistan is 2.1% a year. The present population growth rate of 3.88% in Afghanistan means that the country's population will double in 17.8 years while 2.1% growth in Pakistan will bring about the same results in 33 years.

The relationship between population and development came up in the subject during a series of discussions with high-ranking government officials of Pakistan. In one such discussion, an official from the Economic Planning Committee in charge of drawing up the nation's economic development policy mentioned, "Pakistan's economy is growing at the rate of 5.7% a year, a rate that far exceeds the rate of population increase. Therefore, GNP per capita is also increasing and an increase in population will not be a problem even if it did exist." It is a point that is often raised and is based on the notion that population will not be a problem as long as there is economic development.

In this issue of ODA Quarterly, we will discuss the relationship between economic development and population. Until now, the relationship between the two was that increase in income brought about as a result of economic development will reduce the rate of population growth. However, we now have to look at this issue from a different point of view.

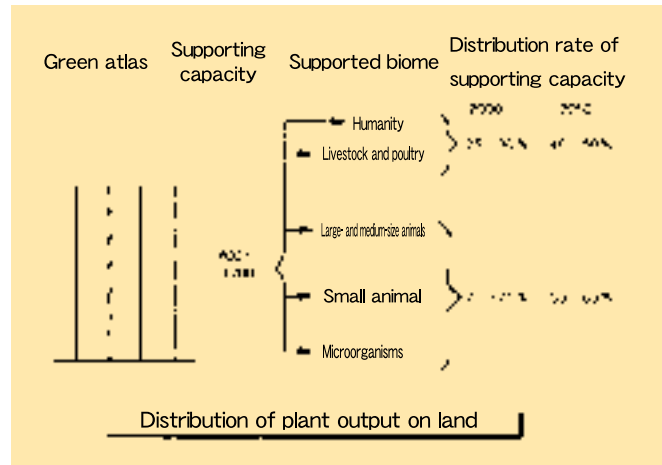
### **3 . Economic development and population issues**

Population issue will be solved once economic development takes place and economic growth is attained. Is this seemingly rosy relationship between economic development and population absolutely true? We refuted the point raised by the aforementioned Economic Planning Committee official by saying that "No matter how high the country's economic growth rate is, no country has maintained such high growth rate for a period of 30 years. On the other hand, the population that has come into this world may only drink milk when they are born but will require jobs, houses and everything else after 20 years. Can you say with certainty that you will be able to maintain economic growth at the rate exceeding population increase for more than 30 years without bringing about any violent fluctuations?" Both population growth rate and economic growth rate are measured using annual growth rate as the yardstick. However, a decisive difference exists between the two in that economic growth rate can easily become negative (particularly in developing countries) while people rarely decrease in number once they are born and will start to reproduce after 20 years or so. When looking at the relationship between economic development and population, increase rate and growth rate will have a completely different meaning even if their figures may appear to be similar.

### **4 . Constraints of economic development**

Environmental issues as well as components of economic activities such as water resources and energy have emerged as major constraints in the present day. Energy and

water resource that can be used on a stable basis come from light and heat of the sun. Humanity is presently consuming massive amount of energy to maintain its economic activities. Fossil fuel is regarded as solar energy of the past stored in a can while nuclear energy is gravitational energy stored in a can. We are presently consuming large amounts of energy far beyond the level of natural energy flow on earth by relying on this "canned" energy.



Such level of consumption cannot be maintained over a long period of time as it amounts to energy flow tens of thousands of times greater than that taking place in nature.

In addition, all animals, human beings included, are relying on green resources (plants) for subsistence. Directly or indirectly, we are entirely dependent on earth's green resources (plants) for our food.

However, humankind is already using nearly 35% of earth's green resources. When green resources cannot be used directly for reasons of environmental conservation and maintenance of biodiversity, hardly any room is left for additional human utilization. Since food production is impossible without the use of plant resources, we are standing in a very difficult situation in this respect as well.

There is another matter that potentially may become a greater constraint than energy, and that is water. No agricultural production or forest resource is feasible without water (freshwater).

We brought up the "water problem" in our previous issue. Humanity is said to be already using more than half of water resources that are available on the planet. It is true that technology such as water harvesting and desalination as well as farming methods that conserve water by sending only the minimally required volume of water to the root of the plant (e.g. drip irrigation and trickle irrigation) are being introduced. However, many of them require large cost and it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue using water at low



Trickle irrigation in a dry area in Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan  
Water is supplied to the root of an olive tree using a pipe  
(photo taken in July 2003)

cost as has been done in the past. As a result, attaining economic growth on a sustainable basis is predicted to become very difficult in the future amidst the severe constraints that are being placed on the fundamental conditions supporting such economic growth.

## 5 . Poverty and population issue

Interest in population is waning in the international community with the existing state of affairs. Population issue has been incorporated into, and has become a part of, the development goals that have been agreed at the Millennium Summit. Is eradication of poverty asserted by the international community really feasible? No one would deny the urgency of poverty eradication in view of the present situation where a third of world population is living on less than 2 dollars a day. However, a big question remains as to whether we can eradicate poverty in the same context of affluence we have been enjoying. This is attributed to the fact that future economy cannot be expected to grow in the same manner it did in the past owing to constraints discussed earlier such as shortage of water resources. Areas with promising prospects must be created through improvement of the existing technology such as raising the efficiency of irrigation usage.

It is also necessary to reconsider the meaning of affluence itself. However, eradicating poverty while the world's affluence basically does not increase would mean transferring the affluence of developed countries to the developing countries. Optimistic response to such a question is hard to come by. Moreover, even if transfer of affluence takes place to a certain degree, it would not lead to improvement of well-being and eradication of poverty as long as population continues to increase in the developing countries and reproduces poverty.

A very difficult thorny path awaits "poverty eradication," a popular theme of discussion in the international community. One can thus see that no fundamental solution can be reached without solving the problem of population.



A farm worker household outside of New Delhi  
(photo taken in November 1994)

## 6 . Military expenditure and population problem

Then where can we raise the funds needed to solve the population problem? Some 839 billion dollars were spent worldwide on military in 2001. This corresponds to an increase of 6% in only 5 years since 1998. In contrast, total ODA budget for OECD amounted to approximately 54 billion dollars. In 2001, the funds allocated to the population problem were mere 254.6 million dollars at UNFPA, the largest international consortium, and only 1.1 billion dollars were spent on the countermeasures for HIV/AIDS, an epidemic that is



turning into the greatest threat for humanity today. According to International Conference on Population and Development's Program of Action (ICPD PoA 13.15), the funds needed for keeping future population growth to the lower spectrum estimate is 17 billion dollars as of 2000, only 2% of the war expenditure spent in 2001.

India and Pakistan also spend large portion of their budget on military while the funds they mobilize for population problem is far from sufficient.

All wars are fought for cause and every nation has its reason for engaging in war. Each one of them may be a serious matter for the country, leaving little room for other countries to interfere. However, we must bear in mind that humankind can survive and preserve the global environment at the same time if we could divert 10% of the money spent on war expenditure, i.e. money that does not produce anything towards the solution of global problems.



United Nations peacekeeping activities  
(UN Photo)

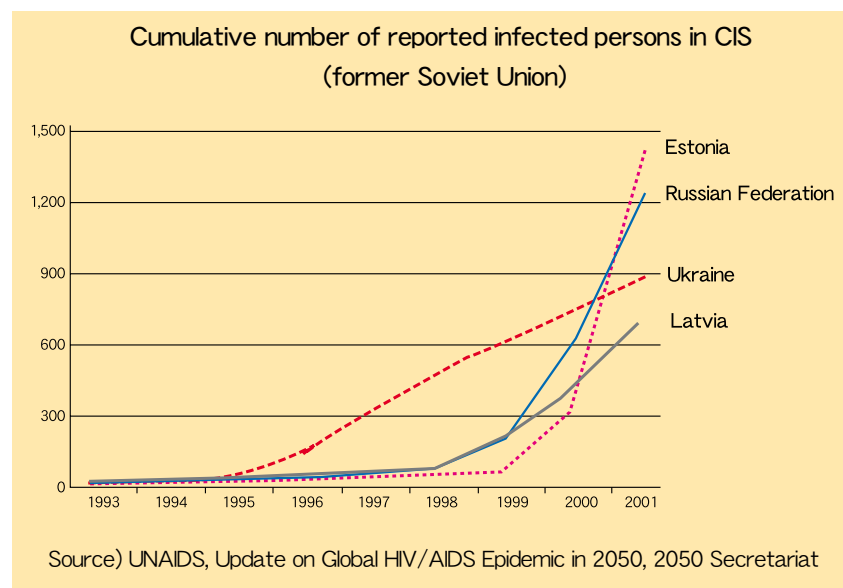
## IV. HIV/AIDS and Population

### 1 . What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV/AIDS has become an issue all over the world. According to an estimate made at the end of 2002, a total of 42 million people are infected by HIV/AIDS worldwide. Five million were newly infected in 2002, 800,000 of which were children that were infected through mother-to-child infection. As many as 3.1 million patients died during the year after developing AIDS.

A characteristic common to infectious diseases is that the number of infected persons increases exponentially unless some kind of preventive measure is taken.

The table to the right shows the changes in number of HIV/AIDS-positive patients for every 1 million population in the former Soviet Union countries (CIS). An exponential increase is clearly observed in Russia which has the largest population in CIS. Needless to say, such increase is the result of HIV-infected persons creating further sources of infection.



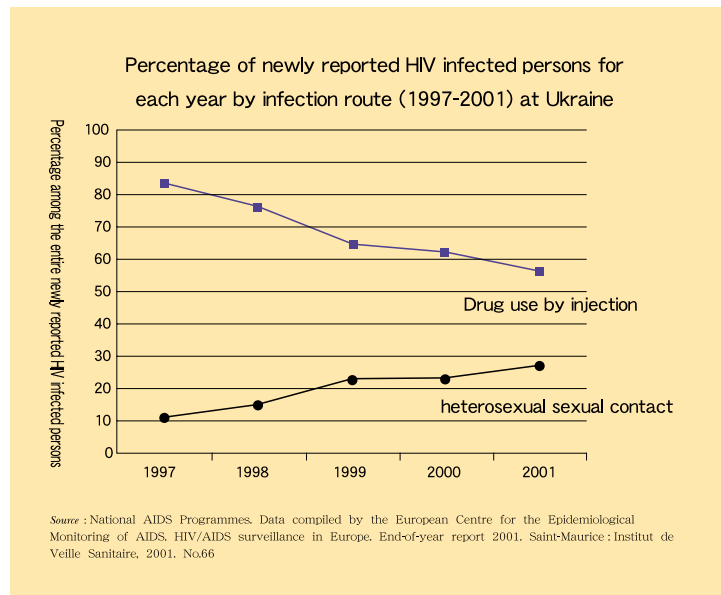
While "HIV" and "AIDS" are often used as a single term, "HIV" stands for "Human Immunodeficiency Virus" and is a name of virus that causes the infectious disease, while "AIDS" stands for "Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome" and is a name of disease that develops as a result. The virus is retroviridae RNA virus, i.e. reverse transcriptase virus used as vector for genetic engineering in gene therapy. It affects the DNA that stores human genetic information and overwrites the information stored in it. It consequently destroys the immunity normally possessed by humans, resulting in deaths from various diseases caused by common bacteria and viruses that exist in everyday life and usually are not harmful to people.

HIV infection is said to mainly occur through 3 routes; i.e. 1) blood transfusion; 2) various forms of sexual intercourse; and 3) sharing of narcotic injecting equipment and use of needles under poor safety management. A major social issue over the infections caused

by blood product in Japan is still fresh in our memory.

An example of Ukraine to the right shows that the percentage of infections resulting from drug injection is decreasing while that from heterosexual sexual contact is on the increase.

It suggests that HIV/AIDS is turning into a disease that can affect a broader range of people instead of a disease affecting narcotics users representing a very small fraction of society.



## 2 . What HIV/AIDS and war have in common

HIV/AIDS has several characteristics that distinguish it from existing infectious diseases. Advances in medicine have led to discovery of many disease-causing bacteria, resulting in establishment of clear treatment methods for most bacterial diseases through dissemination of antibiotics in the 20th Century. However, no definitive treatment has been established for HIV/AIDS despite exhausting research efforts that are being made throughout the world. Available treatment methods mainly consist of symptomatic treatments that stop the growth of HIV instead of curative treatment.

There is another aspect of HIV/AIDS that distinguishes it from other infectious diseases. It is also the reason behind the magnitude of its socioeconomic impact. Those dying from typical infectious diseases such as influenza and cholera are mostly elderly and infants, i.e. previous infectious diseases had the impact of affecting young and elderly dependent population and reducing the number of dependent population. In contrast, HIV/AIDS mainly affects reproductive age population from ages 15 through 50. This closely overlaps with labor force population from ages 15 through 60 (or 65). Unlike other diseases, HIV/AIDS delivers a direct hit on the most economically active age group. While infectious diseases of the past worked in the direction of reducing dependent population, HIV/AIDS reduces population in economically active age group and increases dependent population as a result.

It goes without saying that this discussion is not being made from a humanitarian point of view. This is the conclusion reached after looking at HIV/AIDS from the viewpoint of demographic structure. In this sense, HIV/AIDS has impact similar to that of war in the sense that they both directly affect the age group that needs to be most active in the society.



### 3 . Requiring immediate action

#### Implications of HIV/AIDS

Its implications are serious because it signifies weakening of the population responsible for activating the society and taking on the role of its development. HIV/AIDS is currently spreading rapidly in Africa. Many of these countries also owe multiple debts from the international community and are experiencing economic difficulties. It is in these countries that human resources and labor force responsible for assuming the key role in self-reliant social and economic development are being lost.

HIV/AIDS is also showing signs of spread in Asia. It is said that the present HIV/AIDS situation in Asia closely resembles that observed 10 years ago in Africa before it spread like a fire through a forest. The condition existing in Africa is not by any means a fire on the other side of the river; rather, it is a problem that may affect us any time in the not too far future.

In a country like Namibia where the impact of AIDS is considered to be severest in Africa, average life expectancy is predicted to decline by as much as 26 years.

The table to the right looks at the ten countries that are seen to be most affected using data from United Nations. It clearly shows the magnitude of the impact.

Because of its characteristics as infectious disease, the most effective way of addressing HIV/AIDS with minimum impact on the society is to take exhaustive measures at earliest possible time.

AIDS orphans that lost their parents due to AIDS have become a serious problem in Africa.

Thorough support for HIV/AIDS and population problems is needed for global sustainable development, securing social stability and human security which is promoted under the initiative of the Japanese government.

**Decline in average life expectancy attributed to AIDS (2010-2015)**

Country	2010—2015		
	Average life expectancy at birth (years)		Estimated life expectancy after AIDS infection
	Estimated life expectancy assuming nonexistence of AIDS	Average life expectancy lost by AIDS	
1 . Namibia	41.5	67.7	— 26.3
2 . Botswana	48.9	73.0	— 24.1
3 . Republic of South Africa	47.2	67.4	— 20.1
4 . Zimbabwe	50.4	69.8	— 19.4
5 . Kenya	51.0	69.8	— 18.8
6 . Mozambique	39.6	56.7	— 17.1
7 . Zambia	51.5	63.7	— 12.3
8 . Cameroon	55.3	66.2	— 10.9
9 . Tanzania	52.4	63.2	— 10.8
10 . Malawi	48.1	57.3	— 9.2

Source) *World at Six Billion*, UN

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# APDA

(Asian Population and Development Association)

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## 1 . About APDA

Established 1982, APDA is working mainly in the interrelated areas of population and sustainable development. APDA is also offering support to the population and development activities of parliamentarians in the form of secretariat support to Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), which is the world's first national parliamentary committee on population and sustainable development, chaired by Dr. Taro Nakayama (Member of the House of Representatives and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs), and as Tokyo Office of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), which is a parliamentary organization working in the area of population and development in Asia.

## 2 . Activities of APDA

The activities of Asian Population and Development Association can be roughly divided into:

### 1) Supporting parliamentary activities related to population and development

APDA's support in connection with parliamentary activities includes secretariat function for Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and Tokyo Office function for Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

The origin of these activities can be traced back to the conviction of APDA/AFPPD founder and former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Hon. Takashi Sato that participation of parliamentarians is indispensable in solving the population problem because they have been elected by the people and are capable of making policy decisions.

AFPPD is demonstrating Pan-Asian expansion, currently covering the entire Asia region by enlisting as many as 21 countries as regular members. In addition, JPFP is working

towards dissemination of awareness about the importance of population problem for the future of humanity and is maintaining a constant level of contributions for international organizations in the area of population through its activities. Since Japanese parliamentarians are also playing a leadership role in



the activities that are taking place in Asia, it is demonstrating great significance as the venue for speaking Japan's views to rest of the world.

## **2) Advocacy activities**

Educational and public relations activities related to population and development

Issuing of publications such as Organ Magazine, Resource Series and ODA Quarterly.

### **① Organ Magazine**

APDA publishes an organ 4 times a year with focus on population and development issues.

### **② Resource Series**

APDA has also issued numerous publications on the population and water issue. Of particular note among them is APDA Resource Series No.7 "Dividing the Waters: Food Security, Ecosystem Health, and the New Politics of Scarcity." It offers comprehensive coverage of various aspects of water problem and serves as a basic reference in looking at the water issue. APDA obtained copyright from the Worldwatch Institute to publish its Japanese translation.



### **③ ODA Quarterly**

ODA Quarterly issued four times (1st March, 1st June, 1st September 1st December) in a year. This Leaflet made by in cooperation with JOICFP and UNFPA Tokyo. This Leaflet has delivered all Japanese Parliamentarians.

## **3) Research and study**

APDA is conducting studies in areas such as population, agriculture, rural areas and labor on commission from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

APDA is engaged in a wide variety of activities related to population and water, ranging from research to publicity and parliamentary policy support on this issue, including analysis of water resources, agricultural production and population in the study it performed on Uzbekistan I 2002 on commission from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.



Cotton in Uzbekistan



Syr Darya River

### **3 . Parliamentary support activities**

#### **1) APDA Meeting (Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development)**

APDA is holding a parliamentary meeting on the issue of population and development every year by inviting parliamentarians from the main countries of Asia. The 19th meeting will be held this year.

#### **2) Exchange Programme (Dispatch and acceptance programs)**

APDA is dispatching Japanese parliamentarians mainly to Asian countries and receiving parliamentarians from Asian countries. Last year, APDA sent Japanese parliamentarians to China and received parliamentarians from Laos. APDA also sent a Japanese parliamentary group to East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) as a part of a special program to inspect the present situation of spreading of HIV/AIDS and water problem.

#### **3) Support for international parliamentary conferences**

APDA has been offering support to international parliamentary activities including the International Parliamentarian's Conference on The Implementation of the ICPD Program of Action (ICPI) which was held in Ottawa in November 2002.

### **4 . Population and water**

APDA was early in addressing the problem of population and water.

#### **1) APDA Meeting**

Population and water has been part of the agenda at APDA Meeting (Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development). Presentations by experts and discussion among parliamentarians have taken place at these meetings.

#### **The 16th Meeting**

Held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2000: "Population and Sustainable Development--Environment, Food Security and Water Resources"

#### **The 17th Meeting**

Held in Auckland, New Zealand in 2001: Food Security, Water Resource and Population Issues in Asia and the Pacific

#### **The 18th Meeting**

Held in Tokyo, Japan in 2002: Water and Sanitation, Regional Development and Population

#### **The 19th Meeting,**

To be held this year in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, will recapitulate the discussions that have taken place in the past 3 years under the theme of "Water and Population in Asia" and adopt "Declaration of Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Water."

## 5 . HIVAIDS and APDA activities

APDA has been focusing on the importance of the HIV/AIDS and has been addressing the issue by incorporating it into its projects. In particular, APDA is conducting an on-site inspection tour by Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) on the subject of HIV/AIDS and safe drinking water, visiting East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) in 2002 and South Africa (Republic of South Africa and Zambia) in 2003.

### 1) Japanese Parliamentarians Visit to Southern Africa

Southern Africa is a region experiencing the severest HIV/AIDS infection in the entire African continent. HIV prevalence in Republic of South Africa is as high as 24.8%, which means that a quarter of the country's population is infected.

In Republic of South Africa and Zambia, the inspection tour visited a counseling facility, a terminal care facility, a university hospital, a water treatment facility and a low-income community where living conditions were improved by technical assistance from Japan. At these facilities, inspection tour members obtained first-hand information from local staff about realities of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, realities regarding spread of AIDS and the predicament resulting from it. Being a parliamentary inspection tour, the members also engaged in active exchange of views with health ministers who are decision-makers in their respective countries and with parliamentary groups that are members of Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD) which is a forum involved in population and development in the African region.

### Zambia

Once the poorest community in Lusaka, George Compound has attained significant results through grant aid and technical assistance from Japan. The community attained great success by undertaking activities such as construction of water supply facility and roadside drainage, community volunteer training, health education, infant health improvement, diarrhea prevention and garbage collection. This project carried out by Japan is



Poliovirus vaccination for infants at George Compound



promoting self-reliant development of the community through coordination and cooperation with its members rather than imposing unilateral assistance.

## South Africa

Mohau Childcare Centre in the suburbs of Pretoria is an orphanage for children infected with HIV/AIDS and is located in the premises of a former township hospital. The centre currently has 35 orphans from ages 0 to 18 and is offering support for leading fulfilling life thorough treatment



Father Nemoto at St. Francis Care Center

and education. The majority of children admitted here have already lost their parents from AIDS. The centre is actively inviting the public to help these children through adoption and foster parent programs. In reality, however, only a handful of children are able to benefit from these programs. At St. Francis Care Center in Johannesburg, psychological relief is being offered by a Japanese priest Father Nemoto through medical care, terminal care, care for AIDS orphans and missionary work.

Despite such tireless efforts, most AIDS orphans are not even able to live out what little life left for them. As the number of HIV/AIDS orphans is predicted to increase due to AIDS, there is a pressing need to at least provide human life to these young lives. For this reason, it is essential for the present volunteer-supported system to demonstrate political will.

Asian Population and Development Association is striving to solve the problems related to population, HIV/AIDS and sustainable development in the world by supporting the activities of parliamentarians that represent the public in the area of population and development.

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# JOICFP

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## 1 . JOICFP in the Philippines

JOICFP started its activities in the Philippines in 1993 with the support of UNFPA. In the Philippines where decentralization is in progress, activities are being carried out with the goal of improving reproductive health of people at the community level by building the capacity of local governments and communities to address their health issues and undertake reproductive health promotion programs, in close collaboration with UNFPA, Department of Health and local government units (provincial and municipal governments).



Batangas, a province located at approximately one-hour driving distance from Manila and has a population of 1,910,000, was selected as the model province. Good results that have been observed include increase in family planning acceptance, increase in prenatal and postnatal consultation rate, improvement in child immunization coverage, improvement in nutritional status among children, and increased support from local



Weekly mother's class offered in a series of 10 classes.  
Information about nutrition is taught by voluntddes

governments to health programs towards sustainability. Village health stations that have been upgraded by Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects from the Japanese Government are functioning as the base for improving the health of community people at the grassroots level.

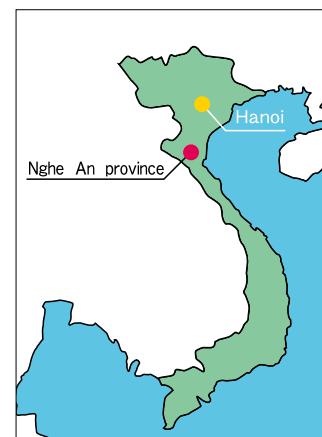
The experience of this project has spread to the Province of Capiz, a rural province located on Panay Island (approximately one-hour flight from Manila) with population of 650,000, in collaboration with UNFPA through the support of Human Security Fund (HSF) that was established in the United Nations by the Japanese Government in 1999. Activities in Bantangas are also being continued and expanded with the aim of further improving reproductive health including nutrition with the support of Ajinomoto Corporation's Global Corporate Citizenship Program. New issues such as adolescent health, male participation, prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS have

been taken up in the recent years to develop activities with emphasis on human resource development and establishment of community support system for sustainability.

## 2 . JOICFP in Vietnam- Towards safe delivery

JOICFP is working with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in advancing a project for improving reproductive health of women in Nghe An province which is one of the most poverty-stricken provinces in Vietnam. It is a technical cooperation project for effective promotion of community-based activities with people's participation that started in 1997 and has now entered its second phase.

The following is a report from JOICFP staff that has been assigned to the local project site as chief advisor.



Ethnic composition of Nghe An Province in Vietnam is 84% Kinh and 16% minority groups living in mountain regions. Information about maternal care among minority groups is limited, and little is known about the details of the mountainous region where health care services are not sufficiently provided. A study on maternal care for minority groups was conducted through consignment to a Vietnamese research body after selecting four communes in the mountainous region. Valuable information was collected through interview and questionnaire surveys that were conducted on main ethnic minorities in Nghe An Province; Thai, H'Mong, Kho Mu and O Du.



Women at one of the project sites  
in Tung Duong District

Minority women tend to marry at early age, and one-third of women surveyed gave birth to their first child at ages between 16 and 18. According to a study of the realities of prenatal health checkup we conducted for each minority group, 94% of H'Mong women had never received a health checkup. Percentage of home birth differed among groups. For instance, no H'Mong women received assistance from health workers; 44% received assistance from relatives, 36% received assistance from husbands, and as many as 20% delivered their child alone. Although 70% of them thought that it would be better to deliver their child at a health center, they chose home birth because of distance to the center and cost. The rate of family planning implementation was also low at 35%. A 51 year-old woman who had a 6 month-old child had experienced 16 pregnancies and childbirths including 2 miscarriages. Details of this project will be presented in the next section.



### 3 . Cooperation between Japan and Vietnam

1) Cooperation between Japan and Vietnam for improvement of reproductive health

June is the hottest time of the year in Nghe An Province. It is not rare for the maximum temperature to reach 38 degrees. However, enough momentum is being generated by various projects carried out under the Vietnam Reproductive Health Project to burn off this heat. Aiming to improve reproductive health service in Nghe An Province, the project is conducting wide-ranging activities, covering 469 communes in 1 city, 1 town and 17 districts of the entire province. Project working committee has been established on the provincial level and in every districts and communes. The members of the working committee are representatives of People's Committee, Women's Union, Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC) and health centers. They are working together by playing their respective roles.

Health center is offering reproductive health services to people in the region. CPFC is responsible for disseminating family planning services and information. Women's Union has a powerful grassroots network and is disseminating information related to reproductive health through cooperation with health workers and CPFC staff in charge of promoting family planning while also working actively towards involvement of men. Effective promotion of project activities is expected from all of these activities and from the commitment of People's Committee.

Vietnamese counterparts and Japanese experts are working together in training of monitoring technique for district health center (DHC) staff that follow up on the activities of commune health center (CHC), training on effective utilization of reproductive health teaching materials offered to members of Women's Union, computer training for statistics in charge at DHC as preparation for introduction of health statistics information system, and workshop intended for strengthening cooperation among approximately 1,800 members of 469 commune steering committees. Rehearsals for presentation continue until 11pm, engaging in heated discussion at time. Experts are spending their days appreciating the eagerness of their Vietnamese counterparts.



A shot from monitoring technique training. Holding a microphone at the center is midwife Ms. Hoa.



Women's Union has many good actors among the members, making their skit comparable to a musical play. This skit had CHC staff, pregnant woman and her husband and was about promoting maternal health checkup.

## 4 . JOICFP in Bangladesh-Gender and Family Planning

### 1) Gender issue:

In many of the developing countries of the world, women are placed in lower socioeconomic position compared to men owing to various factors including culture and religion. The so-called gender issue (social and cultural gender) exists at the basis of society. Women are discriminated in their family and society, and in areas of opportunities such as education, health care and employment simply because they were born as women. Among the developing countries, Bangladesh in South Asia is said to be one of the countries where gender issue is most obvious in the world.

### 2) Women's health project:

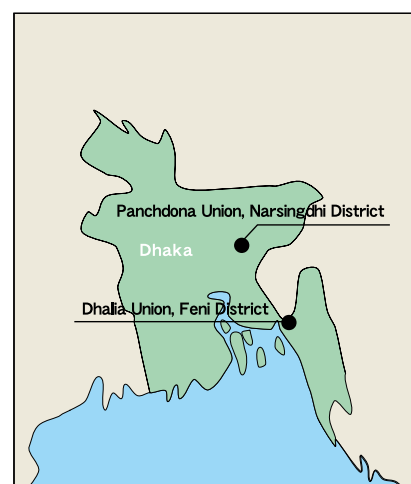
We at Japanese Organization for Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) is working with the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh in implementing for the purpose of protecting the health of women living in rural areas of Bangladesh and improving their status and capability. With cooperation and support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Partner Program, we have been implementing Community-Operated Reproductive Health Project (CORHP) since 2001 by setting as priority goal the reduction of maternal and infant mortality.

Playing the central role in these projects are volunteers for health care and improvement of living condition that have been selected from their region called Family Development Volunteers (FDVs). Fifteen women in their twenties to fifties are working in each project district. Activities such as health education, family planning dissemination and adolescent health education for young generation are carried out in each district. Another important duty they have is to inform the residents about visiting doctors and to assist the doctors during health check.

They have been selected from the village residents. They are women enjoying the confidence of the villagers and have strong sense of responsibility. Yasmin, one of the volunteers, told us with confidence; "My job is to protect the health and life of women and children in my village."

### 3) JOICFP's approach

Engaged in various community-based activities, JOICFP is always concerned



● Project site



Training on safe delivery to community volunteers (with the Japanese expert dispatched by JOICFP at the center)

about what community can do to solve the health-related problems of individuals. On the other hand, JOICFP is also promoting projects by discussing with community members about what individuals can do for the improvement of entire community. It is a movement for health promotion and rural development based on the concept of "One for all. All for one."

## **About JOICFP**

JOICFP is an NGO undertaking international cooperation in the fields of population, reproductive health (RH)/family planning (FP), maternal and child health (MCH), health education and environmental health to improve the health and well-being of people in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. JOICFP has the consultative status with the UN/ECOSOC and serves as the Tokyo Liaison Office of IPPF. JOICFP received the UN Population Award in 2001.

## **About IPPF**

IPPF stands for International Planned Parenthood Federation. Based in London, IPPF is one of the largest international NGOs in the world involved in activities for promoting family planning and reproductive health/rights in some 180 countries of the world. IPPF has family planning associations in approximately 150 countries that are working member organizations of IPPF. IPPF was established in 1952 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002.

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# UNFPA Tokyo Office

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## 1 . UNFPA Tokyo Office Launched

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) newly opened its Tokyo Office on September 1, 2002. The role of Tokyo Office lies in conveying the activities and issues of UNFPA to the Japanese public. While the activities of UNFPA are centered around offering humanitarian support in the developing countries, the organization is also addressing important issues including measures against population explosion, population and environment including water, securing of reproductive health and rights, support for women and prevention of AIDS among youth. Information about these activities will be transmitted to the public through the Tokyo Office Website. The office will also work closely with parliamentarians, related ministries and agencies, citizen groups (NGO/NPO), experts and intellectuals when UNFPA staff visits Japan by setting up opportunities for exchange of views.

Last year, we commemorated the opening the Tokyo Office by holding the Symposium on Women and Health in Afghanistan. The symposium was co-hosted with the Cabinet Office and attended by Ms. Habiba Sarabi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Afghanistan, and Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA.



Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Fukuda and  
Ms. Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA

## 2 . UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador of JAPAN

Ms. Yuko Arimori, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador

People with HIV/AIDS has currently reached approximately 7.2 million in Asia, with additional 18 million predicted to be infected by 2010. In February, Ms. Yuko Arimori, who was inaugurated as UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador in January of last year, visited for the second time since last year the Youth AIDS Prevention Project that she herself had launched in Cambodia. She also inspected the present condition of HIV/AIDS problem by participating in local activities of "peer educators" that work from the local schools and communities. In Japan, Step Campaign ([www.step-campaign.com](http://www.step-campaign.com)), realized through cooperation among Cambodian Family Planning Association, JOICPF and

UNFPA, is developed as publicity activity for this project in Japan, jointly hosting "Talk and Walk with Goodwill Ambassador Yuko Arimori on Saturday" with Toshima Ward of Tokyo in January of this year. The donations collected are being utilized to fund the project in Cambodia.

UNFPA Tokyo Office is also actively engaged in various activities at home and abroad. They include the preliminary meetings for the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and The Pacific (ICAPP) held in Kobe in November of this year and the lecture tour of Japan with UNFPA AIDS expert Dr. Suman Mehta in February of this year.



Ms. Yuko Arimori cultivating friendship with peer educators

### 3 . UNFPA Emergency support for Iraq

People's lives and health are exposed to risk in conflict-ridden areas because health care facilities cease to function. Problems related to pregnancy and childbirth are particularly serious as they occur regardless of time and place.

UNFPA continues to offer its assistance of reproductive health supplies including medical appliances, medicine and contraceptive devices for Iraq, a country still in need of emergency assistance, via neighboring countries such as Syria, Jordan and Iran, in addition to building 35 mobile medical facilities and 4 obstetrics and gynecology hospitals. We aim to offer assistance that reaches the target effectively without fail and are conducting a study on the extent to which the existing health facilities can be utilized with cooperation in Iraq and from international NGOs.

UNFPA's mission lies in promoting women's health and education. Reproductive health services must be incorporated from the stage of emergency assistance in a country's rehabilitation because protecting the health of women/children and seeking stabilization of local infrastructure lead to reconstruction of that country. Further understanding and assistance from donor nations including Japan is needed in the area of humanitarian support towards rebuilding of Iraq.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the United Nations staff killed by explosion at the United Nations office in Iraq.



UNFPA truck delivering support supplies to Baghdad.



#### 4 . TICADIII and UNFPA Activities

Preceding the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III), a symposium was held on the theme of "HIV/AIDS: A Threat to Development in Africa" on September 26. As the purpose of this symposium was to raise the awareness of youth about HIV/AIDS in view of the increase in newly infected persons in their teens and twenties in Japan, the symposium was planned and run by student interns. The importance of assistance with “interactivity” (i.e. sharing the information obtained from activities in Africa with Japanese society) was reaffirmed through exchange of opinions among approximately 150 participants that included panellists from UNFPA Head Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Uganda (which has been successful in HIV/AIDS countermeasures) and NGOs. (See photo)

State of World Population 2003 issued by UNFPA on October 8 underscored the importance of “investing in adolescent health and rights” and extensively discussed the issue of HIV/AIDS. An organic approach by governments, international agencies including United Nations and network of NGOs are needed to eradicate HIV/AIDS, which has become a global problem, and reduction of poverty, which is the precondition for such effort.



Student representatives and Ms.Ba (Director of Africa division UNFPA) announce the statement.

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# About ODA Quarterly

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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.

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