

The 15th General Assembly of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

27th April 2025 | Sunday
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Report

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The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

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Executive Summary

The 15th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) convened parliamentarians and stakeholders to take stock, review key accomplishments, and discuss key challenges under its four strategic pillars: Active Ageing, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Climate Change and Green Economy, and Investing in Youth.

Opening Remarks

The Assembly commenced with addresses from Mr. Pio Smith (Director, United Nations Population Fund Asia and the Pacific Regional Office or UNFPA APRO), Hon. Kamikawa Yoko (MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD), and Hon. Alexander Nanta Linggi (Minister of Works, Malaysia), who collectively highlighted urgent regional priorities such as addressing gender-based violence, maternal health, youth development, and ageing. Malaysia also announced its election to the United Nations (UN) Commission on Population and Development (2026–2030).

Part I – Overview of AFPPD's Strategic Plan (2023 – 2025)

During the session, chaired by Hon. Howard Lee, Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, Interim Executive Director of AFPPD, reported on the implementation of the 2023–2025 Strategic Plan.

Key progress included capacity-building across 30 member states, strengthened regional partnerships, the organising of a major global forum such as the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD), and participation in global parliamentary discussions on the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD30). AFPPD also expanded collaboration with UNFPA, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), and other civil society organisations (CSO). On organisational matters, AFPPD reported improvements in governance, new partnerships, and successful resource mobilisation supported by the Japan Trust Fund.

Part II - Member States' Addresses

The national statements reflected tailored responses to pressing demographic issues. Tajikistan focused on gender equality reforms and increasing women's representation. Nepal emphasised youth empowerment through skills development and innovation. Indonesia presented a five-pillar strategy to address the needs of its ageing population. New Zealand concluded the session with a statement on climate resilience and its path to net-zero emissions.

Part III - Partner Session

Representatives from UNFPA, IPPF, FP2030, Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia), the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) outlined ongoing partnerships with AFPPD, reaffirming their support for regional collaboration and shared goals in population and development.

Part IV - AFPPD's Session

Delegates voted on key institutional matters. Malaysia was confirmed as the new host for the AFPPD Secretariat, with Hon. Lee Chuan How elected as the Secretary General. Standing Committees were established to support each of AFPPD's four pillars or strategic focus areas.

Closing Ceremony

Hon. Dr. Noraini Ahmad (MP Malaysia, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development) concluded the Assembly by reaffirming Malaysia's leadership in regional and global population issues. She urged parliamentarians to continue championing inclusive policies and holding governments accountable.

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko (MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD) highlighted the importance of having updated national and regional data to inform legislation and policies, in order to make them more relevant and effective. Having updated data sheds light on who are being left behind, and expose disparities and unmet needs. With this crucial information, parliamentarians can craft targeted policies that reach the most vulnerable populations and ensure everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

Gratitude was extended to all partners and participants for their contributions to the Assembly's success.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the 15th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) commenced with high-level addresses that set the tone for the two-day deliberations. Distinguished leaders emphasised the urgency of strengthening regional collaboration to address pressing population and development issues across Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Pio Smith, Director of UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, via a recorded message, outlined critical regional challenges, including limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, the prevalence of gender-based violence, and the socio-economic impacts of climate change. He called for greater investment in youth potential and preparation for ageing societies while reaffirming UNFPA's commitment to supporting AFPPD's work.

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chairperson of AFPPD and MP, Japan, highlighted AFPPD's enduring role in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action. She emphasised the importance of inclusive policies, gender equality, youth empowerment, and healthy ageing—calling on parliamentarians to legislate in favour of the most vulnerable populations.

H.E. Alexander Nanta Linggi, Minister of Works of Malaysia and Chair of AFPPD Malaysia, echoed the importance of these themes and stressed the need to uphold reproductive rights, improve education and economic opportunities for women and youth, and ensure robust support systems for ageing populations. He urged delegates to work collectively towards a future grounded in equity, dignity, and opportunity for all.



Part I:

Overview of Implementation of AFPPD's Strategic plan 2023-25

Chair:



Hon. Howard Lee Chuan Hou
Member of Parliament of Malaysia, Vice-Chair of AFPPD Malaysia



Dr. Usmonov Farrukh
Interim Executive Director of AFPPD

The session was chaired by Hon. Howard Lee. Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, the Interim Executive Director of AFPPD, provided an overview of the implementation of *AFPPD's Strategic Plan for 2023-2025*, which was approved by the Executive Committee (ExCom) in 2023.

1. Dr. Farrukh Usmonov presented the outcomes of the AFPPD Strategic Plan 2023-2025, outlining key progress made across several thematic areas:

a. **Outcome 1: National Action Focus**

- *National Committee Capacity Development*: Capacity-building programmes were implemented in several member states, with activities held in Indonesia and India (2022); Tajikistan (2023); Lao PDR and Sri Lanka (2024); and Cambodia, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan (2025).
- *Learning and Outreach*: AFPPD delivered online programmes, maintained active social media engagement, and circulated reports to foster continuous learning and outreach.

b. **Outcome 2: Regional/Global Advocacy, Networking and Partnerships**

- *Parliamentary Engagement*: Members recommended establishing parliamentary forums and exchange visits across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Other key platforms identified included ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and PCAsia.
- *Collaboration with development partners and CSOs*: AFPPD strengthened partnerships with organisations such as UNFPA (on the ICPD Programme of Action), IPPF, FP2030, and other civil society organisations.

c. **Outcome 3: Regional/Global Political Influence**

- AFPPD actively participated in major events including G7 in Tokyo and G20 in India (2023), the UN Third Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference in Tajikistan (2024). AFPPD's Regional Meeting on Gender Empowerment and Green Economy, organized in partnership with the

Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of Pakistan (2024) contributed to parliamentary discourse in the lead-up to 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29).

2. Regarding the management outcome, AFPPD focuses on three aspects as follows:
 - a. *Governance and Accountability*: AFPPD ensured transparency through regular reporting to national committees and independent audits managed by UNFPA.
 - b. *Organisational Revitalisation*: New office bearers were elected, new CSO partnerships formed, and there are plans to have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) planned with institutions such as Asian Development Bank (ADB), PCAAsia, FP2030, and Pathfinder International.
 - c. *Resource Mobilisation*: The organisation received financial support from the Japan Trust Fund and contributions from new partners including FP2030 and Pathfinder International.
3. The presiding officer invited feedback from member states on the Strategic Plan and the upcoming 2026-2029 planning cycle. The member states agreed on the need to formulate a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, to be endorsed at the next annual gathering in Manila, scheduled for 3-5 September 2025. The representative from the Republic of Iran suggested a few improvements, as follows:
 - a. The significance of addressing ageing, generational gaps, forced migration, climate change, and livelihoods.
 - b. Involving relevant government ministries and agencies in future discussions.
 - c. Enhanced engagement of non-government organisations (NGO) in policy implementation through grant support.
 - d. Periodic sharing of successful practices among member states to encourage knowledge exchange.

Part II : Addresses by the member-states

Chair:



HON. Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hatta bin Md Ramli
Member of the Senate of Malaysia



Hon. Muini Mavsuma
Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Tajikistan
(on GBV and women empowerment)



Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali
MP Nepal (on youth)



Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah
Secretary of IFPPD



Hon. Catherine Wedd
MP New Zealand (on climate change)

Part II of the Assembly focused on addresses by member states, where four distinguished panellists shared their respective countries' efforts in addressing key population issues, specifically through the lens of AFPPD's pillars.

The Chair of the Session, Hon. Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hatta bin Md Ramli, MP, Malaysia, welcomed and introduced the panellists: **Hon. Muini Mavsuma of Tajikistan**, who spoke on **gender-based violence and women's empowerment**; **Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali of Nepal**, who addressed **youth-related issues**; **Mdm. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah of Indonesia**, who **discussed ageing populations**; and **Hon. Catherine Wedd of New Zealand**, who presented on **climate change**.

1. **Hon. Muini Mavsuma** addressed the Assembly on Tajikistan's efforts to combat gender-based violence and promote women's empowerment. She outlined the country's commitment to gender equality, supported by key policies such as the National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women (2021–2030), which aims to improve women's rights, living standards, and social status.

Currently in Tajikistan, key legislative measures include the Law on State Guarantees of Equality between Men and Women (2005) and the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, accompanied by a national action plan. Additional initiatives focus on leadership training for women and expanding their participation in public life.

2. **Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali** highlighted Nepal's demographic advantage. The country has over 40% of its population aged 16-40, presenting a strategic opportunity for national development aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, he acknowledged the challenges of youth unemployment, with 400,000 job seekers entering the market annually but fewer than 100,000 formal opportunities available. High youth unemployment and the outmigration of over 1.5 million young Nepalis remain critical concerns.

He noted the misalignment between Nepal's education system and the demands of a digital and green economy, particularly for marginalised groups. To address this, he proposed a four-pillar framework for youth empowerment:

- a. Economic Opportunity – Scale training in green and digital skills and expand the Youth Empowerment Programme to create 150,000 jobs by 2035.
- b. Intellectual and Holistic Development – Introduce initiatives such as the Youth Intellectual Renaissance for critical thinking, climate literacy, and mental health.
- c. Civic Ownership – Establish the Asia Youth Vote Alliance to mobilise voters and promote youth parliaments.
- d. Sustainable Innovation – Launch the Asia Youth Climate Corps and Youth Tech Hubs focused on emerging technologies.

He also introduced the *Youth 2035 Pact*, advocating for 20% of national budgets to be allocated to youth-related programs, the creation of a Youth Advisory Council, a regional youth data platform, and annual progress reporting.

3. **Mdm. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah** presented Indonesia’s national context on ageing, highlighting demographic shifts and socio-economic challenges and proposing policy solutions.

She reported that life expectancy in the country has increased from 70 years in 2015 to 73 in 2024, with women comprising 52% of the elderly population. A higher concentration of older adults resides in urban areas (56%), with significant regional variations.

She identified two core challenges: socio-economic vulnerability and healthcare needs, and in order to address these, Mdm. Hasbullah proposed a Five-Pillar Strategy: (i) strengthen legal frameworks, (ii) improve elderly health services, (iii) enhance community engagement, (iv) expand pension and long-term care systems, and (v) promote active ageing and re-skilling.

4. **Hon. Catherine Wedd**, Member of Parliament for New Zealand, addressed the Assembly on the urgent and growing impact of climate change in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, regions highly vulnerable to natural hazards and environmental shifts. She outlined the geographic and environmental realities of these coastal nations, which face increasing threats from cyclones, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels.

Honourable Wedd recounted the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, which struck New Zealand on 14 February 2023. It caused widespread destruction, with huge damages, making it one of the country’s most costly natural disasters.

She shared about the New Zealand’s Climate Strategies as follow:

- i. Commitment to the Paris Agreement – Demonstrating shared global responsibility in addressing climate change.
- ii. Net-zero emissions by 2050 – A clear national target for greenhouse gas reduction.
- iii. Transition to 100% Renewable Energy – Expansion of wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy sources.

- iv. Transport and Agricultural Innovation – Promotion of electric vehicles, large-scale tree planting, and collaboration with the farming sector to reduce emissions.
- v. A Green Future – These initiatives form part of New Zealand’s broader strategy for a sustainable, resilient future.

Part III : Partners' Session

Moderator:



Hon. Ganbat Dashdondog
MP Mongolia



Dr. Julita Onabanjo
UNFPA Representative Malaysia
UNFPA Country Director Thailand



Mr. Gessen Rocas
Director for External Relations, International Planned
Parenthood Federation East and South East Asia
and Oceania Region (ESEASO IPPF)



Mr. Yi Changpransar
Executive Director,
Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAAs)



Mr. Dakshitha Wickremaratne
Senior Technical Lead, Advocacy,
Accountability and Partnerships Asia Pacific Regional Hub



Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Polpoo
MP Ghana, Minister of Labour,
Jobs and Employment of Ghana,
President of the African Parliamentary Forum on
Population and Development (PAF)



Hon. Dr. Behram Saeeidi
Member of Parliament for Iran

Honourable Ganbat Dashdondog, Member of Parliament from Mongolia, chaired Part III of the General Assembly, the Partner' Session, which included seven distinguished speakers from partner organisations. Two speakers joined via video message.

1. **Dr. Julita Onabanjo, UNFPA Representative of Malaysia and UNFPA Country Director of Thailand**, opened her address by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to AFPPD's 15th General Assembly. She outlined three regional priorities:
 - i. **Safeguarding Rights and Choices** – the importance of upholding individual rights, especially in times of uncertainty, and highlighted the vital role of parliamentarians in sustaining progress.
 - ii. **Financing Population and Development** – the need for sustained and increased investment in sexual and reproductive health and family planning amid global economic pressures.
 - iii. **Celebrating Multilateralism** – where AFPPD's role is crucial in fostering regional cooperation and called for continued collaboration in a polarised global landscape.

Dr. Onabanjo encouraged parliamentarians to ensure not only the passage of legislation, but also their effective implementation and intersectoral coordination. She highlighted the importance of monitoring policy outcomes and ensuring government coherence. She called for greater inclusion of marginalised populations—particularly women, youth, and underrepresented groups—emphasising that no one should be left behind.

2. **Mr. Gessen Rocas, Director of strategic partnerships at IPPF East & South East Asia and Oceania Region** addressed the Assembly by underscoring the critical crossroads facing the world as 2030 approaches. He reaffirmed IPPF's commitment to justice, equality, and partnership with AFPPD in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Referencing major global platforms such as Beijing+30, the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the 58th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, he highlighted the enduring urgency of advancing SRHR. Despite progress in poverty reduction and innovation, challenges remain, particularly in achieving gender equality, climate action, and inclusive governance.

He reiterated IPPF's commitment to (i) strengthening alliances between civil society and parliamentarians, (ii) promoting inclusive, participatory policymaking, (iii) defending SRHR advocates in repressive settings, and (iv) amplifying the voices of marginalised groups in decision-making.

3. **Mr. Yi Chanprasnar, Executive Director of Parliamentary Centre of Asia**, highlighted PCAsia as the region's sole centre dedicated to parliamentary capacity-building, combining training, research, and exchange to develop institutional knowledge and legislative effectiveness.

Mr. Yi stressed the vital role of parliaments in defending democratic governance, promoting inclusive policymaking, and providing effective oversight to ensure development and stability in the context of growing geopolitical tensions and global complexity.

He noted the alignment between PCAsia and AFPPD in their shared commitment to regional solidarity, parliamentary dialogue, and innovative policy approaches. Key contributions of PCAsia include work on gender-responsive budgeting, evidence-based policy support, and fostering regional knowledge exchange. He proposed joint initiatives and deeper inter-parliamentary cooperation to collectively address emerging global challenges.

4. **Mr. Dakshita Wickremarathne, Senior Technical Lead on Advocacy, Accountability and Partnerships of FP2030 Asia and the Pacific Regional Hub**, highlighted FP2030's flagship campaign, *Made Possible by Family Planning*, launched at the UN General Assembly and culminating at the International Conference on Family Planning in Bogotá, Colombia.

Since 2012, FP2030 has supported 379 million women in low- and middle-income countries in accessing modern contraception. However, 140 million women in the Asia-Pacific still have unmet family planning needs, signalling the ongoing relevance of the initiative. He also provided updates on commitments from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, where high-level political leaders have pledged to enhance contraceptive access through legislation and policy reform.

Mr. Wickremarathne called on parliamentarians to (i) secure political commitment, (ii) advocate for increased budget allocations, (iii) strengthen legal frameworks, (iv) promote regional cooperation, and (v) engage civil society and youth.

5. **Hon. Behnam Saeedi, MP Iran** shared that Iran’s population policies are shaped by national priorities and development needs. He highlighted the Islamic Consultative Assembly’s proactive approach, including the establishment of a Joint Commission on Population, Youth, and Family Support and the implementation of the Population, Youth, and Family Support Plan. This plan incorporates cultural initiatives on sexual and reproductive health, along with socio-economic incentives and budget allocations to support childbearing.

He outlined the key provisions of the law on Family and Youth Protection, which includes early retirement for mothers, integration of population education in school curricula, and support schemes for young families and couples. There is an increasing participation of women in national development, including 45% representation in the public sector, 74% in the private sector, 43% of university faculty, and presence in 41% of knowledge-based enterprise boards.

Dr. Saeedi also emphasised women’s empowerment and family support rooted in Islamic and cultural values. The strategies include:

- a. Economic empowerment through training and job creation
- b. Health initiatives covering pre/postnatal care and social harm prevention
- c. Expanding rural women’s access to education and financial support
- d. Promoting women’s leadership and political participation
- e. Advancing gender justice through legislative reforms

6. **Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Pelpuo, President of FPA, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment of Ghana** reaffirmed the strong and enduring partnership between the African Parliamentary Forum and AFPPD, highlighting a shared commitment to addressing poverty, disease, and inequality, and advancing sustainable development across continents. He expressed appreciation for AFPPD’s continued support and called for the strengthening of collaborative efforts.

He reiterated the Forum’s full commitment to this partnership, particularly in supporting the development of effective policies and legislation. Emphasising unity as key to impactful progress, he underscored the Forum’s prioritisation of population and development challenges—especially those concerning adolescent health and well-being.

7. **Hon. Dr. Mohammad Ali Hasan Ali, MP Bahrain** delivered a message on behalf of the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), congratulating AFPPD on the occasion of its 15th General Assembly and extending best wishes to the newly elected Executive Committee members.

He highlighted the strong and effective partnership between FAPPD and AFPPD, describing it as a model of regional cooperation. He emphasised the value of continued collaboration and the mutual exchange of expertise to

promote policies supporting sustainable development and addressing critical population challenges.

Dr. Ali reaffirmed FAPPD's commitment to this partnership and expressed optimism that continued joint efforts would contribute meaningfully to the well-being and development of communities across both regions.

Part IV : AFPPD Session



The newly elected members of AFPPD's Executive Committee & Standing Committees

The session was chaired by Hon. Kamikawa Yoko and was attended by AFPPD members only. The discussions and voting focused on several key areas, including the location of the AFPPD Secretariat, the election of office bearers, and the establishment of the standing committees.

1. Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, moderator of this session, highlighted that the session was exclusively for AFPPD members, with 25 out of 30 member states in attendance, representing more than half of the membership. The decisions made during this session will be regarded as final.
2. The agenda for the 15th General Assembly included the following key points:
 - i. Election of the new location of the AFPPD Secretariat.
 - ii. Election of the new AFPPD Chair and Executive Committee (ExCom) members
 - iii. Formation of four Standing Committees corresponding to the pillars of Active Ageing, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Climate Change and Green Economy, and Investing in Youth
 - iv. Election of the new chairs of the Standing Committees

3. The following decisions were reached during the session:

Category	Decision
New Location of the AFPPD Secretariat	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
AFPPD Chair	Hon. Kamikawa Yoko , MP Japan
AFPPD Secretary General	Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How MP Malaysia
Vice Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Asia: Hon. Li Bin (MP China) ▪ Pacific: Hon. Catherine Wedd (MP New Zealand) ▪ Central Asia: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva (MP Kyrgyzstan) ▪ South Asia: Hon. Deepender Hooda (MP India) ▪ Southeast Asia: Hon. Lork Kheng (MP Cambodia)
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hon. Krisel Lagman, MP Philippines (Treasurer) ▪ Hon. Dr. Anara Naeem, MP Maldives ▪ Hon. Prapon Tangsrikertikul, MP Thailand ▪ Hon. Le Van Kham, MP Vietnam
New Standing Committees for AFPPD's Four Pillars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active Ageing: Hon. Hector Appuhamy (MP Sri Lanka) ▪ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Hon. Dr. Noraini Ahmad (MP Malaysia) ▪ Climate Change and Green Economy: Hon. Muini Mavsuma (MP Tajikistan) ▪ Investing in Youth: Chair: Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali (MP Nepal) and Co-chair: Hon. Dr. Kolakanh Phommvong (MP Lao PDR)

Closing Ceremony

Hon. Dr. Noraini Ahmad, (MP Malaysia and Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development) the newly appointed Chair of AFPPD's Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, delivered the closing address, and reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to advancing inclusive, rights-based population policies through global collaboration.

She emphasised the value of partnerships with the United Nations and international stakeholders in promoting sustainable development through knowledge exchange and capacity-building. Dr. Noraini also highlighted Malaysia's election to the UN Commission on Population and Development (2026–2030) as a reflection of its leadership in implementing the ICPD agenda. She congratulated the newly elected AFPPD officials and expressed optimism for improved coordination with national committees.

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko (MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD) highlighted importance of generating updated national and regional data as it can inform legislation and policies, and make them more relevant and effective. Having updated data sheds light on who is being left behind, and expose disparities and unmet needs. With this crucial information, parliamentarians can craft targeted policies that reach the most vulnerable populations and ensure everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

She invited the member-states to be more committed to the Forum and to respect its mission.



DAY 2

STUDY VISIT FOR MEMBER-STATES

On Day 2, as part of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing, delegates had the opportunity to explore key institutions in Malaysia that are at the forefront of addressing population, family development, and ageing issues. This study visit sought to provide a deeper understanding of Malaysia's efforts in these critical areas and offer valuable insights into their ongoing work and initiatives. The delegates visited the following institutions:

1. **National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), Malaysia**

LPPKN plays a crucial role in promoting population and family development in Malaysia. The visit provided delegates with insights into the board's various programmes that aim to improve family well-being, enhance reproductive health, and promote sustainable population policies.

2. **Ti-Ratana Welfare Society**

The Ti-Ratana Welfare Society is committed to provide welfare services to vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This organisation's community-focused approach was explored, highlighting its significant impact on social care and inclusion efforts within Malaysia.

3. **Malaysia Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeing)**

MyAgeing is dedicated to research on ageing and the development of policies that address the needs of Malaysia's ageing population. Delegates gained valuable insights into Malaysia's approach to ageing, particularly in relation to healthcare, social inclusion, and the economic participation of older individuals.

This study visit allowed delegates to engage with leading organisations that tackle some of the most pressing demographic and social challenges in Malaysia, while also sharing best practises and experiences for potential regional cooperation.

NATIONAL POPULATION AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (LPPKN)



The AFPPD delegates in front of the LPPKN Office

On 28 April 2025, as part of the study visit program, a special visit to the headquarters of the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) was organised by the AFPPD Malaysia. This visit aimed to showcase Malaysia's efforts in population and family development and to foster exchange of knowledge and best practises.

The visit was led by Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chairperson of AFPPD, alongside Hon. Howard Lee How Chuan, Secretary General of AFPPD, and was attended by 54 parliamentary delegates from 25 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Upon arrival, the delegates were warmly welcomed by Mr. Abdul Shukur Abdullah, the Director-General of LPPKN, and the LPPKN management committee members. In his welcoming speech, Mr. Abdul Shukur expressed his gratitude for the visit and emphasised the importance of mutual learning. He highlighted the LPPKN's belief in the power of shared knowledge and experience, especially in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the rapidly changing world.

Key Highlights of the Visit

1. LPPKN's Role and Initiatives

Delegates were briefed on LPPKN's wide-ranging initiatives to promote family well-being, reproductive health, and sustainable population policies. These programmes reflect the agency's pivotal role in improving family life and health outcomes across Malaysia.

2. Visit to the Subfertility Clinic

The visit to LPPKN's Subfertility Clinic offered insight into services available for individuals and couples experiencing fertility issues. The clinic provides comprehensive diagnostic and treatment options for both men and women.

i. Key Services Include:

- **Subfertility Services:** Tailored support for both primary (never conceived) and secondary (previously conceived but unable to again) subfertility cases.
- **Men's Diagnostics:** Semen analysis, STI screening, and sperm retrieval techniques (TESA, PESA, MESA).
- **Women's Diagnostics:** Hormone profiling, HSG, STI screening, ultrasound, Pap smear, and ovulation assessment.
- **Fertility Treatments:** Intra-Uterine Insemination (IUI), In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF), and Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI).
- **Cryopreservation:** Sperm and embryo freezing for future use.
- **Affordable Pricing:** Services are offered at subsidised rates, e.g., semen analysis is RM25 for citizens and RM50 for non-citizens.

ii. Upcoming Development:

A National Subfertility Centre will be established in Shah Alam by 2029 at a cost of RM171 million. It will serve as a treatment centre, research hub, and training institution, with the aim to enhance national capacity to manage declining fertility rates and improve access to fertility care nationwide

3. Biomedical Laboratory and ROSE Programme

Delegates were introduced to the ROSE (Removing Obstacles to Cervical Screening) programme—an innovative self-sampling HPV test that enables women to screen for cervical cancer from home. Developed through a partnership between University Malaya and Australia's VCS Foundation, ROSE replaces traditional Pap smears with a private, digital-based method.

4. **Outcomes & Impact**

- Over 11,241 HPV cases detected to date.
- Particularly impactful among women in the B40 income group.
- Launched in 2019 by Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, with aims to reach 14,000 women through 49 LPPKN clinics nationwide.

Despite a 90% HPV vaccination rate among 13-year-old girls, Malaysia's cervical screening rate remains low at 12.8%, well below the WHO target of 70%. The ROSE programme aligns with Malaysia's commitments to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the WHO's call for expanded screening coverage.

5. **Full Paying Patient (FPP) Clinic**

Delegates visited the FPP Clinic, which offers personalised and specialised care, catering to those seeking advanced health services—part of LPPKN's effort to provide inclusive, tiered healthcare options.

6. **MamaCare Spa and Café**

The visit concluded with a tour of the MamaCare Spa and Café, which supports maternal health through wellness services and a welcoming space for mothers. The facility combines therapeutic spa services with community engagement in a supportive setting.

Ti-RATANA WELFARE SOCIETY



The AFPPD delegates together with Ti-Ratana Welfare Society

The delegates visited the **Ti-Ratana Welfare Society**, an organisation dedicated to provide welfare and care services to various vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Founded in 1997, Ti-Ratana is a non-profit organisation that plays a significant role in addressing the social welfare needs of communities across Malaysia.

Vision: the Ti-Ratana Welfare Society envisions a **compassionate society** where people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are treated with respect and dignity. Their focus is on fostering an inclusive community where the less fortunate can live with love, care, and support.

Mission: The society's mission is to **improve the quality of life** for those in need through a variety of services. These include providing:

- i. Care and shelter for children, women, and the elderly who require assistance.
- ii. Comprehensive support for individuals with disabilities, offering them the opportunity to live independently and with dignity.
- iii. Social and emotional support for families facing hardships, helping them to regain self-sufficiency and contribute to society.

Ti-Ratana strives to help create a more **equitable society** where every individual can experience **empowerment** and **better opportunities**, regardless of their circumstances. The organisation operates several facilities, including an **orphanage**, a **home for the elderly**, and a **community care centre**, among others. They focus

on **community-based support**, recognising the importance of families, local organisations, and volunteers in creating positive social change.

Key Services Offered:

1. **Child Welfare and Education:** Ti-Ratana provides a safe home and educational support for children, particularly orphans and those from underprivileged backgrounds.
2. **Elderly Care:** The society offers residential care for senior citizens, ensuring they have access to essential services, companionship, and dignity in their later years.
3. **Disability Services:** The society supports individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities, aiming to integrate them into society and provide them with opportunities for personal growth.
4. **Community Services:** Beyond direct care, Ti-Ratana also conducts outreach programmes to assist families and communities in need, including providing food, financial aid, and other resources.

The Ti-Ratana Welfare Society has earned a reputation for being an organisation that is deeply committed to **humanitarian values**, driven by compassion and a strong sense of social responsibility. They work towards the achievement of an **inclusive and sustainable society** where individuals and families can thrive, regardless of their circumstances



*The AFPPD delegates at the MyAgeing® Research Centre.
Front row from left is the UPM's Deputy Vice Chancellor, Hon. Howard Lee, &
Dr. Rahimah Ibrahim*

Delegates visited the **Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeing®)** at University Putra Malaysia (UPM), and gained insights into its crucial role in addressing the challenges of Malaysia's ageing population. The visit showcased the institute's research, policy engagement, and service development aimed at enhancing the quality of life for older persons.

Originally established in 2002 as the Institute of Gerontology, it was rebranded as **MyAgeing®** in 2015 to reflect a broader mission encompassing research, policy development, and service enhancement for elderly care.

- **Vision:** To become an international centre of excellence in ageing.
- **Mission:** To advance knowledge in gerontology through impactful research and innovation, supporting policies and services that improve the lives of older adults.

Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, Deputy Vice Chancellor of UPM, opened the session by highlighting the university's commitment to addressing ageing issues. He stressed the need for collaboration among academia, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to build a sustainable, age-friendly society. The UPM's approach integrates healthcare, technology, and social support to help older persons lead meaningful and independent lives.

Dr. Rahimah Ibrahim, Director of MyAgeing®, shared the institute's focus on interdisciplinary research areas such as (i) **Ageing and Health**, (ii) **Gerontechnology**, (iii) **Social Gerontology**, and (iv) **Elderly Empowerment**.

Collaborating with local and international stakeholders, MyAgeing® produces evidence-based solutions that inform policy and practice. MyAgeing® aims to expand its **training programmes**, strengthen **policy advocacy**, and advance **technological solutions** to support active and healthy ageing. The institute aligns its work with the **UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)** and contributes to Malaysia's strategic goals in this field.

Key Facilities and Functions:

1. **Gerontechnology and Medical Gerontology**
Advanced labs develop assistive technologies and health monitoring tools to support elderly care and independent living.
2. **Social Gerontology**
Research focuses on creating age-friendly communities and strengthening social support systems to reduce isolation and enhance engagement.
3. **Aged Care and Training**
The institute promotes high-quality aged care through professional caregiver training and advocacy for policy reform to enhance elderly welfare.

Annex I



The 15th General Assembly of AFPPD Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 27 April 2025

Agenda

Saturday 26 April	
Arrival of delegates	
Sunday 27 April	
09:00-10:30	AFPPD's 98 th ExCom (members of Executive Committee only) (Place: Crowne Plaza KLCC, Balau, 12F)
10:00-10:30	Registration of all delegates to attend AFPPD's 15 th General Assembly (Place: Crowne Plaza KLCC Mebau, 12F)
10.30–11:00	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>MC: Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Interim Executive Director of AFPPD</p> <p>Address [7 minutes each]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Pio Smith, Regional Director of UNFPA APRO (video message) ○ Hon. Yoko Kamiakwa, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD ○ H.E. Alexander Nanta Linggi, MP, Minister of Works of Malaysia, Chair of AFPPD Malaysia
11:00-11:20	Group Photo and Coffee Break
11.20- 11.50	<p>Part I: Overview of Implementation of AFPPD's Strategic plan 2023-25</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, MP Malaysia, Vice-Chair of AFPPD Malaysia</p> <p><i>Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director will make a presentation to share the process of implementation of AFPPD strategy for 2023-25. The member-states are invited to comment and share their insights on the document and suggest other key challenges that our region is facing which can be included in a new strategy (2026-2029) which will be drafted by end of 2025.</i></p> <p>Presentation [15 minutes]</p> <p>Q&A [15 mins]</p>
11:50 – 12.30	<p>Part II: Addresses by the member-states [10 mins each]</p> <p><i>The several member states, from the various sub-regions, are invited to briefly describe the country's report in addressing key population issues, including the AFPPD's three pillars.</i></p> <p>Chair: Hon. Mohammed Hatta Ramli, MP Malaysia</p> <p>Presentation [10 mins each]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Muini Mavsuma, Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Tajikistan (on GBV and women empowerment) ○ Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali, MP Nepal (on youth) ○ Mdm. Eralena Muslim Hasbullah, IFPPD Secretary, Indonesia (on ageing) ○ Hon. Catherine Wedd, MP New Zealand (on climate change)
12:30-13:30	Lunch (<i>Merchant Restaurant, 13F</i>)
13:30-14:40	<p>Part III: Partners' Session</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Ganbat Dashdondog, MP Mongolia</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Representative Malaysia / UNFPA Country Director Thailand [10 mins] ○ Mr. Gessen Rocas, Director for External Relations, International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR) IPPF [10 mins] ○ Mr. Yi Chanprasnar, Executive Director, Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) [10 mins] ○ Mr. Dakshitha Wickremarathne, Senior Technical Lead, Advocacy, Accountability and Partnerships Asia-Pacific Regional Hub - FP2030 ○ Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo, MP Ghana, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment of Ghana, President of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) - video message [5 mins] ○ Dr. Mohammad Ali Hasan Ali, Member of Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain, Member of AFPPD (Video message) [5 mins] <p>Q&A [20 mins]</p>
14:40-15:00	Coffee-break
15:00-16:30	<p>Part IV: AFPPD Session</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Yoko Kamikawa, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting for location of Secretariat ○ Election of AFPPD Office Bearers ○ Proposed AFPPD Standing Committees
16.30 – 16.45	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair of AFPPD ○ Hon. Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia, Secretary General of AFPPD Malaysia
17:00-18:00	AFPPD 99 th ExCom (members of Executive Committee only) (Place: Balau , 12F)
20:00-21:30	Official Reception hosted by AFPPD Malaysia (Place: Crowne Plaza KLCC, Mebau Hall , 12F)
Monday 28 April	Study Visit
08:40-09:00	Meeting at Lobby
09:00-09:15	Travel to the National Population and Family Development Board
09:15-10:45	Briefing at National Population and Family Development Board
10:45-11:15	Travel to the Ti-Ratana Welfare Society, Desa Petaling, Kuala Lumpur
11:15-12:15	Briefing at the Ti-Ratana Welfare Society
12:15-12:45	Travel to Restaurant
12:45-14:00	Lunch at Restaurant (Location: De Wan Restaurant)
14:00-14:20	Travel to Malaysia Research Institute on Ageing (My Ageing) (UNFPA supported)
14:20-15:20	Briefing at Malaysia Research Institute on Ageing (My Ageing) (UNFPA Supported)
15:20-	Travel back to Crowne Plaza KLCC and free time
16:00	Arrival at Crowne Plaza KLCC
Tuesday 29 April	Departure of delegates

Organised by:

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Hosted by:

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) Malaysia

Supported by:

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Japan Trust Fund (JTF)

Annex II

List of Participants

AFPPD 15th GA Participants' List			
<i>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 27-28, 2025</i>			
No	Name	Country	Position
1	Hon. Wangdi	Bhutan	MP
2	Hon. Lork Kheng	Cambodia	MP, Vice-Chair of AFPPD
3	Ms. Mith Chanlinda	Cambodia	Parliamentary Officer
4	Hon. Li Bin	China	MP, Vice-Chair of AFPPD
5	Mr. He Tuo	China	Deputy Director of the General Administrative Office, the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, NPC
6	Mr. Sun Lei	China	Director-General of the Culture Office, the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, NPC
7	Mr. Bing Feng	China	Deputy Director of the Population and Public Health Office, the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, NPC
8	Ms. Cui Yue	China	Principal Staff Member of the Education Office, the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, NPC
9	Hon. Kamikawa Yoko	Japan	MP, Chair of AFPPD
10	Mr. Nishitani Kosuke	Japan	Secretariat Officer
11	Mr. Yoshino Hideki	Japan	
video	Hon. Takemi Keizo	Japan	MP
12	Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah	Indonesia	Secretary to IFPPD
13	Mr. Samidjo	Indonesia	IFPPD
14	Hon. Behnam Saeedi	Iran	MP
15	Mr. Ahmad Reza Daneshkhoh	Iran	Embassy
16	Hon. Stambekov Yerlan	Kazakhstan	MP
17	Mr. Hyunseok Lee	Korea	Parliamentary Officer
18	Hon. Dr. Kolakanh Phommvong	Lao PDR	MP
19	Hon. Ali Fazad	Maldives	MP
20	Hon. Ganbat Dashdondog	Mongolia	MP
21	Mr. Urtnasan Enkhtuvshin	Mongolia	Officer
22	Hon. Bhagabati Neupane	Nepal	MP
23	Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali	Nepal	MP
24	Hon. Catherine Wedd	New Zealand	MP
25	Hon. Sahibzada Sibghatullah	Pakistan	MP
26	Ms. Nenita Dalde	Philippines	PLCPD officer
27	H.E. Richard Masere	PNG	Minister for Administrative Services/Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Constitutional Matters
28	Mr. Vikash Pravind Singh	PNG	Consultant to the Minister
29	Hon. Hector Appuhamy	Sri Lanka	MP
30	Hon. Muini Mavsuma	Tajikistan	Deputy Speaker
31	Ms. Nazrullozoda Manzura	Tajikistan	Parliamentary officer/interpreter
32	Hon. Prapon Tangsrikertikul	Thailand	MP
33	Hon. Aliança da Conceição Araújo	Timor Leste	MP

34	Hon. Cedelizia Faria dos Santos	Timor Leste	MP
35	Ms. Natália Maria Bere	Timor Leste	Officer
36	Hon. Lord Tu'ivakano	Tonga	MP
37	Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai	Vietnam	MP
38	Mr. To Khuong Duy	Vietnam	Parliamentary officer
Malaysia			
39	H.E. Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi	Malaysia	Chair of AFPPD Malaysia, Minister of Work
40	Hon. Dr. Noraini Ahmad	Malaysia	Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia, Secretary General of AFPPD Malaysia
41	Hon. Howard Lee How Chuan	Malaysia	Vice-chair of AFPPD Malaysia
42	Hon. Dr. Halimah Ali	Malaysia	MP
43	Hon. Muhammad Islahuddin bin Abas	Malaysia	MP
44	Hon. Dato' Mohd Isam bin Mohd Isa	Malaysia	MP
45	Hon. Datuk Willie Anak Mongin	Malaysia	MP
46	Hon. Chiew Choon Mann	Malaysia	MP
47	Hon. Dr. Mohamed Taufik bin Johari	Malaysia	MP
48	Mr. Azri Norfikri	Malaysia	Parliamentary officer
49	Mr. Mohsin bin Abdul Malek	Malaysia	Secretariat
50	Mrs. Che Humirusnida Binti Che Hussin	Malaysia	Secretariat
51	Mr. Mohd Azhari Bin Ismail	Malaysia	Secretariat
Embassy			
52	H.E. Shikata Noriyuki	Japan	Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia
53	Mr. Uno Wao	Japan	First Secretary, Health, Labour & Welfare Attache Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
Partners			
video	Mr. Pio Smith	UNFPA	Regional Director, Asia and Pacific Regional Office (APRO)
54	Dr. Julitta Onabanjo	UNFPA	UNFPA Representative Malaysia / UNFPA Country Director Thailand
55	Mr. Gessen Rocas	IPPF	Director for External Relations, IPPF East and South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEOR)
56	Mr. Dakshitha Wickremarathne	FP2030	Senior Technical Lead, Advocacy, Accountability and Partnerships Asia-Pacific Regional Hub, FP2030
57	Dr. Jameel Zamir	FP2030	Regional Lead - Country Engagement, Asia and the Pacific Regional Hub, FP2030
58	Mr. Yi Chanprasnar	PCAsia	Executive Director, Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia)
video	Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo	FPA	MP Ghana, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment of Ghana, President of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA)
video	Dr. Mohammad Ali Hasan Ali	FAPPD	Member of Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain, Member of FAPPD
AFPPD & APDA Secretariat			
59	Dr. Ikegami Kiyoko	Japan	Secretary General of APDA
60	Dr. Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Executive Director of AFPPD
61	Ms. Fuke Mio	Japan	APDA