

**THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
AFPPD AND APDA**

**THE EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS  
MEETING ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

February 25 - 26, 1992 Tokyo, Japan

**THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
(APDA)**



OPENING CEREMONY, THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AFPPD AND APDA

— ADDRESS —



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Acting Chairman, APDA.



Senator. Professor.  
Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn  
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Mr. Hiroyuki Sonoda  
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Mr. Takeo Fukuda  
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UNFPA



Dr. V. T. Palan  
Regional Director of the East  
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Dr. Eng. Mohammad  
Ghassan Tayara  
Vice Chairman, AFPPD.



PANEL DISCUSSION, Population and Agricultural Development in Asia



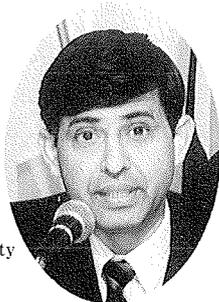
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
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EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

— COUNTRY PAPER PRESENTED BY, —



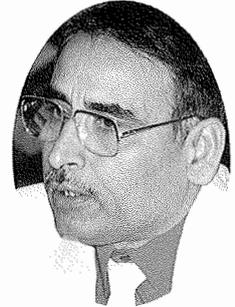
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Ms. Young Shim Dho, M.P.



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Mr. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.



Kingdom of Nepal  
Dr. Shyam Lal Tabadar, M.P.



New Zealand  
Mr. John Blincoe, M.P.



Philippines  
Mr. Benjamin D. de Leon



Republic of Singapore  
Mr. Lew Syn Pau, M.P.



Sri Lanka  
Dr. Neville Fernando, M.P.



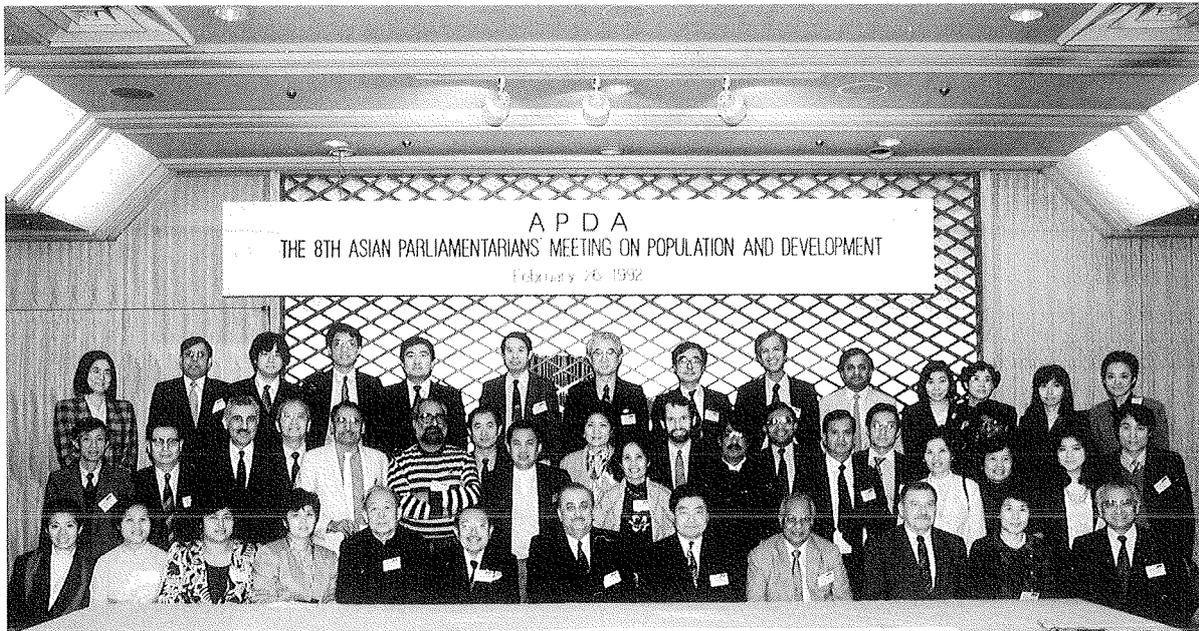
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EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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## Opening Ceremony

(10:00 - 11:00 Feb. 25, 1992)

## THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AFPPD AND APDA

Welcoming Address  
by  
Fukusaburo Maeda  
Acting Chairman  
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Your Excellencies, honorable Wang Wei, Vice-Chairman of AFPPD, honorable Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Secretary General of AFPPD, distinguished parliamentarians from different countries, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great privilege and pleasure that I extend my most sincere welcome on behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association. We are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and also APDA, the Asian Population and Development Association. As we celebrate this milestone, we are truly indebted to a great pioneer, and to all of you for your contribution to the Asian population and development issues.

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) were inaugurated as a result of a resolution adopted in 1981 at the Beijing Conference in China. First, APDA was established with its mission to facilitate and act as an operating body for the Asian Parliamentarians' Forum in February of 1982. And in March of the following year, 1982 in New Delhi, the AFPPD was given birth. Since their inception a decade ago our world has undergone incredible historical changes: just to name a few, the remarkable transformation of the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries that we never dreamt of a decade ago, and the extensive destruction of the global natural environment. We are experiencing dramatic changes in both the social and natural environments.

The AFPPD's and APDA's mission and philosophy is to achieve sustainable development, which would also allow us to accommodate the present needs while not depriving our future generations of their potential and opportunities. As the pressure for ever increasing world population heightens, we believe that our mission is becoming more and more important. I vividly recall the words of the late honorable Mr. Sato, one of the founders of APDA and AFPPD. The late honorable Mr. Sato often said there should never be one child who is born to just starve and die. I am sure that this belief is shared by all of us today. To prevent the population explosion, and yet achieve harmonious sustainable growth and development is a great challenge for mankind. Should we avoid this challenge, there will be neither future nor peace on this planet. Asia accounts for 60% of the world population. It is no exaggeration to say that because of the size of the population we Asians have our hands on casting the votes over the global population growth. Our responsibilities are very profound and big.

Over the past ten years, AFPPD and APDA have been both serving important roles, which were never possible without your dedication and commitment. Notwithstanding our efforts, we have not yet succeeded to reduce the population growth to the level expected ten years ago. The present population growth exceeds the level estimated ten years ago. And the environmental destruction that we witness today proves that our predictions were, unfortunately, correct. We are still in the mid-way of our path, we have a long way to go. We hope that we can expect your continued support and

understanding as we pave into the new decade. We hope that we can together pursue a novel course.

Today we are celebrating the tenth anniversary, but tomorrow APDA has been honored to organize the eighth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development at the same venue. We hope that through the active and practical deliberations amongst parliamentarians, the Forum will be able to find a clue for a common solution of our problems. APDA is determined to continue its efforts to provide strength and assistance to this cause. Last but not least, I would like to pay a deep tribute to the achievement of the honorable Mr. Sato, the late Chairman of AFPPD and APDA, and also to the honorable Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, the late Acting Chairman of AFPPD.

The sudden deaths of these two great leaders in the matter of one year are not only a great loss to Asia and to the whole world, but also a personal sorrow for all parliamentarian colleagues. We would like to accord our highest praise to the numerous and excellent achievements of the two great leaders. They will always be remembered, as we are determined to succeed their will and expand our activities. Thank you very much.

Address  
by  
Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn  
Secretary General AFPPD

Excellencies, Honorables, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,  
It is with great pleasure that I express a warm welcome to you all, to the tenth Anniversary of APDA and AFPPD.

Today, we are gathered here with mixed feelings. Asian Forum is now in its Teens, which is one of the most exciting movement of one's life. Asian Forum is also entering that period where it has to grow, expand and experiment with new ideas and new programs.

This is also a moment of sorrow and sadness. We lost three of our most important founder pillars, Mr. Takashi Sato, Mr. Shintaro Abe and Mr. Sat Paul Mittal. Mr. Sato and Mr. Abe were the heart and soul of the movement and Mr. Mittal, the backbone, which shouldered the progress of the Forum to this point. He actually gave his life for the cause of Population and Development. Asian Forum and me, personally salute them for their dedication. Who is with the Forum since 1981 to the Asian and Global Forum will always be remembered.

In a year, to lose three important members of a family is not an easy thing to sustain. But as saying goes, "The Show must go on" and as the famous last word by World renown Doctor Louis Pasteur, I quote "Work never cease to work" with goodwill of their spirits - Asian Forum must continue to make progress. AFPPD has made substantial progress not only in program, but also in getting new members to join hands with UN Health for all or happiness for all by the year 2000.

Asian Forum coverage is very extensive from West Asia to the Pacific. We have major percentage of world population living with us. China and India are the worlds largest populated countries. They are in our region, so are the large number of small Island Countries. We have extreme poverty and also wealthiest country of the world in our region. Several emerging economic success stories are also in our region.

This brings heavy responsibility on the Asian Forum. Our programs have taken all these realities in account and have committed itself to sensitize political policy makers in the fields of Population, Development, and Environment as well as the Right of Children, Care of Elderly, Emerging proportions of Youth and Adolescents, and the most important is the Status of Women, and again our programs "Asia in Action" will lead to a betterment of quality of life.

On this tenth Anniversary, we will review our activities and plan for the future. We have to strengthen National Committees to initiate National programs and make efforts to bring in, new member Countries, especially in West Asia and Middle East.

We have also circulated to you the activities of the last ten years. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) on their 10th Anniversary also. AFPPD and APDA are twin brothers and their future directions are the same.

I am very grateful to the APDA for organizing such a magnificent program for the Anniversary celebrations and also to all of you who thought fit to grace this occasion, which gives us tremendous moral support. My thanks to UNFPA, and IPPF, and Global Committee, the Federation and Japanese colleagues for their continuous support and guidance.

I am thankful to fellow Parliamentarians for their commitments for the cause of Population and Development.

Finally, keeping with the theme of our meeting, I will only say  
TRY TO LEAVE THIS WORLD A LITTLE BETTER THEN WE FOUND IT. The  
Goodness will be such an investment that will never fails.

"Good, better, best,  
Never let it rests,  
Until your good is better,  
And your better best"  
Good luck to you all,

Thank you.

Congratulatory Message  
by  
Kiichi Miyazawa  
Prime Minister of Japan

Presented by  
Hon. Hiroyuki Sonoda,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my greatest honor to celebrate on the tenth anniversary of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA). My sincerest congratulations will be extended to all parliamentary members of each Asian nation who have gathered here today to represent their respective countries.

The 21st century is just around the corner, and one of the most urgent global issues that we are faced with today concerns how human beings and the earth can co-exist. It is said that whether or not we can solve the population problem is the key to realizing a bright future.

The world population now stands at 5.4 billion, 3.2 billion of which live in Asia, accounting for about 60 percent of the total world population living on the earth. Based on this fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the population situation in Asia will determine the fate of all human beings living on this planet.

In 1982, as part of the effort to find solutions to the tough problem of population control in Asia, leading parliamentarians from many Asian countries joined hands to establish the AFPPD, while overcoming the differences in their political and social systems, customs, cultural values, and religious views. Since then, these influential political leaders have devoted themselves to tackling this very important problem that has bearing on the future of the human race, and we must pay our greatest tribute to the organization's foresight and efforts.

In the mean time, we must not forget the consistent efforts of the members of the APDA who have provided various logistic supports for the activities of the AFPPD. I, too, have a great deal of respect for the members' devotion to promoting related activities.

I hear that Japan is the first non-Western country that has succeeded in demographic transition by family planning and maternal and child health care activities. Japan's population program has been developed successfully thanks to the efforts of the late former Prime Minister of Japan, Nobusuke Kishi, and a former Prime Minister, Takeo Fukuda who is attending this ceremony with us today. These two Japanese politicians were able to foresee the future of the human race accurately, and promoted their initiative on a global scale. I cannot help but admire Mr. Kishi and Mr. Fukuda who demonstrated their deep concern and insight into the area of the population problem.

Today, the entire world is in a state of unprecedented transition such as rapid change of the Eastern European countries and the disbanding of the Soviet Union. As these trends continue, the international relations that were formed during the Cold War era

will change drastically, and the political leaders of each nation must establish a new framework for world peace and international order. Everyone of us must assume a great deal of responsibility and recognize the fact that we are charged with the mission of establishing a world order in which all human beings can co-exist peacefully.

The population problem is not any single country's problem; rather it is something that must be dealt with on a global scale while examining the relationship between population trends and the earth's ability to sustain human existence.

Moreover, the ecological issues, which are closely linked with the population problem, have recently received a great deal of attention as urgent issues. We must seriously consider how we can possibly protect our Earth from attempts to destroy the natural environment and thus keep our environment safe and sound.

In this sense, the world is paying much attention to the AFPPD's activity which is aimed at finding effective solutions to environmental problems while strengthening the earth's population carrying capabilities. Especially, we need to think what roles Japan can play in Asia to deal with the population problem.

Last, but not the least, I hope that today's event will provide an opportunity to further promote exchanges and cooperative activities among those who are here today in an effort to facilitate the process of finding effective solutions to the population problem, which is, in my opinion, the key to realizing co-existence between the human race and the earth.

Thank you much for your kind attention.

Address  
by  
Hon. Hiroyuki Sonoda  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare of Japan

The population initiative has been started by the late Nobosuke Kishi, the honorable Takeo Fukuda, the honorable Takashi Sato, who is no longer with us, who has established this Asian Population and Development Association and Dr. Sat Paul Mittal of India. Their contribution and commitment to the population problem has been enormous. It is sad, and I share that sadness with you that we miss them today, as we celebrate the tenth anniversary. Let us pray for their souls.

Population is a basic and limiting factor in the economic and social survival of humankind. We must check and stem the population explosion. The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association has rightly defined Development as a sustainable development, not to take away resources for the future generation. I believe that is a challenging, but a healthy concept. Our Ministry of Health and Welfare recognizes the importance of the population problem. We would like to work with you to take up this challenge of population in Asia. Last, I would like to take this occasion to express my deep respects to the members of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association and pray for the prosperity and progress the two associations. Thank you very much.

Remarks  
by  
Mr. Katsuhide Kitatani  
Deputy Executive Director  
United Nations Population Fund

On behalf of UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, I would like to welcome and extend my greetings to the parliamentarians participating in the Tenth Anniversary of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Dr. Sadik has always had a keen interest in the activities of parliamentarians, especially those aimed at promoting both awareness and understanding of population issues. She deeply regrets therefore that, because of other unavoidable commitments, she cannot be with you today. However, on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), she extends her hearty congratulations and best wishes for successful deliberations, leading to positive conclusion of this Eighth Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development.

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) were inaugurated in 1982, thanks to the enormous efforts of the first Chairman of the Forum, the late Takashi Sato who, to our deep sorrow passed away suddenly last year and also to those of Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, its first Secretary General, who passed away suddenly earlier last month. Both Mr. Sato and Mr. Mittal worked tirelessly to ensure that population occupied its rightful place in the annals of development history in the Asian region. We, all of us gathered here today, owe greatly to the efforts of these two great pioneers that the two organizations have been successful over the past ten years, serving as the crucial link between government and individuals, and also articulating the needs of people. It is through their efforts that many countries in the region have been successful in developing population policies, tackling population problems and improving the quality of life of their people.

The two organizations have made a great stride but much remains to be done. During the last decade, the population of Asia broke the three billion mark while world population grew beyond five billion. We have witnessed slowing in the growth rate of population, but not to the degree that we had anticipated.

For these reasons, all of us must renew our determination to assist the region in reaching its population and development objectives including self-sufficiency in food and provision of education for all, to which Mr. Sato and Mr. Mittal dedicated their political lives. In the endeavor to attain the objectives, the most critical factor is to secure the resources needed to design and implement effective programs. This was a prominent point in the "Call to Action" of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, which called upon all governments to make every effort to increase their financial contributions to international population assistance programs, in particular to the UNFPA program, in order to help solve population problems in the developing countries.

The role to be played by parliamentarians in making this Call to Action a reality in Asia will be critical. It should be properly acknowledged. You have made a great

contribution already in this respect in the last ten years. It has to be promoted further and I wish you success and promise that the United Nations Population Fund will continue to collaborate closely with you in the years to come in your noble endeavor.

As we prepare for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994, we continue to strive towards lowering the rate of population growth to a considerable degree, in the final decade of this Century. We look forward to a closer relationship and fruitful cooperation with the Asian Forum and the Asian Population and Development Association in the years ahead.

I wish you every success in the deliberations of this meeting as well as in the implementation of your future program of work.

Address  
by  
His Excellency Takeo Fukuda  
President of the Council  
Global Committee of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development (GCPPD)

Ladies and Gentlemen. Since we have set up the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association, we are celebrating the tenth anniversary. We have the members of the Forum and the Association, Mr. Maeda, Dr. Prasop, the Secretary General, Mr. Kitatani, the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA has joined us here. We have received the message of the Prime Minister. We have, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the honorable Mr. Sonoda make an address. Dr. Mahler has joined us from London. I am most pleased, and I am sure you are. As one who has been involved very deeply from the beginning in those two organizations, I am most pleased.

It was in 1981, there was in Beijing a meeting of the Asian parliamentarians. Naturally, I was at Beijing, and that conference was an important one, a very critical one. Why was it critical? Because it was at that Beijing Conference that, I believe, the seriousness of the population problem was shared among the Asian parliamentarians, and the declaration at Beijing made it very clear that the Asian countries must set the target for the population growth rate, that by the end of the 20th century, that the growth rate will be no more than one percent.

That was a very serious and grave commitment. So the Forum and the Association were born out of that Beijing Declaration in the following year, and we count exactly ten years since that very historical and memorable occasion. And in the last ten years, as many people have said, the United Nations Secretary General has set up the Fund for Population Activities. And Mr. Raphael M. Salas was symbolic of the population problem, "Mister Population," he passed away. And the first president passed away. And this year, Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, that strong, strong man, left us. So it is sad, very sad, that these three gentlemen are not with us today. We must carry on their commitment and their commitment and enthusiasm. In eight more years we will be entering the 21st Century, putting behind the 20th Century.

Looking back at the 20th Century, I believe there were two major critical agenda that we have to delay the solution of until the next century. One has to do with the military, defense, security, political issues. The developments since the second half of the 20th Century, the world was divided in two camps. There was the West, led by the United States of America, the East led by the Soviet Union. They were trying to increase the spheres of their influence worldwide, and it was the Arms Race which was at the core of this power balance. The Arms Race developed into the nuclear arms race, in the ever-increasing race between the two camps.

Today the nuclear arsenal is so huge that it can destroy, annihilate humankind 60 times over. Something must be done. The nuclear arsenal has to be managed properly, and I'm sure the two camps have managed. But one can never be sure that there would be irresponsible persons making abuse of those nuclear weapons, so we are at high risk. But in the last one year we have seen rapid changes. People realized that the conflicts would solve no problems, we must put behind conflicts, we must

begin to cooperate. And within that new concept people realized that there must be disarmament, not buildup of arms, so there is a bright future. And the second issue, not a nuclear bomb, but a population bomb, the second bomb is a population bomb.

There were only 200 million people two thousand years ago, when Jesus Christ lived. After 1900 years, the beginning of our 20th century, the population stood at 1.6 billion. This 1.6 billion, at the beginning of this century, that soared to 6.4 billion by the end of this century, 4 time -- quadrupled -- in the matter of our century. Perhaps the population bomb is more dangerous, in many ways, than the nuclear bomb. What if we did nothing about the second bomb, the population bomb? By the 21st century, if the world population quadrupled, we will have 25 billion people on this planet. Would the earth's resources, would the earth's energy environment sustain this mammoth group of people, 25 billion?

As we find ourselves in the middle of the last decade of the 20th century, we must give thought to this grave problem. Would we leave enough resources for the posterior generations to be able to sustain themselves? The resources are at risk. The problem is enormous and defies easy solutions. I say defies easy solutions, but population problems can be addressed, although an easy solution, as I said, is difficult.

In June there will be an environmental conference in Rio de Janeiro. It is known as the Environmental Summit. And there, at the Environmental Summit, the words Environment are focused. Perhaps 50,000 people will be coming to that Environmental Summit. If there are enough accommodations in Rio de Janeiro, perhaps 80,000 people will flock to that environmental summit. Such is the attention commanded by that conference.

Why is the environment at risk? Mainly because of the population problem. In a sense it is a good thing, but in a sense it is not enough, because they are interested in phenomenal problems, the environmental deterioration. What lies at the basis of this environmental deterioration is the population. One has to see the environmental issue with that set of eyes.

You know I've been saying this until you're tired of hearing me, that the population problem is at the base of all problems, of which the environmental problem is certainly one. But I think that we're beginning to see an increasing number of people who recognize that the population problem is at the core of the environmental problem.

Noboru Takeshita, who is also my colleague, and who served as Prime Minister of Japan, will be going to Rio de Janeiro, and he will be addressing the audience there that the root cause of the environmental issue is population. So Noboru Takeshita will be in Rio de Janeiro in person to stress that the population problem lies at the core of the environmental problem.

I did not say lightly, when I said it is a population bomb. It is a bomb. It is a serious bomb. Are we wise enough to manage population? Therein lies the key to our survival as humankind.

You know that population is a serious problem, so what I have to do is to express my respects to you for your efforts in the last ten years. The crisis is becoming more

urgent, not less urgent. So let us work together, cooperate together, because Asia holds the key to resolving the world's global population problems. So my prayers for your continued efforts and success. Thank you.

Address By Dr. Halfdan Mahler,  
Secretary General  
International Planned Parenthood Federation

Presented by  
Dr. V.T. Palan  
Regional Director,  
East and South East Asia and Oceania Region  
IPPF

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for inviting me to address this distinguished gathering of Parliamentarians from Asia. I consider this to be a great honor and privilege to IPPF and myself to be able to provide this brief address.

The origins of the parliamentary movement on population and development began in Asia. This is the region where the movement was first initiated. Within a decade the parliamentary movement has spread all over the world, and now covers the Americas, Africa and Europe. During this decade the parliamentary movement has become a worldwide network. The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has now become a vibrant movement in Asia with the involvement and support of parliamentarians in various countries. You have not only obtained the involvement and support of national parliamentary groups, but have also helped respective governments to understand the dynamics of population and the development policies and programs to stabilize population trends within the overall context of development.

This does not mean to say that the task is done. Mankind has many challenges from the preservation of the quality of the environment, to the conservation of natural resources at a sustainable level, to the economic and social development of developing countries and the stabilization of population growth. We are told that each month we have some 75-80,000 births more than deaths. If this continues, we can be sure that by the year 2000 there will be a further addition of 1 billion people to the world's population. We are literally adding a billion people or so to our population each 11-12 years. At the end of this century, there will be more than 6 billion people and we are told that after the year 2020 the figure could well rise to 8 billion or even 10 billion people. This rapid growth of the world's population is certainly one of the main obstacles to breaking through the vicious cycles of poverty.

Asia contains the largest proportion of the world's population and is most densely populated. Today Asia represents 55-60% of the world's population. I strongly believe that the politics of today will determine whether the world's population, and in particular the population of Asia, will grow as rapidly as during the last three decades of the 20th Century, or will explode to some 12-15 billion people during the next century. There can be no doubt that the effect of such a population explosion would be enormous. In order to enhance the quality of life, I believe that all should participate in setting goals and programs for sustainable development, taking into account population stabilization. These measures for sustainable development should be voluntary and should respect individual human rights and beliefs.

Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people are uniquely placed to play an increasingly important role in bringing about changes in all of our countries, especially

in Asia. In spite of success in many Asian countries in increasing family planning practice, population will remain the most pressing problem in most Asian countries for the rest of this century. Progress for the remainder of this decade will depend on ensuring sustained government commitment to population programs and in this the parliamentarians can and should be the strongest possible force. The parliamentarians comprise the strongest link between the government and the people and can influence the direction and strategies of population policy and program effectiveness.

It is my belief that the parliamentary movement could be considerably strengthened if we can ensure that the national Family Planning Associations begin to forge closer and more intimate relationships with the national parliamentary groups. The IPPF member organizations in countries can not only provide the appropriate information to the national parliamentary organizations, but can also be useful in identifying issues and choices in the area of population and development. IPPF is strongly committed to the continued support of the Asian Parliamentary movement. We are convinced that the parliamentary movement, together with program initiatives directed towards the enhancement of education and status of women, will be key ingredients for the sustainable development and the overall improvement of the quality of life of all of our people.

I would like to close by offering my congratulations to the AFPPD and the host organizations for organizing this meeting, and would like to end by once again quoting the words of the former World Bank President, Mr. Robert McNamara:

"We know that eventually the world's population will have to stop growing, that is certain. What is uncertain is how and when, and at what level, and with what results. We who are alive today can determine the answer to these questions, by our actions or inactions, we will shape the world for generations to come".

Thank you.

PROGRAM OF  
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AFPPD AND APDA  
EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT

(February 25 -26, 1992, at New Otani Hotel)

Tuesday, February 25

10:00 - 11:00 OPENING CEREMONY at Suiho, Banquet Floor Opening Address:  
By Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
Acting Chairman, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Welcome Address:

By The Honorable Prasop Ratanakorn  
Secretary General, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development  
(AFPPD)

Message:

from His Excellency Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa  
Prime Minister of Japan  
Presented by Hon. Hiroyuki Sonoda, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and  
Welfare

Addresses:

By The Honorable Hiroyuki Sonoda  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare

By Mr. Katsuhide Kitatani, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

By His Excellency Takeo Fukuda  
President of the Council, Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and  
Development (GCPPD)

By Dr. Halfdan T. Mahler  
Secretary General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)  
Presented by Dr. V. T. Palan, Regional Director of the East and South East Asia and  
Oceania Region, IPPF

11:00 - 11:45 Keynote Address:

"Population, Development and Environment in Asia"  
By The Honorable Saburo Okita, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

12:00 - 13:30 CEREMONY FOR THE LATE MR. TAKASHI SATO AND MR. SAT  
PAUL MITTAL

<at Ume, Banquet Floor, The Main>

14:00 - 15:30 PANEL DISCUSSION : <at Suiho, Banquet Floor>  
"Population and Agricultural Development in Asia"

Panelists

Dr. Toshio Kuroda  
Director Emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute

Dr. M. Mosleh Uddin  
Faculty Member, UN Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific

Dr. Shigeto Kawano  
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Dr. Yonosuke Hara  
Professor, Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo

Coordinator

Dr. Yoichi Okazaki  
Professor, Faculty of Law, Nihon University

Questions and answers

15:30 - 15:50 Coffee Break

15:50 - 17:00 Questions and answers

17:00 - 17:30 SLIDE PRESENTATION  
"Regional Development and Population in Japan"

18:30 - 20:30 RECEPTION AND 10th ANNIVERSARY, APDA AND AFFPPD  
hosted by Hon. Prasop Ratanakorn, Secretary General of AFPPD and Mr. Fukusaburo  
Maeda, Acting-Chairman of APDA  
<at Orizuru-Rei, Arcade Floor, The Main>

EIGHTH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, February 26

9:00 - 12:00 SESSION (at Ume, Banquet Floor, The Main)

"Issues on Population and Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment"

Presentations of the country papers <at Ume, Banquest Floor, The Main>

Australia                      Hon. Colin Hollis  
"Population Policy and Population Cooperation in Australia"

Bangladesh                    Hon. Shajahan Siraj  
"Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment"

China                          Hon. Yang Jike  
"The Population and Environment in China"

India                            Hon. Mahendra Prasad  
"Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment"

Indonesia                      Hon. Irma Alamsyah Djaya Putra  
"Population and Sustainable Development in Indonesia"

Japan                            Hon. Kayoko Shimizu  
"Population Problem in Japan"

Korea                            Hon. Young Shim Dho  
"Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment"

Malaysia                        Hon. Ibrahim Ali  
"Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment: Malaysia Case"

Nepal                            Hon. Shyam Lal Tabadar  
"Population and Development in Nepal"

New Zealand                    Hon. John Blincoe  
"Population and Sustainable Development in Asia"

Philippines                    Hon. Leticia Ramos Shahani,  
Presented by Mr. Benjamin de Leon  
"Population and Sustainable Development in the Philippines"

Singapore                      Hon. Lew Syn Pau  
"Population and Development in Singapore"

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCHEON hosted by APDA <at Suiho, Banquet Floor>

13:45 - 16:15 SESSION (Cont'd) <at Ume, Banquet Floor, The Main>

Sri Lanka                      Hon. Neville Fernando  
"Population Growth and Sustainable Development in Asia"

Syria                              Hon. Eng. Mohammad Ghassan Tayara  
Brief on Population and Their Activities in Syrian Arab Republic"

Thailand                         Hon. Prasop Ratanakorn  
"Abstract Asian Cooperation on Population Resources and Development"

Vietnam                         Hon. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong  
"Population and Development in Viet Nam"

Questions and answers

16:15 - 16:30 CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing remarks:

By Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Acting Chairman, APDA

By Hon. Eng. M. Ghassan Tayara, Vice Chairman, AFPPD

## Keynote Address

"Population, Development and Environment in Asia"

(11:00 - 11:45 Feb. 25, 1992)

by  
Hon. Saburo Okita  
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Keynote Address  
"Population, Development and Environment in Asia"

by  
Hon. Saburo Okita  
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Thank you very much for your kind introduction. I started my studies in engineering at university, but eventually I realized that I was becoming an expert on economics. I have been involved in drafting the program to double the income of the Japanese people, and to facilitate the reconstruction of the Japanese economy after the war. But eventually I became more and more involved in global or international economics. At the same time I have come to have great interest in the long-term problems and challenges of the world, including population, development and environment. I had the privilege of attending many international conferences.

After the war I must have made at least 380 trips overseas. These 380 trips included all destinations: Asia, Europe, Africa, Middle East. So I have visited many different corners of the world. As the honorable former Prime Minister Mr. Fukuda has said, "We are the people residing on this planet earth, and our future is really our challenge today." In 1972, in Stockholm, the United Nations Human Environment Conference was convened. I was a participant. And also in 1974 in Bukarest, the World Population Conference met, and I also had the opportunity to be a part of that conference. And in 1980's I was a member of the Brundtland Commission, led by the Lady Prime Minister of Norway, Dr. Brundtland. The World Commission of Environment and Development shared by this Norwegian Prime Minister had conducted many deliberations which I had the privilege of being a part of.

Today we are here to discuss about the development and population in Asia. I believe that my past involvement has granted me this opportunity to share my thoughts and interests with you today. What is the present and the future challenges, I hope to dwell upon those aspects today.

In the early 1970's, or rather in 1968, the Club of Rome was established in Rome, Italy. It was primarily composed of European businessmen and intellectuals, some twenty of thirty of such people, and the executive officer, the Italian businessman, who led Fiat and Olivetti, was the convenor of this club. Through his economic activities he began to be profoundly interested and concerned about the future of mankind. And in 1969 I received an invitation from this gentleman to be a part of this club. His colleague, Alexander King, a British, who was then the head of the Scientific Bureau of OECD, invited me to take part. So I became a member of the Club of Rome. This Club of Rome discussed about the future of the world, the planet. Based on scientific findings, the Club of Rome tried to put together projections into the future, which also included some statistical analysis.

A young group of scholars, including Dr. Dennis Meadows, an assistant professor at M.I.T., the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was chosen to be delegated to conduct the research. So the Club of Rome delegated the research to the M.I.T. group of scholars, and it was funded by a German foundation. And as a result of this research, a publication was put together, which was titled, *Limits to Growth*. This

publication has proven to be truly influential, read by many people of many countries, in many different languages. I was also a person responsible for the Japanese version. And the Diamond Press published this Japanese version of the *Limits to Growth*. And twenty years have already passed, so I enjoyed the royalties. And I am told that they are now printing the 47th edition of the Japanese version of the *Limits to Growth*, so it is one of the bestsellers.

The energy consumption and its consequence on environment and human growth, if these growths should be exponential in the future, then in the coming millenium, humankind would face a major obstacle, a barrier, a wall. That is the conclusion of our report.

Prior to this, the American were eager to be successful in the Apollo missions, and also the Russians were able to launch Sputnik. So this century has allowed us to see our planet earth from the exterior, from space. And the pictures of this beautiful, Mother Nature's Planet, were admired and adored by the people of the world through TV receivers on screen. So we began to wonder, what are the benefits of the armament race on this beautiful planet Earth. Is it really worthwhile? And also we questioned, what is it that we are required to do to for our descendants to live safely on this planet Earth? So I think, looking at our Mother Nature, the Planet, has given us an opportunity to reflect and think about what we should do into the future. So it was against this backdrop that we published the book, *Limits to Growth*. But directions were not very favorable.

Economists, in particular, were quite critical about the findings. The economy is dependent upon the market mechanism, the forces of market, and it also depended upon the technological innovations. So if one is missing, or is being depleted, that would trigger the development of new technologies and resources, thus allowing us to overcome and transcend the limits of growth. True, the population increased, but at the same time, the livelihood of the people improved dramatically. So in that sense, they argued that Malthus's population theory would not be applicable. So there were very strong views of opposition, or criticisms, against our report. Economics, which assumed finite limits were not very popular. But should all the countries in the world grow rapidly, they would consume energy more and more than ever.

Eventually, we are bound to see some limit. That was our view. But in those days, as I recall, the economics did not assume limits. Limits were not taken into their assumption as a prerequisite. People who specialize in economic planning are not fully aware of this factor, the Limit. They believe that the higher the growth, the better. The honorable Mr. Fukuda has mentioned this point earlier. On one hand, many are still suffering from poverty. And yet, on the other hand, the advanced industrial nations have enjoyed a betterment of living standards. So we are facing the North-South problem.

These developed nations are in reality facing, what has been described by losses. In other words, they cannot catch up or increase the production of food. The production of food is not increasing as rapidly as the population. And, on the other hand, the advanced nations are consuming more and more, thus affecting adversity on the environment. So we have seen the bipolarization of the world, separation into the two poles. I think that is the reality that we live in.

The Brundtland Commission I have described earlier. In 1982, ten years after the

Stockholm meeting, a review meeting was convened by the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. Representatives of Japan included the honorable Mr. Bunbei Hara, then the Director-General of the Environmental Agency. He is still active. And this representative of Japan suggested that the United Nations convene the Wisemen Conference, addressing the question of the environment.

The then Director-General, honorable Mr. Hara, said that if the United Nations should formally approve the establishment of such Wisemen Commission, the Japanese government is willing to share the financial burden, and share up to 50% of its funding. I think it was a very bold, forward-looking suggestion made by the Japanese government. And this was approved by the United Nations General Assembly the following year, and gave birth the World Commission on Environment and Development, WCED, in short.

The chairperson and vice-chairperson were nominated by the Secretary General of the United Nations. It was originally a Japanese proposal, and that was how it was referred to within the United Nations. The chairperson was the head of the Labor Party of Norway, Ms. Brundtland, as lady statesman leading the Labor Party of Norway. Since it is a United Nations body, we decided that both the North and South should be represented in a balanced manner. And therefore we chose as a vice-chairperson a former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sudan, Dr. Monsour Khalid. And these two key persons chose the members of the committee, which came from different countries of the world.

I was chosen to be a member of this Brundtland Commission, the U.N. Commission, and for two and a half years have attended the Commission's meeting in different parts of the world. The final meeting, since it was of a Japanese original proposal, took place in 1987 in Tokyo, and this meeting finalized a report. And in April of the same year the Oxford University Press published a report called *Our Common Future*. This report was also translated into different languages, of course into Japanese as well, and read by many people in the world.

This Brundtland Report, in short, I think, has influence so much the way of thinking of the world people, in particular the leaders of different countries. In 1988, the Group of Seven, the advanced nations economic summit in Toronto supported the recommendations of the Brundtland report. So the G-7 Summit meeting supported this. And also the Group of Seven made clear at the Toronto Summit that they support the concept of sustainable growth and development. And this approval or support was explicitly written in the economic declaration of the Summit.

In the following year, at the Paris Summit meeting, attended by the seven industrialized nations, the environmental clauses, 19 items in all, were also included in the economic declaration. It was a sudden, remarkable increase in terms of the number, reflecting a growing concern and interest by the people in the environmental issue.

A summit followed in Houston, and a similar declaration was adopted. And a summit followed in London. And there would be in Munich this year a Group of Seven Economic Summit. These summits provide the Forum for receiving attention and commitment on the global environment based on the United Nations resolution. 1992 happens to be the twentieth year since the Stockholm Conference. Rio de Janeiro will to be the place for UNCED, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and preparation is under way among and between governments. There

are intergovernmental meetings, there are academic meetings, there are private sector meetings taking place in almost every country. You are all, of course, aware of this.

The first meeting of the Brundtland Commission took place in Geneva. And the honorable Mr. Bunbei Hara was a special guest invited to come to the first Commission meeting. Experts' understanding was not enough in dealing directly with the environmental issues. The environmental issue is not an issue that can be resolved by experts alone. It is just too broad, too huge. I think General Charles de Gaulle has said the war is much too large for the military men alone to handle. So we are saying that the environment is a far greater issue than can be handled by experts alone. Because it has to do with the industrialization policy, the agricultural policy, the food policy, the industrial policy, even international trade policy, operation policy. Because the environmental issue is the result of all these different policies and measures that we adopt and implement. One has to go upstream, to the spring of our environmental issues. It is too late to try and patch up answers whenever there are environmental problems. Rather than remedy and prognostics, predict and prepare, the prognostic approach is more important than the remedial treatment approach.

So one has to address one with the broad problem of population. And the Brundtland Commission report is composed of twelve chapters. One chapter addresses the sustainable development and at the same time agriculture, population, industrialization, international trade, ecology. Also among the chapters there is also a chapter on peace. In other words, if war rages, nuclear war, that would have a decisive damaging effect on our environment. In addition to that, there is, of course, the human heritage, the commons, the universal commons, space, the Antarctic and the marine environment, which are humankind's assets. And there is a chapter devoted to managing these human assets that do not belong to any government or any nation. The final chapter is devoted to achieving this sustainable development, that the United Nations, that the governments of different countries, other international organizations, would have to have a specific role to play in achieving this sustainable development. So this are the structural and institutional issues that are spelled out in the final chapter twelve. So in this manner, so that we humankind can enjoy a better life in the 21st century, the world environment must be preserved. It will be too late if we destroy the environment; then the posterior generation will not be able to enjoy a better life.

So in that sense, there is a crying need for measures against major culprits. The CFCs, the hydrocarbofluorons that destroy the ozone layer, that has to be managed. Carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub> gas emission is contributing to the warming of our planet. The warming will bring about changes in climate that will have effect on agricultural production. Maybe the ice caps in the Antarctic will melt and raise the ocean level and perhaps suck low countries like Bangladesh and others under the sea. So the global warming, the climatical changes of our planet are indeed very grave matters. And ocean pollution, the marching of the desert, desertification, destruction of the tropical rainforests, a destruction which is proceeding at alarming speed, if this continues.

The tropical rainforest is now about 7 % of the world's land space. The fauna and flora, the biological species that inhabit the tropical rainforests exceed 50% of all biological species. And that tropical rainforest accounts for only seven percent of the land space. So if that tropical rainforest were to be annihilated, it means the destruction and annihilation of the biological species that share our global planet with us. Acid rain, perhaps more local than global, in the European continent, and in the northern American continent, there are serious problems already, and perhaps imminently, there

will be problems here in Asia. Acid rain is caused by sulphur,  $\text{SO}_2\text{SO}_x$ , sulphur dioxide, and  $\text{SO}_x$  contained in the energy that we burn, and emitted into the air, becomes  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_3$ . And this increases the acidity of the soil and destroys our forests and some of the marble buildings and sculptures are damaged in Europe because of this acid rain. So there are far-reaching and serious damages. Rivers, international rivers running through different nations are also polluted.

So how can we check this through international cooperation? These are, sort of, global issues, some regional, perhaps not as much global, but all of these are too big and far-reaching for any one nation, a single nation or group of nations to cope with. So at the Rio de Janeiro there will be Agenda 21. What damages must be put in place so that we will preserve our environment towards the 21st century. So that agenda is being addressed and prepared by intergovernmental meetings and the Secretariat.

At the Rio de Janeiro meeting the Earth Charter is expected to be adopted. There is a preparation ongoing to prepare this Earth Charter and to be able to adopt that. In the process of preparing for this Earth Charter it has become abundantly clear that the preservation of the global environment rests on reducing the gap between the North and South, resolving the North-South issues, that the adoption of the global charter is closely linked with the North-South problems. In Asia 60% of the world's population find a home here, and again there is linkage between the environment and the poverty issue. Unless you treat that issue, one cannot preserve or protect the global environment.

At the Stockholm Conference, I think that the initiative was taken by the developed countries. The pollution caused by industrial activities mainly among the developed countries, and that polluting activities were a hazard to the global environment. So pollution was emphasized at the Stockholm Conference, pollution stemming out of the industrial activities in the industrialized nations. But since then we've learned much about the destruction of the environment, not just because of riches, not just of industrialization, but because of poverty. We've seen that in Africa. You need food for the teeming population, so you cut down the forest, extend the agricultural lands, and the land can no longer absorb water, and so it becomes desert. So population increase and environmental destruction and the vicious cycle between the three elements is something that we know better now. And this is a singular critical issue for the environment.

The developing world has blamed the industrialized countries so far because of the CFCs and  $\text{CO}_2$ 's, and I think the Third World has rightly said that it was the industrialized countries that have caused this deterioration, that most of the cost of preserving the environment should come from the developed countries. For the developing countries development is the crying need. They can not, they say, allocate resources to development to protect the environment. There should be an additional fund for the environment and that additional fund should come from developed countries. This is one issue that is much focussed on.

So we expect that at the Rio de Janeiro Conference there will be a discussion on how the project can be financed. And for the success of the Rio de Janeiro Environment Meeting it is important that some sort of agreement be reached between the North and the South. The preservation of the forests, the tropical rainforests in particular, is indeed an important issue. Tropical rainforests are found in Africa, Southeast Asia and

Brazil. Those are the three major regions where tropical rainforests are found today. Dr. Emil Salim, the Indonesian Minister for Population and Environment says this, and I paraphrase him, "There are so many poor people who depend on the tropical rainforests. And one cannot neglect them, their existence. Because these poor people have to cut down forests, and Indonesia earns 3 billion dollars every year by cutting down rain forests. One cannot suspend that activity, cutting down forests or exploiting forest lumber."

So Minister Salim says that it is just one-sided to say that all those activities must stop. And the Minister says that if the tropical rainforest is important to preserve the biological species, then, the Minister says that should it not be the responsibility of the developed and well-to-do nations to provide that fund? The fund is too burdensome to come from the countries in which the rainforest is found. So there is a great deal of expectation that if we are to successfully manage to preserve the environment, there is a crying need for better understanding between the developed and the developing countries.

So I have addressed the question of our development and the environment, so let me address the question of the population. I'm not really an expert in population issues, but I've been involved, after all, in population. I was at the Bukarest Conference on Population, some years back. The first Secretary General of UNFPA, Mr. Rafael Salas, was a good friend, a personal friend of mine, and we miss him today. And there is a Rafael Salas Memorial Lecture at the UNFPA, and I was invited to be the first Rafael Salas Memorial lecturer, and I spoke on population and economic development. It was three, four years back that I delivered that lecture at the United Nation's Headquarters.

The honorable Mr. Fukuda was saying that population and the environment is really two sides of the same coin. So a rapid, explosive increase of the population will make it very difficult for us to preserve the environment. So stabilizing the world population as soon as possible at the lowest possible level is most desirable. And again in this matter, there must be a close working relationship between the developing countries and the developed countries. And stabilizing population is costly. And there is a fund at the UNFPA. But beyond that, a bold funding must come from a bilateral sort of framework. Maybe this should be regarded as a common project for preserving the environment.

When I was at the Bukarest Conference, John D. Rockefeller, who no longer with us, spoke at the Bukarest Conference. I think John D. Rockefeller visited Japan and China sometime in the 1920's and felt the importance of our population problem in measure. So the Rockefeller Foundation has been committed to the medical side, the family planning side, the contraceptives, and so forth. Since then John D. Rockefeller has said that he has come to realize that the medical approach alone is not enough. One needs to take a socioeconomic approach, a broad approach, to resolve the population issue.

And I recall John D. Rockefeller saying that at the Bukarest Conference. Since then I've been attending so many international conferences, and from that experience my sole conclusion is that the conditions that are necessary for stabilizing world population are five:

First is the medical approach, the widespread use of contraceptives, safe and low-cost

contraceptives will have to be developed and offered to as many people as possible, that medical approach is necessary.

Second, one has to improve dietary conditions, because nutritious conditions has much to do with population. The protein deficiency of a newborn child will persist. The child will never grow into a full-fledged adult if he is deprived of protein at a small age.

The third factor is income. A socioeconomical fact is that if the income increases, there is great propensity for a family to plan smaller number of children. But the raising income as an effective factor for population management would take a bit long period of time. You need, perhaps a more direct approach, than an indirect one, such as raising income.

So my fourth point is raising the social status of women. I think that is very important. The primary education given to women, to make read, make them able to read, that is very important for effective family planning. At the same time, to turn female labor into more productive labor with a high economic value, I think primary education to women is of critical importance.

The United Nations University's affiliated organization, the World Institute of Development and Economic Research, acronymed WIDER. I am serving as the Chairman of the Board at WIDER. And a preliminary calculation was made there, at WIDER, for preserving the environment. And it includes the cost of providing primary education to women.

My fifth point is to decrease Infant mortality. If the newborn child dies easily, then the couples are motivated to have more children. So if infant mortality will go down, then the fertility also will go down. It is often said if the children will become healthy in developing countries, some fear that there would be an explosive increase in population. But no so! If the child enjoys good health, then the mother is motivated to have less children. So protecting the health of the child that is born is an important factor. 13 million children under five die every year from measles, diarrhea and whooping cough. Diseases that children do not die of in developing societies take the lives of children in the developing world. So these measures put together are very important in stabilizing population.

I think in 1935, according to statistics of that year in Japan, of a thousand new-born babies, and this is infant deaths out of one thousand, I think 105 out of one thousand in 1935 in Japan died. In most of the developing countries, fifty out of one thousand is the infant mortality rate in developed countries. In Japan now, it is the lowest in the world, it is less than five out of one thousand. Finland comes next, six. United States next, ten out of one thousand. The Japan infant mortality rate is gone down, but fertility, also. From the year 2015, there will be an absolute decrease in Japanese population, maybe a model for stabilizing the world population. So environment development and population are closely linked. One cannot neglect the linkages between these three. I hope that you are going to have a very fruitful discussion with the experts from Asian countries on population, and I know that you will have a very fruitful discussion. Thank you very much.

## Panel Discussion

# Population and Agricultural Development in Asia

(14:00 - 16:00 Feb. 25, 1992)

Coordinator  
Dr. Yoichi Okazaki

Panelists  
Dr. Toshio Kuroda  
Dr. M. Mosleh Uddin  
Dr. Shigeto Kawano  
Dr. Yonosuke Hara

PANEL DISCUSSION  
Population and Agricultural Development in Asia

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your patience. We would like to start the panel discussion addressing the question of Population and Agricultural Development in Asia. I would like to invite the members of the panel to come onto the stage.

I have the pleasure of introducing the distinguished members of the panel. First, the coordinator for the afternoon, Professor Yoichi Okazaki. He is the faculty of law at Nihon University. He is a graduate of Department of Economics of University of Tokyo, worked at OECD Development Center, and was a member of Population Problems Council, Pension Council and also the member of United Nations Population Committee. He also served as the director of Institute of Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare. He is one of the leading scholars in the area of population. He is really at the very forefront at the studies of population and labor in Japan.

The next panel member is Professor Toshio Kuroda. Upon graduation from the College of Economics of Nihon University, he completed the graduate course at the Tokyo University of Commerce, studied in the Office of Population Research at Princeton University, and also studied at National Institute of Demographics Studies, Ministry of Public Health in Paris, France. He is currently the Honorary Doctorate of Economics at Dong University of Korea. He is also the Director General at the Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare and Director of Nihon University Population Research Institute. He is also a valued advisor to APDA. Again, he defies any further introduction, he is really the figure representing the population academia in Japan on population and development matters.

Next, I have again the privilege of introducing Professor Shigeto Kawano. He is the graduate of Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture at University of Tokyo. He was Professor at University of Tokyo and Director of the Institute of Oriental Culture at University of Tokyo. He is currently the Director General of the Foundation for Tobacco Leaf Production and Advisor to Institute of Asian Economies and Advisor to Association of International Education of Japan. He is also the member of the Board of Directors of Asian Population and Development Association, APDA. He again is the leading figure in the agricultural economics. He also served as the chairperson of many important advisory councils of the Japanese Government, including the Rice Price Council.

The next is Professor Yonosuke Hara. Again, upon graduation of the Department of Agricultural Economics in the University of Tokyo, he went to the graduate school of University of Tokyo and served as an expert resource person for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission. Currently, he is the Professor of Economic Development at the Institute of Oriental Culture at University of Tokyo. He again is at the pinnacle of the research in this particular area.

Next is Dr. Mosleh Uddin. He is a Graduate of Statistics at the University of Dacca, and he has served as Professor of Statistics at University of Dacca and Fellow at University of London and also at the Institute of Development Economies of Tokyo. Currently, he is a Faculty Member of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific. He is again the authority of statistical discipline in the Asian Pacific.

Now may I hand over the microphone to the distinguished coordinator.

Okazaki:

Thank you very much for your introduction. The members of the panel would like to deliberate or discuss on the question of agriculture and development and population in Asia. I have laid down the program. We have started the program 20 minutes later than the schedule. I would like to spend the first 90 minutes listening to the reports and discussion of the 4 panel members. We have 4 panel members. I would like to request that each panel speak for 15 minutes. That should sum up to 60 minutes. The remainder of the time, namely 30 minutes, would be spent to exchange views amongst the panel. And after that, we shall enjoy coffee so that we can refresh ourselves up. And in the remainder of the afternoon, for a little more than an hour, we would like to open the discussion to the floor so that we can entertain questions and comments from the members of the audience.

I would appreciate your kind participation and cooperation. I shall refrain in the interest of time in touching on the specificities of this particular issue. Professor Kuroda and Dr. Uddin will talk about population and population transition, I believe. Primarily, Professor Kuroda will talk about East Asia and Professor Uddin will talk about the southern part of Asia. Professor Kawano and Professor Hara will discuss the questions of agricultural development. I'm sure they will be able to share with us their invaluable views.

Population transition and agriculture are intertwined, interdependent. So, towards the end of the discussion, I hope to discuss how we might combine the two together to successfully facilitate the advancement of development. But before discussion, I think we should first know the facts and realities. So I would like to ask Dr. Kuroda to first talk about the "Demographic Transition and Development Strategy in Asia." The time is limited, but I hope that you will honor this time guideline.

## Demographic Transition and Development Strategy in Asia

Dr. Toshio Kuroda  
Director Emeritus,  
Nihon University Population Research Institute

Thank you very much. Chairman, we are so closely connected with the APDA. So then the title of my presentation is Demographic Transition and Development Strategy in Asia, covering rather whole and general aspects population and development. And also I would like to limit my discussion to East Asia and South Asian countries. I believe all of you specialize more less in the population field at some point. Then I would like to talk in much detailed way. The demographic transition is so widely known, so I will not say much about demographic transition. But very shortly I would like to take up demographic transition and development, what kind of relationship, and also comparing on the so-called classic demographic transition theory. And also we have to find out new demographic transition theory. The demographic transition is very closely intertwined with the economic and social development. Based on the experiences of vital phenomenon and modernization process in Western countries, demographic transition theory was established by the Western scholars.

I think this is a kind of strategy theory. It is basically composed of threefold classification according to demographic balance of vital rate, that is fertility and mortality. The first one, the stage before the transition, that is the pre-modernized society is characterized by this kind of stages, which are characterized by high fertility and high mortality. The second stage, during the transition, just going on. That means that high fertility remains, but on the other hand mortality coming down, creating moderate or very rapid population increase, which we had also experienced in Japan and many Asian countries, too. Then the third stage, just after the transition. This means very low fertility and very low mortality, with very low population increase, sometimes zero or sometimes minus.

Then the improvement point of demographic transition theory based on the past experiences of Western countries is that this kind of changes of vital rate, which means fertility and mortality, are outcome of modernization in terms of industrialization, urbanization, high education and so on. In other words, logical result is that vital rate cannot change unless modernization or substantial development is achieved. However, we have now increasing evidences to support that such a lopsided argument on economic development causing changes of vital rate, fertility and mortality, is not correct. They do not recognize the reciprocal relation between population and development.

For example, fertility and mortality are affected by economic and social development. And also, the age structure change caused by the changing vital rate affects again severely economic and social activities. On the other hand, we now have successful experiment in reducing fertility even under moderate economic development. Demographic transition should be defined by taking account newly emerging experiments in Asian countries.

So then I will just take up the experience of Japan and very quickly look at the demographic transition in Japan. The fertility decline is very rapid. In terms of crude birth rate, 34 in 1947 and 17.2 in 1960. Nearly in 10 years, fertility halved. The next

column TFR, this means total fertility rate, also the same thing. Crude death rate is also coming down very quickly. The next column, life expectancy, so-called average longevity, male and female, started to increase very quickly. Of course this is rapidly declining mortality. And the last column you'll find dependency ratio which is a very important index in connection with the economic and social development. I would like to touch on this later.

You'll find that, starting from 60.7 in 1947, nearly 70 or so in Japan before the World War II. Just after the World War II, it is still around 70. You'll find that dependency ratio coming down very quickly to 47 in 1965, 45 in 1970 and mostly recently to 43 in 1991. This is very important index when we are going to consider the development strategy.

This then refers to Eastern and Southeastern countries in Asia. Let me take an example of the demographic transition index in several countries in Eastern and Southeastern countries in Asia in terms of total fertility rate, life expectancy and also demographic transition index. This might be interesting for you. How far has demographic transition been achieved so far in each country. It is not a complicated formula. Anyway, you can find the demographic transition starting from 1.00 and coming down. This is from Japan. It means that in Japan, only 10 or 15 years after the World War II we were able to achieve demographic transition, this means very low fertility and very low mortality.

And followed by Hong Kong and Singapore. You may understand very easily, very close to 1.00. Now, Hong Kong, the total fertility rate is only 1.4 in 1990 and Singapore 1.6. Much lower than the so-called replacement level. So in this sense, and also followed by China and Thailand. In terms of total fertility rate, both countries are showing 2.2. And then in demographic transition index, China is 0.88 close to 0.90. And also Thailand, 0.83. And then followed by Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. These countries show still rather high fertility. In terms of the total fertility rate, Malaysia 3.6, Indonesia 3.1 and Philippines 3.9. So then you can find what you have to go to in order to achieve demographic transition. In terms of demographic transition in Malaysia, about 30% are left to achieve or finish the transition. I think this is very simple calculation. But I think you all parliamentarians can find something what should we do, and this connection might be a very nice index.

I would like to conclude from the strategic standpoint. First one is our eventual goal, our policy should be to achieve the so-called human development. I think this is a very broad one but is very interesting. Human development must be our final goal including everything, even family welfare, peace and infant mortality and also maternal health and also quality of life. These things should be incorporated into the development strategy. I like to call this kind of strategy human development strategy. The second point is what we call demographic elasticity coefficient. It sounds like a very complicated terminology but this is a very simple formula. My teacher, unfortunately he died many years ago, I still remember this very impressive, very simple formula. We are just looking at development and also population. We are concerned much about population and development. And this is economic growth rate divided by population increase rate. That's called demographic elasticity coefficient. This is our experiment in Japan but is very useful particularly when pre-modern society starts its modernization, the so-called take-off period. Prior to this formula, in Japan's case, 1880s and 1890s were the period of economic take-off. At the time, the economic growth rate was 4.0% and the population increase rate was 0.8%, less than 1%. Then the coefficient came to be

very simplified. Then in our case, this coefficient of 5 was a favorable index and we were able to succeed in taking off and came into modernization. This is not necessary, but from this index we had 3 directions of policy. I think the increase in coefficient is much more favorable.

And what to do in order to bring this coefficient down? For example, I said that the economic growth rate in Japan at the time was 4.0% and population increase rate was 0.8%. If population increase rate was not 0.8% but 2%, and the economic growth rate was 4%, the coefficient goes down to 2. Then it will be necessary for us to raise this coefficient. In that case, we have 3 directions of policy. One is to reduce the denominator, population increase rate from 4 to 3 or 2. Another way is a policy connected with the numerator, the economic growth rate. This should go up. The third direction is to take on both tasks simultaneously, reduction of economic growth rate and increase of population increase rate. We can get higher coefficient very quickly. So how to this will of course depend on each country's situation and government decision making will be based on your own judgment. If the population increase rate is very high, it should be reduced. But I don't say that economic growth rate has nothing to do with it. Of course, economic growth rate should go up. But in which way and how to do it in balance is a delicate problem. Anyway, you can find something from this very simple formula.

And there is a lowering of age dependency ratio. In 1960s and 1970s, age dependency kept coming down. And if you succeed in reducing fertility very quickly, you are going to have a very low dependency ratio. It's what we call a golden age from the socioeconomic development. You should never forget that this time is the golden age. You have to do something. After the fertility declines, you are going to have this kind of very low dependency ratio. It's more favorable to achieve economic and social development. These 3 points. Thank you so much.

Okazaki:

Thank you very much Professor Kuroda and sorry for limiting your speech to a very short period of time. But you have shared with us a very important point so it should serve as the basis for discussion after the presentation. I would like to invite Honorable Dr. Uddin. He is going to talk about Population in South Asia.

## Population in South Asia

Dr. M. Mosleh Uddin  
Faculty Member  
UN Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific

Thank you Professor Okazaki, coordinator of today's discussion, Honorable Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me a great privilege to talk in such a gathering and I must particularly thank APDA and Professor Kuroda for inviting me to be a panelist in this gathering. For the benefit of discussion, I have divided my paper basically into 4 sections. I have initially started talking about population distribution in Asia in terms of regional distribution, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and West Asia,. And then I have taken up specific countries of South Asia because, as you could see, the title of my paper is South Asia specifically. Then later I have talked about the concerns, and finally I took up specific issues which might be of relevance.

So to start with, if I may start talking about the lack of consistent data for all the countries particularly in South Asia. That's why what I have done, using the U.N. estimate based on what they call a medium variant which is based on the assumption of medium decline in future fertility. And this medium decline, which falls between the high and the low variant, presumably represent the most plausible course of population trends in the future. Mostly, these trends more or less resemble the actual data situation in the particular country. So if I may read out from the text beginning from the Population Distribution.

As of 1990, Asia had an estimate of about 59% of the world's population, of which China and India accounted for about 38%. In respect of regional population distribution, East Asia accounted for about 43%, followed by South Asia around 39%, and then Southeast Asia had a share of little bit more than 14%, and finally West Asia has somewhat over 4%. In absolute figures, the 1990 estimate of Asia's population was about 3.1 billion, and by the year 2000, Asia may have the population of about 3.7 billion, and the estimate may increase to 4.9 billion by the year 2025.

Then I have talked specifically in terms of each countries of South Asia, their population distribution, in terms of percentage distribution, basically. So among the countries of South Asia, the population distribution is quite uneven. The second largest population of the world, India, is in South Asia which accounts for more than 71% of South Asia's population. Pakistan contributes more than 10% of the total population, while Bangladesh ranks third with about another 10% of the regional population distribution.

And then I have talked about some basic demographic characteristics of the countries of South Asia, particularly fertility, mortality rate, total fertility, life expectancy and so on. So I have started with the crude birth rate. South Asia as a whole has a crude birth rate of 34.8 per thousand population. The figures of East Asia and Southeast Asia are 20.1 and 29.6, respectively. However, there are wide ranging variations among the countries within the region. Sri Lanka has the lowest crude birth rate of 22.5 while Afghanistan has the highest of 49.3. Pakistan has the second highest crude birth rate of 46.9 and Bangladesh ranks third in descending order of crude birth rate, which is about

42. And India has the crude birth rate of about 32 per thousand population.

Talking in terms of crude death rate, crude death rate again highest in South Asia which is about 11.8 compared to East Asia which has figures of about 6.7, while Southeast Asia is around 9. And again, there exists a wide variability among the countries in the region. Sri Lanka has the lowest crude death rate of only 5.9 while Afghanistan has the highest which is about 23. Bhutan has the second highest rate of 16.8, followed by Bangladesh which has crude death rate of about 15.5. And crude death rate for India is about 11.

Then I have taken infant mortality rate in South Asia. Like the case of crude death rate, infant mortality rate is also highest, that is 102 per thousand live births. As you might have heard this morning, the keynote speaker was mentioning in 1935 in Japan the figure was around 105. So we are about 50 years behind. And again in South Asia, we have this regional distribution which is quite uneven, and Sri Lanka enjoys again the lowest infant mortality rate which is only 28 per thousand livebirths, and Afghanistan has as high as 172 infant mortality rate. Bhutan and Nepal rank second with 128, followed by Bangladesh about 119. And in India, infant mortality rate is estimated to be about 99.

Then population growth rate, the average annual growth rate in South Asia is estimated to be about 2.3% which is again high compared to that of East Asia which is only 1.3% and Southeast Asia 2.1%. And once again, there exists a significant variability among the countries in the region. In this case also, Sri Lanka has the least rate of annual growth which is about 1.3%, and Pakistan has the highest growth rate of more than 3%, followed by Maldives about 3.2. India has a growth rate of about 2.1%.

Then, total fertility rate is again quite high in South Asia, and certainly high compared to East Asia as well as Southeast Asia. And again, Sri Lanka, the total fertility rate in the South Asian region is the lowest, which is only 2.6 or 2.7 per woman. And again Afghanistan has the highest total fertility rate of almost 7. And Pakistan is in the second highest position, having about 6.5, followed by Nepal about 5.9, and TFR, total fertility rate, for India is estimated to be about 4.3.

And finally expectation of life at birth. So expectation of life at birth is again lowest in South Asia compared to all other regions in Asia. It is only 56.8 years for both males and females combined. And as you can see, the difference between males and females is very negligible. And again, there exists a wide variability among the countries within the region. Sri Lanka enjoys the privilege in all the demographic indicators including life expectancy or longevity, which is almost the same as that of East Asian population. A Sri Lankan can expect to live more than 70 years at birth, and the male female differential being more than 4 years. And the life expectancy is least in South Asia for Afghanistan and an Afghan can expect to live for only about 42 years. And this is followed by Bangladeshis and Nepalis who can expect to live only about 51 years.

And then I have talked about some general concerns starting the problem of age structure. So the working age population in South Asia will increase at a rate considerably higher than that of total population. And initially, the larger increase in absolute terms will be to the younger half of the working age. The rapid increase in the population in the younger ages between 1995 and 2000, and between 2000 and 2005 will pose a serious challenge to countries in the region to generate sufficient employment opportunities. After the turn of the century, however, the age structure in

most countries in the region will especially be conducive to sustain socioeconomic development. Between the years 2000 and 2025, dependency ratio will be low, and the number of persons of labor force age will comprise a highly significant proportion of the total population.

The regional trends in Asia will vary somewhat in different regions and countries, depending on their current level of fertility. For example, in East Asia where fertility is currently near replacement level and total population is projected to increase at the rate of 1.2% a year between 1980 and 2000, while the age group 15 to 39 will expand at the rate 1.5%. And the age group between 40 to 64 will grow at the rate of 2.4%. In both Southeast as well as South Asia, the population of labor force age will increase at 2.4% per annum between the same period, that is between 1990 and 2000, while the total population is expected to grow at the rate of around 2%.

According to human development index, known as HDI, of United Nations Development Program, in South Asia except Sri Lanka, all other countries fall into the category of low human development. This human development index is computed based on the indicators like life expectancy, knowledge, which is taken as both adult literacy and also average years and income. South Asia has the lowest literacy rate of all the regions. Some countries have made only limited progress during the past decade. Nepal, since 1970, has raised its literacy rate from 13% to 22%. In health, there have been increases in the immunization coverage of 1 year old children. In Bangladesh, this coverage has rose from 1% to 60% over the last decade. And in Sri Lanka, the coverage is around 89%.

The daily calorie supply per capita varies significantly among the countries in South Asia. Bangladesh has the lowest calorie intake, having 1,899 calories, while in Sri Lanka the figure is 2,385 calories.

The economic progress that is so vital to human development has been slow in this region partly due to population growth. Annual economic growth rates between 1960 and 1988 have averaged about 3% and GNP per capita remains quite low particularly in Nepal as well as in Bangladesh. Pakistan has an impressive annual growth rate which is about 6% but has failed to translate this into human progress, a comparison which Sri Lanka highlights the failure. While Pakistan has more or less the same GNP per capita, its average life expectancy is estimated at about 58 years which is about 13 years lower compared to Sri Lanka.

Inequality is one of the most striking features of South Asia, between rich and poor, males and females, different regions and different ethnic roots. For example, in rural Punjab, landless families have infant mortality rate about 36% higher than those of landowning families. In Asia as a whole, 1 child in 3 suffers from malnutrition, and nearly 700 million people live in poverty with great majority of them in two countries of South Asia, that is in India and Bangladesh. Only two thirds of the population has access to health services and clean water. And finally I conclude that at this point South Asia remains the poorest region in Asia and certainly perhaps of the world.

And finally talking about some aspects of future prospects, the past decades have seen commendable success in improving health, nutrition and education. In the countries of South Asia, in some cases the progress has been considerably quick but it has been uneven. The poor of these countries continues to suffer from illiteracy, sickness and malnutrition. The continued commitments of the governments in the region to

population programs over the past decade seem to demonstrate considerable political will to solve national population problems. The region also has typical examples of success stories like the case of Sri Lanka, which reflects the notion that closer international cooperation among the countries may bring bigger success to the population problems of the individual countries.

Finally, I conclude by emphasizing the importance of education in the countries of the region. Aside from the various policies for directly regulating fertility, other population policies have less specific effects upon individuals but anticipated long term effects on fertility. Education is one of the key indicators to development. Why? Illiteracy is a serious problem for development of most countries. The social allocation of education is still inadequate in most countries. The pace of progress has increased in South Asia. The countries should allocate more resources for education to achieve universal enrollment by the end of this century. This might help expedite improvement in the human development index of South Asian countries. Thank you.

Okazaki:

Thank you very much. His report was on population growth in South Asia, corresponding to the rapid growth, the human development and economic development have been somewhat delayed. Development of human resources, improvement of the quality of human development have been well pointed out. Through the two speeches made by the panelists, we would like to complete at this point the discussion on population. Now we would like to return to the issues of agricultural development. Now I would like to call on Dr. Shigeto Kawano and he will make some comments on proposal for Asian agricultural development.

## Proposal for Agricultural Development in Asia

Dr. Shigeto Kawano  
Professor Emeritus,  
The University of Tokyo

My abstract is available both in Japanese and English. Please find the information in your binder. Let me just make brief comments on three major points.

First of all, the 21st Century is said to be the age of Asia, centering the economic development in Asia. For the past years, many Asian countries have been enjoying success in agricultural development. Some countries have yet to achieve industrial development and they are making tremendous efforts for that. More emphasis shall be placed on the agricultural development and I think this is very important for the further development as a whole in these countries.

And another point I would like to make is that per capita food consumption is expected to increase corresponding to the development. Of all the kinds of food, protective food, or energy-oriented food, fruits, vegetables, meat. And there are two kinds of food categories, and consumption of the latter category, vegetables, meat, grains, will be expanded. And the thing is whether they should be supplied through production or import. After the Second World War, many countries opted for import for these agricultural products. But in terms of these stabilized economic development, this is not ideal. Certain degree of self supply of agricultural products is advisable for further development in these countries in Asia. So agricultural development should be focused on the kinds of products which can be supplied domestically.

The third point is how we should proceed with agricultural development. In the past, this has been promoted through international cooperation, international assistance, or through the efforts of each country. Green revolution, by way of irrigation, drainage and cultivation, was promoted. Well drained rice was introduced through these domestic efforts. But from now on, we will have to diversify the kinds of products, ranging from rice to fruits and vegetables. To meet this trend, what can be done by the government or by respective countries?

Supply of agricultural chemicals, fertilizers will be possibly done. But the proper decision of each farmer will be increasingly important. The farmers will be more and more expected to make their own decision depending upon the agricultural conditions and climatic conditions. In this regard, it is important to enhance the level of education. Perhaps so they can supply chemicals, fertilizers, but actual production cannot be carried out by machines alone. The use of chemicals and fertilizers in the chemical industry. The number of researchers and engineers in the industry is limited. But farmers will have to face different conditions day after day. And on each occasion, they are expected to make their own decision on the field.

We conducted a research among 9 agricultural countries. And one thing we noticed was that, unlike Japan where we have farmers cooperatives, these countries we visited for research did not have any associations of this kind. In other words, farmers in these countries lacked knowledge and scientific judgment, not only based on their experiences but also through education. In terms of the improvement of farmers technical level, we will also have to step up our efforts to promote family planning. We

will have to provide technical assistance to increase their knowledge level of sanitation. But equally important is the concept of family planning. The concept of birth control cannot be acquired only by scientific education. If they would like to maintain the standard of living or improve quality of life, then they have to consider more seriously about family planning. The marriage age and attitude toward their life will also be important when we deal with family planning. Improvement in this manner will be able to increase the quality of life, the standard of living as well as the quality of family life.

In Asia, some of the countries have succeed in social reform and other have not. And for these countries which did not succeed in social reform, planned for land reform by way of cooperation from overseas countries. But there was no expectation for the future success of this program because land reform and social reform can done through financial support or cooperation from overseas. Tenant farmers, laborers have to be made eager to obtain their own land. Otherwise, they will change their tax system so that those who are really anxious to obtain their own land will benefit. So it is not a matter of asking foreign countries for financial support to realize land reform or social reform. In this sense, education will have to be promoted, especially the compulsory education must be well expanded.

Why this is not successful in other Asian countries? In 1873, Japan introduced a system where all young men were drafted to go to war. At the same time, compulsory education system was established because those who were going to go to war had to be able to read and write. Otherwise, they were not able to take advantage of the weapons. They had to learn through reading and writing how to make use of their weapons. But as Japan is now enjoying peaceful society, there is no need for draft. But some of the Asian countries still have to receive applicants for soldiers through the draft system. And in these countries, it is still required to even increase the level of education through compulsory education. These were the three major points I wanted to make. Thank you.

Okazaki:

That was very brief and clear to the point. Each point was very important. Again the importance of education was repeatedly emphasized. The need for social reform. Education line at the basis of the much needed social reform. It was a very elucidating presentation. Thank you very much. Last but not the least is Professor Yonosuke Hara will discuss new trends of agricultural development strategy in Asia. So he will no doubt expand and extend on Professor Kawano's presentation.

## New Trends Of Agricultural Development Strategy In Asia

Dr. Yonosuke Hara  
Professor,  
Institute of Oriental Culture  
The University of Tokyo

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk a little bit from a different angle from which Professor Kawano emphasized in his presentation.

During the last few years, I made trips to many Asian countries including Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and also Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines. During these visits, I found the importance of agriculture in national economy, both in terms of output or production, and also in terms of employment. I think that the importance is different among many countries. For example, in Thailand, already the share of agricultural output to GDP is less than 15%. But if you go to Nepal, it's still around 40%. And also if you look at the employment structures. For example, in Thailand, the share of agricultural workers to total labor might be less than 40%. But if you go to Nepal, last month I was in Kathmandu for a week, and I found that almost 90% of people are still in the agricultural sector. Therefore, if we talk about agricultural development in Asia, we should take into account this difference.

But today, I don't want to talk about this difference. Instead of talking about difference, I would like to concentrate my presentation on general or common features in these diversified Asian countries. That's the reason why I entitled my short presentation, The New Trends Of Agricultural Development Strategy In Asia.

Firstly, even in spite of this difference among the Asian countries, I found that almost all Asian countries including Nepal and Sri Lanka, also I went to Laos last year, and I found also the new direction in Lao government for agriculture. Including every country, every country is now emphasizing on the so-called agricultural diversification. Instead of growing more rice, but wheat. I think in this sense, we can find some general or common features in many Asian countries' agricultural development strategy, especially in terms of the objectives of the development strategy. I would like to emphasize this point.

And the second point which I would like to emphasize and which I wrote already in my paper is that not only the objectives, but also in strategies and policies we can find some similarities. That is, every country say or announce that they will depend more upon privatized sectors, or if I use an economic jargon, that every country confesses that they will rely more on the market mechanism on the process of agricultural development.

For example, in Sri Lanka and, also last month I was in Nepal, and I found that the new Nepalese government, the congress government, they announce that they will cut the subsidies for fertilizers. I think that such a thing already happened in Indonesia or Thailand around 10 years ago. But something is happening even in South Asia. And also I found that the Indian government decided to reduce the subsidies for fertilizers. And also the Indian government and Sri Lankan government I found last year, and Nepalese government also, they announced that they will reduce the public investment

in irrigation because all the countries are facing a very severe budget deficit. And also all of the parliamentarians gathering here know that World Bank and IMF are strongly pressing the countries to cut down their subsidies.

This is a rather general phenomenon. Also in many countries, deregulation of public intervention in agriculture is carried out. For example, in Bangladesh, I found that the Bangladesh government decided not to intervene more in the distribution of fertilizers. So far, the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation had been the sole agent for distributing fertilizers throughout the country. But now, they are using the new marketing system and there are all the private merchants to participate in this process.

My point is that, therefore, many countries are now rapidly moving towards using more market mechanism as a strategy for policy framework for agricultural development. But, personally I am Japanese, and as Professor Kawano already mentioned in his paper, I think that this new trend is very good for your countries' agricultural development, or not? This is the question. And personally, I have some difficulties in judging the actual effects of new reforms in each country. But I believe, in future directions, including Viet Nam and Cambodia, and also Laos and China, they are now making a big economic reform. And they say that they will rely more upon market mechanism. And therefore, I think that this is a very important phenomena in contemporary Asia. But question is, is that market mechanism enough for agricultural development or not? Later in the discussion time, I would like to discuss this point a little bit if I have a chance to talk once again.

The next point I would like to emphasize which I didn't mention in my paper is that we should not ignore the problem of international market of agricultural commodities. Around a year and a half ago, I went to the Philippines. At the time, I found that Philippines is now importing a huge amount of rice from Viet Nam. But my point that Viet Nam will not increase its rice export to Asia. This is the problem. What I would like to emphasize in this speech is that, if you check the statistics of international trade of agricultural commodities, maybe you will be surprised. If you take the import and export of international trade of serials like rice and wheat, now 80% of the world export is from the developed countries such as United States, Australia and EC.

The share of the developing countries is only 20%. And if look back on the history, if we check around 30 years ago, that means in the 1960s, the share of the developed countries' export of serials of just 50%. During the last decade, this ratio increased by 30%. Therefore, I think many Asian countries need to or should develop their export agriculture to get foreign money, of course. But in that situation, if your country want to rely on the export of wheat or rice as the experience of Thailand shows. Thailand expanded her rice export in the 1950s and 1960s. In those decades, exporting rice might have been the good strategy. But now, the world market situation has drastically changed. Therefore, in that sense, maybe the so-called agricultural diversification is more important than growing more rice.

I do not want to go more on discussing this issue because this is a very urgent issue in the Uruguay Round of GATT. And severe discussions are being held in Geneva. Maybe in the future, the developing countries will agree to some extent to adjust their agricultural policies, but I think that the international community or the political world should be strengthen, or they should be formulated in accordance with the benefit of the developing countries. That is my personal opinion.

I should apologize because I didn't speak anything about population. My agricultural development strategy is a little bit short and medium term issues, but population issue is a long-term issue. If I have a chance during the discussion time, I would like to make my personal comments on these issues. Thank you very much.

## Questions and Answers

Chairman:

Thank you very much. I think we've had four presentations which were clear and precise. And I think the time is managed rather well, better than expected. So we shall now have discussion among the four present to us. It doesn't appear to have been any sort of confusion, but let sort of see if there is anything that's to be cleared. Professor Kuroda, do you have any points from the population standpoint? Ask or comment on others.

Prof. Kuroda:

In terms of the regions within Asia, I will just talk about the separate ways, for example East Asia, and Southeast Asia, and now you took up South Asia and West Asia. And my suggestion, demographic transition has started from East Asia and came down to Southeast Asia. Within South Asia, Sri Lanka may be somewhat different from other South Asian countries. Do you think that this kind of experience in Sri Lanka, this experience is going to affect the countries like India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and I think in the experience of East Asia and West Asia, that looks like a very favorably coming down in terms of describing demographic transition. And then, I expect, even India, in the southern provinces like Kerala, a very typical case, coming down in the fertility and mortality, and not so much economic development, but organization going on, and educational level is also high, is a very nice experience. And also Sri Lanka, this kind of experiences or lessons are going to be accepted by the Indian government, and Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Then, again, if they are going to be successful, then this can be effected on to West Asia from South Asia. Some of you are of the impression about this kind of changing situation in terms of demographic transition.

Dr. Uddin:

Thank you, Dr. Kuroda, for raising that point. Well, in my conclusion, actually, about the international cooperation taking up the aspect of replicability of some learning experiences from within the region. As I lastly mentioned, and Dr. Kuroda rightly mentioned that Sri Lanka is a typical case within the South Asian region that it has low mortality, low fertility, very high life expectancy. But, what are the reasons why? While, if you take the example from Bangladesh, there are typical, perhaps regional areas where you could find some successful stories, and that is why the experiences within the country as well as among the countries in South Asia, it differs quite significantly. That's why I did mention also peculiarity in terms of variation is perhaps a good example in South Asia.

So, like the case of Bangladesh, for example, to an illiterate family in the rural areas, like Professor Kawano did mention about the standard of living, quality of life, to an illiterate family they do not care for the quality of life. For them, rather, having more children brings more money, because to them the analysis is, as soon as they are born, hardly they take care. They would rather, as soon as they become six or seven years old, they are given to some household to work, so the more children you have, the more earnings you have. So that is the way of interpretation, and that is why I emphasized, and I think Dr. Kuroda also re-emphasized by talking about integrated human development plan while he talked about the status of women, and so on.

Dr. Kawano certainly talked about education. So, once somebody realizes and feels the quality of children, whether you want to have one or two, and how much burden, how much cost that might make. And that might be important, but how we could make that? So that is why I think I re-emphasized education is certainly one of the key indicators which should really be emphasized. And I said that it might be not immediate effective, well, as a family planning program, like in the case of Bangladesh. On the voluntary level, family planning in Bangladesh has started in 1953. But in real terms, the program actually started in the early '80s or maybe in the late 70s. But even then, the Bangladesh government claims that they do have also integrated types of programs. But to say, and also even by policy, the government does have compulsory education, but just by having the policy in the book, does not effect it, and it is not really implemented.

There must be opportunity, and it must be really implemented in the true sense of the term. So maybe I do certainly agree with Dr. Kuroda, that some of the things certainly could be experienced as well as could be used for controlling as well as improving the population problems of these countries. West Asia, even though I did bring in, because, as I mentioned, my data comes from UN publications, so they divided, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and West Asia, which is again a typical case, fortunately most of them petroleum-rich countries. So you do have high fertility, but again income very high. So in our terms, it is very difficult to take example from there, but I think the question remains for them to see how fertility might come down.

But, of course, that is why we say, the demographers, population is always a problem, be in at optimum level, be it high or low. So that is why perhaps the basic education could tell us another point, if I may emphasize at this point, data on most of the countries is lacking, which is very important for our policy planning. And there also should be emphasized the data collection system -- data quality should be emphasized on timeliness, accuracy, completeness and so on. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

Professor Kawano, would you like to make any supplementary comments?

Prof. Kawano

Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, compulsory education is very important. The law is there for compulsory education, but it is not implemented. What is the reason? Some people say that an uneducated mass gives more benefit to the government. Some ruling class people in developing countries say that it is better not to educate the ordinary people, I do not know. So how do you consider about this point, maybe Dr. Uddin and other people who have visited this region?

And another comment made by Dr. Hara is diversification of agriculture. Diversification, yes, I agree with him, diversification of agriculture is important. But when you say diversification, that is the productive foods, cattle, food production, and plantation, and it is very important to consider this in the framework of international trade, export and import, or, are you talking about diversification of agriculture mainly for the domestic market, that is to have self-sufficiency in the agriculture. So there are two options. But when you consider the current international trade, I think diversification of that domestic agriculture is very important so that you can have self-sufficiency of the food. I think the priority should be given for the self-sufficiency when it comes to diversification.

The reason for saying this is that, before World War II many tropical products produced in the colonial countries were exported to the colonial powers in the Indochinese peninsula, or Burma, Thailand, and Indochina were exporters of rice even before World War II. Malaysia and Sri Lanka were also colonized, but Malaysia produced tin and rubber, and Sri Lanka produced tea. And rice was from Burma. So there was the kind of division of labor among the colonized countries, a kind of framework of an international division of labor. But after the World War II the so-called industrialized advanced nations started the production of food.

The United States and Japan, for example, have started agricultural production. Rice and energy foods were produced by advanced nations, the United States, Japan and the EC. And they are producing much more than they can consume. And the EC and the United States are dumping the price of those agricultural products. And in this environment there is a trade of food and agricultural products. And I think it is dangerous for developing nations to go into this environment of international trade.

Chairman:

Prof. Hara, do you have any other comments to make?

Well I think everything is going fine, and the coffee is prepared outside this room. So why don't we have a 20 minutes' break now. I hope you will come up with some questions so that we can have a discussion between the floor and the panel. So prepare your questions. Thank you.

#### Questions and Answers (cont'd)

Dr. Fernando

I am Dr. Neville Fernando from Sri Lanka. I am the Senior Vice Chairman of the Sri Lankan Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and also the Deputy Secretary General of AFPPD. I would like to refer to the address made by Dr. Uddin, and his success story in Sri Lanka. I would like to express my thanks to him, and I would like to relate how we were able to succeed in keeping the population down.

I think that our story starts sometime in 1931, when the government, at that time, started health clinics where all pregnant mothers had to go. From the time of conception until delivery, they had to go once a month; towards the later part of pregnancy, they had to make a couple of visits a month. And the mothers were looked after. In that way we were able to bring down maternal mortality and infant mortality. And over that period of years, I think Sri Lanka placed a lot of stress on education. And, if you look at the government budget, a vast amount of money is given for education, so that our literacy rate is now almost 90 or 91. And the literacy rate among women is also very high, it goes upon 80. The education of women is very important. I think that is one reason for our success story.

Then, also, the government put in a lot of money, by way of subsidies, to food -- food for adults, as well as infant food. And that is one reason for nutrition being improved and the life expectancy going up. And also, where general education is concerned, we have free education from the lower schools, right up to the university. University education is also free. So that our education bill is fairly high, and, of course the government has to face a lot of problems, especially as a result of demands made by the IMF and the World Bank. I will come to that subsequently.

Then, also I would like to comment on what Prof. Hara said about agricultural

diversification. As Sri Lanka is now diversifying agriculture, and some of the carnation and the baby corn that you eat in Japan, I think, must be coming from Sri Lanka, just like some of the shrimps, as we export quite a lot, and flowers. Our carnations, I think, take second place in the Tokyo flower market.

Then about the agricultural production, we are reaching a fairly satisfactory state, and we are almost self-sufficient. Recently the IMF and the World Bank wanted the government to cut down all the subsidies. So, actually, the subsidies on agricultural fertilizers are removed almost 100%. As a result, we see people using less and less manure, and the production is going down. And also I would like to comment on the structural adjustment that the government is compelled to make because we go to the World Bank and the IMF and different countries for aid. Of course, aid is not given without a certain amount of demands made on the government. One is that the government brings down the budget deficit.

Though I am a member of the opposition, I must say that the government is trying its best to bring down poverty. We have what is called the Janasaevya scheme, where the poorest section of the people are helped by the government. But, of course, with the shortage of money in the country, only about 10% of the people can be helped a year. So the whole cycle will take about 10 years, to help all the poor people, and this is the problem that the government is facing. So I would like to appeal, especially to Japan, which is one of the biggest aid donors to Sri Lanka, and also to the G7, and I think Japan also contributes a lot to the World Bank and the IMF, so that when they give money, not only to Sri Lanka, all the developing countries, not to force structural adjustments. Because this is a political bomb, where the government -- of course, we in the opposition might like it -- but, the fact is, that the government is pressurized to cut down all the subsidies.

Privatization of government-paying concerns -- we don't mind concerns that are losing being privatized, because we are now having a big problem in Sri Lanka, because the World Bank and the IMF is demanding that almost everything be privatized. So that, in the long run, even our success story might not be that true. And I would like to appeal to Japan, especially, and to the World Bank and the IMF, not to demand these structural adjustments, because we are going to face a lot of problems. I saw in India, itself, I think the opposition is trying to create a problem for that government. So these are problems, I think, I would have been much happier if the Japanese parliamentarians were here, because they could take this up in their Diet, because I'm sure, when aid is given, it is the bureaucracy that functions, not the members of Parliament.

So if parliamentarians can take our appeal to the government, not to demand structural adjustments, let each country choose the way it wants to help its people. I think that is the best. And then there would be recognition of the fact that aid has been given, and that would be welcome. I think that when aid comes with strings, the people don't recognize this as aid, but they think that it is something bitter. So I hope that all would carry this message. Thank you.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. I think the statement had some reference to Prof. Hara. Prof. Hara, I think sounded that the privatization was conducted based on the decision of the country. So we have understood that the privatization is under way, as an option, or as a "chosen" path of the country.

Prof. Hara:

And the most important, you know, the stimulation for the so-called privatization, deregulation, came from the World Bank. Therefore, you know, I didn't say anything in my speech about my personal evaluation. But, you know, for example, in the case of Thailand, I think the so-called market mechanism can work. That is the case of Thailand. But, in the case of Sri Lanka and Nepal, I think that a too early structural adjustment might cause big difficulties, not only in politics, but also in the economic field. That is my personal opinion. And, lastly, what Dr. Fernando mentioned is that the Japanese government should have an attitude which is different from the World Bank.

I think that is a good point. But still I don't know what is now going on in the Japanese bureaucracy, but I personally believe that some of my friends in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also in the Ministry of Finance have some opinions which are different from the World Bank. But I don't know what the Japanese government would decide. But I think Japan should serve its own ideas on the philosophy of giving aid, especially in how Japanese should evaluate the World Bank/IMF structural adjustment policies. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. I am sure we will be coming back to this issue later, but in the meantime, may I call upon the representative from Malaysia.

Mr. Ibrahim Ali:

Honorable Chairman, Honorable Speakers, Honorable Parliamentarians, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Ibrahim Ali. I am a representative from Malaysia, and the chairman of the Malaysian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. First, I am very happy to note that, according to the United Nations Population Fund source, that the life expectancy in Malaysia is 71. So now I am 40. So I hope to live another 20 more years. But anyway, honorable Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise some points and to share some opinions with reference to a point raised by Prof. Shigeto Kawano.

My opinion is similar to our friend from Sri Lanka. I would like to get some opinions from Professor Kawano, that in your paper you stated that "the government and local authorities should be involved in irrigation, drainage and land reclamation to prevent flooding and drought. Experimentation and research into plant breeding, and, in some instance, production of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers and supply of these substances at lower prices. It is also said that farm products in developing countries are priced at half of what is charged in industrialized countries, where fertilizers and agricultural machinery cost twice as much. It is the task of the government to narrow such gaps."

My question is, could you elaborate what you mean by "the government to narrow such gaps?" Because, my opinion is that it is not the problem now. To me, personally, it is a problem of industrialized countries' attitude. Malaysian experience -- permit me to say, because I'm quite young -- my Malaysian experience, even now there is a joke in my country, that half of the Malaysians are Japanese. We have adopted the Look East Policy. Well, even we have given free fertilizers to the farmers. But what of our problem? The problem is because of the attitude of the industrialized countries. Mainly like the transfer of technology. To transfer technology as a lip service. You see, although I do agree that education is the most important step to overcome this problem,

but the higher level of education is very costly for the developed countries to send their students to the developing countries. What more to get to the transfer of technology? This is why my honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Muhammad, has initiated the idea of forming the East Asia Economic Caucus Group. Because they keep the account, the attitude.

Like the developing countries, America has started with NAFTA, and Europe the single European Community Market. To us it is more of the economic blockade to help the developing countries. So this is the main issue, the main question as far as agricultural development in Asia.

And I do agree very much with the Sri Lanka opinion that the Japan government, the Japanese, like in my country, who undertake huge projects, I can say, right from agricultural success, drainage, irrigation, even to the building of a national car -- now the second car is coming, the Daihatsu -- but we are still talking the same problem. So that is why I would like to raise the question what you mean by "the government should narrow the gaps," what should be done, you see? Because, to me, as far as we are concerned, it is more of the attitude of the industrialized countries. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. That was a question addressed to Prof. Kawano.

Prof. Kawano:

Thank you. Let me try and answer your question.

One has to promote education, or improve soil; it is going to be costly. How do you raise that money? Should not the advanced countries be offering more aid? I think that is how I understood the purport of your question to be.

In reality, Japan, through Official Development Assistance, is doing a number of things. And Japan's ODA, as you know, is quite large. But I think what is important here is how ODA can be used more effectively. And it has to depend on the judgment of the people in the recipient country. And for self-help, you need your own education. You cannot depend on other peoples for your own development totally, you know. And I would like to cite an example of Sri Lanka.

During the Ikeda government, Prime Minister Bandalanaike visited Japan and looked at agricultural rice planting machines. And she said that she wanted to import rice-planting machines. And she brought those machines back to Sri Lanka. But it wasn't successful. Why? Because the Japanese rice plants are very short. But apparently the traditional rice plant in Sri Lanka is very long. So the same rice planting machine did not work on a different rice variety which was used in Sri Lanka at that time, but, no doubt, Sri Lanka must have raised shorter rice plants later. And again, the rice planting machines will not work if the paddy is very deep, the water is very deep. So the paddy has to be shallow. That sort of adjustment is what I mean. You import technology, but you've got to adjust it to suit your own convenience and your own national situation. And it is that sort of education that I talked about. Did I answer your question?

Chairman:

I think we have a lady delegate from Vietnam before we open the floor to the Japanese delegates.

Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. In Vietnam we have experiences that the more we improved the rice production, the higher the birth rate in the countryside. As law makers, parliamentarians could, in Vietnam, looking for Population and Development, have made many laws concerning education, marriage, health, etc., but we still have large difficulties in convincing the people in the countryside to accept the 2-children family policy. Though I would like to share experiences with colleagues here, and two topics, the first one is how to overcome the difficulties of the implementation of the family planning program in the countryside. And the second is how to industrialize the country and to diversify the agri-controlled production instead of improving only the food production as Prof. Hara has told us just a few minutes ago.

And not only sharing experiences, I would like to add one more thing. But with the open policy now in Vietnam, we appreciate and we welcome all the international cooperations and the foreign investments in those fields.

Chairman:

Thank you so much. I think you raised three questions. The first one had to do with that the farming families have more children when they have enough or greater rice production -- so how can you introduce a family planning program in the farming sector? Can I invite Mr. Uddin? Do you want to talk about this, please?

Dr. Uddin:

It is really difficult and rather confusing. Because the example I gave of Punjab, for example, the land-holding families, for example, do have about 36% lower infant mortality rates, but you are talking here, that in Vietnam, if you have higher production, so the fertility is also high. Well, if one could analyse, going into the in-depths of reasons of why it is happening, because you have just one overall aspect of, maybe you are looking at a crude level, you have high production, maybe, as well as high fertility, and the old types, or old kinds of analysis that the more family members you might have, the more hands you have for agriculture. So that's another way of looking at it that people might favor higher family sizes.

But the example that I gave for Bangladesh, the people analysed high family sizes in terms of more earnings, for example, than low literacy, low income, low level of living. But even with that, with more number of members in the family, so more earners, rather, and in this case, I really don't know like the level of education, for example, what you have, which might be perhaps, in a way, a good way to start, because they might still have the perception in terms of leading rural agricultural lives. So to live that in the absence of industrialization, in the absence of modern mechanisms of agriculture, they think more hands may bring more agricultural labor. So the other aspect, perhaps, again going back to education, could help them in terms of teaching them quality, standard of life, standard of living, and, in turn, I think that might reverse the process. Thank you.

Chairman:

The second question about industrialization and diversification of agriculture, Prof. Hara, would you answer the second question on what could be done in Vietnam?

Prof. Hara:

For me it might be difficult to answer correctly the question that the Vietnam delegate raised. I will tell my personal experience. Last November I attended one meeting held

in Tokyo which discussed the reconstruction and development in Indochina after the Cambodian issue. And at that time representatives from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia attended in that meeting. And I presented one paper which discussed about reasonable cooperation among these three countries.

At that time I emphasized that agricultural diversification's most important thing is to find out the market of the product. And at that time my suggestion was that, for example, in Vietnam's case, or Laos's case, or Cambodia's case, in a sense you are very lucky, because you are very close to Thailand. And if you check the market or economic growth in Thailand, you can easily find that the consumption patterns of the Thai people are gradually or rapidly changing. For example, so far they ate huge amounts of rice. But now the Thai people stopped to eat rice, and they prefer to eat other commodities, like Prof. Dr. Kawano mentioned, like some protective food like meat or milk, or something. But, on the other hand, already Thailand has moved to the industrialized phase. For example, already the agriculture's share to the GDP is less than 20 percent. It is around 15 or 13 percent. And that means that Thailand is gradually losing the comparative advantage in agricultural production. And therefore, for example, for Vietnam, I think to develop the exportables should be mainly targeted for the Thai market.

By the way, my point is that the most important thing for agricultural diversification is to find out the market. And if we look back to the Japanese case -- I am not so old as Prof. Kawano, I think Prof. Kawano knows it better than me -- we have two markets, one is export. But on the other hand, in the case of Japan, because the Japanese modernization smoothed during the last century, and therefore, gradually the domestic market expanded. Then the farms diversified their production. But in the case of Vietnam, I think, as compared to the Japanese experience, the importance of export markets should be more important than the case of Japan. That is my personal feeling, but maybe Prof. Kawano has a different opinion. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

Would Prof. Kawano address the same question?

Prof. Kawano:

It's hard to come up with a different view. But if the income rises you either save or spend that money, right? So if you are going to spend the money, if your belly is full, then you want to eat better, or live better, get a better house or go look at television programs, or go look at films or other entertainment. Unless you have that diversions, then you would continue the traditional life -- get married quickly. In case of Vietnam, if the income rises, and I don't know if there is television and other sort of entertainment in Vietnam, if you do, then people would want to live like people in the advanced countries, then they would buy television receiver sets, radio and telephones. And so they say, "Better not get married, I want to get a television set before I get my husband." So you know that's it. I thought you had another question, right? You welcome the foreign investment because you now have an open policy.

Chairman:

Prof. Kuroda, maybe you can cite some examples in China.

Prof. Kuroda:

So that is a very interesting question, but I am not familiar with the foreign trade. But anyway, I think a very interesting point is that now the rural people, now they are

increasing products. And you said that the income is harming us. And then you are afraid so much. They don't care of family planning. I don't think so. Now the income is coming up. This is a basic factor to induce the family planning. And also you said that the industrialization bring about urbanization. And also in this kind of different situation gradually they are going to change their behavior and their life cycle. So then I think now Professor Kawano pointed out the same thing.

And also I knew that now very recently, two or three years ago, now your government has come to have much interest about the family planning program. And JOICFP conducted a family planning survey with assistance from the UNFPA. At that time I was just participating in formulating a questionnaire of family planning. And then, one or two years later, very recently, they finished, and gathered the questionnaire survey. And we found that many of the mothers, young mothers in particular, were willing to accept family planning. And you also said that economic conditions were coming up in rural areas. I think that is very nice, and very good. And also then your government or also NGOs started to diffuse the family planning program, then it must be a very good one, a very good one. You can easily diffuse the family planning program because now in the rural areas the level of income, the standard of living is coming up, and much more demand is coming up. And the industrialization and urbanization is coming to bring forth, to make much easier the family planning practice. So I think your government now has a very nice opportunity to take up the effective family planning. So I am sure that the family planning program of the government has come to be so much effective. So I think that you don't need to worry about this.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. I think we are just off the focus. We have been talking about so many different kinds of things. We'd like to entertain some more questions from the floor.

Dr. Uddin:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct a question to Dr. Kuroda, who I consider as my father, because I have met him since the early seventies and we continued to be associated together in population and development. Dr. Kuroda's paper on the Japanese experience, "The Demographic Transition and Development Strategy in Asia, the Japanese Experience in Other Countries," shows that when one has achieved demographic transition, there people have improved levels of living, they find it more enjoyable to travel. They have attained an educational attainment, and so on. Yet there are also implications of the demographic transition which should give us a warning for developing countries.

For example, in terms of labor shortage, or dependency, burden on the part of the government towards the elderly. Now for countries like the Philippines with a population problem which the Catholic Church in my country does not recognize, it is difficult for us, and yet we have got to be partners with the Catholic Church because that is the reality situation. And I was wondering whether Dr. Kuroda can tell us that somehow along the line, once there is a population stabilization that is coming, there should be some signals that should alert the policy makers, the parliamentarians to ensure that stabilization is there and that it does not immediately create that kind of very fast demographic transition. Because I think with countries like, well we have Singapore for example, the demographic transition is there and now the policy is reversed in so far as the population is concerned for some of the aspects. Europe has undergone the demographic transition, and so on.

People in the developing countries have to go there to find employment and so on, and Philippines is not an exception. So what I'm trying to say, I guess, is that there are implications to the demographic transition, but at the same time, policy makers should be alerted when population and stabilization is taking place, irrespective of whether there is a family planning program or where there are improvements of the levels of living, including high educational attainment of the citizens of one's country. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

A very, very interesting question. And Professor Kuroda, please.

Prof. Kuroda:

He is not my son. He is my grandson. I am surprised to find that now he is so nice, he is so knowledgeable, and put such a difficult question to me. It seems to me that now you're too old for me to give my grandson a very nice answer to you. Maybe a few years later I'll try to find out something for you. Particularly, my birthday is in November, before that I'll try. Anyway, it is a very nice question now. I gave you an overview of the so much different stages of demographic transition. In East Asia and also Southeast Asian countries, what is the difference, the different stage of each country? That depends upon each country's specific economic, social and cultural factors.

As you say, that in the Philippines the Catholic religion is the only one country in Asia. And you are having something in diffusing the family planning program in the Philippines, even if this cultural factor is quite different from other countries, in East Asia and also South Asia, and also so much different social systems and economic factors. And the stage of economic development is so much different. I think now is the time for us to look into each country's specific situation which might be shifted to the demographic transition stage -- how to speed up demographic transition. But you are just now having some interest about stable population. We don't know what will happen in Japan or other advanced countries.

But before, in our case, even in the so-called economic take-off period, 1880-1890, we could barely succeed to pass the so-called economic take-off stage. Even at the time the population increase rate was only 0.8 percent, it means less than one percent. And the economic growth rate was 4 percent. So this is only one experiment we had in Japan before. But when we were speeding up economic development and also social development, it never happened, even before World War II.

All advanced countries had a rather high increase rate, but high means only just around one percent. And also, in case of Japan, even in that rather low population increase rate, we had a very serious problem in the economic field, but also in social field, in food, of the rice production, and also high employment. And I would like to point out that these kind of socioeconomic very serious problems happened after the economic take-off. We had them in the 1920s, the 1930, the 1940s. Even before that, we could succeed. So then from our experience in Japan we can understand, maybe clearer for other countries who are having much higher population increase rate, 2 percent, 3 percent. And sometimes even some country, even before take-off, now all our colleague countries who are attending this seminar have just passed, but still 2 percent, 3 percent.

We can understand how serious, how different it is to deal with this kind of problem. The reason why we could understand it that we had it before, even under the much lower population rate. So then I know that our colleague countries in Asia have much interest about how to control the population increase rate, which could be a very major component to make modernization difficult. So maybe twenty years later, thirty years later, we could succeed to reduce your population increase rate to one percent or so. Then I think that be much favorable, you must be happy. So, actually, that we should think about. So in this sense, I think that nobody knows about what will be after that. Thank you.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. Dr. Uddin, the delegate from the Philippines talked about that the Catholic religion is a hindrance to the reduction of population growth. But what will happen after the population growth is stabilized? What do you think what will happen after the stabilization of the population growth? Would you like to answer this question?

Dr. Uddin:

Well, in most of the countries, particularly the developing countries with high growth rate now, we are talking about the time for replacement level. But the point is given, when you come to the replacement level coming to one, but the pressure of the young age group, particularly the point I mentioned, especially at the lower age structure of the population, that is, if you look at the population pyramid, which is just vertical like the Egyptian Pyramids, meaning the lower portion is quite high, so at certain stage when these younger age groups come into the working age groups, and as I have mentioned also, that the pressure, even though the population growth rate reduces, but the increment in terms of labor force is at a much higher proportion, a much higher percentage, which might influence the overall employment situation.

So the government certainly has to take into account those problems as well, even though in one aspect, okay, the dependency ratio is declining, but you have to look for more resources, more employment opportunities, and so on. Like the case of Europe now. Even in Asia, so you have three countries who are now below the replacement level -- Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. And here also, like in Europe, I have seen, they are trying to encourage more children. Otherwise teachers are losing their job because there are no school children, so to whom will they teach? And so, meaning at all the stages one has to, the point I mentioned, it is such a problem, even if you have a stable life, at that stage also you do have problems. Meaning that, well, you are the parliamentarians, policy decision makers, and all points to that one really has to keep importance on this population problem, meaning real importance on policies, policy issues, short term as well as long term which might help the government over a long-term period, how you can try to solve these problems. Thank you.

Chairman:

Thank you. The next question, please?

Mr. Harindra

I'm Harindra Dunuwille, Member of Parliament, I am the Honorary Secretary of the Asian Forum, Sri Lanka Group. Following from what Dr. Uddin said about the replacement level fertility and referring to his presentation about the really encouraging results that Sri Lanka has received, we must remind ourselves that Sri Lanka remains one of the more densely populated countries in the world. And not resting on laurels, if

I may use that expression, the government has committed itself to reach replacement level fertility by the year 2000. And in order to do that we need to encourage half a million more couples to engage in some form of family planning, or to become users of contraceptive methods.

Now our problem is, and I am sure that the problem is common to all, that the delivery of family planning services are not really as available as we would like it to be. In this respect, we have had support all these years, as we still do, from the UNFPA, from the IPPF and so on. But unfortunately, perhaps because of Sri Lanka's achievements, these agencies have started to cut back on their services to Sri Lanka, and I am sure it may be for very good reasons, they must be having their own constraints in doing so. But my appeal is that we cannot let in Sri Lanka, allow the situation to lull us into a state of complacency. Because, as I said, we are one of the more densely populated countries, and we shall be from our 17.5 million now, around 20 million by the turn of the century. And if we are to achieve replacement level fertility, which is the declared goal of the government and its policies, we shall level off only in the year 2040 at a population of 24 million, which will make us a very densely populated country in the world. So therefore my appeal, rather more than my question, is that the delivery of services should continue uninterrupted to all countries. Thank you.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. Your points are all taken. There are parliamentarians from different countries, and I wonder if any of those parliamentarians would like to speak up. I believe Mr. Otsuka wanted to raise his hand.

Mr. Otsuka:

I have two questions. One is about the population transition. Except for the European advanced nations, the transition began in Japan, followed by Taiwan, and Korea. Now how would it spread in the future? Would this population transition spread in other countries, or would we see a diminishing of this transition? That is my first question. The second question: we have heard discussion from Sri Lanka. I think Sri Lanka is in one of the better conditions compared to other Asian countries in the South. However, parliamentarians from Sri Lanka talked about the difficulties that they still face. In addition to the family planning service, they are trying to improve the social infrastructure, such as to improve the water supply system, and so forth. And I believe that those different numerous social approaches were able to result in giving good effects on the population control. So I believe that even if it was not directly intended to improve the population or family planning, I think those different approaches did so.

Chairman:

Dr. Uddin, would you like to comment?

Dr. Uddin:

Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, regarding the first point about the trend of the future, how it will spread in the future due to this diminution situation. Well, straight away, I think it is difficult to give any answer, but if I may talk the other aspects as well, one point you did mention is trying to, for example, is bringing improvement to the social infrastructure. One point one might take into account, again the aspect of socio-cultural context of the country, if I may bring an example from the subcontinent, for example, like the point raised for the Philippine religion, for example. But in this case, I was talking about the Indian subcontinent, the influence of the socio-cultural, particularly the cultural aspect, if I may say, for example people living in rural

Bangladesh or rural India, most of the population more than 90 percent almost live in rural areas, and what is happening is that we live in extended family systems, meaning having your in-laws, middle generation, as well as grandchildren.

So what is expected as soon as a couple gets married, in-laws from both sides, the bride's and bridegroom's, they expect to have a grandson or grandchildren. And if you don't have a grandchild maybe by the end of the first or second year, they may take you to be sterile, that you cannot have children. So that brings in other social problems, like even sometimes do they try to influence the couple, the bride or the bridegroom blaming each other and thinking in terms of divorce, for example. So what I mean, this sort of influence of this culture is, in a way, a big barrier to the solutions of the problems, like you have as in religion.

So, coming back to how do we tackle at the diminishing level, I think again the value of children that might come into that, because in developed countries you see that many of the couples even do not think to have children because they think it is too costly even to maintain themselves, meaning that not to have a child. And that could be perhaps one way that the Nature or the system itself might take into account, the other aspect, of course, government has to think of some plans so that to come up with this aspect of the diminishing state what to do. So I think I could at least clarify, if not really directly answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. We are coming very short of time. I'm afraid I'd like to request the Japanese participants to refrain from extending further questions because we are bound by time. Now I would like to talk about agricultural development. Many points were raised, and I had hoped that there would be more voices raised on should how the Japanese assistance and aid be. The panel members discussed about the agricultural development, but I wonder if you have any opinions on how we might better extend developmental aid to other countries. We are just here as scholars and experts. I believe that the political aspects can be discussed tomorrow. But maybe our professors here could share with us their views as to how we might better extend assistance. You are asked how we might extend assistance in the agricultural developmental sector.

Prof. Kawano:

Fertilizer plants, agricultural equipment plants, pesticide/herbicide plants, establishing those plant facilities is one type of approach. Putting together, investing into the irrigation system, investing into the hardware, do not necessarily guarantee efficiency. Because each farmer lives in different conditions. The market environment may be different, they may be facing different pests and diseases. So each farmer must be educated to be able to make the decision on his own, to adapt to his own set of needs. So rather than teaching the farmers to copy and emulate whatever we tell, we must provide them with the competency to make the decision of their own. Establishing cooperatives and other training centers may be a solution. But if there is a demand to learn, then we could suggest that we could study and learn together. But in the absence of such motivation or demand, assistance would be in vain. So the key is whether the farmers are willing to accept assistance. There are very few cases where cooperatives are functioning well. There are numerous cooperatives, but none of them are functioning well. I'm waiting eagerly to see the betterment of cooperatives. We can extend advice, we are more than willing to do so. Japan is prepared to do so, but there must be a will or the demand on the recipient side.

Prof. Hara:

Once again I'd like to say that, what I intended to say already Prof. Kawano mentioned. But maybe I'd like to add one or a few words. So far the Japanese ODAs in the agricultural fields were concentrated on making the physical infrastructure, like making the irrigation canals. But I think in theory, the importance of physical infrastructure improvement in some countries, especially in South Asia, like Nepal or India, still might be important. But basically the more important thing is that, I do not have any exact idea on how to do it, but I think the new field is that Japanese should contribute more for the improvement of the so-called marketing institution. I do not have enough time to explain this point, but the improvement in marketing institutions itself might be very important.

For example, how to give the farmers enough information on the outside market. Such an improvement in marketing institutions itself might be very important. And the second field which Japan should consider is the improvement of the rural financial institutions. And once again, this is a very important thing. For example, so far Japan provided some money to Thailand by so-called two-step loans. Such mechanisms should be considered as a future direction. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. We still have three more minutes. Would you like to rise and maybe speak up?

Mr. Yoshida:

I am a faculty member of Sanno University. My name is Yoshida. My major expertise is ecology. The population of Southeast Asia and other areas would reach 3.5 billion in the year 2000. The Asian economy is growing very rapidly. With the expansion of the economy we would see the increase of food, and also we would see the quality of the food. Consequently it is important to secure sufficient food. My question is to Prof. Kawano. Increased production of food is necessary, but it may destroy the environment and ecological system because if you want to cultivate land for increased production you may destroy some of the environment.

So in view of this, what are the type of things that must be borne in mind by developing nations? And also diversity has been talked about in Taiwan and in China, in the Guantung area. The consumption of meat is increasing very rapidly. Now in Southeast Asia poultry and pork are being produced, but they are not well-suited for cattle raising. Therefore, if the livestock or cattle-stock industry should be developed, it may result in destruction of the nature. Given that scenario, rather than trying to supply everything on our own, we might opt to import those products from elsewhere. I think that would be friendlier to ecology. You talked about environmental destruction. May Australia and other areas would be better suited for cattle industry. And I think that your view is that it would be less expensive to purchase beef from Australia, rather than destroy the land.

Prof. Kawano:

No, I agree with it. I'm not saying that you should not go after inexpensive or cheaper sources, but I'm just warning that the supply is not guaranteed at all times. Be ready for times when the supply might be suspended temporarily.

Now I don't know if I am correct giving the direct answer, but let me continue, in India the Punjab is being very successful in increasing the production of food. During the

colonial days under the British rule they developed irrigation very well. I wonder if there is any other area which engaged in irrigation systems comparable to that of Punjab. So, in other words, the basic conditions must be prepared by the government and, if necessary with the outside resources and assistance. The question is whether what we do would lead to the destruction of ecology. I do not know. There is not a simple answer. Yes, production may accompany change of conditions in the environment. We cannot avoid certain transformations of the environment. I think it is really up to the people who live there to make the decision as to how they might or might not transform their living environment.

Chairman:

Thank you very much. With your kind support I think we were able to be very precise on time. The Japanese Railways system is known for accuracy and precision, and I think that we were able to be as good as the Japanese Railways. We would like to close the discussion and I appreciate your kind attendance.

Eighth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting  
On Population And Development

Presentation of Country Papers

(9:00 - 16:15 Feb. 26, 1992)

## Presentation of Country Papers

Prasop Ratanakorn:

Good morning my dear friends. I hope you all slept well. We used to say, "Early to bed, early to rise make man healthy, wealthy and wise." While we are waiting for few more friends, I would like to tell you some of my thinking, that always remember to forget the things that made you sad, but never forget to remember the things that made you glad. Yesterday, we had a happy time at the 10th Anniversary of APDA and AFPPD. I mentioned about love. To love is to place our happiness in the happiness of the others.

Well this morning we will go on with our activities on the issue on population and sustainable development in Asia with particular emphasis on the environment. Before going on, I would like to inform you that with approval of UNFPA and Executive Committee, we now have a consultant at my office of secretary general in Bangkok. Secretary general of youth activities in Denmark for one month consultation affairs with our Asian Forum. He is with me during this trip to Tokyo, may I introduce to you Mr. Shif Kare. And he will work as reporter this morning and afternoon and also for the executive committee meeting this evening at 6 p.m. In order to go through this presentation, I would like to invite two of our executive committee members to share the session. The morning session will be chaired by Honorable Neville Fernando of Sri Lanka. And in the afternoon by Honorable Colin Hollis from Australia. May I now have the privilege to have Dr. Neville Fernando to chair the morning session. Thank you.

Neville Fernando:

Thank you very much Dr. Prasop. Thank you very much my dear colleagues and friends. We shall commence our business. The morning session will be on issues on population and sustainable development in Asia with particular emphasis on the environment. I will now call upon Honorable Colin Hollis of Australia to present his country paper.

Each delegate will have about 15 minutes.

Country Paper  
Australia

Population Policy and Population Cooperation in Australia  
by  
Hon. Colin Hollis

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Australia does not have the problems of overpopulation that many in the Asia region have. In fact, Australia has an active immigration policy encouraging people to settle there. But interestingly, there is considerable debate in Australia about the ultimate population for Australia, and this debate is very much centered on the environment. Some environmentalists say, because of the nature of Australia, the large area of desert and a vary rare rainfall, Australia is indeed now overpopulated.

I myself don't subscribe to that view, but it is an interesting debate that is occurring in Australia. Australia's work on population centers very much on the Pacific region, some of the pacific island states and Papua New Guinea. And as my colleague from New Zealand will emphasize in his paper, it need not mean that just because some of these small island states don't have the huge populations that many of our countries do, they still suffer from overpopulation. It may be a matter of a country with only a population of less than 100,000, but for them it is a real problem and they suffer many of the problems that the countries with huge populations have.

The Australian government's policy on population recognizes the links between population growth, human welfare and environmental degradation. It affirms the right of the individuals to determine their family size and their right of access to family planning information and services. The Australian government's work in population is carried out through AIDAB which is the Australia International Development Assistance Bureau. And they published a paper, a policy statement in November 1990 on support for population activities. Key aspects of that policy include:

the right of all people to have the information, education and means to decide the number and spacing of their children

the goal of providing increased support for population activities under bilateral programs, as well as through multilateral agencies and international NGOs

a commitment to high quality family planning programs which are fully voluntary, which are of high quality technically, and which enable people to choose an appropriate method of contraception by informing and educating people about family planning options, and, the need to give priority to programs designed to improve the status of women.

Under the policy, AIDAB is responsible for insuring that any population activities funded through the AID program are in line with these principles. In addition, AIDAB is developing a more detailed policy framework to ensure that human rights issues are fully taken account of in the development and implementation of population programs.

The issue of human rights in relation to population programs has become very topical in Australia, and there has been much debate in the Parliament and much concern

expressed in the Australian Parliament and the broader community about the allegations of human rights abuses in some countries' family planning programs. To ensure that its funding of population programs is fully defensible in terms of human rights, AIDAB plans to adopt guidelines based on the following principles: human rights considerations will be given special prominence in formulating activities in the population sector.

Future Australia's systems will focus on promoting the following objectives:

- voluntary informed choice of methods to suit individual needs
- technical competence of service providers
- adequate information in counseling services
- adequate follow-up services
- use of integrated programs which take account a broader productive health needs.

AIDAB also is proposing a focus on education and training, and on the provision of direct project assistance to family planning services, as part of an effort to increase the quality of population policies and programs. Where possible, population programs will be integrated with broader development efforts in areas such as women's literacy and welfare, and improve women's and child's health. In recognition of the close link between these factors and increased voluntary demand for family planning.

More broadly, it is proposed that Australia engage in constructive dialogue on the issue of human rights in population programs by means of constructive dialogue in both bilateral and multilateral fora with a view towards mutual understanding of differing views and establishing common ground. Consideration on charges of human rights abuse on case by case basis, a result-oriented approach guided by the question, "Will Australia's response result in improvement of the situation of the people who are directly involved?"

Funding for population programs through Australia's development assistance program has grown gradually over recent years. Funding for the sector increased by 40% 1991, thanks to an additional 1.4 million allocated to AIDAB's population activities. Under a new environment assistance program, in the 1991-92 budget, the government announced a further allocation for population programs of about 6.2 million over the next 4 years as part of the new environment assistance program.

The additional funds will allow AIDAB to develop a range of government-to-government aid initiatives in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region. The bulk of the additional funds provided in 1991 were used to increase Australia's contribution to the United Nations Funds for Population and to the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Despite the extra funds, population spending as a percentage of the AID program is still about one-third the average for OECD donor countries, and only one-eighth the target or 4% of ODA set by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. Assistance to the sector consists primarily of untied assistance to the United Nations Funds for Population activities and other multilateral agencies and international NGOs, notably the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Funding for both the UNFPA and IPPF has more than doubled over the past 2 or 3 financial years as a result

of the additional funding provided to population assistance. And I will hope also because of my work as a member of the Asian Forum.

The only sizable initiative at present under the country program is a population and health program in Bangladesh co-financed with the World Bank. AIDAB expects to contribute over 2 million this year and additional 10 million over the next 4 years. However, thanks to the development work done in the sector recently, there are several initiatives en train. There is a great deal of scope for Australia to expand its assistance to population programs. There is currently no shortage of demand for assistance even in the Southeast Asia and Pacific regions which are the focus of Australia's bilateral aid. Australia also has relevant technical expertise to offer, particularly in the areas of improving the quality of family planning programs, of training and demographic research has already identified several positive initiatives which, if pursued, could significantly increase, possibly even double, the level of assistance to population programs over the next 2 or 3 years.

As have been indicated in the paper, Australia's main focus is within our region and we've also had preliminary discussion of holding a seminar in our region, looking at the population and the environment, either late this year or early next year. And I might make the point also that Australia accepts the fact very much that, as a developed country, it is not our role to tell the underdeveloped or less-developed countries to preach to them about environmental protection, when we realize that many of the problems with the environment are caused by the lifestyle of the overdeveloped world. If we are going to solve this problem, it will have to be carried out on a cooperative effort between both because we are talking about the whole world, and we believe in Australia it's not our role to tell the developing world that they should stop their development while the developed world continues with their lifestyle. And so it has to be a cooperative effort from both sides.

Our group has been very active in the Australian Parliament in working with overseas aid organization, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation in Australia, and we have embarked on a educative program for Australian politicians and supply them with a whole range of information. One thing that we have produced is a pack, and unfortunately because I left Australia so quickly, I only brought one copy with me but I am willing to send copies of this, and it's a pack containing information, and this goes to every member of the parliament and they can use this when they are speaking and when they get questions about population.

As I said in the paper, one of the major issues that has arisen in the Australian Parliament recently, I'm talking about population, has been the question of human rights. And this has caused, first of all, a rethinking of policy to make sure that they do comply with human rights issues, which they do, but also meant that every politician has got to be prepared to defend the aid dollar that Australia gives and it's usual that they have to defend that to other politicians who raise the human rights issue often from the religious point of view.

Mr. Chairman, that's all I have to say and I thank you very much for your attention.

Country Paper  
Bangladesh

Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia  
With Particular Emphasis on the Environment

by  
Hon. Shajahan Siraj

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Fellow Parliamentarians of the AFPPD, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me and for the Bangladesh delegation to have privilege of presenting this brief paper namely the "Issues on Population and Sustainable Development in Asia with Particular Emphasis on Environment."

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is not only the eighth largest populous country in an area of 55 thousand square miles, but it is also one of the three countries having the highest population density in the world (the other two countries, also in Asia are Singapore and Hong Kong). The current population of Bangladesh is estimated at 114 million. The geographical area now comprise Bangladesh had a population only of 17 million in 1700 A.D. The population nearly doubled itself in 221 years. Between 1921 and 1974, the population became more than double again and this time the doubling took only 53 years. Demographers project that, in the next 36 years, the population of Bangladesh will double again even if the present goal of fertility decline to replacement level by the turn of the century is achieved. The population of Bangladesh will be about 154 million by the year 2012.

One of the worrisome aspects of the Bangladesh population is its young age structure. 46 percent of the population are below 15 years of age. These young population has a tremendous growth potential. The high fertility in the country has been impeding our socio-economic development and indeed is threatening the very ecological viability of our society. Though the government in our country considers the high population growth as the NUMBER ONE problem of the country and commits itself to drastically reduce the rate of population growth, we are still far behind in achieving the official target of zero growth rate. When the official statistics estimates the present growth rate to be nearly 2.4 percent, the unofficial count is more than 4 percent a year.

Mr. Chairman,

The existence of the Earth is now threatened by the pollution of environment. The Ozone Layer is threatened by the "Green House Gases" mostly caused by industrial pollution. It is ironical that, when a few industrially developed countries are mainly responsible for endangering the Earth through polluting its environment creating the most portion of the harmful Green House Gases, the poor and underdeveloped countries like Bangladesh become the first and worst victim of the whole episode. Due to Green House Effect, it is predicted that the three-fourth of our country's main-land shall go under sea water by the year 2050. The probable danger of Green House Effect coupled with the destruction of forests and other local reasons, have already alarmed the people of Bangladesh and other seashore and island-countries. We, from this forum may initiate proposals for taking concrete steps by the International Community to stop pollution of environment. The countries responsible for polluting the Earth's

environment should compensate for the same according to the degree of their pollution. The United Nations should raise a fund out of those compensation-money to save the countries like Bangladesh from the danger of Environment Pollution. The fund shall also be utilized to sponsor scientific research to find out remedies of green house danger.

Another kind of pollution is caused by synthetic products like bags, containers etc. The disposal of waste synthetic bags and containers create pollution problems of big magnitude. I would like to mention here that Bangladesh produces huge quantities of natural fiber like Jute, the use and disposal of which do not create pollution problem. We, the People's Representatives should induce our respective governments to discard the use of Synthetic fiber and encourage the use of natural fiber like jute. In this way, we may avoid environmental pollution and help achieve sustainable development for the fiber growing developing countries like Bangladesh.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is a riverine country situated on the basin of the great river GANGES. The ecological balance of Bangladesh and its agriculture have been greatly endangered by the barrage 'FARRAKKA' in the neighboring India, on this common river. Due to control of water by the Farrakka barrage, in the dry season, the rivers of Bangladesh as well as its soil became dry, and in the monsoon, the country goes under flood water. This issue is a long-standing one, and deserves regional and international attention for a proper solution.

The normal water flow through the main rivers of Bangladesh have been obstructed due to Farrakka barrage and other dams and groynes constructed in the neighboring India. For this reason, the soil of the northern part of the country have been dry and that of the southern part have been salty. This alarming situation should immediately be resolved, otherwise the Bangladesh ecology as well as its economy will gradually collapse. The rivers should be dredged will for maintaining normal flow. The river communications between the two main parts of the country have been hampered due to stripes of sandy lands rising here and there out of the bed of the great river JAMUNA. The proposed multi-purpose JAMUNA BRIDGE with railway lines connecting the two main parts of the land should immediately be constructed. In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of our great friend and donor country JAPAN for proper economic and technical help.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh faces pressure from it's donor communities to withdraw all subsidies from agriculture and agricultural equipment which is greatly hampering the normal agricultural production of the country. Bangladesh economy, as well as its ecology is mainly based on its agriculture. So, the suggestion of withdrawing subsidies from the country's agriculture would only hinder its economic growth and ecological balance.

Education and employment of the women-folk have inverse relationship with fertility and population boom. Recognizing this problem, promotion of female literacy especially among girls has been given special focus in our country's education sector. Promotion of employment opportunities for women has also been encouraged by the government. But due to poverty and unawareness of the common people and shortage of sufficient employment scopes, the government initiatives is hindered. In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of our friend and donor countries to come forward with proper help and assistance so that the government programs are strengthened as

well as programs in the Non-Government sector are also encouraged.

Some countries have marched ahead in economic development in the past decades. These countries include Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and others in the Asia and also the Australia. Entrepreneurs from these countries may invest in the countries like Bangladesh, where labor is comparatively cheap and raw materials are also available. In these way the problem of unemployment in these countries may be solved to some extent and thus help resolve economic and ecological imbalance. The industrially developed countries may also import surplus labor from neighboring poorer countries which would be highly helpful for developing a MULTI-LATERAL SUPPORT SYSTEM among the friend nations towards the goal of socio economic equality.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is now facing another great problem which is also creating farther environmental imbalance on this overpopulated country. About one hundred thousand refugees from neighboring Myanmar (Burma) are now staying in Bangladesh creating great pressure on its environment, ecology and economy. This problem too, deserves regional and international attention.

Our country is a victim of recurring natural Calamities every year. In 1988, the country was hit by a flood unknown in the history. Last year a devastating cyclone and tidal bore hit the coastal areas, the magnitude of which was also unknown in the history of our country. These natural calamities are the regular phenomenon of Bangladesh. Recently, cold waves in the winter caused many deaths. These are the symptoms which proves that the ecology and environment are changing rapidly. These problems can not be solved without assistance from friend nations. We seek regional and International co-operation in solving our environmental crisis which would greatly help our country in achieving sustainable development.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Thank you all.

Country Paper  
China

Population and Environment in China  
by  
Hon. Yang Jike

Mr. Chairman, fellow parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to attend the 10th anniversary of AFPPD and 8th APDA meeting here.

As everybody knows, China is the most populated country in the world. Although both Congress and Government of China had tried the best to control the rate of increase of our population, it still would reach a figure of 1.3 billion at the end of this century, and would exert a tremendous pressure on China. This large population would raise the amount of needs of various natural resources such as arable land, fresh water, forestry and ore deposits correspondingly. In spite of the tremendous natural resources in China, large population makes it poor in the per capita basis. Per capita amount of arable land in China is about one third of the world average, that of water resources on forth, that of forest and its acreage one sixth, that of forestry reserve one eighth, and that of ore deposits one half. In the mean time, we are also confronting a formidable task of the protection of environment.

Due to the rapid growth of population in China, land for housing and the construction of public facilities increased. Therefore the per capita amount of arable land decreased from 0.19 hectare in 1950 to that of 0.09 hectare in 1990. Because of the scarcity of arable land and the population pressure, people must increase the crop production to the utmost. Overuse of chemical fertilizer and pesticides made the organic matter in soil decreasing. Farmers in some mountainous area started to cultivate on the slope with a result of soil erosion.

In view of such conditions, the National Congress as well as the government of China advocate the agro-ecological technology in the plain area, terrace making were advised instead of planting on the slope in the mountainous area. Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fish-raising and various handicrafts were encouraged and supported. Substantial results were attained from these measures.

The enlargement of population in China also increased the demands of energy for living. In the rural area, the consumption of bio-mass energy sums up to a huge amount. Among these the deforestation is most serious. Along with that for reclamation to meet the needs of staple foods, forest coverage in China dropped to a mere 13% of total land area, per capita forestry reserve to less than 9 cubic meters.

As far as coal and petroleum are concerned, the per capita consumption in China are only one fifth and one hundredth as that in U.S.A. respectively. But due to our huge population, the total amount of coal consumption for domestic and industrial purposes is very large which ranks third place in the world.

Although the total resources of fresh water in China amount to 2.8 trillion cubic meters, the sixth in the world, but due to the doubling of population in the period of last 40 years, the per capita amount of fresh water resources has been reduced to half, merely

2,700 cubic meters. Tension due to water shortage both domestically and industrially occur in various regions of China. Pollution of river and lakes made the situation even worse.

The positive correlation between the population expansion and the deterioration of environment now becomes a major problem concerned by people all over our country. In order to mobilize them to control the birth rate and protect the natural environment, the Government of China had set family planning and environment protection as two basic state policies. Various measures for sustained and continuous enforcement of these policies were taken. Since 1979, the National Congress of China issued a number of laws concerning resources conservation and environmental protection, such as Law of Forestry, Law of Environmental Protection, Law of Oceanic Environmental Protection, Law of Water Pollution Control, Law for Pasture, Law for Ore Resources, Law of Land Management, Law of Air Pollution Control, Law for Water Resources, Law for Soil Conservation, Law for Wild Animal Protection, etc. The Government of China also issued a number of rules, regulations and orders for environmental protection. All these measures has made the situation of environmental quality in China stabilized and with improvement in some regions even under the condition of continued growth of economic development.

Being one of the basic state policies, the goal of population control was set as "Control the quantity as well as raise the quality of our population". For this purpose four measures were taken as follows:

1. Full-scale public education, repeatedly telling our people the necessity and urgency of population control. Let the mass of people understand and consciously implement the birth control policy.
2. On the basis of education, strict regulations were made. In urban areas, one couple can only have one child. In rural areas, one couple -one child policy is also encouraged. In order to enforce these birth control policy and regulations, target responsibility system were taken.
3. Establish social benefit and security facilities so that people don't have to worry about old age. Gradually enhance the willingness of family planning. Supply safe contraception devices and pills free of charge, strengthen medical care, protect the health of women.
4. Through various means, promote better growth and better education of children to raise the quality of population, including forbiddingness of consanguineous marriage and encouragement of genetic counseling, also actively develop the education system for children.

The family planning program has been launched for twenty years in China and outstanding achievements were attained. The natural population increase rate has dropped from 25.83 ‰ in 1970 to 14.39‰ in 1990, so that 200 million less infants were born in these twenty years, making the world's 5-billion-day delayed for two years and 3-billion day for four years in Asia. Obviously, such efforts of Chinese people has made their contribution to the world. It was praised internationally by lot of intellectuals. Although the rate of birth in China was controlled, due to the large base population, yearly new borns still amounts to around 17 millions. In order to take care and educate such a large number of new population, China must consume one quarter

of her total national income. Therefore, strict measures must be taken to avoid the rapid increase of our population.

The problem of population and environment in China is challenged in two aspects. Firstly, because of continuous deterioration of environment, it is necessary for long term sustained efforts of environmental protection. Secondly, since environment is closely linked with economic development and social progress, therefore its protection must be coordinated with them. Under the stern conditions of population and environment, China must proceed intensively and steadily for our economic and social construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. To reach the above aim, the following strategy should be taken:

1. In the process of economic development in China, any policy-making must taking into consideration both birth planning and environmental protection which are two basic state policies of China. Firstly, in making strategies and policies, as a rule, one must consider how to induce reasonable population flow their reasonable settlement, to avoid massive population swelling in cities. Secondly, the rate of population increase must be maintained in accordance with the goal of economic development. Thirdly, the goal of social development policy must be maintained in accordance with the goal of environment policy. For instance, rural enterprises which render environmental pollution must be restricted or regulated within a given period. In the meantime, those rural enterprises which would promote agro-ecology and protect environment should be encouraged, protective and favorable policies should be given.

2. Further strengthening the policy system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Firstly, continue to strictly control the rate of population increase within the limit of 12.5 ‰. Secondly, strengthen the mass education about population and environment. In order to impose the scientific concepts of population and environment to the masses of people in the whole country, family planning and environmental protection should be taught as vital teaching materials along with other national conditions in China. Thirdly, let loose the abundant wisdom and energy bound within Chinese people and try to utilize them for more contribution in social and economic development. In the mean time, raise their ability to protect, improve, regulate and adapt to the environment.

In order to enforce the environment policy in China, it is necessary to induce the incentive of the masses of people. Firstly, it is necessary to maintain the rights of natural environment enjoyed by people at present as well as in the future. Emphasize the joint endeavor of good management and effective prevention. Taking into account the viewpoint of global environment protection. Secondly, under the guidance of governmental environment protection policies, mobilize people to join the management of environment. Thirdly, utilize the rich manpower in China to undergo various environmental constructions. In Northwest, Northeast and North China. "Three North Wind-Shield" belt forest were built. During the period of last twelve years, more than 100 million man-day were put into the tree planting work of 27 million hectares. Vast plain were greenerized between Yellow and Huai River. Villages by villages were shaded by trees over there. If the rich manpower in China were not utilized but let it go, it could be a great devastating force to the environment. But if they were well organized and educated, and put them into such soil and water conservation works as turning slope into terraces, greenerize the land, construction of water reservoirs, etc. in large scale, they could be turned into a vital element beneficial for the environment. This already opened a feasible way of sustaining environmental protection under the present fund-scarce condition of China.

This year is 20th anniversary of publication of "Declaration of Human Environment". The National Congress and Government of China are willing to cooperate with parliamentarians of all nations, especially of nations in Asia in the joint efforts to promote global environment protection, in order to make contribution for the preservation of the population and environmental rights of China and other developing countries in Asia. Thank you.

Country Paper  
India

Issues On Population And Sustainable Development In Asia  
With Particular Emphasis Development

by  
Hon. Mahendra Prasad

Mr. Chairman, fellow brothers and sisters of Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and friends from worldwide. Mr. Chairman. Let me say and admit that population and environment movement in India has become a body without soul. It has suffered as great setback in the sad demise of Mr. Sat Paul Mittal who was not only my friend but brother, and we used to consult each other on every national and international issues and family matters.

At the outset, let me thank you, for giving an opportunity, to share some insights on population and sustainable development. Both are inseparable and get reflected in the state of Environment on which depends the very survival of life. The theme presents a vast area with some critical issues needing attention at national as well as international levels. Despite a growing concern expressed through various fora, in real terms, much more needs to be done within a shrinking time-frame.

The quantum of minimum needs, growing with a burgeoning population, coupled with ever-growing greed of the few is at the root of the present crisis. At one level, there is a nexus between poverty and population explosion. Both act and react on each other. More significantly, at another level, over-consumption patterns of the few, through careless application of technology, and wanton exploitation of natural / and human resources in different parts of the world, has led to the present state of affairs, both economically and environmentally. We are faced with the danger of ecological imbalance. There is something of fundamental nature which needs to be appreciated if we want to make a course-correction.

In India we are faced with the problem of rapid population growth and environmental degradation. These have become key thrust areas of our national endeavor. A consensus has emerged amongst various political parties, social organizations, religious and spiritual groups. However, the task is a mounting one, India being a developing country, large in size, functioning in a democratic framework.

According to the 1991 Census, the population of India was 843 million, registering an absolute increase of 160 million during the inter-censal decade 1981-91. The decadal growth rate has been 23.50 per cent. Behind these staggering figures, there is vast demographic diversity that need careful consideration. The high rate of population growth during the last decade has given a clear message that the answer to population growth does not lie in a simplistic approach to solutions. Family planning, no doubt, has to be promoted vigorously but certain conditions must simultaneously be created to enable people absorb the small family norm at physical and emotional levels. Development, therefore, is vital. The question is: what kind of development? There are misgivings, and rightly so, about the models that have been pushed by technologically advanced nations in the past. These models have failed to serve the larger cause of life on the planet. A vicious cycle of poverty-population-pollution is upon us. The message is loud and clear. There cannot be healthy environment in the face of poverty

and dehumanization.

India, through democratic planning, has been directing the developmental process for creating conditions where population control social development and poverty alleviation. These include minimum needs programs, rural employment, vocational training, integrated child development services, literacy and the like. Special attention is being given to education of girls and care for the girl child. We have been making a conscious effort to enable women in India to realize their status of equality with men, in real sense, as enshrined in our Constitution. A National Commission on Women has been constituted. With 65 per cent of India's electorate being youth, special effort is being made to involve them actively in socio economic development. Their direct involvement with population control and environment enrichment is considered of utmost importance. The role of education, formal as well as non-formal, and perhaps also traditional wisdom, is a powerful lever.

Development of environment-friendly Agriculture with appropriate technologies for rural areas is under constant scientific surveillance. All effort is being made to change the quality of life of the people through application of science and technology in various aspects of development interventions.

In a few weeks from now India will be launching its Eighth Five Year Plan. Amongst critical population goals, the Eighth Plan aims at reduction of birth rate from 30.5 per thousand to 26, as well as, reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 91 per thousand to 70 in the next five years. Raising the age of marriage, spacing of child birth, small family norm through better information and education are considered vital for the success of the program. Health and other services for the same are being made more effective through area specific innovations in governmental as well as non-governmental sectors. In all our efforts people's awareness and participation at the grassroots are uppermost considerations.

In respect of environment, India with geographic area of 329 million hectares provides a rich natural resource base which needs climatic conditions present in the country - from perpetual snow covered regions to equatorial and tropical conditions, hot and cold deserts, from mangroves to humid tropics. There are some 45,000 plant species which constitute nearly 12 per cent of the world's plant life. There is also a wide variety of animal life which needs care and protection. The country has a coast line of 7,000 km with a shelf zone of more than 45 million hectares and extended economic zone of 201 million hectares with a variety of marine life. Environment has been brought under scientific monitoring and research. Space technology has been effectively directed for information gathering through satellite mapping. There is a growing awareness on the subject and much public debate and dialogue has been taking place in the country both at policy-making level as well as through grassroots people's movement. Environment protection and enrichment which include wasteland development, conservation of forests and wild life, various river action plans, pollution control and other such areas have been brought into the fold of public policy and programs. Certain laws have been enacted. The Government of India has formulated an action plan under Environment Protection Act which deals with categorization of hazardous and potentially hazardous materials, specification and enforcement of safety standards, emergency response programs in case of accidental release of hazardous materials, conduct of safety audit, preventive safety programs, environment related insurance, to name a few.

Even as we make all possible effort to tackle the problem of population and sustainable

development at country level, there are compelling circumstances which create hurdles. Issues related to such problems need to be considered more realistically and in a wider international perspective even as we apply ourselves to the Asian reality. Firstly, the right to development must be conceived as a fundamental human right. This should be respected by all including the rich and developed nations in policies and practice. Secondly, world economic order as has evolved over the years has only promoted divisions like rich and poor, north and south, developed and under-developed. The present day economic order creates more problems than it solves. The flow of resources has not been where it is legitimately needed most. Science and technology have yet to serve the larger cause of human beings and life as such. Environmental protection, population control and sustainable development are not possible under these conditions. We are posed with the same question which was raised by late Mrs. Indira Gandhi some two decades ago: 'Isn't poverty the greatest polluter?' Thirdly, the national goals and priorities, especially of the poorest countries, which are based on local ground realities should be respected by multilateral institutions, and other international agencies, when considering financial and technical cooperation. These goals and priorities reflect the aspirations of the local people in their environmental setting. This can happen only when there is democratization in the decision-making at international level.

We can do much in Asia. With 60 per cent of the world's population living in this continent, it is of utmost importance how we perceive the emerging reality and apply ourselves in the years to follow. Asia brings together a very wide and diverse backdrop political, social, economic, geographic and cultural. The continent has also been an arena of military actions, conflicts, wars, and, plunder for many countries under the colonial oppression, leaving behind a trail of human suffering and poverty. We have amongst us old surviving civilizations, religious and spiritual traditions with vast experience including that of living in harmony with nature. There is ample in it to show us the path of higher ideals which give human life dignity and pride, as well as, a position of utmost responsibility.

In more recent years, we have witnessed the rise of scientific and technical advancement bringing prosperity to some Asian nations. They are assuming new heights of global dimensions. The quality of technology and resources available in Asia can now provide many breakthroughs and support in areas where a large number of people of our continent are found struggling. Let us therefore come together in pioneering new perceptions based on deeper values. That means seeking new vistas for development with a difference - where development is based on scientific principles with empathy for the underprivileged, ensuring sustainability and not greed and profit.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
Indonesia

Population And Sustainable Development in Indonesia  
by  
Hon. Irama Alamsyah Djaya Putra

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good morning Mr. Chairman, honorable fellow parliamentarians of AFPPD and JFPF, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to present my country report on interrelation between population development and environment with focus on sustainable development. The topic is Population And Sustainable Development in Indonesia

Population seems to have a very close inter-relation with development and the environment. The increasing number of population has become a burden to and pressured the natural resources and the environment, aside from the results pressure from development activities, for instance reduced natural resources, change in work opportunities, poverty, social inequality, security and public order, pollution etc. This means that population planning cannot be separated from sustainable development with orientation towards the environment.

The 1990 census shows that Indonesia's population totals 179.3 million people. According to the world sequence, the total number of population is still in rank 5 after China. The rate of growth of population per year during 1980-1990 period was 1.97% per year. Compared to the rate of growth for the 1970-1980 period which was 2.32 percent, there was a reduction in the figure. There is great possibility this is caused by the success in Family Planning Program which has reduced the birth rate.

The experts have estimated that in the 1990's Indonesia's population will increase by 25-30 million, and in the next 20 years by 50 million people. This means that the entire development effort should put the emphasis on sustainability in the next decade in order to accommodate 225-260 million people at the end of the second 25 years Long Term Development, 1994-2018.

#### Population Problems.

##### 1. Unequal distribution of population in Java and the outer islands.

The 1990 population census shows that the highest proportion of population is still found in Java (60%), even though there have been reductions from 64.95% (1961), to 63.83% (1971) and 61.88% (1980). Unequal distribution of population is one of the most important population problems in Indonesia. The inequality has caused unhealthy conditions in economy.

As the result of the differences in the density of population and inter-regional progress of development, there occurs mutation of population from one region to another. Transmigration program is one of the efforts to have more equally distributed population.

##### 2. The Rate of Growth of Population.

The still high rate of population growth compared to average rate of National growth during the 1980's (1.97% per year) occurred significantly among others in Irian Jaya (3.38%), Kalimantan (3.08%) and Sumatra (2.67%).

The high rate of growth of population in these regions was not caused by natural growth (births), but as the result of newcomers or migration, transmigration as well as investment.

### 3. Urbanization.

The 1990 population census shows an increase of urban population from 32.8 million (1980) to 55.4 million (1990) at the rate of growth of more than 5.3%.

The increase does not automatically mean increased flow of population movement from village to big city such as meant by urbanization in general public. But it can be explained by paying attention to the definition used in the population census since 1980. That all villages are grouped into town villages when they meet functional criteria, covering population, the proportion of households living on farming, and availability of town facilities and services (electricity, water, market, bank, etc.)

In other words, the status of a village may change from a rural village to an urban village, because the natural environment in many rural areas has changed to man-made environment which is the characteristics of urban areas. Areas with fast growth of development in the outer islands have experienced high growth because of changed attitude towards horizontal mobility between regions and the ever stronger feeling of unity as a nation. Meanwhile, some rural areas in Java and Bali have experienced negative growth.

### 4. Forest Damage.

Population explosion and poverty constitute a threat to the forest. The forest is pushed back by settlements, farming and the fulfillment of other basic needs.

Another reason for the reduction of forests is large scale exploitation for industrial needs without being balanced by reforestation program or limited area of cutting, selectively and controlled. This results in damages to natural forests and leave the land in a critical condition. Meanwhile, there are also other human behavior which indirectly causes total damage to the vegetation in certain forests.

For instance large scale pollution by heavy industry which results in acid rain and damaged vegetation in the surrounding forests. All of this has made man increasingly aware of the importance of forests as one of environmental guards which need to be preserved.

In some countries, especially those who have experienced the direct effects of environmental damage as the result of indiscriminate utilization of natural resources, public awareness of the importance of the environment is already quite high. This awareness has, more or less, influenced the principles of policy in the environmentally oriented management of natural resources. Environmental preservation gets special attention from all parties.

### Implications on future development planning.

Although the number of population will remain a serious problem, still large number of quality population constitutes a capital in development implementation and potentials for accelerating development in all fields. For this reason, population considerations should be included in the planning of each sector of development; not only in Family Planning program.

Development planning should be directed in such a way so that each utilization of natural resources, space and funds is able to lighten the burden caused by increased number of population for present as well as future generations. This means that population planning cannot be separated from environmentally oriented policy of sustainable development.

Each activity of development should take into account the impact/implication on the dynamics of population in various aspects (growth, distribution and quality).

In order to utilize the large number of population in development, there is need for quality, quantity and mobility acceleration planning, the implementation of which, thoroughly and integratedly, will be carried out intersectorally in the Government and between the Government and the people which will be arranged in the form of a Legislation, which is now being deliberated by the House of Representatives and this Bill on Population is expected to be ratified this year. And the ruling by Law of the utilization of natural resources and space is also being deliberated by the House of Representatives.

Principles of Sustainable Development Policy.

1. Condition of natural resources. Natural resources could support the process of development in sustainable manner. It is necessary that they should be able to function continuously.

For renewable resources, they should be processed to the limit of their rehabilitation. If the limit is passed, these natural resources will not be able to renew themselves anymore, so that they will not be able to support the process of development in a renewable manner; they should be efficiently utilized and new technologies developed to substitute the substances.

2. Quality of the environment.

There is a close inter-relation between the environment and the natural resources. The higher the quality of the environment, the higher the quality of natural resources which are able to support quality development too.

3. Population is a factor which is able to become a factor that encourages dynamics in development processes. For this reason, there is need to change the factor of population from that of a burden to that of a capital for development.

Country Paper  
Japan

Population Problem In Japan  
- The Aging Population and the Noticeable Decline in the Birth Rate -  
by  
Hon. Kayoko Shimizu

In 1990, the average life expectancy of the Japanese was 75.9 years for men and 81.8 years for women, the highest levels in the world. The percentage of the population that was 65 or older was 12.1%. However, with the decrease in the birth rate, the prolongation of average life expectancy, and the fact that the "baby boom" generation born after the end of World War II will reach old age at the beginning of the 21st century, the graying of society is advancing rapidly and this percentage is expected to be 25% in the 2020s.

Since 1961, there has been an urgent need for plans to provide for the arrival of the elderly society, including the creation of a social security system to improve the national insurance and pension plans. The implementation of various policies in the present transition period to the Japanese elderly society by the 21st century has been vigorously promoted, including the enactment of the Elderly Insurance Law in 1982 and its subsequent amendment, the complete revision of the pension system in 1986, and the adjustment of the elderly insurance welfare undertaking (Gold Plan) that should take place over ten years starting from 1989.

On the other hand, another factor resulting in the graying of society is the decrease in the birth rate. In 1990, the number of births in Japan was 1,220,000 people, a rate of 9.9 (per thousand population). In 1973, these figures were 2,090,000 and 19.4, respectively, and they have been declining ever since. It was announced that the 1989 Total Fertility Rate (the number of children that one woman bears in her lifetime), population replacement level (referring to the birth rate which maintains the present size of population when both the birth rate and the death rate are to remain constant; more specifically it represents the situation in which a woman is replaced by a daughter she gives birth to, 2.08 in Japan at present), decreased sharply to 1.57. The "1.57 shock" was widely publicized by the media and became the focus of public concern. The level declined again from 1.57 to 1.54 in 1990, leading to further public outcry for measures to cope with the problem.

It is said that the decline in the Japanese birth rate mainly comes from the drop in the percentage of married women in their twenties. In 1990, 85.0% of the women in their early twenties were unmarried (versus 69.2% in 1975) and 40.2% of the women in their late twenties were unmarried (versus 20.9% in 1975), showing a considerable increase every year. As for men, especially since the mid-1970s, the number of men at the marriageable age surpassed that of women at the marriageable age and trouble in finding a mate became a topic of conversation.

In 1990, the average age for first marriages was 28.5 for men (versus 27.0 in 1975) and 25.9 for women (versus 24.7 in 1975), indicating a gradual increase.

In Japan's case, since it is said that the number of couples living together outside of wedlock is fairly low compared with that of America and European countries. In

addition to the fact that the number of babies born to couples other than legally married couples is small, this trend of non-marriage or late marriage is considered to be the cause of the decline in the birth rate.

Among the reasons generally cited to explain the trend of non-marriage or late marriage are the high level of education (percentage of students enrolled in universities or junior colleges, men: 36.3%, women: 39.2%), together with the accompanying advancement of women in society (40.1% of the work force population), and the diversification of an individualistic sense of values. In particular, women are no longer bound by the traditional social norm that "marriage is a woman's blessing, she should become a good wife, a diligent mother, and keep house." Today's women have established economic independence, without restrictions on her activities and freedom. Added to the development of home electric appliances and the restaurant and fast food industry, one factor comes from this kind of environment in which the singles' life-style has become easy for both men as well as for women.

During the high economic growth period, a concentration of the young population in cities occurred. In one period the birth rate, which had been higher in rural areas than in cities, became higher in cities and their surrounding areas, but today the flow of people to the cities has slowed and the regional differences in the birth rate have shrunk. However, several problems have arisen in rural areas including an insufficient number of heirs and brides on farms.

The average number of children per married woman used to be between 4 and 5, but recently this figure has remained at about 2.2. According to a survey of couples, the ideal number of children per couple is 3, but many answered that in reality they only planned to have 2 children. The reasons for this were "raising a child in general costs money," "education is expensive," "raising children is a physical and psychological burden," "the house/apartment is small" and "would obstruct career advancement"

Considering the effect of today's late-marriage phenomenon, it is uncertain whether the present level of children per couple can be maintained in the future.

For the Japanese household, which is becoming increasingly centered on the nuclear family, the decline in the birth rate is connected to the decrease in the family size. The role of the conventional family in raising and bringing up children, the care of elderly parents, the human relationships between brothers and sisters, and the sociability of children, as well as the transmission from parents to children of family tradition and customs, has been weakened. On the other hand, the demands that parents place on their children have increased, resulting in over protection and pressure to excel in schools. From the standpoint of the nation as well, the decrease in the child population, the insufficient number of young workers, and the increased need for support for the elderly will eventually lead to a gradual decrease in the population.

The decision to have children or not is the free choice of each couple and many people are opposed to the government's direct intervention to increase the birth rate, but essential measures that help decrease the burden associated with a naturally joyful experience of "bearing and raising children" should be removed as much as possible. The state is also studying "the creation of a healthy environment for the bearing and raising of children," and from 1992, will enact the Child Care Holiday Law (can be taken up to one year after giving birth, but the holiday is unpaid), a revision of the Child Allowance Law (5,000 yen for the first and second child, 10,000 yen for the

third child on, until age 3), and the shortening of working hours (implementation of the five-day work week for all public employees). Furthermore, the implementation of policies for the completion of detailed day-care services and the promotion of counseling and assistance organizations for child care is continuing. In addition, some regional autonomous bodies provide low-cost housing to young couples that they want to stay in the area and have created a special financing system for them. Also, some enterprises have implemented paid child care holidays and a rehiring system, as well as flex time systems for those women who wish to continue working while raising their children.

Prolonged life expectancy and the decreased number of children have changed the lifestyle of women. We must consider what kind of change in the attitudes toward marriage and child raising is likely to occur when women want to do child care while continuing their career due to the high education level and the participation in the economy.

Unfortunately, the long working hours, job-oriented mentality, and the fixed roles of men and women that helped Japanese economic development cannot be easily changed, and there are still many cases where the responsibility and burden of household chores and child care are placed on the women. It is hoped that the free time created by the shortening of working hours will shift the focus of the consciousness and lifestyle of not only women but men as well from sustaining economic development to enjoying a comfortable life.

The state should strive to create an environment where people can be happy and find worthwhile objectives through having and raising children and should endeavor to create a new family image where people can enjoy a long life with their children.

Country Paper  
Korea

Issues On Population And Sustainable Development In Asia With Particular Emphasis  
On Environment

by  
Hon. Young-Shim Dho

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply honored to be invited to this meeting, and I am happy to address to you today with this important issue concerning population and sustainable development in Asia with emphasis on the environment. Since early 1960s, the Republic of Korea has made a demographic and economic evolution, transforming our country from a traditional agrarian society to a modern industrializing society.

Let me start by discussing current demographic situation in the Republic of Korea. Our government adopted a family planning program as a national population policy in 1962 as part of the first 5-year economic development plan aiming at reducing the rate of population growth. As a result of a successful implementation of the national family planning program during the last three decades, the level of fertility has reached below replacement level with the annual population growth rate of less than 1 percent in 1987.

Even though the level of fertility has decreased significantly, the population of Korea is still growing in number. The total number of population in Korea increased from 25 million in 1960 to 43.5 million in 1990; therefore, 18.5 million were added during the last three decades. Furthermore, the population density of Korea reached 438 per square kilometer in 1990, meaning that Korea is marked as the third densely populated country in the world.

Another significant change in Korean population is the decline of mortality. The life expectancy at birth was 55.7 years for women and 54.8 years for men in 1960 but, as of 1990, it reached to 75.4 years for women and 67.4 for men.

Along with these demographic transitions, Korea has been experiencing tremendous growth of population in urban areas starting from mid-1960s, which has been caused primarily by a large number of migrants from rural areas to urban areas, particularly to Seoul and other major cities of the country. The concentration of population to urban areas was accelerated by the export-oriented and urban-based development policies. As a result of the rapid urbanization, the percentage of population residing in urban areas increased from 28 percent of the total Korean population in 1960 to about percent in 1990.

In Korea, both the lower rate of population growth and the rapid urbanization have somewhat positively affected the economic development process during the past decades. As all of you are well aware of, during the past three decades, Korea's gross national product increased from US\$2.3 billion in 1962 to US\$210.1 billion in 1989, with per capita GNP increasing from US\$87 in 1962 to US\$5,000 in 1989 at current price levels. Therefore, Korea's economy has grown at one of the fastest paces in the world.

However, as a side-effect of the economic and industrial development, Korea has faced

with rapid degradation of the living environment. For example, the level of environmental pollution, such as air and water pollution, accumulation of noxious substances and wastes discharged from industrial processes, agricultural insecticides, and chemical fertilizers has reached to a degree of endangering health conditions of her people. Particularly, this environmental hazard is greater among residents in big cities or in heavy industrial sites, exposed to air pollution, water pollution or harmful chemicals discharged from heavy industrial factories.

To respond to the worsening environmental pollution, many policies and programs were advocated to protect the environment and some measures were implemented in Korea. But they were far behind from success. This was because policy makers and administrators gave priority to industrial and economic growth rather than solving environmental problems.

Fortunately, however, in 1980 when the government belatedly began to recognize the seriousness of environmental pollution, it established the office of Environment Administration to protect the environment more effectively. In 1990, to further strengthen the function of environmental management, the government upgraded the status of the Environment Administration to the ministerial level headed by the Minister of Environment aiming at what we are discussing today and which is, sustainable development with better living environment.

In this connection, our National Assembly has worked closely together with the government by supporting the enactment of several laws in August 1990. These include: 1) the Basic Law for National Environmental Policy to define the rights and responsibilities of the government to protect the environment 2) the Environmental Dispute Settlement Law to compensate individual's physical and financial losses due to environmental hazards, 3) the Air Quality Control Law and the Water Quality Control Law to maintain clean air and pollution-free water, 4) the Noise and Vibration Control Law and the Hazardous Chemical Substance Management Law to protect individual's health from various industrial hazards, and so on. We hope that these laws and regulations may be effectively enforced so that the Korean people can live and produce in a cleaner and safer environment.

However, I believe that our environment cannot be protected and relevant policies effectively monitored without the active participation of the community at the local, national, and international levels. Therefore, there is an acute need for multi-level collaborations in exchanging know-how and experiences to sustain a better living environment for the next generation to come.

In this sense, I believe gathering like this meeting where we can discuss policies and programs related to population, sustainable development, and environment is of great significance. On behalf of Korean delegates, I congratulate the organizer of this meeting for providing us such an excellent forum where we can share valuable information, knowledge, and experiences within other countries in the region.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
Malaysia

Issues On Population And Sustainable Development In Asia  
With Particular Emphasis on Environment

by  
Hon. Ibrahim Ali

Honorable Chairman, Honorable Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very honored to stand before this distinguished gathering and this is my second presence in this APDA Meeting, the first in Seoul, Korea, and to share my perception and views on a very important issue facing mankind. That is the environment and the related issues of population and development. The environment is an issue of our time. It is a multisectoral issue and a very critical one. It has been thrust into the mainstream of international affairs by scientific concerns and public pressures. These days seldom has a discussion gone by without a mention of its relationship with the environment.

Since the time is limited, I would like to pick out some important points which I presented in my papers and I hope that my perception and views are being presented in the whole paper, but because of the limited time I mentioned just now, I cannot go through or read through, but on the certain important points.

Ladies and gentlemen. The signs of global environmental change have already become evident. The earth's temperature is increasing and the ozone is thinning. If allowed to persist these phenomena will threaten the basis of our future and civilization as we know it.

Malaysia, realizing this, places a special priority on maintaining the quality and protection of our environment. It is our obligation to ensure a clean and healthy environment for the benefit of our people. However, there is one thing I would like to make clear.

Malaysia is a developing country; therefore our imperatives are both environment and development. While we acknowledge the importance of clean and healthy environment, we are obliged to ensure that our people are not denied the right to their survival and basic needs. We firmly believe that meeting the basic human needs is a prerequisite to environmental protection for if the quality of life of our people remains low, not only the country's productivity would be affected but it would also contribute to social unrest and disorder, therefore, further environmental degradation. Malaysia has learnt this through her own experience. We realize that only through development where new and expanding opportunities are made available can we lift the quality of life of our citizen.

Ladies and Gentlemen. In the process of development for conservation, there are three elements that the global community should agree upon;

1. Global Economic Restructuring

In a world where there exists disparity between the rich and the poor, issues of environmental protection must take into consideration the economic dimension.

Currently, the rich 25% of the world population consumes about three-quarter of the global resources. This means that the poor will have to compete for much less share of the resources in order to survive. In their struggle for survival, environmental protection is very much low on their priority.

## 2. Technological availability

Technology promises to be an important tool in addressing environmental concerns. As such environmentally clean technologies must be made available to the global community. In many developing countries like Malaysia, scientific and technological knowledge of this nature is severely limited. Furthermore, the capabilities for indigenous technology is often embryonic and ineffective.

Under the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Malaysia has formulated the Environment Quality Act in 1974. The Act covers about 15 legislations, all of which are aimed at controlling pollution and minimizing the environmental impact resulting from our development process. Japanese contributions in supporting our environmental protection efforts are very much welcomed.

## 3. The world must realize the enormous sum of money involved in our efforts to protect the environment

Developing countries like Malaysia must not be unduly burdened with the costs of protecting the environment which benefits the larger global community. It will, without doubt, have serious repercussions on our country's budgetary allocations at the expense of our economic growth and development. Therefore, funds to underwrite the global protection must come from some other source. In this respect, we feel that developed countries who have in the past been taxing the environment should shoulder the major responsibility.

Ladies and gentlemen. On specific issues, Malaysia is very concerned with the call by some environmentalist group in developed countries for the banning of tropical wood import. We find this call rather mischievous and to an extent misguided. We feel that developed countries should use their financial and technological resources to help regreen the world instead of indulging in rhetoric. This is in line with the call made by the Hon. Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad at the Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore recently - that given the wealth and technology of the developed countries, it is possible to plant and cover every desert with trees including tropical hardwood timber.

Let me assure you that Malaysia still maintains a large tract of forest. About 56% or 18.5 million hectares of our land area is still under forest cover. If tree crops are taken into account, then, it is another 13%, making Malaysia having close to 70% of its land area under tree cover.

We place much value on forest for it has been in the past our source of food, energy, medicine and even defense. We understand the ecological role of forest; as a sink for carbon, water catchment area, prevention of soil erosion and preservation of biodiversity. We appreciate its aesthetic value but at the same time we also see the forest as a resource that needs to be developed and utilized for human purpose.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Therefore, a proper management system has been adopted to ensure an ecologically and environmentally sound forest conservation and management.

We call it "The Selective Management System" which, for a more flexible timber harvesting regime, is consistent with the need to safeguard the environment. Our MUS (Malaysian Uniform System) has been introduced since 1949. This system has been the basis of our sustainable development of our forestry resources.

Apart from a sustainable management of the forest, we are also embarking on a reforestation and forest estate program. This is to ensure that we will maintain our percentage share of greenery and at the same time maintain the supply of timber. In this respect, we call upon Japan to assist us technologically and financially as most of the resources will later find their way to Japan.

The forestry sector contributes significantly to the socio-economic development of Malaysia, generating export earning and providing employment opportunities. In 1989, this sector contributed about \$8.7 billion to our Gross National Product (GNP). It also supports about 150,000 people in the industry. Judging by its importance, Malaysia must be foolish to undertake an unsustainable method and deplete her resources that have contributed significantly to export earning. However, banning of our timber will render the forest useless and as such will increase the need to replace it with other economic activities such as agriculture or industries.

The forest as a sink of carbon has the potential to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide as a greenhouse is responsible for the current global warming while oxygen is very vital in the aerobic process of living organisms. If the international community wishes the preservation of these forests and values their dual function, then they must be willing to compensate for the opportunity foregone.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Another distorted issue is the so-called "Plight of the Penans." Malaysia believes and practices democracy. Therefore, in our struggle for development, we have to be sure that it touches the life of every Malaysian forest dweller notwithstanding. We believe that as a responsible government, we should at least present them with a choice. Forest dwellers like the Penans are being slowly integrated into the mainstream. Of about 9,000 Penans in Sawarak, only about 300 are still nomadic. They, as any Malaysian, have the right to practice their traditional way of life but at the same time they should also be given the opportunity to share the benefit of the country's development. It is very selfish of those who advocate that the Penans be left in the forest devoid of medical and educational facilities. However, if they wish to remain in their current lifestyle after the exposure to life outside, then the choice is theirs. A designated area will be allocated for them.

Malaysia is lucky or unlucky. Whichever way you may see it, to have one of the busiest sea routes - the Straits of Malacca.

Countries using the Straits have not paid any fees. However, when there are any accidents or oil spills, littoral states bordering the Straits have to bear the expensive cost of cleaning up and suffer heavy economic losses due to the loss of fishing resources. About half of Malaysia's fish landing is from the Straits of Malacca. Apart from that, earnings from tourism will be severely affected. Currently, 80% of Japan's oil import and a third of its trade flows through the narrow straits. Based on the degree of its importance to Japanese economy, Japan should consider some form of technological and financial contribution to these littoral states to help protect the Straits of Malacca.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Besides the factors mentioned above, now, I would like to touch on international economic problems. This is important because international economic situation, which is unpredictable, will have a major impact on the developing countries.

The present trend is clear that United States is trying to determine the direction of the international economies in a way that will benefit them. This is rather unfortunate because it is done by a country that champions democracy and human rights.

One case in point is the United States' objection towards the formation of the EAEC, East Asia Economic Conference, the brainchild of our honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, and which is to be looked upon as an ASEAN project. The objection clearly shows the arrogance of the United States, and indirectly it shows that the United States has no respect towards countries in this region. The United States' hypocritical stance should be objected and strongly to by countries in the region in order to ensure the preservation of our sovereignty and dignity.

I strongly support, and the Malaysian parliamentarians support, the Malaysian government and ASEAN's move to form the EAEC. I strongly hope that Japan will clearly indicate her stand in supporting the EAEC. I address this to all Japanese parliamentarians. I do not see why Japan, as a developed and sovereign nation, should bow to any pressures.

Ladies and Gentlemen. We in this region, particularly Malaysia, has forgotten the painful experience of the Second World War. To us, Japan before and Japan today, are completely different. Now we look at Japan as a trusted friend who is ever willing to take responsibility.

Thus, if Japan decides not to join the EAEC, it will be something bitter and painful for us to swallow, more painful than the samurai sword felt during the Second World War. Therefore, I strongly believe and hope that Japan will join the EAEC, not because of the "blood debt," but because of her commitment to the economic development of her friends in this region. In this respect, organizations such as the Asian Population and Development Association should play a constructive, when appropriate, a critical role, in the deliberation and elucidation of issues confronting the international community. In discharging this role, they should have the necessary "empathy," otherwise they would be looked upon as mere propaganda and, therefore, will cease to be of any real relevance.

Ladies and Gentlemen. In June of this year, the Earth Summit will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit, organized under the auspices of the United Nations, underscores the urgency of concern felt by the world community about the state and future of our planet's environment. We in Malaysia share that concern and on this, there should never be any doubt.

But we are similarly concerned about the politics and unhealthy maneuvers surrounding it. In the last one year or so, there has been unwarranted, mischievous and well-orchestrated attempts to stick the greater share of the blame for the global environmental crisis on the developing countries and, at once, the apparently logical demand or command that these countries shoulder the responsibility for alleviating the woes.

This sort of scenario will certainly preempt any sincere efforts on the part of developing

countries to put their case and arguments at the forthcoming forum which we fear will be another occasion for "Third World bashing." On this basis, I am in total agreement with the view taken by the Malaysian government that participating in the Earth Summit would be meaningless unless the organizers are willing and able to ensure the Summit can proceed in a fair and equitable atmosphere devoid of any hidden agenda on the part of any sectors, both official and non-official.

Personally, I would certainly consider it appropriate that a similar position by Malaysia and other countries sharing our view be taken in respect of the Parliamentary meeting on the issue to take place immediately preceding the Earth Summit. Unless we are assured that it is not a "Third World bashing."

Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for your attention and let us be prepared to meet future challenges which are full of uncertainties. Thank you very much.

Country Paper  
Nepal

by  
Hon. Dr. Shyam Lal Tabadar

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Honorable Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Asian continent, the most populous on the globe, has to a remarkable extent undergone dramatic transformations from traditionalism to modernity in recent decades. It has witnessed portentous changes - economic, social, political and demographic - but many of these changes are, of course, country specific and depend in turn for their direction and rate of change on more basic social and cultural conditions. We all recognize today that to harness these changes so that they result in sustainable development and a better life for all requires a certain balance between population and development. Too rapid a rate of growth of a country's population can seriously compromise-and even undermine - that country's efforts to develop.

South Asia is lagging behind the rest of Asia in its attempts to moderate its surging population growth, although not always for want of trying. The case of Nepal, I must admit, is not an exception.

The negative consequence of high population growth on the national development program was recognized in Nepal from as early as 1959. The government has initiated a family planning program from the Third Plan (1965-70); a Family Planning and Maternal Health project was established in the Ministry of Health to formulate and implement the program to reduce the fertility rate in order bring balance between population and resource development. It was expanded in the subsequent plans to cover population, education, vital registration and information, education and communication program, due largely to availability of foreign assistance from both bilateral and multilateral sources. In 1983, the government adopted a National Population Strategy to reduce fertility rate from 5.3 to 4.0 by the end of Seventh Plan (1985-90) and to the replacement level by the end of current century (NCP, 1983). The achievements of the past several years in the field of population field was not to the mark.

The first task before the elected government was to develop, and accordingly implement, the new population policy in the light of changed political circumstances. Therefore, the upcoming Eighth Development Plan (1992-97) is to reduce fertility levels in order to lower the population growth rate. It has been estimated that the number of people in Nepal living in absolute poverty will double by the year 2010 to reach 20 million if current population and development trends continue, where as if a vigorous program to reduce fertility is implemented it might realistically be expected to help halve the number to 5 million.

The new democratically elected Government of Nepal recognizes that many of the nation's development efforts in the past have been seriously compromised by demographic processes. It is therefore introducing new measures, and strengthening old ones, with the aim of rectifying this situation and establishing a better balance between population and development. The nation's development efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life for all can only succeed if measures are taken

new to modify the nation's demographic processes and their outcomes. This requires especially, but only, implementing policies aimed at reducing fertility.

HMG has set the following targets for the year 2000; (i) reduce the total fertility rate (TFR) to 4.0, from an estimated 5.8 in 1990; (ii) reduce the infant mortality rate (IMR) to 50 deaths per 1000 live births from 102 in 1990; (iii) reduce child mortality to 70 deaths per 1000 children under age 5 per year from 165 in 1990; (iv) reduce the maternal mortality rate to 4 deaths per 1000 live births from 8.5 in 1990; (v) increase the average life expectancy at birth to 65 from 50 in 1990.

Reducing fertility and mortality to these levels implies that the crude birth rate (CBR) will be 27.5 live births per thousand population per year in the year 2000, compared to 37.5 in 1990; and that the crude death rate (CDR) will be 10.3 deaths per thousand population per year in the year 2000, compared to 13.8 in 1990. Under realistic assumptions it can be shown that for the TFR to decline to 4.0 by the year 2000 it will be necessary to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) from 19.8 percent of eligible couples in 1990 to 41.0 percent in 2000.

HMG's population policy, designed to improve the balance between population and development and help the country reach these targets, is multi-sectoral. The key components are grouped under three headings; (1) Population - influencing policy; (2) population-responsive policy; and (3) institutional reform. Population-influencing policy comprises measures taken expressly to influence the basic population processes of fertility, mortality and migration. Population - responsive policy, on the other hand, refers to measures we will take in response to demographic outcomes which cause or exacerbate particular social and economic problems. Institutional reform in this context concerns mainly reforms needed to help implement the necessary programs effectively and efficiently, and they include reforms designed to improve the absorptive capacity of the line agencies, the coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and to increase community participation in population and development activities.

The main elements of HMG's population control strategy to be used in the Eight Development Plan include the following:

(1) Creation of social and economic environments conducive to the formation of small families. This involve supporting and accelerating social development programs designed to alleviate poverty and raise living standards.

(2) Promotion on women's development, adult literacy, and education programs which help improve the economic and social status of women, including their access to family planning.

(3) Integration of family planning programs with all MOH's primary and general health programs, so that the economic, social and institutional resources of the health sector will be utilized more effectively to promote healthier but smaller families.

(4) Expansion of health post and hospital activities to provide more family planning service delivery, and expansion of outreach service delivery.

(5) Promotion of NGOs and private organizations which can improve the delivery of family planning services at the village level, and stimulate demand for these services.

(6) Expansion of manpower and health service capability in the areas of family planning, mother and child health care delivery, and women's development, through training and extension activities.

HMG has established a National Population Committee Nepal, comprising Ministers from the line ministries involved in the above multi-sectoral strategy and chaired by the prime minister, to provide strong political leadership and guidance in carrying out this strategy. HMG will also strengthen the Population Division of the National Planning Commission, which will continue to be the main Government agency responsible for the formulation of population policy options, and for coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating population activities. Finally, HMG's population strategy will be pursued in a way consistent with HMG's policy directives aimed at decentralization, and a community based approach, especially in the area of FP/MCH service delivery, will be phased in as quickly as feasible.

Mr. Chairman, the constitution of Nepal, promulgated in December 1990 has aimed "to develop all regions of the country through appropriate allocation of investment to improve the basic needs requirement of the people, including education, health, housing and employment, and by increasing the standard of living." It is also well realized that these targets are difficult to achieve without controlling the high population growth rate and its built in momentum for growth. Accordingly, the constitution has made a provision to establish a "Population Committee" in the House of Representatives. The national political parties have also realized the problems created high and rising population growth rate on poverty and environment and, if their manifests are any guide, have adequately emphasized the need of multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to deal with population related issues.

The population policy and program published recently by the government clearly reflects the national consensus that has emerged at the national level on population issues and the methods to deal with these issues.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
New Zealand

Population and Sustainable Development in Asia  
by  
Hon. John Blincoe

Mr. Chairman, Honorable fellow parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of my colleagues in the New Zealand Parliament, allow me to express my appreciation to the organizers and sponsors of this meeting for the opportunity to participate, to contribute as well as listen to and learn from the impressive range of specialists who are involved. It is important for elected representatives to meet like this and focus in detail on major challenges which confront each of our countries.

To assist with our discussions I am pleased to present a brief contribution. The perspective I wish to offer is from the Asia Pacific Region. Whenever the subject of population is raised, it is most appropriate to take an Asian perspective. This region contains the most populous countries. It has the largest share of the world's overall population. It contains more megacities than any other. It has the highest percentage of people who live in at or below the poverty line. The list could go on and on.

In such a huge region, the challenges are enormous, almost overwhelming for some. However, as we have been hearing at this meeting, there are also a good number of success stories when it comes to issues of population. The same is true in the area of globe which is of real importance to New Zealand and to much of Asia. I'm referring, of course, to the Pacific.

To many of you, it may seem as though the Pacific is a region without people. Clearly, such an assessment would be a mistake. On the widely dispersed, limited land areas that constitute most of the island nations of the Pacific, the challenges of population and development are just as real as they are in far larger countries in Asia. It may surprise you to know, for example, that in parts of Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, population density levels rival those of Hong Kong. High levels of population growth in some Pacific Island developing countries are exerting pressures on economic and social growth targets, every bit as real as in some very populous fast growing Asian countries. The lesson we all need to understand is that total population levels alone do not convey the full story.

A new approach to understanding population

In less than a week, almost 180 countries, the entire international community, will be meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. I will be involved in the fourth and the final session of the preparatory committee tasked with organizing the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which takes place just a little over four months from now. The task being tackled by that preparatory committee is perhaps the most ambitious ever accepted by the international community. Certainly, it is one of the most vital challenges ever addressed. Nothing less than the fundamental reorientation of the manner in which human beings behave towards each other at this planet is being contemplated. And can I say that, that especially includes addressing concerns of the kind expressed earlier this morning by the honorable delegate from Malaysia.

A great deal remains to be accomplished before any of us can say that the UNCED process is going to succeed, although succeed it must. The prospect of failure and the irreversible global degradation that would follow is almost too awful to contemplate. What we do all know, and what many of us are prepared to state openly is that, for UNCED to succeed, the old business-as-usual approach is no longer viable. There is too much evidence that past and present behavior is untenable in the intermediate to longer term.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that UNCED has accepted the need to address population issues. Or, as it is perhaps more accurately termed, demographic pressures. And it is particularly appropriate that the issue of population is being addressed together with two of the key contributing issues which thwart truly sustainable development. I'm referring to poverty and the subject of consumption and production patterns. It is worth bearing firmly in mind that it is the world's 1 billion poorest and the 1 billion richest citizens who have the greatest impact on the planet and who threaten its continued viability. Poverty degrades the environment. It threatens the very foundations of sustainable development. For the Earth Summit UNCED to succeed, world leaders in Rio de Janeiro must commit themselves to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. If it determines that it's not made on this challenge now, it will continue to grow, more infectable and dangerous. We will certainly make little progress towards sustainable population levels, until there is real progress towards alleviation of poverty in our cities and our rural areas.

#### Production and consumption patterns

If what I've already said sounds daunting, I suggest to you that the need for changes in a way natural resources are consumed is equally pressing. When it comes to patterns of production and consumption, there is a very marked distinction between developed and developing countries' populations. At this time when some might be tempted to focus on total population numbers alone, it is essential to look closely at the impact of each person on this planet. Figures vary greatly, but all support similar conclusions. An individual in a developed country consumes as much as 150 times more natural resources and products than an individual in a developing country does. Of course, in New Zealand we have our environmental problems. Without very modest population of less than 3.5 million, New Zealand may not immediately appear to be putting any pressure on the planet. However, if each New Zealander was seen as multiples of consumption units, the story would be very different. At a ratio of even 50 to 1, my country would contain 175 million consumption unit equivalents. Obviously, such a simplistic approach isn't valid across the board because few developing countries have static consumption levels. Indeed, some of the rapidly growing countries in Asia are experiencing major boosts in consumption levels.

Now is not the time to delve into the related question of the sustainability of consumption. Suffice to say that it is essential to the true value of natural resources to be included in the cost to the consumer as well as in the return to the supplier. Those of us here from countries with high consumption levels should reflect on the sustainability of those levels. Population problems have at least as much to do with each individual's impact on this planet as with the total number of individuals.

As an aside to my paper, let me reflect for a moment on the discussions we've had so far at this meeting on the means by which population numbers have been stabilized in developed countries in Asia and elsewhere. That stabilization seem to me to have been achieved through greatly increasing living standards in those countries. It is clear,

however, that the development model applied to date is not sustainable. As has been clearly observed already this morning, this model has failed to serve the larger corps of life on the planet.

#### Conclusion

In these brief remarks, I have sought to highlight the crucial importance of population, whether in a small, medium or huge concentrations, wherever it brings pressures on sustainable development. Likewise, I have sought to highlight what I see as shortcomings and responsibilities close to my home, and in the homes of others in the developed countries. There are many other facets to this important and complex challenge. There is so much that needs doing, and doing now. We must, for example, commit ourselves to creation of sustainable economic opportunities for those locked into poverty. To enhance education opportunities, particularly for women and girl children. To reduction, reuse and recycling of resources wherever feasible as part of our individual and collective commitment to reducing our impact on the planet. But most of all, to fulfill properly our responsibility as elected representatives of the people, we must tackle effectively such difficult and at times contemptuous issues as population, the environment and sustainable development. They are totally interrelated issues and must be dealt with together.

We share a single unique planet. It is the only one we have. We must start looking after it properly, while ensuring that all of its people can live decent and fulfilling lives. If we do not achieve these objectives, we will not only fail ourselves, but leave a terrible legacy to those who follow.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Country Paper  
Philippines  
Population And Sustainable Development In The Philippines  
by  
Hon. Leticia Ramos Shahani

Presented  
by  
Mr. Benjamin D. de Leon

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman., my friends, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to inform you that Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani is not here today and wished to convey her sincere regret in not being able to attend the 10th Anniversary of AFPPD and APDA, and the 8th Meeting of Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development. She extends her warmest greetings and congratulations on the observance of the 10th Anniversary of AFPPD and APDA, and hopes that there will be more anniversaries to come.

She assures you that her commitment to human development, spoused by AFPPD and APDA remains undiminished. Senator Shahani is deeply saddened by the untimely deaths of the Honorable Takashi Sato of Japan and the Honorable Sat Paul Mittal of India. To her, their passing away created a void in the Asian Forum which is most difficult to fill. She also looks forward that their work must go on, to be continued by the member countries of APDA and AFPPD. The indelible mark left by Mr. Sato and Mr. Mittal should serve as an inspiration and challenge to all members of parliament committed to population and development, that is to give our people a better quality of life.

In her absence, therefore, I beg your indulgence ladies and gentlemen, to present her paper entitled Population and Sustainable Development in the Philippines.

A better life for all, not only for ourselves, but our children and their children, and for many generations to come.

That is what we all want, and in simple terms, that is what sustainable development is all about - the pursuit of a higher quality of life for today's population that does not impair the chances of future generations for achieving an equally good, if not better quality of life. This means providing for the needs of the present without taking away the resources and the means that will provide for the needs of the future.

Sustainable development involves people, who are the doers and principal beneficiaries of development. It involves the development process, the entire range of activities, efforts and services whereby people's needs are provided for. And it involves the environment, the natural given which provides the material resources that fill people's basic needs. It implies limits, limits that are imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities.

The entire scenario from the day-to-day survival of individual families, to the nationwide government programs and global efforts at international development - can be stated simply thus: people use, develop and manipulate the environment, directly or

indirectly to satisfy their needs.

But the relationship among people, development and environment is by no means simple. For every component affects every other. And the deterioration or stagnation of one unavoidably hampers the progress of the other two. Every effort at sustainable development thus requires the simultaneous and coordinated management of people, development and environment.

And central to every such effort, and in fact, to this entire system of relationships, is the people component. People are the main characters in every socio-economic activity. They are the users of environmental resources.

They are the major recipients of the fruits of development. They dictate the need for, and the direction of, every development effort. And people - their nourishment, the satisfaction of their needs, the fulfillment of their aspirations, and the quality of their lives - are the ultimate gauge of the soundness of the environment and the effectiveness of the development process.

In many countries in Asia, as in many other parts of the world, sustainable development is becoming more and more difficult to achieve. And I would like to show, by citing the case of the Philippines, that the population factor is a very big part of this grave problem that is facing us today.

The Philippine population as of 1990 has grown close to 61 million, signifying a yearly growth rate of 2.35 percent over the past decade. The figure is already much lowered compared to the 1960's, but it still means an addition of about 1.3 million inhabitants every year on the country's small expanse of land.

The Philippines is still in a momentum of growth. It's broad-based age structure continues to put in large numbers into the childbearing ages, contributing substantially to the high number of births each year. The actual number of additions to the population is expected to continue to increase for the next 60 to 70 years.

The impact of such a rapid growth of population is at once reflected in the country's economic performance. In spite of substantial real economic outputs towards the end of the 1980's, per capita income in 1989 only approximated per-1978 levels.

This clearly shows that government efforts to revive the economy, to improve and increase the provision of services, hardly produce any improvements on the people's actual levels of living. Increases in the gross national income make no difference at all because they are negated by the large and rapid increases in the number of people who have to share the added earnings.

The fact that economic efforts have lagged behind the increasing demands of a fast-growing population is evident in the growing proportion of poor people. From 36 percent in 1971, their size has blown up to 52 percent in 1985 and remained at 49 percent in 1988. The situation is even more crucial for large families, 60 to 65 percent of which are poor.

It is said that people who live in absolute poverty are much more dependent for their survival on the basic environmental resources - the soil, the water, the forests. These are their main stocks of economic capital, and at times, their only sources of the means

to survival. As such, poor people are more impelled to misuse and overuse environmental resources at the cost of future prospects.

The youthful age structure of the Philippine population also contributes to increasing economic pressure. Almost half of the population are in the dependent ages of 0-14. This creates a high dependency ratio, which means that the providers or workers in a family will have to work even harder to be able to support their dependents. This, in turn, creates an even greater urgency to maximize the use of whatever resources are available. Again, to the very poor, environmental resources are about the only resources available.

We are talking only of survival - the most basic needs like food, for which people are directly dependent on the environment. What about the other needs? A large population, regardless of the proportions of the rich and the poor, naturally means greater demand, not only for food, but also for employment, education, housing, health and social services, and economic activities like production, trade and manufacturing. All of these indirectly, but ultimately, take from the environment.

A large population thus creates greater pressure on the environment. Moreover, the rate of population growth and the composition of the population determine the patterns of utilization and renewal of resources.

Given the general profile of Philippine population - fast-growing, largely poor, and youthful with a high dependency ratio - the result is heightened exploitation and depletion of natural resources and hastened environmental degradation.

It is not only poverty and demographic pressure that pollutes the environment. Environmental stress has often been the result of the greater demand for scarce resources and pollution created by the rising standards of living by the affluent. The affluent can use more resource per capital. Illegal activities by a few influentials have their own contribution in damaging the environment for profit purposes. The combined effects of these is already evident in the major ecosystems of the land. In many areas, it has started to reach critical proportions.

Agricultural lands in the Philippines are now becoming less and less productive as a result of over-intensive cultivation and abusive farm practices. As early as 1960, the rate of new lands brought to cultivation was only 1.4 percent, way below the growth rate of the population that these lands have to support.

Today the arable land per rural inhabitant is only .38 of a hectare. By the year 2000, this area is projected to be reduced further to only .23 of a hectare.

The growing need for land to till has resulted in further encroachment into the uplands. This has led to increasing denudation of forests, both for habitation and conversion to agricultural lands. Of the country's total forest lands, only 6.4 million hectares are still vegetated, compared to 18 million in 1960.

Upland dwellers have been growing steadily in number. In 1980, they already occupied 40 percent of the country's forests and woodlands, including a number of proclaimed watershed areas. Forest lands are being converted for agricultural use at the rate of 1.56 percent per year, in addition to the 1.21 percent that is being destroyed each year by indiscriminate logging.

Considering that the largest concentrations of upland dwellers are similarly characterized by high fertility and widespread poverty, then an even greater and faster conversion of forest lands for the life support of the upland population can be seen in the years to come. The acceleration of upland cultivation, in turn, has resulted in the denudation of watersheds, massive soil erosion, flooding, soil sedimentation and siltation which are beginning to affect lowlands as well.

Mangrove swamps seagrasses and coral reefs - among the most important habitats of the country's fishing resources - have been severely degraded. Only 38,000 hectares of mangrove vegetation are left today of the original 500,000 in the 1920's.

Only 5 percent of the country's coral cover are still in excellent condition. Seventy percent have been destroyed by destructive fishing practices and pollution caused by mining and heightened industrial, commercial and human activities along the shorelines.

Rapid urbanization - the rapid multiplication of dense urban populations, immigration, and intensification of urban-based activities like manufacturing and trade - has added both to the population and degradation of the immediate environment and to the conversion of adjacent farms, forest and coasts into residential, commercial and industrial areas. The government's inability to provide adequate sanitation and waste disposal services, and to implement an ecologically sound plan for containing urban residents and their activities, further compounds the problem.

Rapid population growth has indeed placed considerable stress on the Philippine's major ecosystems. And the natural environment is beginning to bend under the stress. Air, soil and water have become polluted. Land and water systems have become less productive. Environmental resources are fast getting depleted. Birds, fishes and other forms of life are getting deprived of their natural habitat.

In an environment of such poor state, what kind of human life can we expect to thrive?

For the quality of the physical environment also affects people. It affects their health, their nourishment. It affects the way they live, and their development as individuals.

There are, first of all, the direct adverse effects of a polluted and congested environment on health. A contaminated environment promotes the breeding and transmission of infectious diseases. Communicable diseases, which thrive mostly in congested places lacking in sanitary controls, constituted the Philippines' main health problem in the 1980's, causing five out of every 10 deaths during the period. Recently, diseases linked to air pollution, like tuberculosis and malignant neoplasms, have been catching up among the country's leading killers.

Water contamination, on the other hand, has been the cause of many endemic infectious diseases like cholera, dysentery, amebic infections and typhoid.

Environmental disasters like flood can also cause deaths, injuries and disruptions in the normal functioning of individuals. Then there are the indirect damaging effects - effects on the physical development of individuals, and effects on the general quality of people's lives.

The depletion of land and water resources lowers a country's productivity. Food not only becomes scarce, it also becomes more expensive. The consequence, especially among the children of the poor, is widespread malnutrition, undernutrition, and poor health.

Declining environmental productivity also limits the capacity of the government and other sectors to generate additional employment, thus leaving large numbers of people without work, and families, especially large families, without the means to avail their members of their development needs - health services, education and other inputs to the development of healthy, productive individuals. Women especially who will bear and nurture the country's future citizens, but who are the last to get their share in the meager goods and services that a family can afford, have become overburdened and deprived more than ever.

The extensive degradation of the environment, in short, has led to considerably lowered levels of human resource development. The result: less healthy, less productive individuals, and more significantly, children who are less equipped, physically and mentally, to carry on the task of development to the future. The question I now pose is this: if we cannot even sustain our own human capabilities through future generations, how can we expect to sustain the process of development and ensure the capability of the environment to supply our future needs?

The place to begin, if we want to strike at the very root of this vicious trend towards deterioration, is, therefore, people - the population factor. We have to seek access to health services, higher education and altogether better chances for development for every individual. These in turn will lead to greater productivity and capability to make worthwhile contributions to society, in the present and in the future.

What we need in the Philippines today, and in many countries in Asia are, therefore: first, a wider recognition of the central role of population in the attainment of sustainable development; second, a more energetic development-oriented population program strongly supported by and integrated with other developmental programs; and third, a strong political will, not only among government heads and program officials, but the general public, to actively pursue the population program's objectives and the goals of sustainable development.

With a successful population program, and the realization of substantial decreases in population growth rate, we can say that half the battle towards sustainable development will have been won.

Efforts at socio-economic and environmental development will no longer appear futile, for now people will have a chance to taste the fruits of these efforts. And we, the present generation, can trust that our children, tomorrow if not today, will have a better life: we will have bequeathed to them a wealth of environmental resources, and the most important resource of all - a well-developed reserve of human capabilities to enable them to achieve, for their own selves, the quality of life which we envision for them tomorrow, but which we have made possible through our efforts, today, at sustainable development.

Country Paper  
Singapore

Population and Development in Singapore  
by  
Hon. Lew Syn Pau

Mr. Chairman, fellow parliamentarians. I have prepared a paper which is rather long, so I will not read out the paper. But I've made a short summary which I will go through during this presentation.

First of all, I will touch on the importance of population policy as a tool for social and economic development in Singapore.

Singapore was one of the first countries in Asia to incorporate population control as part of its overall development strategy. The government has since the beginning taken the fundamental approach of maintaining a balance between land, economic resources and population demand by control over population dynamics.

In the past, when high population growth rates were incongruous with the government's development and economic plans, a control program to cut population growth was actively pursued to overcome serious economic and social problems. In 1966, the Singapore Family Planning and Population Board was established to administer family planning programs and to undertake population control activities. Ambitious family planning targets were set throughout its three 5-year plans; from 1966 to 1970, next one was from 1971 to 1975, the third one from 1976 to 1980. Social disincentives which work as economic penalties on large families were introduced, and the 2-child family norm was actively promoted by the government. As a result, replacement level fertility was attained in 1975, some 10 years after setting up the Population Board. Between 1965 and 1986, the fertility rate dropped from 4.7 to 1.4. After 15 years of below-replacement fertility, Singapore can now be characterized as a low-fertility society.

Next, I will touch upon the new population policy and the reasons for this new policy. As Singapore progressed, it has become clear that the expanding economy can support a larger population base. Persistent labor shortage in the recent years has raised two concerns among the planners. Firstly, were to Singapore increase its population at a faster pace to facilitate economic growth? And secondly, whether the recent cohort sizes are too small to provide the critical mass of people needed to man a diversified economy.

Population projections show that if the present trend is to continue, the population will experience negative growth within the next 30 to 50 years. If the fertility rate does not increase, the aged population of 9% today, is expected to reach 25% in 40 years' time. By then, Singapore would be an aged society. Effects of an older population profile would be felt, especially in the economic and social welfare, and public health sectors. The aging of the labor force and inadequacy of labor supply to sustain a modern, industrialized economy in the future could hamper Singapore's development. Realizing the adverse macro implications of continued fertility decline, the government decided in 1987 to revise its population control policy. The government is now pursuing a pro-natalist policy and making concerted efforts to increase population growth. Population

planning in Singapore has now shifted from a narrow focus on family limitation with the aim to curb excessive population growth, to a broader concern on achieving optimal population size, reach structural balance and enhancing quality of life. A larger population size is being proposed for Singapore after a 1988 government study showed that, with the careful use of land, Singapore can possibly house 4 million people without major deterioration in quality of life. It has been argued that a larger population base for Singapore will provide many more opportunities for Singapore to grow and develop economically and socially. It will provide a critical mass of capable and talented people needed to develop and run future social activities. A growing population will also age more slowly. The elderly will form a small proportion of the population and will be less of a burden to the economy. The thrust of the new policy is the change the two-child family norm inculcated among Singaporeans. The government now encourages families to have three and more children, with the qualification that those who can afford to have more children should do so. So, generous incentives are given now under a new policy. They were meant to lower the financial cost of birth delivery and childbearing, provide tangible monetary and social incentives for new births, and to educate the public on the seriousness of the declining fertility problem and the desirability of a 3-child family norm.

Fertility performance has shown encouraging improvements after the new policy was effected. It has halted the fertility decline. The government's recent announcement of a larger population size for Singapore is 4 million people. Greater efforts are also made to encourage singles to marry, to marry earlier and to have three or more children if they can afford to. Besides encouraging higher indigenous population growth, efforts are also made to bring talented people into Singapore. The task-facing policymakers and planners now is ensured that the momentum of fertility increase is maintained. However, the fundamental forces which could hold down fertility as the government's success and its efforts to achieve a larger population size depends not only on the response of the Singaporeans to the incentives offered. For many women, work and career are now desired options along with marriage and procreation. The traditional desire to have a larger family has been replaced by a small family size norm.

Singapore is now faced with the new challenge of reversing its declining fertility rates, marking the beginning of another new era and its demographic history. As was in the previous demographic transition, this new era will continue to affect and, in turn, be affected by the prevailing social and economic circumstances. How to motivate parents to have more children is a question that has received little attention, especially in this region, as lowering population growth remains the leading population planning paradigm in Asia. Singapore is one of the few Asian countries to deviate from the region's planning paradigm, compelled by its own demographic and social forces to reverse its policy. But the government is aware that it may not be as successful as it had been with its population control policy of the past. To the extent that a small family size is compatible with the demands of the modern society, then any effort to promote a larger family size may bring only modest results.

The planning model of Singapore could serve as a useful model for the region. Planners and policymakers should not focus narrowly on magnitude and speed of fertility decline. Age structure balance must be given due consideration. It might be advantageous to reduce the intense family planning efforts to allow for a more gradual decline in fertility in tandem with fertility decline and socioeconomic changes. Indeed, had Singapore reacted earlier to the warning signals and eased its population control program in the late 1970's, its current efforts in revising its population policy might

have been much easier.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
Sri Lanka

Population Growth And Sustainable Development In Asia  
by  
Hon. Dr. Neville Fernando

Thank you Chairman. Honorable parliamentarians, distinguished guests. I will speak on Population Growth And Sustainable Development In Asia.

Asia with population of 3.1 billion in 1990 represents 58 percent of the World's population. Between 1980 and 1990 Asia's population grew by 25 percent. The substantial growth in the size of the Asian region is the result of the fact that annual number of births continue to exceed greatly the annual number of deaths. Despite the fact that there have been notable declines in fertility during recent years in several Asian countries, and that further declines are highly probable, the population of the region is almost certain to continue to grow in the foreseeable future because of its relatively young age structure and the continuation of fertility significantly above replacement level. Indeed, if the current annual population growth rate of 2.0 percent continues into the future, the population of the Asian region would double to around 6 billion persons by the year 2025, a figure greater than the World's current population size.

Population growth and poverty tend to reinforce each other. Poverty implies many other factors apart from low income. Inadequate education nutritional deficiencies and poor health, housing and employment prospects are some of the other important aspects.

Strategies for sustainable development therefore should incorporate programs to improve these basic needs along with programs to reduce the rate of population growth.

In general, the excessive rates of population growth prevailing in many Asian countries, along with their massive increases in absolute numbers, and their young age structures, and heavy concentrations of persons in the nonproductive ages, tend to depress production and increase costs of social overhead needs such as schools and health facilities. Increases in costs for social overhead needs mean a reduction in the amount of capital available for productive investment.

Majority of the Asian developing countries can be categorized as having low incomes that is with per capita incomes below US\$500 in 1988. The five most populous of the region's developing countries, China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan fall into this group. For the majority of poorer countries the growth in GNP is not significantly above annual population growth rates, resulting in relatively small increases in per capita. Thus countries with lowest incomes have suffered from a combination of slow economic growth and rapid population growth.

Although food production grew faster than population growth in Asia during the 1980s, it has not been the case in all developing countries of the region. Most notable among these are the South Asian countries, where food production lagged behind population growth and already inadequate daily food supplies per capita diminished. This may have led to the a lowering of nutritional levels.

Chronic undernutrition and malnutrition persist in many other Asian countries. FAO estimates indicate that undernourishment is apparently worsening, in several countries. In many of the most populated countries, around one third of the population are living below the critical minimum level.

With some 600 million persons expected to be added to the population living in countries of Asia during this decade, there will have to be substantial increases in food supplies and availability, if minimum food requirements are to be met.

Another area of concern is housing. Demand for housing will grow markedly during this decade as the number of households increase with population increase. Looked at on the basis of the existing number of housing units by type, their structural characteristics, conditions of occupancy etc., it is apparent that a sizable proportion of the population in developing countries is already living in substandard housing conditions. Excessive population growth aggravates poor housing conditions, as does one of its symptoms, large influxes of migrants to urban areas with their concomitant of squatter settlements, slums and demand for urban housing and related services.

The chronic imbalance that exists in the supply and demand for labor in most of Asian countries is further aggravated by the ever-increasing cohorts of young persons reaching working age. For instance between 1980 and 1990 the number of persons of working age (15 to 64) in the Asian region increased from 1.5 million to 1.9 million. Most of this growth occurred in South Asia, which contains many of the most populous and poorest countries of the region. In most of these countries, labor force growth has been and continues to be too rapid in relation to the capacity of their economies to generate employment.

The elderly, defined as those aged 65 years and over, are expected to increase at a faster rate in the coming decades. The number of elderly persons in the Asian region grew from 109 million in 1980 to 145 million in 1990 and is expected to reach 200 million by the year 2000. There is a large sex disparity among the elderly with females considerably outnumbering males because of their higher life expectancy.

The growth of the elderly population has some important development implications. Elderly persons make a considerable demand on health and social services because of the illness and physical and mental disabilities that accompany aging. With changing family system and family size norms, government and voluntary social welfare services will have to grow if countries of the Asian region are to seriously maintain a given quality of life and alleviate suffering.

There is considerable concern in the countries of the Asian region about the imbalances in population distributions and the high rates of population growth in urban areas. Urban overconcentration is seen as the dominance of just a few cities. The occurrence of primacy where the largest city is at least twice the size of the second largest city is seen for example in Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines the Republic of Korea and Thailand. In particular, many countries are concerned about the continuous flow of population from rural to urban areas, which is an important contributory factor to the high growth rates of urban areas.

It is now well recognized that policies to reduce fertility and hence moderating population growth rates require both socio-economic change and provision of family planning services. The former includes development measures designed to spread the

level of education, increase employment opportunities and lower infant and childhood mortality. In the adoption of family planning, the emphasis is often on providing services where they are most cost-effective, that is, where social and economic conditions are sufficiently advanced to suggest that demand for family planning exists. However, there is an urgent need to spread family planning services to the rural masses where this has not already occurred. Indeed, family planning programs have been successful in some Asian countries where per capita income is low and where the bulk of the population is still rural.

In respect of Sri Lanka, in particular, we expect to reach zero growth by the year 2000. Even then, our population will reach 20 million. The steps have been taken to look after the aged as the population in this sect is increasing. And to emphasize the need for sustainable growth, the government has commenced a poverty alleviation scheme where the weaker segments of the society are given state help by a process called Janasavia to sustain them and increase production. But with limited financial resources, only about one tenth of deserving cases have access to this scheme of support.

Looking back, we find that in our country, in spite of the fact that the government has spent substantial sums of money on development, poverty, malnutrition, houselessness in addition to unemployment are increasing while the physical quality of life has improved considerably. The birthrate is only 1.1%. Infant mortality is 17.6 per thousand. Life expectancy at birth for males is 68, for females 72. Literacy rate, total of 87.2%, for males 91.1% and for females 83.2%. Maternal mortality is 0.5%. GNP is only 930 rupees which is a very small amount.

This anonymous state of affairs can be rectified in Sri Lanka can get better places through our exports, but export prices are generally low and import prices are high. Industrial production is expensive because of the high cost of imported raw material, while exports are hindered by protective tariffs in the developed countries. The situation is made worse by the structural adjustments by donor countries, IMF and the World Bank.

Sri Lanka should review some other demands made by the IMF, the World Bank and donor countries. While the structural adjustments may be economically sound, the social repercussions are very serious. Poverty and malnutrition are increasing because all the social welfare schemes subsidized by the government, like subsidies on rice, wheat, wheat flour and milk foods have been withdrawn. Withdrawal of subsidies on fertilizer at the request of World Bank and IMF is leading to poor crops and lower farm income. This calls for an explanation from the donors and lenders as for whose benefits are loans given, loans and aid are given as they are used to purchase the necessities of life at a higher price from the donor countries.

So ultimately all the money goes back with little benefit to us. Some of the structural adjustments call for privatization of profitable state companies, removal of all subsidies on rice, wheat flour, milk foods and fertilizer and other social benefits, and devaluation of the currency. This has been occurring from about 1950 where the countries calling upon to devalue saying that country's exports will rise. But it has obviously been the other way around. Import prices go up, but export still remains the same. So this is a big problem which our country has to face and most of the developing countries have to face that. Devaluation, I think, has been a failure and I think economists will have to think about it and do something better. That's why in the 21st Century, Sri Lanka as

well as other developing countries should take steps to adopt new and better ways and means of sustainable growth and development so that the 21st Century will be better than the 20th. Thank you.

Country Paper  
Syria

Brief on Population and Their Activities in Syrian Arab Republic  
by  
Hon. Dr. Eng. M. Ghassan Tayara

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Colleagues from respective countries, Ladies and Gentlemen. As all of you know, Syria is now in the very hot country in the world, and the Middle East, and the problems of Middle East is known to all of you. I will not read all the paper. I will try to focus on some figures about population and environment in my country. I will try to speak slowly for the interpreters who are good.

First of all, the total area is about 18,518,000 hectares, and only about a third of it could be cultivated and invested. Also, about 32% of cultivated area is raised for one for one year each year. Of course, the population of Syria now is about 13 million, but the problem is that, within 22 years, it's doubled. It was in 1960 about 4, 565,000, and it reached in 1981, 9 million. Of course, this is because that the growth rate is high. Now it is about 35 persons per thousand. This high percentage is, of course, is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. But in general, the rate of annual population growth in Syria is considered high, there is a referral to religious influences, social relations, also it is subject of pride for those who have more children. Many families in our country, they keep what we call a "tree family." Tree family means he knows his grand grandfather maybe 500 years or 600 years before. They draw a tree for their family which is some kind of pride. So of course, it is not easy to influence this thing and to make this rate lower.

Of course, in order to give a clear idea about distribution of population in the Syrian Arab Republic according to labor force, I have included Schedule 2. In Schedule 3 also, the percentage of those among Syrian Arab population is high, this from one hand is distinctive mark and implies on the state a heavy burden such that to secure suitable work opportunities for the ascending generation. Of course, this is also a problem in our population.

If we speak generally, the area of Syria according to the population, it need is not enough, what we can say simply. But of course, something lies in our country that we spend approximately 40 to 45% of the budget for defense. As you know, when the problem of our country will be solved, we hope that many problems can be solved according to population and environment and others. As you know, more than 3 months before, the first meeting was in Madrid. Until now, we spent more than 3 months, but no progress. We hope that the influence of the world will help us and that peace will come to our country.

Of course, what we can speak in question of population, last 3 years, many changes happened. All non-government organizations, labor unions, women's unions and others, they put in their programs to discuss this question, because without family planning, without solving this problem in the beginning of century, it will be approximately 20 million in our country. Of course, also, only in the middle of last year, the government established a council headed by Prime Minister, which we call it the Council for Environment. Also, a law was passed in our parliament establishing

the State Ministry of Environment. For this Ministry, he has a special committee which help him. The member of the committee all are from non-governmental organization, generic organization, labor organization, women's organization and etc. In each region also, there is special committee. Of course, now these committees are making good meetings. They are preparing the laws for what are the limits of different pollutions in our country. It is not secret that in some cities where the industry is concentrated, it has very big pollution in gas, air and water. For example, in the middle of Syria there is a city called Hammes. In this city, you will find fertilization industry, nefta industry and cement industry. And the one lake where now the temperature is so high that no fish can live in it. This is a big problem in this city. Of course, in our parliament, there is a special committee, and with the help of United Nations Population Fund, we organized what we call a Center Information for Population to help the government and to assist the government. And this center has special books, and each week there is a meeting for this committee and you can find in our newspaper each day something about population and about the environment. So the question only which we want that if in our country in our Asia and our Middle East there will be peace and I hope that, and as I think, you hope will be better life in this region. Thank you very much.

Country Paper  
Thailand

Abstract Asian Co-Operation on Population  
Resources and Development  
by  
Hon. Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn

Mr. Chairman. My dear friends. Since our chairman said something about wisdom, not my wisdom, but from a philosopher, Thomas Mann. He said, "Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them." In fact, it's only 14 months since we had the third general assembly of AFPPD in Bangkok. Many papers concerning population and development in Thailand have been distributed to all participants. And especially, the paper prepared by ESCAP, the success story of family planning in Thailand. By now, we come to the population close to about 1.5, and we expect in 5 more years come to 1.3. So our policy in family program and population development program in the way of promotion of quality of life, both physical, mental and spiritual, In the Bangkok Declaration, October 18, 1991, there were guidelines stated clearly as follows.

1. Population, environment and sustainable development
2. Role and status of women
3. Aging and youth dependency
4. Health care, maternal and child health and family planning
5. Role and cooperation of ASEAN parliamentarians

So last October, we had the meeting of AIPO, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization, or in short, ASEAN Parliament. The resolution was that the year 1992 should be Asian cooperation on population, resources and development. And Thailand was selected as the coordinator. Speaking about population, resources and development, the population resources in ASEAN countries may be classified into three groups;

- high-tech skilled,
- experienced manpower in industrialized country like in Singapore,
- mix experienced and labor intensive manpower, more or less agro-industrialized countries such as Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand,
- labor intensive manpower in new developing countries in Indochina.

With the rapid economic growth in ASEAN countries as a whole in the last decade of development, skilled manpower shortage has become a significant problem in some countries, and will be problem in the future in our country, Thailand and Malaysia. Migration of quality people, or qualified people from Indochina countries to the western world has continuously occurred in the last decade.

ASEAN with similarity in culture and beliefs and its plentiness of human and natural resources should stand up and join hand in hand through sharing of skills and experiences and resources in raising up the wealth and peace of the whole region and making Southeast Asia region the leading part of the world in the 21st Century.

Population resources

ASEAN, a cooperation organization, comprises of 6 members countries in Southeast

Asia region. The population varies from 184 million in Indonesia to 2.7 million in Singapore and 0.3 million in Brunei.

The quality of population also varies in a wide range. Singapore is the leader of the group in quality of life. Her social economic development is comparable to those developed countries. For example, life expectancy at birth of over 70 years and infant mortality rate at 7 per 1000 livebirths and so on. The rapid development achievement in these member countries, even though creating wealth to the population, problems also being occurred in the process of development including; manpower shortage in some countries, disproportional distribution of wealth among different groups of population in some countries like Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines, rapid urbanization and migration of rural population to industrial area in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Jakarta. The differences in working opportunity also create migration trend of workers from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia to Singapore and Brunei, especially the construction and factory workers. The debt of the countries which are from the import of technology and hardwares for industry are also quite serious in some countries.

The economic strengths in ASEAN countries are their energy and natural resources reserves, their food and agricultural products and their industrialized products which are produced under low labor expenses.

And for ASEAN cooperation, with differences in population resources and development with sharing similarities in cultural and historical background, ASEAN cooperation should look at this area of sharing and strengthening their human resources through exchange and sharing of manpower, training and financial assistance in manpower development. The experience in previous ASEAN training programs such as trop-med, that's tropical medicine, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, computer and many other should be expanded quantitatively and covered as important areas such as business and industrialized management, urbanization control and adaptation and workers capability enhancement.

With the natural resources availability among ASEAN countries, heavy industries should also be invested using financial resources within ASEAN countries in order to reduce the heavy international debt in this region.

The other four countries in this region should be invited in the ASEAN community. Assistance should also be given to these countries in improving the quality of the population, quality of life. The cooperation of the whole region will supply enough manpower, skills and resources for the maximum development of the Southeast Asia region.

All these efforts should be started immediately in this last decade of the 20th Century in preparing for the wealth and peace of the whole region and making Southeast Asian region the leading part of the world in the 21st Century.

I brought this cooperation topic for your attention. Because in other part of Asia as well can develop regional cooperation in human resources development as well, due to their culture and natural resources. It is the responsibility of AFPPD Secretary General Office to set the guideline for this regional cooperation. And I myself with support of you all will go around and hold a national seminar, regional seminar for population and development so that we will achieve something for the benefit of mankind.

As we used to say, to quote the saying from a very well-known nurse, Florence Nightingale. She said, she herself could do very little thing but to share with each other, to join hands with each other, what a luminous outcome we will benefit to society and mankind. I think we will join hands again and again for the benefit of human beings and for the prosperity of mankind. Thank you very much.

Country Paper  
Viet Nam

Population and Development in Viet Nam  
by  
Hon. Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Participants and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Last January in Hanoi, the capital of Viet Nam, a national seminar was organized with the assistance of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians and Population and Development, of APDA, of UNFPA and other international organizations. The participants discussed in detail population, development and environment that documents you have now in your hands. So that today, I shall have only a few words about those matters in Viet Nam.

The rapid population growth is now becoming a serious concern of human beings of our planet because its consequences affect not only the developing but also the world over. The forum, therefore, is very helpful for the Asian people to lower their population growth rate and to eradicate the negative effects of population explosion and urbanization and development and environment. For Viet Nam, as in the majority of Southeast Asian countries, the population growth rate is about 2.2% for the year of 1991. It is still much higher than the average rate of the whole world. In spite of the tremendous efforts of the Vietnamese government, Vietnamese people and parliamentarians and also in spite of active supports from international organizations.

The population of Viet Nam, by the end of 1991, is about 67 million, among them more than 51% female and dependency rate is more than 48%. You can imagine 67 million people living on a small land of about 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> with about only 5 million hectares of cultivated land. Since 1960s, the Vietnamese government had paid attention to the population growth and a slow campaign for birth control has been launched with a slogan, "Every couple should have less than 3 children." The results may be seen in the decline of the crude birth rate in the country from 46 per thousand in 1960 going down to 42 per thousand in 1970 and 30 per thousand in 1990. In the years of '80s, while facing up heavy pressure of the high population growth rate, the Vietnamese government has enforced the mobilization for the family planning program with a new slogan, "Every couple should have 1 or 2 children." The interval between the 2 births is 5 years, but as the infant mortality rate is going down quite rapidly to 45 per thousand with a slight decline of the crude birth rate, about 30 per thousand, so the population growth rate is not going down significantly. The high population growth rate has been becoming a real challenge for Vietnamese people in reconstructing their country after war.

In 1984, the National Committee for Population and Family Planning was established, reaching out into the grassroots level to coordinate activities of various ministries on population and development issues, such as Ministry of Education, Health and Information etc. In 1988, a series of population and family planning policies were issued by the Vietnamese government such as health care and schooling for free of charge for families that have only 1 or 2 children. Recently, many laws related to

population and development were adopted by the Vietnamese National Assembly. Law on marriage and family, law and heritage to improve women's status and women's role in the society, to determine the age of the first marriage about 18 for women and 21 for men. Law on health protection, law on children's protection and education etc. In the coming years, the Vietnamese parliamentarians will examine the laws on environmental protection, social insurance and health insurance. The mass education has been carried out in rural areas for family planning program and primary health care, especially for mothers and children's health, prevention of diseases and also on legislation.

By those efforts, we reduced the infant mortality rate and at the same time increased the literacy rate to 88% in spite of rather low per capita income. With such active grips, the Vietnamese parliamentarians on population and development believe that the Vietnamese society will be well run with law and by law and that Vietnamese population will reach about 80 million only by the year 2000. But many factors may influence the result of the family planning program in Viet Nam. The first one is difficulties we have to cope with in rural areas where more than 80% of the population are living. The second is the shortage for a long time of contraceptive pills, injectibles which are too costly for Vietnamese economic situation. Since 1986, as economic renovation with open-door policies was bringing better variety of goods in the marketplace, the family planning program develops now a cafeteria approach to service the contraceptives. The couples now have free choice of stable family planning method for them.

In the coming years, the population and family planning program in Viet Nam will concentrate on two main tasks. The first is to enforce the information, education and communication programs so that the people will be able to understand well the benefits of the family planning program for themselves and for their family. Second, to invest budget in training staff and equipping health station in rural areas for implementing well the family planning program and protection of mother and child's health at the grass-roots level. Besides, we shall promote foreign investment in many economic fields such as construction of the infrastructure or exportation, food production and food industry, heavy industries, to improve the economic situation which will, in its turn, have good influences on family planning program. Actually, to avoid harmful effects of industrialization on the environment, all investment projects in Viet Nam should be submitted to the State Committee For Science And Technology and various ministries of health, labor and social welfare, environmental protection etc.

Distinguished participants and colleagues. AFPPD and APDA are in that phase now. During the last decade, many conferences and meetings on population and development were held by the forum to exchange experiences and information among Asian parliamentarians on those matters. Viet Nam is the youngest member of the forum. Vietnamese parliamentarians' group for population and development has been trying its best to achieve the goals of the forum. Therefore, cooperation and assistance from our colleagues from other countries in the region, China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand etc. are very helpful for our people and for our parliamentarians' group. Taking this opportunity, I would like to have some proposals to AFPPD, to APDA, to UNFPA, to IPPF and to other countries' parliamentarians' groups.

1. To have bilateral or multilateral exchange of documents and information on population and development
2. To exchange parliamentarians' groups to share each other's experiences on those

matters

3. To help training experts on population and development
4. To assist countries having high population growth rate, especially the developing countries so that they can reach the average level of population and development growth of the world over
5. To alternate the hosting countries of the AFPPD meetings to promote better understanding among country members and create an international cooperation in population and development issues

To close the speech, I would like to wish the chairpersons and to all participants health, happiness, prosperity and very good successes in maintaining the beauty and natural resources of our earth and in constructing a peaceful and prosperous life for the future generation, the cause to which the first president and the first secretary general of the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians for Population and Development, Mr. Sato and Mr. Mittal devoted all their lives. Thank you for your attention.

## Questions and Answers

Chairman:

Well, that concludes the country papers and I see that the distinguished delegate from India is going to ask a question. Are you?

Mahendra Prasad:

I welcome the suggestion of our Vietnamese friend. At the same time I would like to ask a question to our friend from Syria and our friend from Singapore. You see, I was one of the participants in the meeting of Global Forum for the spiritual leaders and parliamentarians of the world in Moscow in 1990. And that meeting was participated by the great mufti of Syria. And the Grand Mufti made a remark that no religious leader or religious book prohibit family planning. Our friend had said that there is great religious influence on population growth in Syria. It appears to me it is contradictory. I would like clarification on this account from our friend from Syria. I would also like to know whether abortion is legalized in Syria or not.

And let me complete about Singapore also. I have been to Singapore at least 25 times and I've seen the development of Singapore with my own eyes. I consider Singapore as a model of balance between population and development. Our friend suggests that they are encouraging their families to have 3 or 4 children. Today's trading pattern of the world favors Singapore. This situation may not continue for a long period of time. It may or may not. In that case, if you are put against the trading pattern of the world, then your economy may be adversely affected. In that case, the world will lose a model for balance between development and population. I would like an explanation or suggestion from our friend from Singapore on this account. Thank you.

Chairman:

Well, the distinguished delegate from Syria might like to respond?

Ghassan Tayara:

Thank you. Of course there is no law or nothing in constitution that does not allow to make family planning. And even if we read Koran, which is the holy book, there is nothing about family planning, that we cannot make family planning.

But the question, the influence of religion, this is coming by historical, from past until now. So there is some of people who are working with religion, they say that these children, the God will give them their food. Why? You are making some planning. In religion, in book, nothing. You should know about the percentage of illiteracy, which was, 10 years ago, approximately 50%. And of course, among female, it is a little bit more. It was approximately 65%. So this is the question. Thank you.

Chairman:

And the delegate from Singapore?

Lew Syn Pau:

The new population policy is to have 3 or more, only if you can afford it. And the incentives are actually not in terms to handouts to every family that has 3 or more children, but in terms of tax incentives. So if you don't pay taxes, you get nothing actually for having more children. But if you pay taxes, then you get a tax rebate of \$20,000 for the third child and another \$20,000 for the fourth child. So I think it is quite clear that only people who pay a lot of taxes benefit from having more children.

Now, our population policy is quite closely tied up with our foreign worker policy. Although we have a population of 2.7 million people, we have 300,000 foreign workers in Singapore right now. And even with 300,000 foreign workers in Singapore, there is still a lot of pressure from the private sector, especially construction and shipbuilding, pressure on government to open up the doors to more foreign workers because the economy is growing quite fast. But the government does not open up too freely. It still wants to control, because, like what you said, in the event that there is a downturn in the future, then the adjustment would not be so great. In this respect, therefore, Singapore is quite lucky in that we have this buffer of foreign workers of about 300,000. So in the event that economic situation in the world turns adverse against Singapore, then I guess the government will use the foreign worker policy first to adjust the demand for labor. The population growth in Singapore, although we are encouraging 3 or more, it is unlikely that we will have this problem of excess labor for long time to come. This is the estimate which we have done in our studies. Thank you.

Chairman:

If there are no more questions, I am getting urgent messages from the organizers that coffee is being served. If we can get the questions brief, I think the delegates from New Zealand, if we can keep them brief. If you just ask very quick questions and we keep the answers very brief.

John Blincoe:

I'm not sure how the question is brief. It's really to the delegate from Singapore and also so to the delegate from Japan.

In relation to the reversal of policy that will now encourage population growth. Going back to my paper, I made the point about, the Indian delegate, I think, made the similar points about the impact that each person has on the planet, and whether the existing models of development are appropriate. My question is this. Would Singapore and Japan be embarrassed if the Earth Summit said, "If you choose to increase your population, you must do it within the existing resources that you are using or even less." What would your position be? Or does the increase in your population, in fact, assume the policy to increase the population, does it assume that you will be able to use more of the earth's resources to do that?

Chairman:

Who wants to go first? Delegate from Singapore?

Lew Syn Pau:

Well, I'm not quite sure what you mean by existing resources. Are you talking about existing resources within Singapore itself or within the planet? I don't really understand this question because Singapore is a very open economy and a lot of our resources are actually traded. If we need more resources in terms of natural resources, we buy them. So, our policies are in tune with our own ability to acquire those resources to support the growth of the country. So I don't think it's out of tune with what you are talking about.

Chairman:

Delegate from Japan?

H. Inoue:

Thank you very much. We are not taking a population policy to encourage increasing population. That was a misunderstanding.

K. Shimizu:

In my explanation, I did discuss the declining fertility rate. We have 124 million people living in Japan, and for the next 20 years it will increase. But if the fertility rate continues to decline, after 100 years the Japanese will be down to 94 million people. Ninety four million Japanese but great number of older people. So in that sense, if declining fertility rate continues it may be a problem down the road. And I just raised that it may be a problem. But there is no national policy to encourage people to have so many children. You can't do that. And most Japanese feel that they cannot afford to have many children. So what the government can do is to prepare a good environment and the rest is up to the free choice of people.

Chairman:

The delegate from Malaysia.

Ibrahim Ali:

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just have a very brief question that I would like to get the response from our honorable delegate from Syria. About the comment that nothing has been said in the Koran about the family planning. Being a Muslim, I would like to get your response because there is no doubt that nothing is said precisely in the Holy Koran about family planning. But the matter of family planning is debatable because, as far as the Muslims are concerned, we have 3 stages. First is the Holy Koran, the second is the Recitation of the Prophet and the ruling by the Muslim muktis. So it is debatable. So I would like to get your response. Because being a Muslim, your comment is a little bit disturbing me.

Ghassan Tayara:

you didn't get me well. I said, "In Koran, there is nothing against family planning." And also, we call about the second which are the words by prophet itself. There is nothing against family planning. I am sure we will not make any discussions about the religion itself.

Chairman:

I would like to thank the speakers for keeping their paper within the time limits. We've had many stimulating papers here this afternoon and many challenging suggestions have been put out.

Prasop Ratanakorn:

I was asked by my colleagues from ADPA, that for the next meeting of APDA, that means in 1993, if any country would like to host the meeting please let me know and I will discuss with you in detail about the possibility of having the host country for 1993. Malaysia, Viet Nam, OK.

Chairman:

Thank you Secretary General. Now I formally adjourn this section of the conference and the coffee will be served immediately. Thank you.

## Closing Ceremony

(16:15 - 16:30 Feb. 26, 1992)

Closing Remarks  
by  
Fukusaburo Maeda  
Acting Chairman  
APDA

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great honor and pleasure to be able to address you once again at the closing of the 10th anniversary of AFPPD and APDA as well as the 8th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development. And during this forum, we have discussed about the issues of population in Asia. It was pointed out that we still face many challenges, which include the influx of rural population into the urban centers and yet high levels of fertility. Those challenges are of great urgency and we must endeavor to solve this as we are going into the new millennium in matter of 8 years. We believe that the key for the solution of this world population problem which has to do with survival of mankind, is in the hands of the Asians.

During the past 2 days, many serious discussions were conducted. Development of the rich and the poor, its implications were discussed. We must adjust and coordinate the efforts so that we should attain sustainable development. I think through those efforts we will be able to find a clue for the solution for the shared problem. APDA, as its mission, has called for the prosperity of the mankind. We were able to exchange our views but we also affirmed our determination that we must do even more to overcome our difficulties.

We hope that our mission of the prosperity of the mankind and planet can be realized through our continued efforts. Taking this opportunity I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the parliamentarians from Asian countries who were able to travel to Japan and be with us. We are appreciative that they spared their very precious time and also my appreciation goes to the intellectuals and other scholars. I think we were again reminded of the great achievements left by late Mr. Takashi Sato and late Mr. Sat Paul Mittal. I hope that we can work together to achieve the peaceful co-prosperity of all the mankind on this earth, and I pray for your further happiness and prosperity. Once again, thank you very much.

Closing Remarks  
by  
Hon. Ghassan Tayara  
Vice Chairman, AFPPD

Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen. We spent already 2 days. We worked hard and it was very successful meeting. In these meetings we exchanged experience and, of course, we found that still big problems exist in population, environment and family planning and others. We will leave this country with warm feeling and we will return home to continue our duty. Each country has its own plans and policies for population and development. This meeting, as other meetings, give us opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. I promise the interpreter that I will not make a long speech, so I will try to say, first of all, thank you for APDA which organized this meeting, for the secretariat, the interpreters who worked hard also to make our meeting good. Of course, we will announce that meeting is closed. Thank you very much.

## List of Participants

### Australia

Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P.

Treasurer, AFPPD  
Chairman, Public Works Committee

### Bangladesh

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Vice Chairman, AFPPD Bangladesh Branch

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Vice-Chairman,  
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Mrs. Lalita Mittal

Mrs. Uma Devi Prasad

Mr. Rajan B Mittal

### Indonesia

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Member, CPD

Mr. Sang Hwe Lee, M.P.

Member, CPD

Mr. Kyu Teck Kong

Secretary

Malaysia

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Chairman, Malaysian Forum of  
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Kingdom of Nepal

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Chairman, Population and Social  
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New Zealand

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Labour Conservation Spokesperson

Ms. Helen Trevena

Philippines

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Chairman, Government Parliamentary Committee  
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Senior Vice Chairman, Sri Lanka  
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Sen. Prof. Dr. Prasop  
Ratanakorn

Secretary General, AFPPD

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Dr. Nguyen Van Tien

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Mr. Nobuyuki Sekiyama,	Member, JFPF
Ms. Miyoko Hida, M.P.	Member, JFPF
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Mr. Takeo Fukuda	President of the Council, GCPPD Honorary Chairman, JFPF Former Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Hiroyuki Sonoda	Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare of Japan
Mr. Katsuhide Kitatani	Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
Dr. V. T. Palan	Regional Director of the East and South East Asia and Oceania Region, IPPF
<u>Experts</u>	
Dr. Saburo Okita	Chairman of Institute for Domestic and International Policy Studies Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Dr. Shigeto Kawano	Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Director, APDA (Japan)
Dr. Toshio Kuroda	Director Emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute Director, APDA (Japan)
Dr. Yoichi Okazaki	Professor, Faculty of Law, Nihon University (Japan)
Dr. Yonosuke Hara	Professor, Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo (Japan)
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