

ELEVENTH ASIAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Tokyo Japan  
14-15 March 1995

Asian Population and Development Association  
(APDA)



# THE 11TH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## Contents

Program .....	4
---------------	---

### Opening Ceremony

Opening Address	Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda .....	8
Address	Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P. ....	10
Address	Hon. Mr. Zhao Dongwan, M.P. ....	12
Address	Dr. Nafis Sadik .....	14
	Read on her behalf by Dr. Hirofumi Ando	
Address	H.E. Ms. Takako Doi, M.P. ....	16
Keynote Lecture " Population and Food "	.....	17
	H.E. Mr. Takeo Fukuda Read on his behalf by Hon. Mr. Michihiko Kano, M.P.	

## SESSION STUDY ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### (1) Report of Population and Development Activities

1. "International Conference of Asian Parliamentarians on Environment and Sustainable Development in Malaysia"	
Report Submitted by Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Ali , M.P. ....	24
2. "International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD)" and "International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD)"	
by Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P. ....	26

3. "The Present Situation of African Continent on Population and Development 1"	
by Hon. Mr. Lavu Mulimba, M.P. ....	29
4. "The Present Situation of African Continent on Population and Development 2"	
by Hon. Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, M.P. ....	32
5. "Urbanization and Development in Thailand"	
by Dr. Toshio Kuroda ....	34
Round Table Discussion .....	40
6. "Basic Survey on Agricultural and Rural Development by Progress Stage in Asian Countries - India - "	
by Dr. Shigeto Kawano .....	42

## SESSION WOMEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -

Female Labor Participation and Economic Development

- Strategy for 21st Century -

Japan	Hon. Ms. Tamako Nakanishi, M.P. ....	52
Australia	Hon. Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P. ....	56
Bangladesh	Hon. Mr. Shajahan Siraj, M.P. ....	59
China	Hon. Dr. Hao Yichun, M.P. ....	61
India	Hon. Ms. Chandra Prabha Urs, M.P. ....	63
Indonesia	Hon. Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, M.P. ....	67
Korea	Hon. Ms. Sun-Young Kang, M.P. ....	77
Malaysia	Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Ali, M.P. Paper submitted .....	80
Nepal	Hon. Ms. Kamala Devi Pant, M.P. ....	86
New Zealand	Hon. Ms. Jill White, M.P. ....	88
Singapore	Hon. Ms. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, M.P. ....	93
Syria	Hon. Dr. Mohammad Ghassan Tayara, M.P.....	96
Thailand	Hon. Ms. Ladawan Wongsriwong, M.P.....	98
Vietnam	Hon. Ms. Nguyen Thi Than, M.P.....	100
Discussion .....		104



## CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Address	Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda .....	115
Address	Hon.Sen. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn .....	116
Address	Mr. V. T. Palan .....	117

## Appendixes

### Statement and Declaration of International Conference (Meeting) of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

1. Cairo Declaration of International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development .....	120
2. Kuala Lumpur Statement of International Conference of Asian Parliamentarians on Environment and Sustainable Development .....	124
3. Copenhagen Statement of International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development .....	126
List of Participant .....	128

## Program

### **Mar. 14 (Tue)**

10:00-11:00 Opening Ceremony

<at Katsura>

- Opening Address

Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda

Chairman of Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

- Address

Mr. Shin Sakurai

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

- Address

Mr. Zhao Dongwan

Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, the National People's Congress of China

Address

Dr. Hirofumi Ando

Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA

11:00-11:15 Keynote Lecture " Population and Food "

H.E. Mr. Takeo Fukuda

Read on his behalf by Mr. Michihiko Kano,

Former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Senior Vice Chairman, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

12:00-13:30 Luncheon hosted by JPFP

<at Katsura>

[14:00-16:30] SESSION I STUDY ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

<at Katsura>

Slide presentation

"New Horizons for the Women of Asia"

#### Report of Population and Development Activities

1. "International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD)" and "International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD)" by Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Steering Committee and Secretary General ICPPD and IMPPSD

2. "The Present Situation of African Continent on Population and Development"

by Mr. Lavu Mulimba, Member of Parliament of Zambia and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, Member of Parliament of Zimbabwe and Secretary General of the Steering Committee of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

15:15-15:30 <Coffee Break>

3. "Urbanization and Development in Thailand"

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

(Round Table Discussion for 15 minutes)

4. "Basic Survey on Agricultural and Rural Development by Progress Stage in Asian Countries - India - "

by Dr. Shigeto Kawano, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

(Round Table Discussion for 15 minutes)

17:30-19:00 Reception hosted by H.E. Ms. Takako Doi, Speaker of House of Representatives  
<Official Residence>

**Mar. 15 (Thu)**

<at Katsura>

[9:00-11:30] SESSION II

"Women in the 21st Century - Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -"  
Female Labor Participation and Economic Development - Strategy for 21st Century -

Japan  
Australia  
Bangladesh  
China  
India  
Indonesia  
Korea

Ms. Tamako Nakanishi, M.P.  
Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P.  
Mr. Sajahan Siraj, M.P.  
Dr. Hao Yichun, M.P.  
Ms. Chandra Prabha Urs, M.P.  
Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, M.P.  
Ms. Sun-Young Kang, M.P.

10:15-10:30 <Coffee Break>

Nepal  
New Zealand  
Singapore

Ms. Kamala Devi Pant, M.P.  
Ms. Jill White, M.P.  
Ms. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, M.P.

12:00-13:30 Luncheon hosted by Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of AFPPD  
<at Kaede>

[14:00-16:00] SESSION III

Syria  
Thailand  
Vietnam

Dr. Mohammad Ghassan Tayara, M.P.  
Ms. Ladawan Wongsriwong, M.P.  
Ms. Nguyen Thi Than, M.P.

Discussion

15:30-16:00 <Coffee Break>

16:00-16:20 CLOSING CEREMONY <at Katsura>

Closing Remarks

- Address

Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA

Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn

Secretary General, AFPPD

Mr. V. T. Palan

Regional Director, East and South East Asia and Oceania Region,  
IPPF

18:00-20:00 Reception hosted by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA  
<at Mai>

## **Opening Ceremony**

(10:00~11:00 Mar. 14, 1995)

## **THE 11TH ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Opening Address  
by  
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
Chairman,  
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

On behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association I would like to heartily welcome and thank Mr. Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the AFPPD; distinguished parliamentarians, including our guests from Zimbabwe and Zambia who are here for the first time; Dr. Hirofumi Ando, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund; and Mr. V. T. Palan, Regional Director of the East and South East Asia and Oceania Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. We are now in the midst of the greatest crisis mankind has ever experienced the threat of a population explosion. Last September two international conferences were held: the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Population and Development. This year in September the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing, China.

The two conferences in Cairo focused on women and addressed the need to raise the status of women, promote women's education and women's health. The Cairo Declaration and the Action Program were adopted in order to realize the objectives.

The Asian Population and Development Association has been addressing the theme of women ahead of the Cairo Conference. In fact we have taken up the theme since the 10th APDA Meeting. The common theme was "Women in the 21st century--strategy for peace and prosperity". In its second year we have added a subtheme: "women's participation in labor and economic development--a strategy for the 21st century". I am confident that you will, as you did last year, have an active discussion with women members of parliaments playing a central role. Incidentally, the slide presentation this afternoon also features the important theme of "women".

Asia today accounts for approximately sixty per cent of world population. It is, therefore, not an exaggeration to say that the prospect of population in Asia will greatly affect the population problem of the whole world. Compared to population and family planning situation in other regions, fertility and mortality have been declining in Asia. This does not, however, give us reasons to be complacent. There are many regions where family planning and health services are not adequate. The increase of population in some regions has reduced the fertility of farming lands which has resulted in declining agricultural production.

Concentration of population in cities have created urban slums, thereby worsening the living conditions. A comprehensive approach including population, development and environmental protection is needed to resolve these problems.

On the other hand, according to the recent survey conducted by the World Bank, the economic development of the Asian region, particularly in East and South East Asia, is

so rapid that it has earned a highly commended name, "East Asian miracle". I have heard that a study is now underway to transfer the East Asian miracle to Africa as a model economic development.

The cooperation in the fields of population and family planning that the government of Japan has been extending in Thailand and Indonesia has been so successful that it has now become a model for neighboring countries. In fact the projects which now take a form of South-South cooperation are receiving attention as a new form of international cooperation.

During the session Professors Kawano and Kuroda will be making reports on the survey conducted in India and Thailand with the kind cooperation of the Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in the two countries.

APDA is thirteen years old this year, but our strength is still modest. We are, however, committed to doing our utmost towards the resolution of population and development problems in Asia and we count on you for your continued guidance and greater support.

As I conclude my address, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, as well as governments and research institutes and experts, for your understanding and cooperation. I hope this conference will prove fruitful for us all. Thank you.

Address  
by  
Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P.  
Chairman,  
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

Distinguished representatives, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director Hirofumi Ando, IPPF Regional Director of East, South East and Oceania Region Mr. V. T. Plan, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you very cordially for attending today's meeting. I should also like to thank Chairman Fukusaburo Maeda and Executive Director and Secretary General Tsuguo Hirose of the Asian Population and Development Association for hosting this meeting as well as their constant support of AFPPD activities.

In the past year, there has been a series of United Nations inter-governmental conferences having deep relations with issues of population and development. Last September, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt set the framework for basic policies on population and development for the next twenty years. This March the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) was convened in Copenhagen, Denmark. There will be the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China September this year.

Coincident with these UN conferences, we convened our own conferences on population and development under the initiative of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians. We also plan to convene one on population and women who are central to the whole issue of population with the cooperation of parliamentary associations on population and development in each region.

These conferences could not have been held without the enthusiastic cooperation of the members of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians as well as the United Nations Population Fund and Asian Population and Development Association, the host organization of this conference. I wish to take this opportunity to very warmly express our gratitude to all who are concerned.

Those of you assembled here know well that there were no less than 270 members of parliament from 107 countries in Cairo who engaged in earnest deliberations. International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) which was held in Cairo conference adopted the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development which reflected clear views of Asia, Africa and Central and South Americas and as a manifestation of the consensus and pledge of commitment of participating parliamentarians around the world on population and development issues. Also in Copenhagen we focused on social development which is essential to the resolution of population issues and translated the Cairo declaration in concrete terms.

At present there is a rising momentum around had an International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD). This meeting was the world for parliamentarians to actively involve themselves on population and development issues. This is an important outcome of a series of parliamentarians meetings on population and development. Building on this momentum, we must forge a powerful force by pulling together the commitment of parliamentarians on population and development.



These results are fruits that grow on a tree which the Honorable Fukuda planted and which the first Chairman of AFPPD and the former Chairman of APDA the late Honorable Takashi Sato and the late Secretary General of AFPPD, Honorable Sat Paul Mittal and others before us have nursed with such loving care.

One of the concrete outcomes of these conferences is the revitalization of parliamentary activities on population and development in Africa. Mr. Lavu Mulimba, Chairman, and Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, Secretary General, of the Steering Committee of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AMECPPD), who are present here today, are the center of the activities. I believe that in the future there will be substantial increase of exchange with parliamentary activities in Asia which will further open up possibilities for mutual cooperation. Needless to say, issues of population and development cannot be resolved by just holding conferences. However, conferences play a significant part if through them democratically elected representatives of the people recognize the importance of population and development issues and reach common understanding. As legislators, if we fail to make a clear impact on setting the direction of policies at the national level with the backing of the people, we cannot hope to resolve the twin issues crucial to the future of humankind.

There are numerous challenges before us parliamentarians. A look at the reality reminds us that there is no time for us to hate each other but we continue to spend large funds for military preparedness.

Funds which can be used to solve population and development issues to realize happiness of humankind are now wasted on conflicts. As parliamentarians, we must make powerful representations to governments to implement the choice for the future. To ensure that wrong choice will not be made, we must appeal to both governments and people, and work hand in hand to implement effective activities for the future. The mandate and mission of us parliamentarians is, with our eyes set on the future, to build a society where our children and theirs can live in dignity. Let us work together hand in hand.

This September there will be the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. Improvement of women's status is deeply related to the resolution of population problems. We in Asian Forum of Parliamentarians will be involved in the conference with Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, the Chairperson of Women's Committee and Vice Chairwomen of AFPPD Dr. Hao Yichun. I believe the main theme of the 11th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development this time is Women and Labor. This is certainly a common theme running through discussions at the conferences on population, social development and women's issues which have held in the last one year. I am convinced that your deliberation will be reflected at the Women's Conference in September.

Understand the issue and make the difference. In this sense this year will mark an important milestone as the year in which a new step is taken towards securing the future. In order to ensure a promising future we must continue to be involved in population and development issues with accountability. Our responsibility to make the future of our children brighter will only increase, not decrease. Let us continue to walk together towards a new Action.

Let me sincerely pray for the success of the conference as I conclude my address.

Thank you for your attention.

Address  
by  
Hon. Mr. Zhao Dongwan, M.P.  
Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee, National  
People's Congress of People's Republic of China

Respected Mr. Chairman,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and gentleman,

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) has come a long way in its endeavor to promote exchange and cooperation among the parliamentarians in Asian countries, and to address global issues pertaining population and development since its founding in 1982. I wish take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the ESCPH Committee of National People's Congress of China, deep respect to APDA, and AFPPD, UNFPA, IPPF, and other related organizations for their support to the program of population and development in Asian countries, and, in particular, in China.

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development hold in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, adopted the Program of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development, which represents a guidance paper for the international cooperation in the field of global population and development, and has a major bearing on the world population and development in the coming 20 years.

Population and development stand out as issues that have always arose the general concern of Asian Parliamentarians. It is gratifying to note that the tendency of faster population growth in many Asian countries have been curbed in recent decade, thus alleviating, to some degree, the pressure of a huge population on socio-economic development. In pursuing its population policy, China has all along seen to it that such a policy be compatible not only to its social and economic development, but also to the utilization of its resources and protection of environment.

Since China gradually pushed ahead with its family planning program in 1970s, great achievements have been registered. The crude birth rate dropped to 17.70 per thousand in 1994 from 33.43 per thousand in 1970. The total population in the main land of China had reached 1.2 billion by the February 1995. If we did not implement a family planning program in China, the total population of China would have reached, in terms of the fertility level in 1970s, 1.5 billion in stead of 1.2 billion. The past two decades have witnessed the decrease of a population of some 300 million thanks to the family planning program. This has alleviated, to some degree, the contradictions flowing from the incompatibility between faster population growth and socio-economic development, thus playing an important role in promoting China's modernization efforts, in improving people's livelihood and the quality of nationalities of the whole nation.

We are always of the view that the population issue is, in essence, a question of development. The fundamental solution lies in a persistent effort in vigorously developing productive forces, combating poverty, protecting environment and resources, improving social safeguards system, promoting greater access to education by all people, developing human resources, and providing comprehensive measures in such aspects as maternal and infant health care and family planning. It is imperative that each country decide, on its own, its population policy and target, and the measure to this end in accordance to its own national conditions, and enter into intensified cooperation on such a basis.

Mr. Chairman, it is essential that the current session be focused on discussing the question of female labor participation and economic development. The improvement of women's status, the guarantee of their legitimate rights and interests, and the promotion of female labor participation represent not only important means to further social progress, but also measures to help reducing fertility rate and solve the population problem. Efforts should be channeled towards provision of knowledge, skill, and self-confidence necessary to enable women to participate fully in the social and economic development process, alleviation of their heavy burden in housework, and removal of obstacles to their participation in public life so as to ensure that women be able to become active decision makers, participants and beneficiaries in education, health, science and technology, sports, and in all other cultural and economic activities.

Like many other developing countries in Asia, China is confronted with the problem of incompatibility between population growth and socio-economic development. China attaches major importance to establishing friendly and cooperative relations with all other Asian Countries. I hope that the current meeting will enable us to enter into extensive exchanges and cooperation on population and development issues, particularly on female labor participation and economic development. As Parliamentarians, we are now shouldering the noble mission on population and development. I am convinced that parliamentary organization will play a more important role on such a question. The Chinese delegation stands ready to join your efforts to ensure that the meeting be crowned with success. The Forth World Women Conference is to be hold in Beijing in September this year. This is a grand gathering aimed at improving women's status and role, safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests, and jointly exploring ways to solve world women issues. You are all welcome to participate the conference in Beijing, and I am looking forward to meeting you again in Beijing.

I wish the 11th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development a success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all.

Address  
by  
Dr. Nafis Sadik  
Executive Director,  
United Nations Population Fund

delivered by  
Dr. Hirofumi Ando  
Deputy Executive Director

Distinguished Parliamentarians,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

This eleventh meeting comes at a unique moment in time. For one, your deliberations will form part of the important follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo last September. Secondly, as a direct result of ICPD, the entire population field is undergoing a major transformation, marked by a new thinking and the participation of actors who represent the entire spectrum of civil society. Finally, the international community is in the process of forging a new development agenda, inspired by an initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "Agenda for Development". This process is being shaped by the consensus of Rio, Cairo and Copenhagen and marks a turning point in development cooperation.

I would like to commend the Asian Population and Development Association for providing us with an opportunity here to reflect on these emerging issues and to chart an effective course of action. Parliamentarians from this region have long been in the vanguard of efforts to address the population and development challenge. Your long tradition of involvement with these issues makes your contribution to the Cairo process invaluable.

Your agenda for the next two days is comprehensive and intense, so I will be very brief in my remarks. I would only like to emphasize two points. The Program of Action, that was adopted at the ICPD, has been widely praised for its holistic approach to development: it recognizes the importance of macro-economic issues and strategies, yet it places human beings firmly at the center of population and development activities. Thus, macro-economic concerns are no longer viewed in isolation from the human dimension. Rather, all factors must be studied and addressed in their interaction. One example is the critical connection between food production and population trends, especially rapid population growth, which will be the theme of the important keynote address today.

In dealing with such challenges, the ICPD Program of Action argues that investments into individual well-being and productivity are the most effective strategy to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In Cairo, the international community thereby acknowledged that investing in people, their health and education, is the real basis for development.

In changing our focus towards this holistic, human-oriented approach to development, the ICPD Program of Action also stresses the critical role of women in the process. It says that there can be no sustainable human development, nor any successful population program, without the full and equal participation of women. Perhaps the biggest achievement of the Cairo Conference is indeed this recognition of the need to redress gender disparities and to empower women. I am therefore very pleased to see that your

meeting will devote considerable time to review and discuss the situation and future role of women in Asia. And I hope reproductive health and family planning issues will receive full attention in your debate.

These promising new trends and efforts in international development cannot succeed without financial support. We have to commit ourselves to making the necessary investments, as exemplified by the ICPD Program of Action. This goal received further support at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the preceding International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD). The Meeting was organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. Both events urged countries to fulfill the agreed target of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP to Official Development Assistance.

The Parliamentarians' Meeting also affirmed (and I quote) "the need to re-orient national budgets and national priorities to address the basic needs of people" and called the 20/20 concept for social expenditures "a useful concept in the fight against poverty and in development cooperation". UNFPA is among five United Nations organizations which have joined forces to promote the 20/20 concept for social development.

In closing, I would like to appeal to you that as you have done in the past, especially in Japan, you, as parliamentarians, continue to play a critical role in mobilizing the political will and the resources needed to achieve the central goal of the ICPD Program of Action: to improve the quality of life of present and future generations. You are the link between the people and the government; you translate the needs of your constituents into policy. Now you can also help governments set the right priorities and formulate the programs we need to achieve sustainable human development.

I wish you every success in this meeting. Thank you.

Address  
by  
H.E. Ms. Takako Doi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Diet of Japan

I would like to express my cordial welcome to those of you representing the parliamentarians from respective countries and to the representatives from international organizations such as United Nations Population Fund and International Planned Parenthood Federation that have visited Japan to take part in the 11th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, and to the Asian Population and Development Association staff and experts.

As the 21st Century draws near, the issue of population and development, which encompasses problems related to food, energy and environment, is an extremely important matter that must be addressed on a global scale. Furthermore, as the world population is projected to reach 10 billion by the year 2050, it is an issue that must be solved urgently through cooperation between developed and underdeveloped countries for the sake of our posterity, and for the sake of peace and prosperity for the mankind.

Those of you who have assembled here today have been working for many years on the issue of population, playing a leading role in their respective countries and regions, and accomplishing tremendous results. You have also been focusing actively on the role played by women in the population issue, and I think it is very significant that you are holding your studies and discussions at the present meeting on the topic of "Female Labor Force Participation and Economic Development."

We in Japan are deeply aware of the urgency and importance of the issue of population and development, and we intend to continue our efforts in this regard through active participation in international cooperation.

Although the season is a bit too early for cherry blossoms, I would like to conclude my welcoming speech by expressing my heartfelt wish that you will be able to relax and enjoy an evening in spring as much as your time allows, and that this conference will be active and fruitful, and achieve its objectives to the full extent.

Keynote Lecture

*Population and Food*

by

**H.E. Mr. Takeo Fukuda**

Former Prime Minister of Japan  
Honorary Chairman of the InterAction Council  
President of the Council,  
Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development  
(GCPPD)

Read on his behalf by

**Hon. Mr. Michihiko Kano, M.P.**

Former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Former Minister of State, Director-General of Management and Coordination Agency  
Senior Vice Chairman, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

Keynote Lecture  
by  
H.E. Mr. Takeo Fukuda

Read on his behalf by Hon. Mr. Michihiko Kano

1. Introduction

My dear friends,

I am most honored to be given the opportunity to speak to you today on the theme of population and food supply.

Parliamentarians have been quite active in the last two years in the fields of population and development. The International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) was organized last September in Egypt where no less than two hundred seventy (270) legislators assembled in Cairo from hundred and seven (107) countries to earnestly address the important issues. Indeed it was the first time in history that a conference on population and development had taken place at such a large scale. Another International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD) took place on the eve of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Denmark where issues concerning social development needed to resolve population problems were discussed.

Parliamentarians of Asia played an important role in organizing these meetings. I believe that the declaration which was adopted fully contains opinions of Asia, Africa and Central and South Americas. As one who has been appealing to the world of the essential role of parliamentarians in resolving population and development problems, I take this opportunity to express to you my most profound respects and gratitude for what you have done.

It is a source of great happiness that through a series of parliamentary activities, cross-border cooperation has been reactivated so that parliamentary involvement in population has been translated today to a global commitment. I have been consistent in saying that the population problem is not a national or regional issue but a human problem. I have not said this out of idealism but from a sense of urgency that if we make a wrong choice today, we will fail to survive collectively.

I believe that population and development issues have reached an important milestone today. A series of United Nations conferences, vital to our continued survival, has been held on environment and development (UNCED), population and development (ICPD) and social development (WSSD). On the most basic issue of ensuring ecological balance, the UNCED meeting adopted the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

On population and development which are the most important issues for our future, the Action Program was finally adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held last September, overcoming the initial opposition from the Vatican and the Islamic world, as an international agreement effective up to 2015 and establishing the basis of population policies to be adopted by governments.

On social development which is essential to the resolution of population issues, the World Summit was held recently in Copenhagen, Denmark assembling together heads of state and government where action program for social development was adopted. Later this year in September, there will be the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China focusing on women who are the main entities with regard to the population issues.



This indicates the rising sense of crisis shared by the international community and the challenge faced by humankind to make the necessary choice on our future and that of our planet. In this context, we are standing at a historical turning point. We must undertake wise and bold reform of our consciousness for the future of mankind from a global perspective and not from our shortsightedness.

## 2. On environment

I would now like to refer to the issues of population and environment and food production which are keys to our survival. Accompanying the growth of population, the degradation of the environment is progressing at an alarming rate. Simply put, environmental destruction is a product of human activities. It increases in proportion to an increase in population. Under such circumstances, technological innovation and the way we conduct our activities, in other words, by our own choice we can effect the impact on global environment.

Granted that there are differences in degrees, human activities affect our environment. One can almost say that as long as population continues to expand rapidly, there can be no solution to the environmental problems. The curtailment of the increase in population is the key to the resolution of environmental problems.

## 3. On population and food

I would now like to discuss the food issue which is the main topic of my address today. As the old saying goes: "Only when men are well fed and clothed, does he learn to be courteous", food is essential for the life of us humans.

The present and future prospects of food, however, is under a huge and difficult pressure from the explosive growth of the population. It is estimated that the world population will reach 5,741,560,000 by mid 1995. In February this year the Chinese population exceeded the 1.2 billion mark. The number is equivalent to the whole of the world's population of the late 19th century. This is to say that today China alone contains the same number of people on the entire globe in the late 19th century. Every year ninety-five million people are added to the population on our planet.

The alarming rate of growth will make the world's population 6.2 billion by year 2000 and 8.5 billion by 2025, and ten billion by 2050. Can our planet continue to feed this scale of population? In one estimate the amount of food that we can produce will support 8.5 billion people. If this is true, then in a matter of thirty years we will not be able to feed all the people living on our planet.

According to Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University, there is enough food for 2.5 billion people if they are to be fed "sufficiently and healthily." Under conditions we have today the rest of the people will not have access to food they need.

At present it is only the one billion people in certain rich countries who eat excess amount of meat, eggs and dairy products. In contrast the world's poorest billion people suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Of this very unfortunate people 400 million are barely surviving on the famine line. Since parents are only able to barely survive, babies born to them suffer greater misery. In fact most die within one month of their birth. This is the cause why the decline of infant mortality rate is difficult in the Least among Less Developed Countries (LLDC).

Can we then produce enough increase food production to sustain the growing population? What are the actual circumstances of food production expected to support the growing population? Food production, mainly grain including rice, wheat and maize, has seen dramatic improvement in agricultural technology through the green revolution of 1960s and 70s. In the plains of Punjab in India and China and the great plains of America which are the world's granary, a rapid increase in production was achieved through the adoption of high yield varieties, a large input of fertilizer and improved irrigation. The production increase due to the green revolution, however, is beginning to taper off. Because of the loss of soil, depletion of underground water and salt pollution we cannot expect an increase of harvest in the future. In terms of per capita production of grains, the peak year was 1984 after which it has been declining.

According to Lester Brown, Director of Worldwatch, every year the world loses 26 billion tons of surface soil which is the equivalent to that which covers Australia's wheat belt. But the world needs to produce an additional amount of food to feed 95 million people added every year. The world's grain production, however, will increase at a small level of 0.9 per cent annually. There is cause for chilling concern when this is put against the 2 per cent annual growth of the world's population.

This is not limited only to grain production. Marine resources which are important sources of protein, has peaked in 1989 when the per capital production registered 19 kilograms. It has been declining since due to excessive catching and marine pollution. By year 2030 it is expected to decrease to 11 kilograms per head, which was the level of 1950. According to the survey conducted by and released from the University of British Columbia, Canadian Pacific salmon, considered hitherto as an unlimited resource is feared to deplete so that the quota of salmon catch must be reduced to one fifth of the present. While demand continues to increase, we cannot expect the same of supply.

With regard to meat, the situation is worse. There is already excessive grazing in order to cope with the rapidly increasing demand for meat. Further increase in production is considered difficult. Furthermore, grazing land for meat production is decreasing and turning to desert due to rapid population increase. In sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, poverty and over-grazing are destroying what little vegetation there is in an irreversible manner. Further desertification expands poverty in a never ending vicious cycle.

In addition, production of meat requires substantial amount of plant resources. For example, seven kilograms of grain is required for the production of one kilogram of beef and four kilograms of grain for one kilogram of pork. As national economies are opened in many countries, incomes rise and with it the demand for meat. This means, as a result of increased production of meat the world's poor is being deprived of their food. How should we deal with this very serious situation?

#### 4. The present economic system

Food producing countries, particularly the developing countries, are now inviting foreign capital with the objective of achieving rapid economic growth. Japan has also become rich through industrialization. On the other hand, our domestic food production has declined to about thirty per cent in self-sufficiency. In this sense Japan is an extreme case of food deficit country. If we should also lose self-sufficiency in the production of rice, when would the decline in food sufficiency stop? Today Japan is buying food to complement what it produces domestically and paying for it with money earned by selling industrial goods.

Under the present economic system the method appears to be extremely efficient. Perhaps there was no other choice for a country like Japan which has very limited land area for cultivation. What would happen if all regions pursued industrialization and as a result produced only industrial products? Industrialization alone cannot be a substitute for food production.

The most populated country China is today opening up its economy and pursuing a rapid industrialization. The result is a high economic growth that commands the attention of the world. If the present rate of economic and population growth continues, by year 2015, required Chinese food import is expected to be greater than the present volume of food exported around the world.

Furthermore, India which is achieving food sufficiency today and supporting the world's second largest population of 935.74 million, is expected to add another 520 million people by year 2030 to reach a total of 1,455,080,000. With every effort to keep food production up with the population increase, it is extremely doubtful whether it can continue to feed its own people as it does today.

Under the circumstances what will happen in the future as all countries industrialize and earn enough money but find no food available to buy? There is a need to seriously study the present economic system and make each nation accountable for its own population and food problems.

#### 5. On concrete measures

What choices do we have given the present circumstances with regard to food and population? At the risk of repeating what has been said before, we must curtail population growth as much as it is reasonably possible. For this purpose family planning, education and public health must be disseminated all at the same time.

We must develop and disseminate technology that will have little load on the environment. We must also develop new agricultural technology while promoting organic farming and building social consensus for sharing the cost of such cyclical and sustainable methods of production. Furthermore, we must create a social environment which encourages food producers to produce.

People in developed societies in particular must change their lifestyle and habits of excessive consumption which is absolutely necessary to reduce load on the environment. The issues of population and food can only be resolved when both developed and developing countries address them with seriousness.

Furthermore it is necessary to ensure social stability essential to the social environment which encourages our collective commitment to solving the common issues before us. It must be pointed out that in spite of the end of the cold war there are social conflicts and instability throughout the world. Chronic state of poverty and ethnic conflicts result in social uncertainty which in turn becomes a cause of new instability which forces us to spend enormous amount of resources.

Our hate of each other makes us fight wars which worsen the state of poverty in the world and make us waste resources which should be used to better our future. But we do not really have the luxury to quarrel. If only we can divert resources to resolving the issues of population, environment and food production, we can, with reasons, be hopeful in finding answers to these pressing problems.

#### 6. In concluding

Issues of population, environment and food may come to an abrupt end once they are allowed to reach their limits. The role and responsibilities of elected representatives are indeed great in resolving these pressing problems. The role of parliamentarians is to pursue happiness on behalf of the people they represent so that they can live with dignity.

Today we are all part of a single human community. The effects of population explosion and disastrous destruction of the environment will impact everyone across national and regional borders sparing none. It is no longer sufficient to pursue happiness for the people of one country alone for that small objective will defeat the very purpose. Rich countries must stop to seek greater richness and to uselessly pursue military build-up. They must lend their strength to solving urgent issues of the poor countries. I believe that time has come when we must think of the problems of the whole globe, do you agree?

Important inter-government meetings have been held one after another under the auspices of the United Nations to determine the fate of humanity. Unfortunately, however, the focus on population which has the largest impact on environment was lost in the UNCED conference. Little discussion took place at the ICPD on the relationship between population and sustainable development including food production from the perspective of population issues. This was because the discussion tended to be technical and specialized often losing sight of the main issues.

Under the circumstances parliamentarians elected to represent the people have the responsibility and obligation of correctly understanding the relationship between environment, population and development, particularly food development, to lead governments into setting the right direction for national policy making.

Resolution of population, food and environmental problems are already extremely difficult because of the explosive growth of population which contributes to destruction of the environment and shortage of food which in turn results in mass exodus of refugees due to abject poverty. Governments find it extremely difficult to cope comprehensively because the issues are so intricately intertwined.

It is precisely because the issues are complex and important that we need a political will based on a global and planetary perspective. It is the role of parliamentarians to establish budget to build peace that the humankind is waiting for. It is only the members of parliament who can play that role. You parliamentarians must give thought to the future of humankind, listen directly to the voices of the people and act in the right direction.

At the risk of repetition let me say, unless you parliamentarians take the step forward, there will be no future for humanity. Let us strengthen the commitment of parliamentarians with renewed passion to the vital issues of population, food and environment.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**SESSION I: STUDY ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

(14:00~16:30 Mar. 14, 1995)

## SUMMARY REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Theme : Environment and Sustainable Development

Date : 8 - 10 November, 1994

Venue : Pan Pacific Glenmarie Resort Shah Alam. State of Selangor, Malaysia.

No. of participating countries and NGOs countries 20:  
Brunei, China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos,  
Mexico, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Pakistan,  
Russia, Singapore, Turkey, Vietnam and Malaysia.

NGOs : UNEP, IPPF, NZ Agric-Research Institute, Maldives Research Dev.,  
DEPA, GLOBE International Russia, GLOBE International Japan and  
APDA. University of Agriculture Malaysia; Inst. of Strategic Studies  
Malaysia; Malaysian Environment and Forestry Committee.

Inaugurating The Conference was the Rt. Hon. Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Text of his Speech is in the Final Report which was distributed to all participants.

Speakers for the Opening Ceremony:

1. Hon. Datuk Ibrahim Ali, MP.  
Chairman Malaysian AFPPD/Organizing Committee;
2. Hon. Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn,  
Secretary General of AFPPD;
3. Mr. Suvit Yodmani,  
Director & Reg. Rep. of UNEP for Asia & Pacific.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: By the Hon. Minister of Science,  
Technology and Environment of Malaysia;

PAPER PRESENTER:

1. Sustainable Energy Development and Consumption in Developing Country by  
Dy. Director, Energy Research Institute, Stage Planning commission, China;
2. Marine Resources Management - Meeting the Needs of the Developing  
Countries by Director, Fisheries and Agriculture Male', Maldives;
3. Rio Diversity: The Need for Regional Cooperation by Joint Secretary, Ministry  
of Environment & Forests, India - presented by Mr. Man Mohan Sharma,  
Secretary Indian Assn. of Parliamentarians;
4. Forest: What's Next After Rio? by Mr. Didin Sastrapradja, Ministry of Forestry  
of Indonesia;
5. Chemical Safety & Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical by Danish  
Environment Protection Agency;

6. Sustainable Living - the Art of the Possible by Director & Reg. Rep. of UNEP for Asia & Pacific.

Altogether about 70 delegates and observers took part during the three days conference.

The Malaysian Prime Minister contributed about US\$90,000 and the Selangor State government US\$45,000 together with few other companies towards financing the whole conference.

On the last day of the Conference the Selangor State Government sponsored a morning trip for the delegates to visit the 4-seasons Agricultural Hill.

Attached please find the KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT of Environment and Sustainable Development.

## Report

### International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development & International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development

Hon. Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P.  
Secretary General, ICPPD  
President, IMPPSD

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) has initiated two parliamentarians' meetings on population and development in the last year.

Last September the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) was held at the Meridien Garden City Hotel in Cairo, Egypt on the eve of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This March International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD) was held coincident with the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD). Through a series of meetings, parliamentary activities on population and development have been given a fresh start at a global scale. This has renewed our determination as parliamentarians to pledge ourselves to these vital issues and at the same time we made our will clearly known to governments.

Our parliamentarian's conference is the fruit of the tree the Honorable Takeo Fukuda has planted and our seniors have nourished with the warm cooperation of our colleagues around the world. I pray that these fruits will become the source of further strength adding to the momentum towards the resolution of the issues of population and development. I wish to renew my dedication with you here today to implement the resolutions adopted by a series of parliamentarians' meetings and to do more than in the past to lead the way in solving the crucial issues.

#### Report on International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

As you know, there were no less than 270 members of parliament from 107 countries at the ICPPD conference, the greatest meeting ever held by parliamentarians on population and development. There were fourteen members from Japan and a total of seventy-eight members of parliament from Asia and the Pacific who contributed earnestly to the discussion showing a strong presence from our region.

Following on the themes of the International Conference on Population and Development, the parliamentarians meeting addressed "Gender equality and empowerment of women", "Health and Mortality", "Resources mobilization" and "Reproductive health and family planning" on the first day. On the second day, from the point of view of the need to give full consideration to the features of every region in carrying out measures on population, sub-sessions were held for each of the following regions: "Asia and Pacific", "Latin America and the Caribbean", "Africa and the Middle East" and "Europe and North America". Each discussed the role of parliamentarians and the method of resolving population and development issues in line with the characteristics of each region.



The Cairo Declaration on Population and Development was adopted by the consensus of the participating parliamentarians and was recommended to the International Conference on Population and Development. The Cairo Declaration we are proud to say fully reflects the voices of Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. One of the successful outcome of the conference was the establishment of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AMECPPD). Mr. Lavu Mulimba, MP and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the AMECPPD and Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, MP, Secretary General of the Steering Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD) are at the heart of strengthened parliamentarians action on population and development in Africa and the Middle East.

#### Report on International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development

With the objective of expressing our will at the World Summit for Social Development, we held the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD) on 4 and 5 March in the Danish Parliament. The meeting was convened jointly by five parliamentary groups: the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the African and Middle Eastern Committee for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AMECPPD), the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG) and the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization (IMPO).

The concept of social development, which is one of the themes of this conference, is extremely diverse. Our life habits are borne out of the natural conditions surrounding our society. They represent, therefore, unique cultures in themselves. Naturally I am not saying that all traditional values and norms are right. All I am saying is that it is not very productive if we were to neglect these various conditions in our discussion.

There is a kind of social development which must be achieved above differences in value systems. It is the development of society that enables people to make an informed choice. More specifically this means improving literacy through dissemination of education and equality of gender. Above all it means the need of creating a social environment which is conducive to implementing them.

Since the population issue cannot be forced on people we must create a society in which people themselves are able to understand the core issue and determine the number of children based on informed choice. Unless overall fertility is constrained through this approach there is no hope of finding an answer to the population problem. And this does not apply merely to the population issue. As in the keynote lecture, fully informed choice is an essential condition for sustainable development while protecting the planetary environment. The same applies to our decision regarding how we will produce necessary food and ensure valuable drinking water for people around the world.

Also in carrying our parliamentary activities we cannot hope to continue to work for the future of our planet unless there is support of the people with full information.

In this way without social development it is impossible to resolve the many problems related to population and sustainable development.

At the same time we must not forget that without the resolution of the population issues we would not be able to solve any of the issues related to social development. This is

simply because as long as the population continues to explode, any amount of social development will be offset by the growing population. If growing population is left unattended, it will reproduce poverty and accelerate the process to disaster.

In other words, population and social development are issues that must be simultaneously addressed and resolved if we are to have hope for the future. In this sense the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD) marked a step towards implementing the Cairo Declaration.

The IMPPSD discussions were held on three topics: 1) Poverty and Population, 2) Unemployment, Underemployment and Population, and 3) Social Development, Status of Women and Population. These are basic themes in realizing social development and are based on the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development.

The results of the deliberation and resolution of IMPPSD was compiled as the Copenhagen Statement and submitted to the World Summit for Social Development. We have urged through it that population issue must be given a clear place and role in the process of social development.

We have seen a series of international conferences on population and development in the last year. As legislators, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians have met and discussed issues and made recommendations. As Chairman of the AFPPD, I have served the two meetings as Chairman of the Steering Committee, as General Secretary for the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD), and as Chairman for the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD). The 4th World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing in September focusing on the issues of women who are the main agents in population issues. The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians will be involved actively through Women's Committee and through Honorable Hao of China. Deliberations of the past and their outcome are extremely important. They have contributed, at least, to creating a common perception on population and development. They have been useful in raising the interest and concern of fellow parliamentarians around the world on these vital issues. We must take further steps from this favorable platform. When legislators around the world are deeply concerned about the population and development issues, we must above all translate the outcome into action.

We, the elected representatives of the people, should talk to the people and with their support, make strong representation to governments to pressure them to make right choices for the future. Without this we fear there will be no future of our planet. I renew my pledge and commitment to furthering our common cause and ask for your continued interest and generous cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.

The Present Situation of the African Continent on Population and Development (1)  
by

Hon. Mr. Lavu Mulimba, M.P.

Member of Parliament of Zambia

Chairman of the Steering Committee of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of  
Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Honorable Chairman, Honorable Mr. Sakurai, Honorable Dr. Ando of UNFPA, representatives of IPPF and fellow parliamentarians.

As you have heard from the honorable Mr. Sakurai, who has given a little background about the two of us from the African and Middle Eastern Steering Committee, I would like to begin by expressing our gratitude to APDA for having enabled us to attend the 11th APDA meeting. We are eternally grateful for this, and especially to the honorable Mr. Sakurai, who, since our meeting in Cairo at the ICPPD and the main conference, and following that, in Copenhagen, has encouraged us and sown the seed for us as parliamentarians of Africa and the Middle East, to form a permanent mechanism, as recommended by Cairo, to bring the issues of population and development on top of the African agenda for development and for parliamentarians.

If, in my address, I appear to concentrate on the African situation, it is because we as Africa and the Middle East have to begin from the very beginning by collecting data that is available in the parliaments of the economies of that region. And so this will be reflected in what I may have to say.

Secondly, when the invitation came, I sat in Lusaka and came out with a draft speech that I thought would be adequate for this meeting. Having been to Copenhagen, however, and having looked, especially, at Japan's NGO country report, which was made available to us, I have since decided that I will modify the presentation that you probably have, in order to make it more relevant to the challenge that we, as members of parliament, have in persuading our government to change priorities, both in the North and in the South.

I would, however, naturally, coming from Zambia, wish to take the opportunity to thank the fellow parliamentarians from countries that have given financial and technical assistance to Zambia around the table: Japan, JOICFP, Australia, India and China, without whose assistance, perhaps, we would still be miles behind in Zambia in terms of the priorities that are contained in the Cairo Declaration, as well as now, in the World Summit for Social Development.

It has been said that the existence of poverty anywhere in the world is a threat to prosperity everywhere on Earth. And that poses a challenge for our host country, Japan, because Japan has become the world's superpower, the world's financial giant today. Japan's per capita GNP stands at 26 thousand US dollars -- the largest, perhaps except for Switzerland. Japan is the largest source of foreign investment, with an 18.1% of the world's share, totaling some 352.3 billion.

Japan is the world's largest bond holder, holding some 513.6 billion by the end of 1992. While 393 billion were shared by private sectors, and the government held 120.5 billion, out of which 84.7 billion were held against developing countries. Japan, indeed, has the largest trade surplus, which reached 130 billion in 1993. You may be surprised if, having confessed that the statistics are not as up to date in Africa where I got that information from, it is from this booklet, which those of us who were in Copenhagen were privileged to have. And so in contrast to all of this, sitting here, my

colleague from Zimbabwe and myself represent, contrary to the wealth of Japan, the poorest continent on Earth. We have the distinction in addition to that of having the highest population growth rate around the world, at around 3% a year. We have the highest maternal and infant mortality rate in the world.

Indeed, those figures, that clock that was in Copenhagen showing how many children had been born or degressed into absolute poverty of the 600 million, perhaps the majority of those are on the African continent. It has been said, too, that poverty has a woman's face, and the slides which we were shown just now spoke volumes about this. I want to say that that woman's face is indeed for Africa and for the world, the face of an African woman. What are the causes for this? Basically, Honorable Chairman, the causes are social injustice, unfair terms of trade between producing nations and manufacturing nations. You can imagine that in 1965, when Zambia just gained its independence, one ton of copper could purchase one tractor, maybe even two tractors. After 1975 to date, that one ton of copper cannot buy even one tire of a truck. And it is in this climate, in this situation, that we are talking of Africa's need to realign its priorities in order that we can empower women, we can give medical care to our children, we can add more school places to advanced education, we can open more virgin land for agriculture -- that becomes a very difficult task.

Some of my colleagues on the continent have spoken vehemently against structural adjustment programs. I do not share their general condemnation. I think that we, in Africa do not have any alternative -- we have to adjust. The question, however, is how that adjustment is carried out, what the priorities for adjustment are. Clearly, adjustments which lead in the construction, contraction of the social sectors, cutbacks in education, in health, infrastructure brings about more poverty than was the case hitherto. Adjustment which leads in the investment in people, building up their capacities to lift themselves up by their bootstraps, to enhance their capacity to participate in economic activities, adjustment that gives them access to education, to health, access to land and to credit, is now on top of the African agenda. And it is to this that we think Japan has a unique opportunity of bringing about a better enlightenment than may have come through even with the last declaration of the World Summit.

Those of us that have read today's English paper, and those of us who were in Copenhagen, will know by now that the 20-20 compact has just been hailed by that conference as a useful concept, no more than a useful concept. To us, it represents a whole lifetime of opportunity, because we were hoping and we still hope on a bilateral basis, that more and more of our cooperating partners can consider channeling the 20 percent to Africa, as we, the African leaders, we the parliamentarians in Africa can persuade our governments to raise to 20 percent expenditure on the social sector, on social development. The 0.7 recommended U.N. ODA assistance has been made by a number of countries, a number of others haven't, and this is another area where we, as parliamentarians, not representing our governments, but speaking to one another as members of parliament and knowing what our tasks are in terms of raising compassion, in terms of raising enlightenment, can play our part to ensure that there is meaningful assistance given to build up the purchasing power of the African continent, of the Middle East, so that we can be better able to purchase the finished goods from Japan, from the North, in order to underpin the prosperity that is currently being enjoyed.

And so, I end by taking this opportunity of appealing as members of parliament to one another, that APDA, and I hope when the permanent mechanisms of the African Middle East have taken shape, that we will have an opportunity of meeting in Africa in order to advance the cause of happiness for mankind. Happiness shared is not happiness reduced. We will say, certainly, we do need to build a better world, a world in which we will share and continue to emphasize the common good for us all, because we are in-

terdependent -- the prosperity of the North is dependent on the purchasing power, on the well-being of those of us in the South. And seeing you around, I am very confident that, while it might be difficult in some of our governments and parliaments to advance these thoughts, being here in the country of Buddha that has got disciples like Mr. Sakurai, the disciples of Buddha will advance the happiness of us all. I thank you very much.

## The Present Situation of African Continent on Population and Development (2)

by

Hon. Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, M.P.

Member of Parliament of Zimbabwe and Secretary General of the Steering Committee of the African and Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Maeda of APDA, Mr. Shin Sakurai and fellow delegates. May I, Mr. Chairman, take this opportunity, first of all, to thank APDA for extending their brotherly invitation to us, from Africa. Above all, may I express our sincere gratitude to the Japanese government and people for hosting this important meeting, especially in this beautiful and hospitable city of Tokyo.

Mr. Chairman, once upon a time Africa was called "the Dark Continent," where people were not in a hurry, and they carried out their affairs leisurely. Indeed, it would appear from history, that it is a deserved appellation. It was dark, according to history, because it was a continent of jungles inhabited by uncivilized peoples unfit to govern themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I said this because I sincerely believe that I am addressing brothers and sisters with whom we have a lot in common in the political, economic and social spheres. Indeed, our presence here clearly demonstrates the closeness of our peoples.

Today, Mr. Chairman, Africa is no longer labeled a "Dark Continent" but a "Problem Continent" in search of the fastest ways and means of catching up with the rest of the developed world. It is, in its endeavor to adopt economic and political decisions that will result in the governization of our peoples in the fight against underdevelopment and poverty that national conflicts and friction have arisen. You are all aware of the civil strife belaboring Africa today, leading to senseless loss of life, and creating the foment for the human problem of refugees. Such conflicts I attribute not only to Africa, but the whole of mankind. Mr. Chairman, I believe that a lot of these problems have to do with poverty and illiteracy. A hungry person is an angry person. The methods which most African countries are adopting to eradicate poverty are central and crucial for Africa to maintain peace and stability, and to facilitate governments to tackle development issues.

The topic of structural adjustment programs is the core to political and social problems in most African countries. Whereas Africa needs economic reforms, these must not be implemented with total disregard to the culture and the tradition of our communities. Because there is little attention paid to the established cultural and traditional way of life, poverty and illiteracy seems to be intensified. School dropouts are on the rise, especially among girl pupils. Few can proceed to secondary schools. Meanwhile, little resources are channeled to where they are needed most -- the rural areas where most of the people live.

Mr. Chairman, in the face of persistent drought, the seeds had been exacerbated by the fact that most villagers practiced monoculture. There is no diversification. And once the rains fail, it means total poverty or famine. Thus it is necessary to channel resources into the rural areas, so that people can embark on alternative income generating activities, and cushion the effects of drought. Whereas we are determined to break through in our economic reform programs, we are encountering problems which I think only you, our brothers and sisters in Asia, can not only understand, but have shown and demonstrated the desire to assist through sharing of experience and the exchanging of ideas.

The frustrating and pestering problems are high level of fertility, unacceptable levels of illiteracy and poverty, just to mention a few. Fertility and birth rates are too high for our economies. It is almost impossible to have a sustainable economic development with our populations growing at the current rate of over two percent. High populations are leading to the dissipation of the economic achievements under reform programs. Whereas it is true that some progress and achievements have been scored, these are often clouded through too many mouths to share the cake. No one is saying population alone is the panacea to our economic problems. But it is generally accepted that high birth rates and high levels of fertility are a major factor in inhibiting a meaningful and sustainable economic development.

Mr. Chairman, the type of education bequeathed to us by former colonial powers is not producing manpower suitable for Africa's needs today. Africa needs an educational system that produces a thinking person proud of his country, cultural values, traditions, and above all, his people. This individual must be adaptable to new technologies needed for national economic transformation based on internal local resources. He must be imbued with the very zeal to contribute and to conquer the backwardness that has dogged Africa and its peoples for decades, if not centuries.

Mr. Chairman, our presence here, as I said earlier in my speech, is an honor and a privilege, and provides us with an opportunity not always accorded to our peoples, it is a privilege for us and offers us an opportunity to meet you from countries that had traveled the routes that Africa is following with enthusiasm towards economic prosperity. In our private individual discussions, please do not hide the miracles that lay behind your success stories. You are fighting population growth in order to maintain and sustain the gains already made in your economic reform programs to eliminate poverty. But Africa is fighting population growth rates to allow our economies to take off, and in the process, alleviate poverty, disease, hunger and ignorance still prevalent in our communities.

Mr. Chairman, before I close, just a few remarks on the Cairo conference. I want to thank Mr. Sakurai, Dr. Ando, and Mr. Hollis, who were very much involved in the birth of the Africa-Middle East Forum. I must say, before the Cairo conference we were concerned about population in our small pockets. But after the Cairo conference, we are now setting the boundaries, we are now uniting African parliamentarians and Middle East parliamentarians into a forum that will be tasked with forming parliamentary committees in their respective countries to monitor and to give information as to the praise and problems of population and development in their respective countries. I must say that, already my Chairman has mentioned about the South African forthcoming meeting, but we very much, I must appeal at this initial stage, we have to depend on our brothers from Asia. We don't have to hide.

Financially we are still very small. And since we have this opportunity to meet you from Asia, we are saying, our success and our final goal can only be achieved with your financial backing. Already the Chairman has said -- I must say the Asian countries -- I am not minimizing the contribution he has made towards the development for our respective countries, in Zimbabwe, I must say, Japan, Australia, China, and in terms of human resources and above all, India. It seems as if now India is now making a budget specifically for Zimbabwe. I would like to take this opportunity, being from Zimbabwe, and seeing some Indian delegation, really to thank you very much for what you are doing for our country. You are actually bettering, on your behalf, as it is, the wrong education that our manpower has had in Zimbabwe. And the technicians you are training now, I think, are forming the basis for our take-off in our economic development. Thank you very much.

Urbanization and Development in Thailand  
by  
Dr. Toshio Kuroda  
Director Emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

I am really so happy to be here, to see old friends, young friends and new friends, and also very beautiful ladies here.

My topic is a rather long one, but time is so limited, so I am thinking to just pick up a few topics, not talking about the whole issue.

This is a special study project of APDA. And last year we could finish a very wonderful study of our organization in Thailand. And we could succeed fully, thanks to the assistance and coordination and wonderful guidance of the parliamentarians and also government officials of Thailand. And then our report was -- now I think you may have two kinds of materials. One is just a very simple paper in English. Another is just the Japanese edition, this must be very difficult for you to understand. Anyway, that English version has not been finished, but you can find out something about our study project from my very simple paper.

What I am thinking, I just wanted to say how wonderful the experience of Thailand has been in the field of demographic transition and also economic growth. This morning I just happened to have a publication sent from the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This is entitled "The Urban Agglomeration in the World." I just opened it and the found out what Bangkok is, showing the most recent population, and also predicted population in 2025 in Bangkok. And I found that already now the so-called metropolitan Bangkok had 6.4 million in 1994 last year, and has then projected to be 10.6 million in 2015. And also, the average increase rate of the Bangkok population is only 2.2 percent. This is in the period of 1990 to 1995. Then it comes to be increase to 2.6 in the five-year period 2010 to 2015 -- it is going to increase. I think it is a remarkable increase of population in Bangkok. And also, I found that the very unique experience of Thailand -- not only demographic transition and economic growth -- I think this wonderful and unique experience in Asia is going to be successful in controlling the population growth rate through demographic transition -- the Thai experience is so much wonderful.

You can find out some data on the fertility and also the mortality, and we can calculate the so-called demographic transition index. This is not complicated, it is very easy. It takes into account two factors, fertility and mortality -- fertility in terms of the so-called total fertility rate, you know that one, and also in terms of the mortality, we can calculate improvement of mortality through a sort of life table, the average expectation of life at birth. So then we can use those two factors, how they could succeed to control population. We can say sometimes that demographic transition coming from a very high fertility and very high mortality, and coming down to the low fertility and low mortality. And the demographic transition indicates how much they have done in terms of demographic transition, if you are coming down to a very low fertility and low mortality. Low mortality means longer life expectancy. Anyway, you can find Table 1. Then, if you just look at this Table 1, you can find the total fertility rate and also the average life expectancy at birth. And then we can calculate the demographic transition in this last column. How to calculate it is shown in the remarks of this table. It is not so much complicated if you have this kind of data on fertility and also expectation of life, then you can do it very easily.



So we can look at this Table 1, the last column of the demographic transition is based on the total fertility rate and average life expectancy at birth. Then you can find Thailand among the countries in Southeast Asia, you can see that Thailand's Total Fertility Rate is now 2.2, coming very close to the so-called replacement level, very soon. Maybe, I think, now last year or so, but the Thai Government may be able to provide us with it might be 2.1 -- if 2.1, that means that is the replacement level. And then the average life expectancy in Thailand is 68.1. And then you can find that the total fertility rate in Thailand is lowest among the countries in Southeast Asia with the exception of Singapore, very low, 2.2. Other countries, for example Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, all of them have more than 3.0. So it means that Thailand, 2.2, is so low, how they could achieve this kind of rapid decline in the total fertility rate. This also, of course, contributed to the reduction of population increase rate. Someone told about higher population increase rate coming to be unfavorable for economic growth.

But in Thailand, to succeed to reduce the population increase rate through a very low total fertility rate, very low fertility. And then combined the total fertility rate and the average life expectancy, they can give us demographic transition index: Thailand is 0.85. If you have 1.0 of the demographic transition index, it means that you just have just finished. But if they decline, and also the longevity is coming to be long, that means it is just the end, the finish, you know -- the completion of the demographic transition, in that case, 1.00.

In Japan, fortunately, we could succeed some years ago already, and followed by Hong Kong, 0.99, and Taiwan, 0.93, and Korea, 0.88, and then particularly in Thailand, 0.85 is the highest among countries in Southeast Asia with the exception of Singapore. So it suggests very clearly that Thailand could succeed to reduce the population increase rate, and on the other hand, these changing demographic characteristics were very much favorable for the Thai economic growth rate. And then the next table, Table 2, is just showing the economic growth rates of many countries in this area, Asia, and also ASEAN, and in terms of the Real Economic Growth, the recent ones, since 1987 to 1993, and also estimates from 1994 to 1995.

We will find that in Thailand the economic growth rate is very high: in 1987 it was 9.5, and after that, more than 10. In 1985 it was 13, the next year 12, next year 11, so high. And this is also the case this year. We must link the demographic transition with the economic growth rate. This kind of pattern is very familiar among countries. I think just before the coffee break our delegate from Africa, showing a very high population increase rate, this is not favorable for the economic growth rate, exactly. So it is the best way, if you are going to finish a very quick economic growth rate, then you have to finish the demographic transition. It means with a very low population fertility and very high longevity, this is going to be finished very quickly. Then this is a very favorable condition for economic growth rate. This happened to be the case in Thailand.

This is just to say, following the pattern of an Asian NIEs, and also Japan. This happened to be very, very interesting. In Asia, starting from, maybe, our case is earlier, starting from Japan, and then nearly the same pattern -- of course not exactly the same one, of course we can find variations. But anyway, this is the same pattern starting from Japan, and then coming to Korea, and also Singapore, to Hong Kong and Taiwan, and then China. China is also a very much interesting case in that the population policy and economic policy just happened to be performed simultaneously. I think this is a very wonderful way to achieve very quick economic growth. Then I don't have any other paper there -- I'd like to say that this is very much interesting from the standpoint of economic growth.

Then if you are going to finish very quick reduction of fertility, then after that, people say we are going to be older, the population is aging. But before aging you are going to have a very favorable age structure due to the very quick fertility decline. It means that the child population is coming to be decreasing very quickly -- every year you can find less and less child population. So then the child population is coming to be not a big one, but coming to be smaller and smaller. On the other hand, the older population continues to increase. But this is natural. If you are going to finish the fertility reduction with a very rapid decline of fertility, then you are going to have a very low age dependency ratio. It means the child population and also older population divided by the productive age population. It means, 100 working population is going to support how many child and older population.

I just calculated the Thailand experience, and I found that in 1970 the Thailand population's age structure, that means the dependency ratio was nearly 100, actually 96.9, very close to 100. This means that 100 working population has to support 100 children and older people. But this declined very quickly: in 1980 -- 77, in 1985 -- 65, and finally in 1990, just five years ago, 56.7. Nearly the age dependency ratio has come to half -- from 100 to 56! What does it mean? I think this is a very much favorable condition for our socioeconomic progress. And this year, 1995, according to the United Nations projection, of course this is taking into account the government of Thailand. Anyway, in 1995 it is coming down again to less than 50 -- 49.9 -- and then in the next century, 2005, 46, and 2030, 50. It is suggesting that the age dependency ratio is quite low.

I just calculated how long the age dependency ratio is going to be. Starting from 1995 up to 2030, this means for 35 years there is an extremely low age dependency ratio. This is a tremendously favorable condition for Thai economic social development, because the dependency burden is so less. Even 10 years ago they had 100 child population and older population, 100. Now they are going to have only less than fifty. So the child population and also older population is coming to be half. It is the best condition, the best time for the government, not only ordinary people, but government also. This is the best way, these are very favorable factors to accelerate economic growth and social welfare, everything.

I think, so then now in Thailand, up to 30 or 40 years -- a long period, 40 years -- they are going to enjoy a wonderful age dependency ratio. But -- this is a very important point -- this is O.K., but after that, after 2030, they are going to have a higher age dependency ratio, higher and higher. In our case, we also now have it. Now, in Japan, the age dependency ratio has started to go up. We already enjoyed, already, in 1970 we had an age dependency ratio of only 45, very low. Before we had an age dependency ratio of 70, but it came down and down. At the same time we could enjoy rapid economic growth, linked with a very low age dependency ratio. I don't talk about other economic factors, but sometimes many people just forget to take into account this kind of terrible change of age structure.

Because any country never had it before. But now we are going to have it if we are going to succeed in finishing the rapid reduction of the fertility. If even the fertility reduction is coming to be so quick, then you can enjoy a long period of very low dependency ratio. So this is a very important period for the government and the people. They must try and make every effort to prepare for the population aging, which is coming after 30 years or 40 years. So before that, before the aging, we have to do something. Our case was the same, and also Thailand and Korea, and in China there was also nearly the same thing. So I think that other Asian countries, of course including Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam are going to follow the same

pattern of the experiences in Thailand and in some other countries, in Singapore, Korea and China, this kind of experience. I think that our friend coming from Africa should maybe pay attention to this kind of favorable point.

So I mostly talked about concerning the age demographic aspects, but on the other hand... although this kind gives a very nice experience, but now, in Thailand also, we had also a very serious problem in the field of environment. And also now, on the other hand, they have done very much in wonderful economic growth, but on the other hand, after ten years they are going to have a very serious environmental problems, pollution problems. I think this is the same thing. And also Korea, Taiwan, and recently China, also, has done remarkable progress in economic growth. On the other hand, we are also going to have another environmental problem. So this, I think, on one hand, there are these very favorable factors, but after that we are going to have a serious environmental problem. We had it also. Just citing a Siralankorn University professor, he was just writing a paper for the newspaper in Japanese, and said a very interesting thing.

Just for your reference, this is written by Prof. Surapol Sudara, who is an associate professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, and also the chairman of the Thai-Siam Environmental Group. This is just a very short paper for the Japanese newspapers. In it, he is talking about, just listing a series of pollution problems in Thailand, including the chronic lead poisoning of school children in Bangkok due to vehicle emissions, and farmers suffering from poisonous agricultural chemicals, and he explained this of factory workers and citizens in chemical industrial zones, and wondered why Thailand does not learn from countries which have experienced major disasters in industrial pollution. He is just commenting, I think sometimes this is very fine. We had also experience and also Korea has experience -- I think why, I don't know anyway. And those are the young men coming from Thailand, and coming to Yokkaichi, very close to Nagoya. We had a very serious so-called heavy chemical industry, we had a very serious environmental problems. And he came, he was just making a survey on the serious socioeconomic effects of the heavy industrial development on the eastern coast of Thailand, that area. And he was just looking at what was happening due to the very quick heavy chemical industrial development, and then came to Yokkaichi.

And so, what happened during the 1970's and up to the beginning of the 1980's, they had very serious problems. And how could they then solve the problems? And he said that now just that in Thailand some industrial complexes are something like Yokkaichi twenty years ago. So I think that this kind of exchange in experience, I think the government also, you as parliamentarians ought to make a effort to push more exchange of experience, how to solve problems. Sometimes I think that sometimes the government and also the business people are not at all keenly interested to make, to invest for preventing environmental pollution control. It takes much money, anyway, but it should be done. Due to the people's campaign, and also particularly academic people, and also parliamentarians like you, I think they can do it. If you can find out what should be done, it is not so easy, but we can do it. This is just my very small conclusion. Thank you so much.

Table 1 Demographic Transition Indices of East and Southeast Asian Countries

Country/Territory	Total fertility rate	Average life expectancy at birth (years)	Demographic transition index
<b>East Asia</b>			
Japan	1.5	79.0	1.00
Hong Kong	1.2	77.9	0.99
Taiwan	1.7	73.8	0.93
Korea	1.8	70.6	0.88
China	2.2	70.9	0.88
North Korea	2.4	70.7	0.85
Mongolia	4.7	63.4	0.54
<b>Southeast Asia</b>			
Singapore	1.8	74.5	0.90
<b>Thailand</b>	2.2	68.1	0.85
Malaysia	3.5	70.7	0.75
Indonesia	3.0	60.1	0.68
Philippines	4.0	64.9	0.63
Vietnam	3.9	63.9	0.63

Source: 1992 ESCAP Data Sheet for total fertility rate and average life expectancy at birth (figures for Taiwan from The Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of China, 1991).

Remarks: The demographic transition index (DTI) is calculated by the following formula:

$$DTI = 0.5 [(7.6 - TFR)/5.5] + 0.5 [1 - (79 - e_o/36)]$$

For details, refer to Kuroda, Toshiro; Demographic Transition in Japan and Its Spread in Asia (Mainichi Shimbun Population Problems Research Council, "The Population and Society of Postwar Japan," Chapter 1, p.16, 1994

Table 2 Real Economic Growth Rates of East and Southeast Asian Countries (%)

Country/Territory	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Estimated 1991	1993
China	11.1	11.2	4.3	3.9	8.0	13.2	13.4	11.5	1.0
<b>Asian NIEs</b>	11.8	9.9	6.6	7.6	8.0	5.5	6.0	7.1	7.1
Korea	11.5	11.3	6.4	9.5	9.1	5.1	5.5	7.9	7.6
Taiwan	11.9	7.8	7.3	5.0	7.2	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.4
Hong Kong	14.5	8.3	2.8	3.2	4.1	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.0
Singapore	9.4	11.1	9.2	8.8	6.7	6.0	9.9	9.1	8.9
<b>ASEAN</b>	5.5	8.9	9.1	8.5	6.7	6.3	6.8	7.5	8.5
Thailand	9.5	13.3	12.2	11.6	8.1	7.6	7.8	8.4	10.2
Indonesia	4.9	5.8	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.3	6.5	6.5	7.2
Malaysia	5.2	8.9	9.2	9.7	8.7	7.8	8.5	9.0	8.5
Philippines	4.8	6.8	6.2	2.7	-0.5	0.1	2.0	4.8	5.1
Average of 9 countries/ territories	10.4	10.2	6.2	6.5	7.7	8.5	9.1	8.7	8.7

Source: Nihon Keizai Kenkyu Center, Quarterly Economic Forecasts (Outline), December 1992, No. 88, p.8, Table 5 - Real Economic Growth Rates of Asian Countries

Remark: The nine countries/territories \*Asian NIEs, four ASEAN countries and China) is the weighted average of their GNPs (GDPs) for each year converted into US dollars (using statistics of the individual countries/territories).

Chairman Dr. Ratanakorn:

Thank you so much. Two or 3 questions? Yes, friend from Indonesia?

Dr. Mboi (Indonesia):

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Professor Kuroda for his very enlightening speech. I have 3 questions, Professor.

First of all, how useful, or how significant, in your experience, is this demographic transition index to be used for policy and program formulation? If I understand it right, we should be aiming at the highest possible index, at about 1.0, I think. But that depends on the total fertility rate and life expectancy. So could you give us some guidance on how do we use this index for policy and program formulation.

My second question is related to the title of your paper which is "Urbanization and Development." In listening and reading your paper I have not seen that connection. But could you give us some enlightenment about how does urbanization influence this demographic transition index, and as such influence our population and development policy and programs?

And my third question is related to the case of Thailand. One issue that keeps coming up is the widespread of AIDS, which for sure will lower the total fertility rate, lower the average life expectancy, and most probably also lower the economic growth. How do you foresee, or what is your estimate the influence or the impact of the AIDS epidemic on demographic transition index in Thailand as well as in our countries? And related to that, also the aging. As you say, Thailand is in very good condition, but 10 years from now, there will be aging of population which means that total fertility rate will go down, as the total fertility rate goes down, the demographic transition index will go up. How do you see that impact, the success of our development, if demographic transition index is to be used as an indicator of our population and development programs, policy and programs. Thank you Professor.

Dr. Kuroda:

Maybe I should take 1 hour or so to answer your questions clearly. But anyway, I think the second point, you were talking about fertility decline and age structure. In the future, as you say, the age structure is aging. But I would like to emphasize that before, you are going to experience heavy aging. I'm just talking about just nearly 35 or 40 years when the age dependency ratio is quite low due to the rapid declining fertility.

I think you also agree that fertility decline is desirable. Then if you are successful, then you are going to have a longer period of very low age dependency ratio. So it's a very wonderful period. Even in Thailand, in 1970, age dependency ratio was about 100. Then due to very rapid decline in fertility, age dependency ratio came down to 50. This means much less child population and aging will increase but not much. And child population will decrease very remarkably. So combined dependency population will go down against working age population. Then the government will have enough time to prepare for the period when aging will become severe, 30 or 40 years later.

So I would like to emphasize, before that all of us make the effort. Because fertility decline is desirable and stimulates economic growth. But after that, I'm thinking, not only country or state but also our individual life, our whole life is not necessarily happy all the time. Sometimes happy and sometimes not happy. I think this is also true for countries. So rapid decline in fertility must be done. Everyone will agree -- the government and people also. But after you succeed, you will have another problem. But

before that, we have some interesting work, but very fortunately, we have some time to make provision also.

Also you were asking about the title. I wanted to talk more about urbanization in general and also in Thailand. I think this is more easy for you to understand why. You are going to achieve economic modernization and industrialization or bring about urbanization. But Thailand's case is somewhat different. The percentage of urban population is relatively low -- 35% -- and there is high concentration of that in Bangkok, the so-called primary city. But I think this is one reason why they could succeed in achieving rapid economic growth. On the other hand, there are very small cities with population of about 100,000. These small-scale cities are increasing. On the other hand, Bangkok is expanding more and more. And that is one reason why they are having serious environmental problems.

Chairman Dr. Ratanakorn:

I'm sorry to interrupt. I have to stop here because there is no time. In brief.

Ms. Shoon (Singapore):

Just now you said that give the government more time or to find more measures to solve the aging population problem. I wonder if you could give more concrete suggestion. Can I assume that in the case of Singapore, the fertility rate is 1.8 and aging population is quite severe. At the moment, we have 8 working persons supporting 1 person who is older than 60. By the year 2030, there will be 2 working persons supporting 1 aged person. So should the government revise its policy and increase the fertility rate?

Dr. Kuroda:

There is no time for us now so maybe tomorrow, we'll have some time to talk about it.

Chairman Dr. Ratanakorn:

Yes. When we come to Singapore and Thailand tomorrow when we have more time. There is one kind of unknown disease. That is "interruptosis." I have to interrupt now. The next paper will be the Basic Survey on Agricultural and Rural Development by Dr. Kawano.

Agricultural and Rural Development in India  
by  
Dr. Shigeto Kawano  
Professor Emeritus  
The University of Tokyo

## 1. Issues

To strike a certain balance between population and economic development is one of the important challenges of the world. Increase of population is a result of economic development as well as its precondition. Their interrelationship is not uniform but differs according to economic development or stage of development.

It is well known that there is high fertility and high mortality when economic level is extremely low, and as the level increases, population evolves through high fertility and low mortality and eventually to low fertility and low mortality. It is in the process of high fertility and low mortality that the population increases rapidly which in turn suppresses economic growth and often triggers problems of unemployment and food shortage. Given their relations the issue of reducing this process can be seen as the most important challenge in the population policy in relation to economic growth.

This time we have conducted a short-term survey and analysis in India to pursue policy conditions for agricultural development. This issue also relates to the population policy.

## 2. Slow population conversion and population pressure in farming

India has the second largest land space in Asia. It is the second largest populated country in the world. On the whole, fertility and mortality have begun to decline but their speed is slow. For example, in the past nearly one hundred years (1901-11 to 1990), fertility declined from 4.92 per cent to 2.99 per cent while mortality rate declined from 4.26 per cent to 0.96 per cent. Mortality decline is most noteworthy. It is assumed that this is due to the expansion of public health facilities by the government following the Second World War and the availability of low cost and high efficacy drugs.

As a result, India continues its high rate of population growth (between 20 and 30 per cent) and by year 2045, the total population is estimated to reach 1.6 billion, overtaking China to become the most populous country in the world.

When the drop in mortality results not from the rise in living standards but as a result of improved hygiene, it can suppress economic growth. In fact in India, in recent years alone, the economic growth (GNP) has stagnated with per capita GNP for 1990, 1991 and 1992 respectively, 360 dollars, 330 dollars and 310 dollars. There is no doubt, however, that over the long term India is in the process of economic growth. It already has a substantial middle class. It is also well known that in certain fields of high technology India has an excellent record and provides technical assistance to neighboring countries.

In terms of the distribution of population, however, 74.3 per cent (1991) still live in the rural sector. The agricultural production is expected to remain 32 per cent (1992) of the Gross National Product (GNP). The low productivity of the agricultural sector and its low contribution to income formation restrict and suppress the level of GNP.



### 3. Agricultural development under population pressure

How has agricultural structure changed in the last few decades? Over the long term, the rural population has increased but so did the arable and irrigated land. As a result, the agricultural acreage increased with increase in agricultural production volume. Productivity also increased at the same time.

That is to say that the rural population increased from 298.6 million to 628.7 million during 1950/51 to 1990/91. The ratio of rural population (including the farm managers and farm workers) decreased from 69.4 per cent of the population to 64.8 per cent. The total arable land increased from 131.9 million hectares to 185.5 million hectares and the cropping intensity increased from 111.1 to 130.4. Irrigated land increased from 22.6 million hectares to 61.8 million hectares. In 1990/91 the ratio of irrigated land wheat accounted for 79.8 per cent, rice accounted for 45.1 per cent, barley, 50 per cent, sugarcane, 84.2 per cent and legumes, 10 per cent. The increase of agricultural product is shown in the table below.

Table 1 Changes in agricultural/meat production

	units	1950/51	1993/94	multiplier
grain	million tons	50.8	182	3.6
rice	million tons	20.6	79	3.8
wheat	million tons	6.5	57.7	8.9
cereals	million tons	42.4	167.8	4
beans	million tons	8.4	14.2	1.7
oil seeds	million tons	5.2	21.7	4.2
sugarcane	million tons	57.1	233	4.1
cotton	million tons	3	11	3.7
jute	million tons	3.3	8.5	2.6
tea	million tons	0.3	0.7	2.3
coffee	million tons		0.2	
rubber	million tons		0.4	
potatoes	million tons	1.7	15.7	9.2
onion	million tons	2.2	3.6	1.6
high yield variety	million ha	15.4 (1970-71)	66.1	4.3
milk	million tons	17	60.8	3.6
eggs	billion	1.8	24.4	13.6
wool	million kg	27.5	42.2	1.5

To start with, most of the agricultural produce such as rice, wheat, cereals, oil seeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute have increased production by three to eight folds during the period of 1950/51 to 1993/94. This exceeds the rate of growth of the farming population. Particularly, the increased production of wheat and potatoes is outstanding. It is to be noted that the increase in rice production has been brought about by an increase in the use of high yield variety. There is also a notable increase in meat production, particularly in eggs.

However, the increase in agricultural production has been accompanied by an increase of the input of fertilizer and agricultural resources. Needless to say, public investment in irrigation and other facilities, has also increased. The following table shows the increased use of fertilizer and insecticide.

Table 2 Consumption of fertilizer and insecticide

	units	1950/51	1993/94	multiplier
fertilizer	ten thousand ton	0.69	128.3	185.9
insecticide	thousand tons	2.35	75.0	31.9

There appears, however, a wave of fluctuation. Between 1949/50 and 1964/65, agricultural production increased against the background of the expansion of arable land. In 1965/66 to 1980/81 the expansion of irrigation facility and dissemination of high yield variety have been the basis of growth. Since 1980s overall improvement of the market, trade and institutional framework have resulted in the growth. It is also general knowledge that the productivity increase was higher towards the latter periods.

The argument is contestable if one looks at a period between 1970/71 and 1980/81. As we see in the following table, while the overall agricultural acreage has hardly changed, the number of farm units increased by 37 per cent. The impression one gets is that since the increased rural population tends to concentrate on limited arable land, it diminishes the size of cultivated land.

Table 3 Evolution in the number of farms, acreage and size

	1970/71	1976/77	1980/81	1985/86
managed holdings(mil)	71.0	81.57	88.9	97.2
managed acreage (mil ha)	162.0	163.34	163.80	164.56
average size(ha)	2.3	2.0	1.84	1.69

#### 4. Developed and less developed states

After all, India is a vast country and its farming villages are not homogenous. Their products are varied as well as their levels of productivity. The Indian government Planning Board has established a concept of poverty line as an index to measure income distribution. According to it, the required per capita calorie intake per day was set at 2,400 calories in the rural sector, 2,000 calories in the urban sector (1973/74). The index was used to assess whether a person had a monthly income sufficient to sustain the monthly expenditure of 49.10 rupees in the rural sector and 56.60 rupees in the urban sector in order to survive.

Accordingly it established, as below, population ratio below the poverty line as 20.1 per cent in the urban sector and 33.4 per cent in the rural sector for 1987/88.

Table 4 Population ratio below poverty line

	1972/73	1977/78	1983/84	1987/88
Rural	54.1	51.2	40.4	33.4
Urban	41.2	38.2	28.1	20.1

Source : Planning Board

However, while the population below the poverty line is 29.9 per cent on the average, there is a wide discrepancy among states. For example, it is 44.7 per cent in Orissa and 40.8 per cent in Bihar. States with higher dependence on the farming sector have a higher ratio of people under the poverty line. It is also assumed that the rates differ according to the condition of the rural sector.

This means to say that there are farming sectors with relatively high production capacity and those with less. If the assumption is correct, then by analyzing conditions of villages with high production capacity, we may extract conditions that will promote progress in the less developed communities.

It is from this perspective that we decided to conduct a comparative analysis of the states in India which are relatively developed and those less so. Punjab and Haryana were chosen as examples of the former and Bihar was chosen as the case of the latter. Various social indices of the three states are compared and compiled in the following table. A discrepancy of three to one exists with regard to per capita net production between developed and less developed states. Other comparative indices also match the profile.

Table 5 Social and economic indices by state

	per capita net production 1988/89	family planning implement, rate 1989	literacy 1981	life expectancy female 1986-91	life expectancy male 1986-91
Punjab	6227	69.6	33.67	62.69	62.84
Haryana	5274	59.4	26.89	57.21	59.89
Bihar	2266	25.8	19.94	53.71	50.71

What accounts for this discrepancy? To start with, the two states of Punjab and Haryana account only for 3.52 per cent of India's total cultivated land, but for 35.4 per cent and 10.6 per cent of wheat and rice production respectively. The increase in the

production of rice as well as the production of wheat have been particularly significant in stabilizing food supply in India.

The basic development of this success story lies in the fact that the wheat belt which produced wheat from October to April (rabi period) has developed into a two crop belt by rapid increase in rice production during the kharif period of April to October through the so-called "green revolution". The dual crop now permits a high yield variety (HYV) of wheat and HYV rice to grow. As a result of this development, per unit production of both rice and wheat during the 1980s doubled the national average.

The green revolution does not succeed by merely adopting a high yield variety. It requires irrigation that ensures appropriate amount of water at the right time. It must also be accompanied by low cost and efficient chemical fertilizer. In the case of this region, in addition to the successful irrigation, land consolidation program has also contributed to the resolution of the water problem. As a result the irrigation ratio in Punjab is now in excess of 90 per cent and 70 per cent in Haryana.

With regard to improving irrigation, Punjab which is located in the northern region is fortunate to have an abundant precipitation of some 1,500 millimeters a year. In addition, during the colonial days canals were built supplying abundant underground water. The wide dissemination of power pumps that can efficiently draw water, has also benefited the communities. Electrification has been relatively cheap compared to the use of diesel engines and has enabled farming households to benefit more from pumped water. Progress in the rectangulation of fields is another characteristic of the area. These land consolidation programs which had begun during the colonial period were completed after independence during the 1960s in Punjab and Haryana.

After the completion of rectangulation of the fields in Punjab, the use of large tractors replaced animal power. The dissemination of the tractors has supported an efficient agricultural production.

As for the increase of the use of chemical fertilizer, it seems to have been supplied at low prices supported by an increase in imports as well as government subsidy.

A series of these policies appears to have been implemented in certain regions of high priority through the Intensive Agricultural Area Program (1964-65) and the High Yield Variety Program (1966). The former was a policy to concentrate investment in areas where agricultural infrastructure was relatively advanced and the latter was a policy to implement a package of measures including the adoption of the high yield varieties, chemical fertilizer and irrigation facilities. The success of India's northwest granary centering around Punjab and Haryana is considered to have rapidly reduced the grain imports.

In contrast, what is the situation of Bihar which is a less developed state? Its geographical and natural conditions are somewhat complex with a huge alluvial plain and a tableland in the south. Overall, however, the area is considered to have good potential with rich alluvial soil, relatively large precipitation and abundant agricultural resources. This notwithstanding, the growth in the last thirty years has been relatively low.

In Bihar, rice and wheat are also the main produce. The ratio of land use is 50 per cent, rice (during caliph period); wheat (rabi period), 20 per cent: legumes and maize, 20 per cent. Overall 90 per cent of the land is used for food production. The irrigated area is 40 per cent on the average for all products (1990/91). For wheat 85.5 per cent is irrigated which is slightly higher than the national average. Irrigated land for rice production is 35.4 per cent which is lower than Punjab and the national average. As regards

the power which is used to power pumps, per capita consumption of electric power is one third of the national average and 1/7 and 1/5 respectively of Punjab and Haryana.

The result naturally translates to less input of modern resources such as chemical fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and agricultural machines. The input of chemical fertilizer per unit area (1992-93) in Table 6 shows that Bihar has lower input, as might be expected, than the national average and an extremely low figure compared to Punjab and Haryana.

Table 6 Input of chemical fertilizer (1992-93) (kg/ha)

	nitrogen	phosphate	potassium	total
Bihar	45.55	9.62	2.01	57.18
Punjab	126.41	34.39	1.43	162.23
Haryana	82.24	25.10	0.44	107.78
India average	46.58	15.69	4.88	67.15

A similar point may be made with regard to the use of agricultural machines: the infrequent use of tractors is particularly noteworthy.

Table 7 Number of units of agricultural machines per 1,000 male farmers

	1962-65		1970-73		1980-83	
	tractors	pumps	tractors	pumps	tractors	pumps
Bihar	0.21	1.04	0.60	7.73	0.78	16.84
Punjab	5.50	23.70	16.22	132.35	23.80	161.40
Haryana	3.32	10.86	12.32	68.05	15.17	95.70

As might also be expected, the use of agricultural financing is extremely low.

As a result, the use of high yield varieties is also low. Rice which accounts for 50 per cent of the harvested area, HYV prevalence is about 30 per cent which leaves a wide gap with Punjab and Haryana which boast of 100 per cent use of HYV. For wheat, however, the HYV prevalence is 74.5 per cent, substantially higher than the case of rice. It may be reasoned that the farmers use HYV wheat because the water requirements are less in this case.

Why is Bihar in an overall state of backwardness? Basically speaking, it may be pointed out that the state was under zamindari rule. Because of this legacy, land reform had not been completed. Land consolidation was a mere exchange and did not result in the rectangulation of fields. For these reasons a large force of poor farm laborers and rural workers were left in the villages. This in turn resulted in the inefficiency of the public sector and a shortage of staff.

Specifically the supply by public agencies of improved seed variety did not take place effectively due to the shortage of nursery facility and low rate of replacement. The supply of improved seeds, chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals through cooperatives organized by the state government is inefficient due to the lack of network, and in-sufficient management and operation capacity. Furthermore, the lack of staff at the technical center and the diversity of functions required inhibit effective functioning of technical experts.

In terms of the use of water resources and irrigation, the irrigation from the canal and the use of power pumps, in other words, pipe well irrigation is central. The water resources management comes under the jurisdiction of the state government, and the lack of water canals and inefficient management and operation system impede effective water supply. Also the difficulty of adjusting between interests of local farmers in regard to the use of public facilities is a bottleneck as well.

On the other hand, the shallow well irrigation in the private sector has the advantage of being small in scale, low cost in construction and maintenance. It encourages farmer participation because of its labor-utilization. However, even in this case the extremely small scale of farmland as well as resources and low level of income of individual farmers are serious impediments.

## 5. Towards agricultural development

I have compared various conditions regarding agricultural production in developed as well as less developed regions. The differences are clear. When conditions of production are categorized between those having aspects of private economy and public policy domain, conditions in the former region are better while those of the latter are inferior. In the less developed stage, the average net production is low as I have explained. On the whole, one also observes that the size of the cultivated land for each farm unit is small in the less developed region. This means that even if water and other conditions are the same, small land tract does not give the scale of economy and that in itself contributes to inferior output as we have seen. In addition the inequity of land holdings is large. When there is many farm units which are tenant farmers and farmers tilling leased land, it can only be expected that the average farm income is suppressed. This, in turn, suppresses the possibility of investment on private economic base and constrains any improvement in management conditions.

In addition there are inefficient public sector conditions. Even in irrigation alone, the lowness of investment strength and weakness of managerial capacity are pointed out.

Table 8 Number of farm units by size of arable land (1985/86)

	Bihar no of units % (1000)		Haryana no of units % (1000)		Punjab no of units % (1000)		India no of units % (1000)	
-1 ha	8,976	76.6	502	37.3	256	23.5	56,147	57.8
1 - 2	1,327	11.3	265	19.7	208	19.1	17,922	18.4
2 - 4	951	8.1	281	20.9	291	26.7	13,252	13.6
4 - 10	404	3.4	239	17.7	260	23.9	7,916	8.1
10 -	52	0.4	60	4.5	74	6.8	1,918	2.0
Total	11,710	100	1347	100	1,089	100	97,155	100
average	0.93		2.76		3.77		1.69	

Source : All-India Report on Agricultural Census 1985/86

How can this gap be reduced? Or how can the inferior situation of the less developed states be redressed and to what extent? Can it ever be reduced? Since conditions that contribute to the comparative inferiority of the conditions of the less developed states are multiple and deeply intertwined, one cannot expect to resolve the issues all at once by adopting certain policies or measures.

However, it may be assumed that the gap between the states is particularly large in the conditions of production related to the public sector. It is also assumed that the difference in the degree of political and economic autonomy among states is also related. If administrative discrepancy among states is corrected under a strong central government, the unbalance of public investment may also be corrected. Half-hearted land reform and land consolidation may have in part resulted from natural and geographical conditions such as the location in the delta area of the Ganges River. Greater factors that result in discrepancy among states may have their origins in the zamindar system particularly where political autonomy is concerned.

If attempts are to be made to resolve the issue from this aspect, then the basic need is a commitment on the part of the central government to promote public policy and public investment based on a consistent standard and to ruthlessly correct any discrepancy among the states.

If discrepancy in the autonomy of the states is redressed, it may be expected that unbalanced population pressure in certain states or regions may be reduced. Extreme high population concentration in Bihar suggests that there may be certain factors that restrict mobility of the population. If such restriction is based on religious or social conditions, it will take longer time to change it. We do not, however, have materials at present that will allow us to address this issue. Based on the foregoing analysis, it is suggested that the place to start is in the area of public policy. This does not, however, mean that water management, improvement and dissemination of higher yield variety and financing should all be carried out simultaneously as a single set. It is neither necessary nor possible. It follows then, that one can only start within the given framework of financial

and personnel conditions. In this regard, the quality of individual farm management is an important precondition for successful and effective policy implementation. Low or stagnant productivity does not mean that individual farm management is completely static or fixed in their conditions. Efforts must be made to the extent possible in the choice of seeds, fertilizer and water management. Assuming that this is the case, each farm must be assessed for its desirable conditions and choices must be made accordingly with regard to approach or steps taken.

Before I conclude, I would like to leave two thoughts. First in the case of advanced states, reduction of subsidized chemical fertilizer may impede its greater use. This is an example where policy option that must be immediately taken is suggested. Conditions, including irrigation, are usually already in place when productivity increase is a result of using high yield variety. The only remaining variable is the price of chemical fertilizer. Therefore, the answer is simple. Increased production of chemical fertilizer and the reduction of its cost is the immediate policy response required.

The next is the need of preparing market conditions along with the increase in agricultural production. Let us assume that there is sufficient irrigation, use of the right variety and ample fertilizer and that the production increase has been mainly achieved by the use of high yield variety. Along with the price of fertilizer, prices of agricultural products become an important issue as well. And such prices are not necessarily guaranteed at certain levels. This calls for the need for better functioning of the market along with the increased production. Market must be expanded as production increases but this will also trigger a number of policy-related issues. In other words, necessary functions such as transportation, storage, packaging, inspection, finance and communication of information to people concerned, must be addressed in the process of shipping products to new markets.



## **SESSION II: WOMEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

(9:00~15:30 Mar. 15, 1995)

- Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -  
Female Labor Participation and Economic Development  
-Strategy for the 21st Century -

Country Paper  
Japan  
by  
Hon. Ms. Tamako Nakanishi, M.P.

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my greatest pleasure and honor to have this opportunity of speaking to you on the subject of Female Labor Force Participation and Economic Development - Strategy for the 21st Century.

The present headaches for political and economic leaders in Japan are the rapidly aging population and the declining birth rate which are likely to cause severe labor shortage and adversely affect the growth of the Japanese economy in the 21st Century.

In contrast to the trends in some other countries, the birth rate in Japan has been declining since 1974 to an alarming extent, and recorded 9.6 per 1,000 people in 1993. The lifetime fertility rate, that is the average number of births per woman during her lifetime, dropped to 1.46 in the same year.

Referring to this declining trend of birth rate and fertility rate in Japan, a female foreign university professor of economics and women's studies commented in a public forum that the "Japanese women have been staging a strike in protest against the male domination in the Japanese society."

I was quite surprised to hear this comment, but the comment exerted such a profound effect on me as to urge me to examine the causes for the lowering fertility rate here in Japan.

#### Causes for the Lowering Fertility Rate

The lowering of fertility rate is generally said to result from (1) better education for women and (2) an increase in the number of women entering labor force, which cause women to marry later and to bear fewer children.

Now let us see the Japanese situation concerning these factors cited as the causes for the lowering of fertility rate.

##### (1) Education

More and more women advance to institutions of higher education such as 2-year junior colleges and 4-year universities. Female teaching staff have been increasing at all levels of education.

According to the survey conducted by the Ministry of Education in May 1994 the percentage of girls who entered an upper secondary school was 97.5% against 95.6% for boys. The percentage of the girls who advanced to a 2-year junior college to a 4-year university upon graduation from an upper secondary school rose to 44.2% against 27.9% for boys.

The percentage of girls entering upper secondary schools has exceeded that of boys since 1969 and the percentage of girls entering a junior college or a university has exceeded also that of boys since 1989. At the university level, female students constituted 31.3% of all the students while at the junior college level, female students amounted to 91.8% of all the students.

As for the percentages of female teaching staff in 1994, at elementary schools, 60.8% of full-time teachers were women. At lower and upper secondary schools the percentages of female full-time teacher were 38.8% and 22.5% respectively. At universities and junior colleges, female full-time teaching staff comprised 10.3% and 39.1% of the total respectively.

## (2) Labor Force Participation

Female labor force continued to expand, reaching 40.5% of the total labor force in 1993.

The female labor force participation rate in average was 50.3% in the same year.

The female labor force participation rates by age group show an M-shape curve with the first peak of 74.5% for the age group of 20 to 24 and the second peak of 71.9% for the age group of 45 to 49. This shows that women workers tend to stop working upon marriage or childbirth and reenter labor market in the middle age after child raising.

As for the more detailed employment structure of the Japanese women workers:

### (a) Women Workers in Non-agricultural Sector

By employment status, 78.3% of female labor force were company employees in 1993. The percentage of female paid employees was 38.6% in the same year.

By industry, 83.5% of all female company employees were working in services, wholesale and retail trades, restaurant industry and manufacturing. Female employees accounted for about half of all employees in services, finance, insurance, real estate, wholesale and retail trade and restaurant industry.

By occupation, clerical and office work recorded the highest proportion of female employees, followed by craft workers, manufacturing workers, professional and technical workers, and sales workers.

By marital status, the majority of female workers were married women constituting 57.8% of the total in 1993. If divorced or widowed women were included in the category of "married women," the percentage would rise to 67.2% of all female employees. This is quite a contrast to the earlier tendency of predominance of young, unmarried women workers.

The average age of female employees was 36 and their average length of service was 7.3 years in 1993.

Recently female part-time workers have shown a phenomenal increase, reaching 31.8% of all female employees in 1993. Majority or 78.9% of female part-time workers were 35 years and over, while the percentage of those aged 55 years and over continued to rise, reaching 16.8%. The average length of service of female part-time workers was 4.6 years. The number of part-time professional and technical workers has been increasing too.

### (b) Women Working in Agricultural Sector

The number of farm workers in Japan has been declining steadily, and in 1993 farm workers accounted for only 5.4% of all workers. Women play a vital role in agricul-

ture, constituting about 60% of the total agricultural labor force. Women accounted for 70% of all farm workers in the age bracket ranging from 25 to 60 years.

The recent characteristics of the female labor force in Japan are:

(a) extension of length of services of unmarried women resulting in their late marriage and

(b) the increase of middle-aged married women working on part time basis, who now constitute 31% of all women workers.

In 1993 the average age of female employees was 36 and their average length of service was 7.3 years.

Besides the above factors (1) and (2), other factors causing the lowering of fertility rate particularly in Japan seem to include:

(3) Shortage of affordable, adequate housing spacious enough to raise more children than now.

(4) Long commutation hours to and from the workplace on extremely crowded trains partly due to the inaccessibility of adequate housing near the workplace.

(5) Rising cost of education for children.

(6) Increased awareness of women's human rights including reproductive rights.

Since the IWY (International Women's Year) and during the UN Decade for Women, Japanese women increased their awareness of the importance of women's human rights including gender equality and reproductive rights and health.

The notion of sex role differentiation long and deeply ingrained in the minds of people, particularly men, has been gradually diminishing owing to the efforts of the Government and the NGOs.

Japanese women now started to articulate more freely what they need. The increase of working wives and mothers gave rise to a clamor for effective measures to facilitate the compatibility of job responsibilities and family responsibilities. The Child Care Leave Law came to be enacted in May 1991 and went into effect in April 1992. It aims partly to meet the need of working parents and partly to put a stop to the alarmingly declining tendency of fertility rate.

Now Japanese working women have been demanding the revision of the existing Equal Employment Opportunity Law which is weak in validity and impact and has many defects such as lack of effective mechanism for saving victimized workers. The Government is now studying the possibilities of its revision.

Moreover, many working women in Japan have been recently demanding more equitable share of family responsibilities between men and women. The Government on 10 March decided to take procedure for Japan's ratification of the ILO Convention No. 156 (Convention concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities) in response to the rising clamor for it by woman parliamentarians, trade unionists and leaders and members of women's organizations.

As the strategy for more active and equal participation of Japanese women in all fields for sustainable development in the 21st century the following seem to be needed, on the premises that a wholistic approach is necessary to achieve suitable development.

(1) Improvement of the existing Equal Employment Opportunity Law to bring it into more strict conformity with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which Japan ratified in 1965.

(2) Encouragement to empower more women through the study of law, economics, science and technology, etc.

(3) Training of women to enable them to take up more skilled and diversified occupations.

(4) Training and education of women to promote their increased participation in decision making process at all levels in economic, social, political and all other fields.

Before closing, I assure you Japanese women are not on strike. On the contrary, many Japanese women have been endeavoring to build up a better world through their active contribution to environmentally sound and equitable economic and social development, which would ensure respect for human rights and promotion of well-being and better quality of life for all people on the basis of social justice and equal partnership not only between men and women but also between nations.

Let us all work together to build up a more peaceful and prosperous world in the 21st century.

I thank you.

Country Paper  
Australia  
by  
Hon. Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants, Fellow Members of the Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I congratulate the previous speaker on her excellent paper. It was very interesting for me because many of the Japanese experiences were very similar to Australia.

Progress in each country towards attainment of equality may be measured by certain indicators such as: the stated commitment towards achieving equality, as well as the degree of political representation of women, their comparative socio-economic and health status, and educational attainment and equality of literacy rates of women and men.

In some of these fields Australia is performing very well, however in other areas there is still a long way to go. Today I would like to very briefly outline for you the current position on the aspects I have just covered.

The Australian government adopted the first "National Agenda for Women" in 1988, one of the purposes of which was to incorporate the Nairobi forward looking strategies into domestic policy. In February 1993, the government released "Shaping and Sharing the Future: New National Agenda for Women 1993-2000".

Australia has developed a National Plan of Action in the format of the recommendations that come out of the World Conference on Human Rights. This National Action of Plan is a clear statement of Australia's commitment to the protection and implementation of human rights at a national level. The plan states that:

"Australia recognizes that the long-term benefit of the pursuit of improved standards of human rights is the development of higher standards of international behavior, which enhances regional and global peace and security."

In particular reference to the advancement of equality for women in Australia, and at an international level, the plan makes several commitments:

1 To meet commitments to civil and political rights Australia is attempting to:

Improve the complaints procedures available to deal with issues involving the violation of women's rights under the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

And to -

Establish an effective and efficient means of informing all Australian citizens of the availability and nature of these complaints mechanisms.

Maternity leave with pay is provided for most women employed by the federal government. But in other areas in Australia, it varies. Women are now able in Australia to serve in all positions in the Australian defense force other than in direct combat positions.

Unemployment in Australia is between 8 and 10% of the work force. Reducing this figure is the government's first priority. The participation of women in the paid labor force has increased. In December 1994, 53.1% of women aged 15 years and over were participating in the paid labor force compared with 49.3% in February 1988 and 44.7% in July 1983. The proportion of women in the paid labor force in Australia is lower only than in Britain and Canada among other Commonwealth countries, but lower than in a number of other OECD countries, including the United States and Scandinavian countries.

The unemployment rate among women has been lower than the male unemployment rate since late 1990. However, women still predominate among the discouraged job seekers, that is the "hidden unemployed"; in 1993 73% of these discouraged job seekers were women.

Australia safeguards the opportunity to work in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through a National Training Reform Agenda, the Accord Agreement 1993-96 and the Social Justice Strategy.

These programs aim to target disadvantaged groups such as women amongst the long-term unemployed to undertake training to equip them to be competitive in the job market. Also being addressed is the need for a comprehensive and fair child care policy which allows women to contribute to improving the skills and flexibility of the work force. A high level of commitment on employment opportunities has been commissioned to prepare a discussion paper. There will be extensive consultation and public discussion before the release of the government's response in the form of a white paper in the context of the 1994-95 fiscal budget.

Despite 'equal pay' decisions dating back to 1969 women still have not achieved wage parity. In August 1994 women's full-time ordinary time average weekly earnings were 84% of men's, an improvement of only 15% since 1975. The reasons for this include the lower awards for traditionally female occupations, the high degree of occupational and industry segregation of women workers, and the predominance of women in part-time employment. Two thirds of women workers in Australia are concentrated in five occupational groups - teaching, nursing, clerical, sales and personal service provision. They are under-represented in many occupations such as engineering, science and technology positions, and trades. Within industries women tend to be clustered at the lowest salary levels.

A particular focus of the government's policy for industrial reform will be on ensuring that the interests of vulnerable workers, including workers with family responsibilities, women, persons whose first language is not English and young persons, are taken into account in the negotiation and terms of enterprise and workplace agreements. To this end the government has established a work and family unit in the department of industrial relations to oversee the implementation of a program to address work equality for workers with family responsibilities.

The Government's industrial relations reform bill which came into effect in March 1994 provides for -

- 1 equal pay for men and women for work of equal value,
- 2 a system of minimum wages,
- 3 parental leave for men and women workers with newly born or adopted children and,
- 4 prohibition of, and remedies for, unfair dismissal.--

The government is currently reviewing, and gradually changing, the current income support provisions for married couples away from the outdated model based upon a male breadwinner and dependent spouse. This has involved an 'active society' model of income support where financial independence is encouraged wherever possible, consequently the government has substantially increased income support payments and department of social security services, especially for women.

In Australia women make up about 58.3% of adult civilian pensioners and 94% of single parent pensioner families are headed by women. The social security programs are attempting to redress the fact that single parent families are over-represented at the lowest income levels which means that women and children are most likely to be living below the poverty level standards.

The Australian government recognizes that women's opportunity to participate in development and enjoy their rights are strongly influenced by their educational opportunities. There is a national policy for the education of girls in Australian schools and there has been an increased educational attainment by girls of school age. School retention rates for girls for the two years of non-compulsory schooling are now higher than those for boys.

To assist mature age women the government has introduced a number of programs to encourage women into non-traditional areas and to provide literacy and language training for women from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Finally, the government also recognizes the importance of health to opportunity. The goal of the National Women's Health Program is to improve the health and well-being of women in Australia with a focus on the most at risk and to encourage the health system to be more responsive to the needs of women. It will aim to provide funding for primary care services for women in seven priority health areas.

The program targets all women, and especially those who suffer inequality of access to health services due to economic disadvantage, cultural inappropriateness or geographic or linguistic isolation.

The need to ensure advances are made for women, and that the national machinery remains appropriate and relevant led to a review of the government's advising mechanisms. The report was submitted to the Prime Minister and it recommended a greater focus on policy advising and on international activities.

Priority areas for Australia are therefore -

- 1 women's employment and economic security, in particular superannuation,
- 2 women and public life, in particular in decision-making processes and,
- 3 women and the law, with particular emphasis on the elimination of violence against women.

I thank the delegates.



Country Paper  
Bangladesh  
by  
Hon. Mr. Shajahan Siraj, M.P.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentleman,

Bangladesh has a land area of 144000 sq. km. and a population officially estimated at 108.8 million according to census of 1991, now estimated at 120 million. It is one of the world's densely populated countries. The population is officially said to be growing at 2.17% a year. The percentage of urban population is 18, while that of rural 82. The literacy rate of the country obtained from 1991 census was 24.8% for population 5 years and above. Medical facilities remain scarce. There were 3,189 persons per hospital bed and 5,210 per physician in 1991.

The civilian labor force was estimated at 50.7 million in 1989 according to Labor Force Survey of 1989. It was only 30.9 million in 1985-86. Currently 10% of the labor force have regular formal jobs while 15% are engaged as casual workers. The rest is classified as self employed or unpaid family workers. With a low per capital income of US\$ 220 and widespread poverty, the importance of employment problems can hardly be over emphasized. According to LFS 1989, the number of regular jobs in the formal sector has declined by 17% from 5.8 million in 1986 to 4.8 million in 1989 and number of casual laborers has remained virtually static at 7.8 million during the same period. About one third of the labor force is estimated to be unemployed

Against this back drop of population and Society of Bangladesh, population and development issues are considered very important for the planners. Human Resource Development (HRD) is a means for attainment of certain aspects of multifaceted human development and is related to formation and use of human capabilities. A strategic policy issue in sustainable development is, therefore, the development of human resources.

The Constitution of Bangladesh obligates the Government to adopt effective measures to introduce uniform, non-discriminatory, mass-oriented and universal system of education including free and compulsory education for all children. As to employment, the constitution provides for the right to guaranteed employment at a reasonable wage. In the development planning process of Bangladesh, essential elements of human resource development are recognized.

**Employment of Women:** The traditional roles of women in Bangladesh are fast changing due to increasing landlessness and male out-migration. Women are entering in the remunerating employment market as a sole or joint income earners of the households. They are now working in diversified fields covering all sectors of economy. In spite of traditional gender based division of labor, the involvement of women in post harvest agriculture, poultry, fisheries, forestry and farm in formal sector is substantial. In urban sectors, women's activities are concentrated in low paid informal sectoral activities in recently emerged labor intensive industries. However, their access to essential services necessary to overcome gender specific constraints to remunerative employment and better quality of life remained largely unfulfilled since an overwhelming large proportion of women below poverty line, they do not get health and educational facilities. Their potentials also remain unexplored for national development purposes. In some industries including garments, women, however, outnumber their male counterpart.

In Bangladesh, seven Ministries are, however, engaged with specific programs for self employment and poverty alleviation. Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labor and Manpower, Rural Development Board (RDS), Bangladesh Small Scale and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) are conducting some national wide programs. Recently, the Government has established an independent organization called Palli Karma Sohayak Foundation (Rural Employment Facilitator Foundation) to support the vulnerable groups : women and children. The Government of Bangladesh is giving top priority for female education and skill development. The female literacy rate grew up to 19.2% by 1991. This can not be a satisfactory state of affairs. Realizing the graveness of the situation the government has initiated a few measures to encourage women's' participation in educational programs. In rural areas all girls student are getting free education, books and stipend up to secondary level. Food for education system also adopted in primarily level. It is expected that the literacy rate will rise to 59% by the year 2000.

In fine, let me reiterate that there should be objective poverty alleviation programs based on country's social and economic condition to address the issues of Population and Development, more particularly, female participation in economic development. These may be classified into two broad categories (a) macro-economic and sectoral programs to improve efficiency and increase productivity and growth in sectors where women and children predominate, and (b) programs designed at direct or indirect transfer of income to the vulnerable groups because of the inadequacy of the general growth policies to achieve the reduction of absolute poverty to the desired level. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you all.

Country Paper  
People's Republic of China  
by  
Hon. Dr. Hao Yichun, M.P.

Respected Mr. Chairman,  
Fellow Parliamentarians,

Female labor participation and economic development stand out as an issue of major importance today. We now gather here to share our experience and views on this issue, which, I hope, will serve to promote Asian women's movement and enable them to play an important role in economic development of Asian countries and the World.

China is a country with a large population and, in particular, with a large women population. Before the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese women had suffered feudal oppression and enslavement for thousands of years and experienced a history of being trampled and bullied by foreign intruders. After the founding of new China, the Chinese women have stood up with an entirely new face and become the masters of the country. Instead of being confined to home, they have now worked out and been actively engaged in socio-economic activities, thus making a big contribution to China's development.

Constitution of People's Republic of China stipulates, "Women enjoy equal rights as men in all aspects such as politics, economy, culture, society and family life". This, I believe, has affirmed women's same legal status with men in particular in labor and economic activities. Under China's Marriage Law, women enjoy equal freedom in marriage and divorce, and the relations between husband and wife are equal. Under the Law, husband and wife also have the freedom to choose their respective profession, and to work and take part in social activities. The Law on Protection of Women's Rights and Interests and the Labor Law adopted in 1992 and in 1994 respectively have further provided guarantee for women's equal rights on economic front. Under the above Laws, women are entitled to employment, and to equal pay for equal work, time-off, on-the-job safety and medical care as well as to special labor protection, and social insurance.

Since China embarked on a road of reform and opening-up in 1979, women have been furnished with more opportunities to participate in economic activities. By the end of 1992, the number of the female employees in China had reached 56 million, accounting for 38% of the total, representing a 24.1% increase over the figure in 1985. During the decade from 1978 to 1988, the employment rate of women in cities and towns grew at an average annual rate of 4.9%, which was higher than that of men and 1.27% percentage points higher than that of men and women put together. With the introduction of the household contract responsibility system with remuneration linked to output and the structural readjustment in the countryside, the rural women have now been able to work in an increasing number of fields. At present, women make up one third of the total of 14 million rural self-employed people. In areas experiencing fairly developed community economy, women engaged in commercial activities in rural areas account for half of the people of this kind there. The output value contributed by rural women represent 50-60% of the gross agricultural output value. The employment structure for women has now tended to become rational with the improvement of their occupational composition and professional level. The women's employment rate in finance and insurance, real estate, commerce, scientific research and comprehensive technical service ranked higher in that of other sectors. The number of women professionals grew faster than that of men. From 1982 to 1990, the women professionals increased by 5.44 mil-

lion, and the men 2.5 million. The gender ratio of professionals dropped from 161 in 1982 to 121 in 1990. A large number of talented women directors and managers have come to be emerged in the wave of economic reforms and opening-ups. With a sense of self-respect, self-confidence, self-reliance and self-strengthening, the Chinese women have continued to enhance their own capabilities, thus becoming an indispensable force in China's economic development.

The National People's Congress and governments at various levels in China attached great importance to women's participation in labor and economic development. The Chinese Government will continue in its efforts to promote and implement fully the Law on Protection of Women Rights and Interests and the Labor Law, expand, on a gradual basis, funds to support women in their participation in social and economic development, and create more opportunities for women in a bid to further rationalize women's employment structure in restructuring of industrial set-up. It will also continue in its efforts to improve the community service and advocate the sharing of housework and child-raising by both husband and wife to further release the burden of the working women, and to promote women's vocational technical education so as to enhance their educational and professional level.

Mr. Chairman, Asia is a continent with more women than any other continents in the world, and it would be impossible to talk about the rapid economic growth of a dynamic Asia in the absence of their contribution. Let us join our hands and channel our efforts towards an enhanced mutual understanding and an intensified cooperation among us so as to make greater contributions to promoting Asian women's participation in socio-economic development and maintaining prosperity and peace of the 21st century in Asia.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
India  
by  
Hon. Mrs. Chandra Prabha Urs, M.P.

Respected Mr. Chairman, Fellow Members of the Parliament, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a matter of happy coincidence that this APDA Meeting is being held soon after two major UN sponsored international events - the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development. It is increasingly recognized that women's issues directly impinge on the population cause. It was, therefore, particularly heartening that at these conferences people talked about reproductive health and health policy and sexual health and not just about population policy. Issues like education of girls, women's empowerment, access to reproductive health and family planning, maternal mortality, and adolescent reproductive health received pointed attention. In the backdrop of these key events in international consensus building, the topic chosen for deliberation here could not have been more appropriate.

A society which provides adequate and gainful avenues for absorption of its labor force fulfills the primary condition for fostering social development as a natural process. India's Eighth Five-Year Plan has described human development as the ultimate goal of all development. To this end, one of the principal objectives of the Eighth Five-Year Plan is generation of adequate employment to achieve near full employment level by the turn of the century.

According to the 1991 census, women in India represent 48.1% of the country's population and in absolute numbers 407.1 million. The gigantic task of achieving full employment cannot be achieved without increasing employment opportunities for women not only because of their number but also because they represent the very kernel around which social change must take shape. Investing in women is one of the most cost-effective ways of promoting development. As mothers, as producers or suppliers of food, fuel and water, as traders and manufacturers, as political and community leaders, women are at the center of the process of change.

The past few years have been amongst the most eventful in recent history. Besides the unprecedented changes in the political, diplomatic, economic and ideological spheres, certain quiet but perhaps more far-reaching ones have also taken roots. From growth to growth with equity, from bureaucratic delivery of services to people's participation, from economic development to human development and from assets and services endowment to empowerment, the paradigms of development have indeed come a long way. Secured by successful commitment at our highest political levels, this change constitutes the most enduring guarantee for the safeguarding of women's rights in India.

The Department of Women and Child Development, being the national agency for the advancement of women in India, is responsible for bringing women into the mainstream of national development, by raising their overall status on par with that of men. The Department in its nodal capacity, formulates policies and programs, enacts and amends laws affecting women and coordinates the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organizations working for improvement of women in the country. The programs of the Department which include employment and income generation, welfare and support services and gender sensitization and awareness generation are primarily directed towards the most disadvantaged sections living below poverty line,

and other economically backward groups. These programs supplement and complement the other general development programs in areas such as health, education, labor and employment, rural and urban development.

The Department of Women and Child Development has reset its priorities to accord special emphasis to employment and income generation activities for women. The ultimate objective in all these efforts is to promote women economically independent and self-reliant.

Development can be sustainable only if it is achieved on the basis of equality between men and women. The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) which was launched in 1992, promises to ensure that the benefits of development from different sectors specifically benefit women and special programs will be implemented to complement the general development programs.

Women in India happen to be in the situation in which they find themselves today because of certain historical reasons. More and more concrete steps are being taken to empower women with the decision making power which ipso facto will automatically raise women's status and redress the imbalances which our social structure suffers from.

Some of the important programs initiated and supported by the government with a view to fostering dignity of women and making them economically independent and self-reliant are described briefly.

### **Reservation for Partnership in Grassroots Level Democracy**

The passing of the 72nd and 73rd constitutional Amendment in 1992 by the Parliament is a landmark event in the lives of Indian women, as they ensure one-third of total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies, both in rural and urban areas. As a result of this, women have been brought to the center stage in the nation's efforts to strengthen democratic institutions at the grassroots level and to enter into public life through 230,000 local bodies all over the country. Of these, about 76,200 will have chairwomen at the village, block and district levels. A massive, countrywide training program has also been launched in 1993 to extend leadership training for the Panchayat members/chairpersons emerging as a result of the 72nd and 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

### **Support to Training and Employment Projects Program**

This program aims to upgrade the skills of poor and assetless women and provides them employment on a sustainable basis in the traditional sectors such as agriculture, dairy farming, fisheries, sericulture, hand loom and hand-crafts. The Eighth Five-Year Plan has earmarked a provision of Rs. 570 million to provide traditional employment to 50,000 women.

### **Training cum Employment cum Production Centers**

This major program extends financial assistance to public sector undertakings/corporations/autonomous bodies/voluntary organizations to train women in non-traditional trades and provide employment on a sustainable basis. Priority is given for training in modern and upcoming trades like electronics, electrical, watch assembly and manufacturing, computer programming, printing and binding, hand loom, garment making, weaving and spinning, hotel management, fashion technology and beauty culture, tourism, bakeries, confectionery and office management. In the Eighth Plan a provision of Rs. 220 million exists to train/upgrade skills for about 25,000 girls and women in non-traditional trades. This program not only plays a preventive role in

keeping the young and adolescent girls away from early marriages, but also keeps them gainfully engaged with economic independence and self-reliance.

### **Socio-Economic Program**

This is a major program of employment and training for women implemented by the autonomous Central Social Welfare Board. In the Eighth Plan a provision of Rs. 250 million exists under this program to assist 70,000 women with employment opportunities. Trades promoted under this program include both traditional and agro-based industries besides non-traditional trades.

### **Scheme of Hostel for Working Women**

In order to promote greater mobility for women in the employment market, the Department launched a scheme of hostels for working women in 1973 to provide safe and cheap accommodation to single working women who come to the cities and towns for the sake of employment. So far 675 hostels with attached day-care centers have been sanctioned to be constructed all over the country and to benefit about 44,500 working women and their dependent children numbering about 6,000.

### **Creches for Working/Ailing Mothers' Children**

This scheme is being implemented by the Central Social Welfare Board through voluntary social welfare organizations and by two other national level voluntary organizations viz. the Indian Council for Child Welfare and the Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, all over the country. There are about 12,389 creches spread all over the country benefiting 3,10,000 children.

### **Media Campaign**

An integrated media campaign, projecting positive images of both women and the girl child, is an important component of the government's communication strategy. A large number of TV. programs, documentary films, radio programs with positive messages about the girl child and women, have been produced to undertake publicity and coverage. Special campaigns to combat atrocities against women have also been launched throughout the country in collaboration with the State Home Departments and NGOs.

### **National Credit Fund for Women**

The fund was set up in 1993 with the aim of reaching the poorest of the poor and asset-less women who are in need of credit but cannot reach the formal banking or credit system, through the mediation of thrift and credit groups and NGOs. During the first six years, the fund hopes to cover over 2,00,000 women.

### **Recruitment of Women in the Armed Forces.**

Another landmark decision of the Government of India has been to throw open the commissioned ranks of the selected branches of the armed forces to women, e.g., air traffic control positions, law cadre and logistics cadre in the navy; fighter controller and air traffic controller jobs in the air force and logistics and education wings in the army.

India has adopted a policy of economic liberalization envisaging encouragement of private and foreign investment and reducing regulation. It is gratifying that the UN in its 'The World Economy in 1994: An Update' has singled out India as one of the significant contributors to the collective economic growth in South and East Asia last year. India is the only South Asian country in the high performing group, all others being either from South East or East Asia. The measures taken by India aim at stimulating exports, containing inflation, strengthening infrastructure, promoting competition and opening up additional opportunities for employment, laying down strong foundation for building up a modern and progressive economic edifice comparable with anywhere in the world. No doubt, to make the Indian economy really viable many more down-

stream measures have to be taken. The special strategies, policies and programs designed towards expansion of employment opportunities for women will result in perceptible improvement in labor productivity of women. Women are thus destined to share the burden of society in equal measure with men in the ensuing century as co-partners playing a key role in the economic transformation of the country.

From the foregoing resume, it is evident that increasing steps are being taken to give women the opportunities of revealing their full potential. Society's attitude and mind set towards women is gradually changing in favor of a new orientation and outlook. Hopefully the ensuing century will see a sort of cultural revolution to hum after Chaucer as per the tale of Melibcus:

There said once a clerk: What is better than gold? Jasper. What is better than Jasper? Wisdom. And what is better than wisdom? Woman. And what is better than woman? Nothing.

Undoubtedly, women are best bet "not only for survival but also progress towards peace and contentment in human life."

Thank you very much.



Country Paper  
Indonesia  
by  
Hon. Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, M.P.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I. INTRODUCTION :

This paper is an attempt to take a critical and pragmatic look at issues related to women's participation in the work force in Indonesia at the end of the 20th century and on into the 21st century. It is written in the context of the 11th Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, March 1995, in Tokyo, Japan and, drawing lessons from the Indonesian experience, concludes with some suggestions of possible action by Asian Parliamentarians.

It is clear that in the years to come if we aspire to continue improving the quality of life in Indonesia and survive in the increasingly competitive global market place we must create an environment which enables all members of society to be as productive as their own aspirations and the economic realities of life will permit. Neither men nor women should be artificially constrained from entering, contributing to, or benefiting from participation in the economy.

Analysis of patterns of labor force participation over the last 20 - 30 years in Indonesia shows that women have often been excluded from certain kinds of work (or opportunity to prepare for work) because of (i) gender stereo-typing (ii) set assumptions about social patterns or (iii) policies which are "gender blind" but have not, in their impact, been "gender neutral". We do not want to debate the validity of past policy. However, we suggest that times have changed, that we need to review the benefits or losses which will flow from those policies, and to determine what changes are necessary to achieve equity, peace, and prosperity in the 21st century.

Historically, gender stereo-typing led people to say "technical" fields are "more appropriate for boys, less appropriate for girls" hence girls were quickly directed to "social" fields in school. The result : they were not qualified for higher technical training and ultimately work in the highly respected and well remunerated fields. The pattern sometimes became self-perpetuating as women's absence from these fields was cited as demonstration of the fact that, indeed, technical fields were not appropriate for women.

Education, compensation, and career advancement in Indonesia has often assumed that women's income was supplementary, that men were the primary support for the family, and that all women "had a man" to take care of them. Research and census data demonstrate that if this was ever the case, it is not so now. A significant fraction of women in Indonesia are heading households -- they are the primary income earner. At all levels of the economic spectrum it is not uncommon for the woman's income to be larger than the man's and it is almost invariably directly related to levels of family welfare. In cases of divorce, abandonment and widowhood, although sometimes getting help from relatives, the woman generally has primary responsibility for financial support of her family. Now, women in most of these situations -- and their children if they still have a young family -- are unfairly penalized by policy and practice which assume all women are dependent and have an economic life-partner.

Only in the late 20th century has it become widely recognized around the globe (and in Indonesia) that policies which are "gender blind" -- that is, they are framed without special reference to either men or women -- are often not "gender neutral" in their impact. In practice, much which appears "gender blind" on paper has had the effect of excluding women unnecessarily. For example, age criteria in selection of candidates for advanced academic training (which is often a requirement for career advancement) often have a ceiling of age 35. A study by the Indonesian National Institute of Sciences (Lipi 1992) has shown that this effectively screens out many women who, in their early 30s may be struggling with the most demanding period of homemaking. Given modern day life expectancy, this is a waste of human resources as well as unfair to the women who are otherwise qualified. The life cycle of men and women is different and we argue that such differences must be taken into consideration in formulation of labor force policy and programs.

As Indonesia starts the second 25 year period of development it is appropriate that we review and evaluate our experience so that we can, if needed, reorient ourselves in ways that will bring the most benefit to our people and the nation in the 21st century. We offer this review for the consideration of our fellow Parliamentarians.

Examination of our experience and reflection on the future in this paper is organized as follows :

- I. Introduction
- II. Women and Work
- III. Some aspects of the Indonesian economy and labor market
- IV. Towards a better future
- V. Ideas for Parliamentarians

## II. WOMEN AND WORK

The Indonesian Constitution and the Basic Guidelines for State Policy (GBHN-1993) which are reformulated every five years both mention the right of all Indonesians to work and the right to a decent living. On the otherhand, experience has shown that achieving those rights in every day life is difficult. For women there are specific gender-based constraints to participation in the work force.

In the last 25 years Indonesia has gone through its first period of planned development. During these years through a combination of well conceived government policies and lively community effort much progress was made in people's welfare and a solid foundation was laid for steady and relatively equitable economic growth. Economic growth, delayed marriage, decline in total fertility rates, and longer life expectancy have all led to increases in the number of women in the work force.

Today, the women of Indonesia make up almost exactly 1/2 of the total population (Central Bureau of Statistics estimate for 1992 = 186,042,700 people). 44% of Indonesian women aged 15+ are working, a total of 25.6 million women. In concerning ourselves with participation of women in the work force, then, we are examining an issue of profound economic importance to the nation. At the same time, however, given most women's multiple roles in society -- income earner, household manager, family and often community care giver -- we are also dealing with an issue of great social importance.

In the next five years, it is estimated that the female labor force will increase by 3.7% per year.

Table 1 : Projected female work force by age : 1990 - 2020

Age	1990	2000	2010	2020
10 - 14	923,764	825,484	789,245	635,084
15 - 19	3,163,420	4,035,795	4,016,935	3,978,534
20 - 29	7,445,793	9,919,354	11,735,239	12,304,784
30 - 39	6,000,245	9,107,038	11,644,309	13,441,435
40 - 49	4,243,663	6,772,178	9,864,407	12,327,406
50 - 59	2,961,170	4,091,340	6,595,258	9,631,460
60 +	1,778,608	2,894,079	4,203,165	6,683,184
	26,516,663	37,645,268	48,848,559	59,056,194
Total workf'c	73,913,364	98,944,520	123,638,877	144,782,969
Wom as % of tot	35.9%	38.0%	39.5%	40.8%

(Source : Sulistyaningsih, Endang. Data from Central Bureau of Statistics)

This will place 7 million young women in the job market for the first time (ILO 1993) a rate of growth higher than that estimated for men in the same period.

Urban-specific rates for women over the last decade have been very high, averaging 8.8% per year, reflecting migration of young women to fill the rapidly increasing numbers of urban and peri-urban factories. However, total numbers still lag behind rural population and female work force totals. Projections are that the pattern of high female entry into the work force will continue for some time to come, assuring that job opportunity for rural and urban women will be one of the great development issues to be addressed well into the 21st century.

Another conspicuous characteristic of the female labor force will be its "aging". At the time of the 1990 census only 4.7 million women workers (17.9 % of the female work force) were in the age group 50 and above. By the year 2020, there will be 16.3 million "senior workers" and they will comprise 27.6% of the work force. At the other end (age 10 - 19) absolute numbers of women will rise only slightly in the next thirty years with the result that the youngest group of workers will, by that time, represent less than 8% of the female work force.

Table 2 : Aging of the female work force 1990 - 2020

Age	1990		2020	
	Female work force Number	%	Female work force Number	%
10-19	4,087,184	15.4%	4,613,618	7.8%
50 +	4,739,778	17.9%	16,314,644	27.6%

(Source : ILO, 1993. Based on Census data)

Indonesian women work at all levels in the economy, though disproportionately large numbers are found in less secure, lower status, lower paying jobs than in positions of leadership and decision making. In 1990, 32% of the female work force were in the formal sector and 68% in the informal. According to the Indonesian labor force survey (SAKERNAS, 1993) fully 50% of the women in the informal sector were unpaid family workers found primarily but not exclusively in rural areas. While absolute numbers change from one year to the next, the pattern of women filling the lower ranks of the economic ladder has changed only marginally through the years.

Over the thirty year period 1960 - 1990 (census data 1961, 1971, 1980, and 1990) most women in the labor force have been involved in one of four industries -- agriculture, trade, manufacturing, or services. Three things are striking : (i) There has been a predictable decline in the % of women in agriculture as a result of changes in agricultural technology which have displaced much labor, particularly women workers who were the primary, or in some cases the exclusive, labor force for certain processes in rice cultivation on the island Java where 60% of Indonesia's population is located. (ii) On the otherhand, there has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of women going into trade, many among them women who lost their places in the agricultural work force or younger women who, although in rural areas, never had regular work as agricultural labor (iii) There has been a steady rise in women's involvement in manufacturing and service industries. (Annex 1 : graphic)

Table 3 : Patterns of female employment 1961 and 1990

	1961 % of Female work force	1990 % of Female work force
Agriculture	71.0%	49.0%
Trade	7.9%	20.0%
Manufacturing	8.1%	14.2%
Services	12.2%	14.9%

(Source : ILO, 1993. Based on Census data)

What has women's experience been in the work force?

Married women who are working -- probably the vast majority of all workers over the age of 25 -- almost invariably find themselves squeezed between their occupational and home-making responsibilities, between their productive and reproductive functions. But there are other groups of working women who have special problems, as well. The girl-child worker, women heading households, and the older woman worker.

Child labor is declining in Indonesia as incomes rise and universal primary education (9 years) becomes the norm. However, at the time of the 1990 census there were still something under a million (923,297) girls aged 10-14 who were listed as part of the work force. The vast majority of the girls were in rural areas (83%). If we look forward in time to the women they will become in the 21st century, we must be concerned about the phenomenon of girl-child worker today. They are prime candidates for long term poverty and disadvantage. The girl-child worker is often three times disadvantaged: she generally loses the opportunity for education and normal youthful socialization; she is always paid at an exploitative rate compared to adult workers; and indications are that she is underpaid even compared to her age mates who are working, the boy-child worker. (Data from small 1992 study of child workers in Greater Metropolitan Area)

Women heading households are over represented among the poor in Indonesia, as elsewhere in the world. Research suggests this is, in part, because they are usually trying to combine too many responsibilities: such women are the primary income earner for their families; they have the "usual" responsibility of women for care and nurture of children and other members of the household; and in Indonesia, their households tend to have fewer working adult members -- thus fewer sources of income -- than complete families.

Older women workers, particularly rural women who entered a less sophisticated economy as unskilled labor some years ago, are unequipped to compete in the rapidly modernizing economy today, and have little access to appropriate training or retraining.

Special mention should also be made of women in work with special risks, for example, women going overseas with international contractors and commercial sex workers.

The issue of international female migration to seek employment is not a small matter. The official and unofficial flow of women overseas is large and there are few signs of change. In the eight years between 1984 and 1992 742,000 Indonesians passed through official channels. 75% of them were women and 93% of the women went as domestic servants. This official flow of women pales by comparison with discussion of unofficial/ illegal migrants. The ILO estimates the number, men and women, to be in the neighborhood of 1 to 1.2 million a year to Malaysia, alone. Through press reports and personal observation one knows that substantial numbers of women are among them.

The vast majority of girls entering sex work do so out of necessity, want to retire as quickly as possible, but are often responsible for support of children and parents and see few alternatives for survival. In this era of HIV/AIDS, sex work or any work exposing women to forced or unprotected sex is life-threatening and demands our special attention and efforts.

### III. SOME ASPECTS OF THE INDONESIAN ECONOMY AND THE LABOR MARKET

The Indonesian economy is well established as we begin our second 25 year cycle of development. In 1967 it was estimated that more than 60% of the population was living in absolute poverty. By 1992 the number was down to 15% (World Bank 1990 and BAPPENAS 1992) and the economic growth rate which averaged an annual 4 % per year through the early 1980s had reach and held steady at over 6% per year from 1988 through 1992 (World Bank 1994 and Manning and Hardjono 1993). A number of characteristics are conspicuous which will influence the size and nature of the job market in the 21st Century : the private sector is growing by leaps and bounds; science and technology are changing the way people work and the way we live.

Mechanization is spreading rapidly in both modern and traditional enterprises, sometimes opening new job opportunity, but often with negative impact on women. As enterprises move from more labor intensive to more capital intensive methods women tend to be laid off in large numbers and the smaller crew which is maintained for work with machines is filled with men. In Indonesia this has been documented in both urban and rural situation, in both modern and traditional economic activity. (ILO, Manning and Hardjono, World Bank and others).

Finally, and of profound importance to the coming generation of women workers who will still be primarily located in rural areas, the field of primary agriculture is virtually saturated. The development of off-farm but still rural economic activity will be crucial if these women are to be self-reliant and productive members of society.

As we enter the 21st century the single most conspicuous fact related to our topic, then, is that for at least the next five years and probably stretching well into the 21st century, close to half the female labor force will be self-employed or unpaid family workers. Any strategy intended to affect women's participation in the economy positively, must be designed to meet the challenge of a widely dispersed and unorganized mass of women working alone or in very small groups.

### IV. TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

Based on observation of the Indonesian situation I would like to suggest one important principle to guide our efforts and identify 4 priority issues we must address if we are to strengthen women's opportunity for effective participation in the economy as we move into the 21st century.

The principle : Efforts to improve women's labor force participation should be based on the notion that we are enabling women to achieve their rights. We are not doing them a "special favor." We are not working on a "woman's issue" to benefit women. It is in the best interests of women, families, and the nation that we work to achieve the full productive employment of women. This will necessitate gender analysis of the work place and of economic policies and programs to identify and eliminate patterns which may historically have worked to the disadvantage of women (and the economy). It will also require a holistic look at the reality of women's lives and new efforts to understand the impact of a woman's life cycle on her interaction with the labor market. Women must play a key role in setting priorities, identifying problems and designing solutions. However, in the end, the social and economic reorientation we advocate can only come through partnerships of men and women, people and institutions.

The four priorities we propose are :

1. Expansion and diversification of job opportunity for both urban and rural women. There are four kinds of activity which, working together, could open new opportunity for women and release new energy and ideas into the economy. (1) Qualified women must be given equitable access to openings in the upper levels of the workplace which historically have been closed to them because of gender bias in job allocation. (2) Labor intensive approaches must not be dismissed automatically in favor of mechanization. In cases where a process with heavy female employment must be mechanized to maintain Indonesia's competitiveness in the international market, the women displaced should be offered opportunity for retraining and assistance in finding new employment. (3) For women in the informal sector, particularly women in rural areas who can no longer find openings in agriculture, promotion of micro-enterprise and individual small scale business will be critical. (4) Finally, care needs to be given to promote equity between boys and girls, men and women in preparation for and entry to newly created fields of work.

2. Ensuring the quality of women seeking access to or participating in the work force. The two most critical fields in this regard will be health and education both of which will directly affect a woman's employability as well as the benefit she gains from her effort. In the field of health, attention is needed to identify potential work-related health risks and their specific impact on women e.g. ergonomics, hours of work, air and noise pollution, the impact of continuous lifting of heavy weights, physical safety, stress which can arise from keeping up with an assembly line or balancing the conflicting demands of home and the workplace etc. (see annex 2 for table of threats to women's health in the workplace).

In this connection, training is needed for factory managers, labor inspectors, company doctors, public health care providers who are responsible for the health of women workers to ensure that they, themselves, are gender sensitive in both their evaluation of the workplace and their interaction with women workers. For example, reviewing a listing of reported industrial injuries we find 41.3% of all female injuries were falls (ILO 1993, using ASTEK figures). Inspectors, health care providers, and factory managers who were gender sensitive would take note of this extremely conspicuous pattern and immediately begin to question : is something wrong with equipment? building design? assembly lines? Are there, in fact cases of beating being covered up as "falls"? Why are men's injuries rather evenly spread across a variety of problems and women's so concentrated in one area?

On the other hand, it will also be important for women to have access to more appropriate health information so that they, themselves, can become more pro-active in their own lives as well as in the workplace.

At least three kinds of education can play a vital role in helping women enter and stay productively active in the work force : basic primary and secondary education, skill training, and continuing education.

The personal and societal benefits from provision of basic education for girls to the highest level possible has been demonstrated world wide. However, skill training and continuing education which are job-related are of critical importance to facilitate entry into the work force. Historically in Indonesia, girls have had much more limited access to such training than boys. The training girls did receive was handicapped in two ways. (i) It was often narrowly focused on "traditional female activity" such as cooking, sewing, and child care. (ii) It seldom included the training and practice necessary for economically productive use of the skills which were learned.

In the early part of the 21st century, while so many women will still be working outside the formal economy, training and technical support for entrepreneurship will be a critical component in any training of girls/ women which is intended to help them survive and contribute to the economy. This can be done through government programs, NGO activity or private sector job-training.

In connection with the two issues of health and education mention should be made, again, of the special needs of older women workers. As we see in table 2 (page 5) by the year 2020, 27% of the female work force will be women who are age 50 or older. Because of the longer life expectancy of women, maintenance of good health is critical for a productive old age. In addition, many of these women may well have weak educational background. In order to protect them from sliding into an old age of hardship and poverty, special programs will be needed to help them remain productive and to provide health and social insurance after they are too old to work.

3. Review and revision, if needed, of law and regulations to create an environment favorable to equitable and non exploitative participation of women in the work force. If accompanied by appropriate mechanisms for popularization and enforcement, law and regulations can become an important tool to humanize the job market and empower women workers, individually and in groups, to take more action on their own behalf. The key issues needing regulation and monitoring are (1) physical safety and welfare of workers (2) standards and practices of compensation and advancement (3) the rights of workers vis a vis employers (4) clear and practical procedures to appeal unacceptable conditions or in situations of dispute.

Special issues must be raised in regard to the rights and protection of women who are working abroad. This will require international collaboration to develop mutually acceptable standards against which to measure the conditions of work and treatment of women workers, sanctions for violation of those standards, with particularly heavy penalties for people or institutions which intentionally mislead, exploit or abuse girls and women working outside of their home country.

In most cases Indonesian law and regulations are not to the disadvantage of women. Practice, however, often departs from that law and mechanisms to enforce what is already on the books are in some cases slow, in others weak. As we move into the 21st century it is important to keep in mind how large the labor force will be. This will weaken women's incentive to push too hard for better conditions lest they be replaced and still further marginalized. Thus, it is incumbent upon society, as a whole, to continue to work for greater equity and security in the work place, at home, and abroad.

4. Helping women who have major home-making responsibility address the problems arising from the multiple demands they face. In this, particular attention needs to be given during the years women have heavy and unique responsibility for child-care/ child-rearing. We must find ways to reduce conventional gender biases which make the experience of most working women over-demanding and under-rewarding because of what has been referred to as "the second shift" -- a woman works "one shift" in the workplace and a "second shift" at home cooking, washing, cleaning, tending the children, etc (Hochschild 1989). As men and women share economic support for the family, so, in time, parenting must become a more equitably shared, mutual responsibility.

To address these problems there need to be both short term and long term approaches; family, community, employer, and government involvement. The main challenge, however, may be in gaining wide acknowledgement of the problem as an important issue of modern national life, not a personal problem of "the busy woman."



Action might include establishment of accessible child care facilities in the workplace, in the community, in the neighborhood. But child rearing and family responsibility which rest on women now is far broader than "just day care". A wide range of community services are needed to help the household with working adults find mutually acceptable ways to provide quality care for all members of the family. This, in turn, may have the effect of releasing the woman for skill training which will lead to greater employability or greater efficiency in her own enterprise.

Change in the way men and women see their own and each other's home responsibility will come only slowly. Indonesian society is in transition. The demands and opportunities in life (more education, more mobility, a growing fascination with consumer good -- TV, motor bike, video, Nike sport shoes etc) have changed faster than the social expectation reflected in still persistent gender stereo-types (the husband earns the living and the wife raises the family).

Through a long term process of socialization in the family, in school, in community organizations, in public policy etc. boys and girls can and will learn and evolve new patterns. In the long run this will have beneficial effect on division of labor in the household as well as how family responsibility is viewed by employers. The process can be facilitated through curriculum reform in primary school to remove gender stereo types in educational material; through gender sensitivity training for teachers, community leaders, and business leaders. In time there will be a place for policies of "family leave" for the male parent as well as "maternity leave" for the female in the Indonesian workplace etc.

## V. IDEAS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

What can Parliamentarians do? Exactly what can be done and how will depend on the situation in each country, on the structures of government, the condition of the economy, the current and projected shape of the job market and the nature of the female labor force etc. However, in each country there will be some opening for action to facilitate the difficult process of socio-economic-legal evolution and change which is underway. First of all, we can inform ourselves about the job market and women's involvement in the labor force -- rural and urban; at home and abroad; in our respective constituencies and the nation. On the basis of that information we can lobby, advocate, inform, and educate others within Parliament, in discussion with government, in meetings with the people. In cases where information is not available as a basis for such activity, we should take the initiative to call for and support appropriate research and field studies

On the international level it is essential that we give priority to collaboration on a range of complex and crucial issues related to international migration of women looking for work. They deserve special attention and special efforts. They have few allies, no voice, and often they are, in fact, invisible leaving them exposed to hideous exploitation, abuse, and abandonment. It is in the best interests of us all to reduce and ultimately eliminate the violation of basic human and social rights many times carried out in the name of "opportunity". Women should, indeed, be entitled to seek international employment if they wish. But we must act to assure that this "opportunity" is not at the cost of their dignity or their life.

To do this we must attempt to identify some combination of incentives and sanctions which will work on employers and employees, on men and women, on families and communities and stimulate them all to join in the development of sustainable, humane

work options and at the same time relieve women from carrying an unfair share of family and social responsibility for home making and child care.

In conclusion, I reiterate : we are not talking about a "woman's issue", to be discussed and resolved by women. Rather, it is an issue of national and international importance with implications reaching into the spheres of social justice, human development, and economic productivity. While some of the problems we have examined are local in origin, many are intimately tied to the larger and increasingly globalized economy. Thus, we would argue, that to achieve the just, peaceful and prosperous society we desire in the 21st century, we must mobilize the international community as well as striving to influence the environment at home.

Thank you.

Country Paper  
Korea  
by  
Hon. Ms. Sun-Young Kang, M.P.

Dear Chairman of APDA, Mr. Maeda, Chairman of AFPPD, Mr. Sakurai, and all the parliamentarians and distinguished guests and participants, it is a great honor for me to participate in the Conference on behalf of Korea and I would like to extend my gratitude to those who help organize the Conference. Today I will present my speech on Korea's strategies for women in the 21st century.

## I. Introduction

Since the year of 1962, Korea has achieved a rapid economic success and there is no denying that Korean women have contributed greatly to the success. Especially in the 1960's and 1970's, Korean women were the driving force behind the economic growth in the labor-intensive industries despite their low-wages and poor working conditions. In the 1980's the government policies put emphasis not only on economic development but also on social development with the establishment of balanced society in mind. As a result, the industrial structure was adjusted and the distribution system was improved to a degree as well. On the part of Korean women, these were significant advancements which help women gain economic clout through utilizing their abilities, thus enhance their economic and social status.

The 1980's marked a turning point in the history of Korean women's development; a number of institutions for women were established. The Korea Women's Development Institute and the National Committee on Women's Policies were established in 1983 and the Ministry of Political Affairs (2) took the responsibility of building necessary policies and coordinating them.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Act was enacted (1987) and revised (1989); the Family Act was revised (1989) and enforced (1991); the Infant and Child Care Act was enacted to provide child care for low-waged women workers.

Along with these improvements, the National Committee on Women's Policies adapted the Fundamental Plan for the Development of Women for the first time as part of government policies. In 1987 the women development plan become part of the 6th five-year economic and social development plan (1987-1991), making a striking leap in the women's development by making it part of the national development plan. In 1992 the 7th five-year economic and social development plan also contained the development programs for women. Finally, the Basic Plan for the Well-being of Women Workers was set in February of 1995 and the Special Committee for Women, which women parliamentarians and women's organizations had long hoped for, was established in the National Assembly in July of 1994.

As the women's development plans were reflected in the national development plans, they were being recognized as such and treated along with other national issues. All in all, it served as bedrock for the women's issues.

## II. Economic Development & Women's Status in the Labor Market

Over the past three decades Korea has achieved a phenomenal economic success; some even call it "the Miracle of the Han River." In the initial stages of the development, the Korean young women were the main force to the success by providing cheap labor in

the labor intensive industries. The women's participation in economic activities had been increasing since that period; the female labor force participation rate of 1993 was 47.2%, up 10.8% points from 1963.

During the same period, more than 50% of women workers were accounted for the agricultural sector but the ratio has been decreasing whereas more and more women have been engaging in service and manufacturing sectors. Out of 7.71 million women workers, 40% of the total labor force, 60% work for the service sector, 17% for the agricultural sector, 23% for the manufacturing sector in 1993.

Despite the improved education and increased number of women workers, it is regrettable the status of women in the labor market has not been enhanced given the Korean women's contribution to the remarkable success of the Korean Economy. Majority of women are concentrated in such areas customarily considered as "jobs for women". In a nutshell, most women are bound to get low-wage, repetitive manufacturing jobs such as garment-making, textiles, electronics assembly lines, and shoe-making; some work for sales and services in the non-official sector of the urban areas while women in the rural areas end up with agriculture as more and more young people flee and leave the farm lands to the old. The rate of women with administrative, managerial, or professional jobs has been increased significantly but still remains very low.

When it comes to the public sector, the women's participation rate is remarkably low. Even though the women public job holders stand at 234,097, accounting for 26.6% of the all public officials, most are concentrated in such lower level jobs as 8 or 9 grade with only 1.7% above the 5. Ever since President Kim Young Sam took office, he has nominated three women ministers, the number was on the increase.

Despite the fact that the Equal Employment Opportunity Act was enacted in 1987 and has been effective since 1988, women seem to have been discriminated in all gamut from selection procedures, placement, wage, training, promotion, to retirement. Also, the status of women has been inferior in the labor market. To rectify the improper practices, the Korean government and women's organizations are making continuous efforts.

In order to cope with the discrimination against women in the labor market, first of all, the number of child care facilities should be increased and their service diversified. The mentality for child rearing should also be changed so that not only the mother but also the father of a child should be responsible for child care. The parental leave for child care system, due to be implemented by the government in 1995, will have a positive impact on the society as a whole.

Secondly, given the fact that the number of young people is expected to be dwindled as potential work force for the future, it is all the more necessary to make strategic plans for women work force for state-of-the-art and information industries.

Then, more and more women should take in the decision-making roles of labor unions so that the voices of women workers can be heard within the unions and help women's issues take priorities. Labor unions, labor movement organizations, women's organizations and researchers should join forces to terminate the gender inequality in the labor market by monitoring the implementation of the Equal Employment Act and any discriminatory practices.

Ultimately, flexible working time practices and cordial labor relation should be established to help women coordinate their activities at home and in society. To this end,

relevant laws are required to employ such as part-time work and work-at-home practices.

### III. The Strategies for Women for the Sustainable Social Development in the 21st Century

The world we face at the last decade of the century present us both hope for the 21st century and challenges to overcome. The 1990's are at once the decade to conclude the 20th century and to open the 21st century. A new era is dawning for women around the world. The 21st century, particularly, should remain the era of challenge and possibility for women's development. We should conduct extensive research and give serious consideration with regard to how to set the direction and the goal for the strategies for the sustainable economic development.

The society in the 21st century should be the place where men and women equally participate and equally take responsibilities. There should be no place where one's gender decides the status, values, and opportunities of an individual.

In order to achieve women's full participation in social, political, and economic activities, first of all, everybody should bear in mind that gender equality should be realized at home and in society. Next, institutional arrangements should be in place in order to eradicate not only "de jure" discrimination but also "de facto" discrimination against women. Also, we should recognize it is one's home that serves the starting point to create a society in which men and women equally participate and equally take responsibilities.

To this end, we have to figure out what the women's issues are, what priorities they deserve, and on what stance women stand today. Thus, we should generate efforts to make the issues parts of the decision-making procedures of the government. For this purpose, women's organizations would make concerted efforts to establish action plans and monitor the establishment and implementation of government policies addressing women's issues.

Women's participation in politics can be the most efficient means to make women's voice heard in the decision-making processes. To this end, the hurdles blocking the participation should be torn down for women to gain political clout.

Women's organizations should be the driving force to form the political clout through consolidation which each other. On the part of women, they should make conscious efforts to gain political grounds on their own by exercising their voting rights, thus political platforms contain appropriate policies for women.

All in all, we should be open-minded and share with each other experience, expertise, and resources beyond the economic, social, regional, and national boundaries. Also, we should exert our efforts and pool our strength to gain substantial clout in society, which will enable us to play the pivotal role to make the world a better place to live.

Once again I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Maeda and those who help organize the Conference. I am very grateful that they provide such precious occasions as this Tokyo Conference as well as the Beijing Conference of 1994 and the Conference scheduled for next year, to present women's issues and discuss them. I hope all of you pay heed to women's issues and wish the best for the future of the Asian Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Development.

Thank you very much.

Paper Submitted  
Country Paper  
Malaysia  
by  
Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.

## Background

The New Economic Policy (NEP) was implemented within the long-term First Outline Perspective Plan (OPP1, 1971-1990) and had two immediate objectives through which it envisaged to achieve national unity and stability. The objectives were the eradication of poverty and the restructuring of society to correct racial economic imbalances and regional disparities. During the period the economy's real GDP recorded a respectable 6.7% annual growth rate. After 1990, the OPP1 was replaced by the medium term OPP2 which covers a shorter period of 1991-2000, and the NEP was replaced by the New Development Policy (NDP). Nevertheless, the NEP still remains part of a set of economic and social decisions that define the long term development path of Malaysia towards achieving the status of a fully developed and industrial nation by year 2020. The NDPs' main objective is to achieve national unity through an all-round and well-balanced development-economically, politically, socially, spiritually, psychologically and culturally.

The vision 2020 envisages the economy to double every ten years between 1990 and 2020. Within this context, the Malaysian GDP would be expected to grow eight fold by year 2020. This means an increase of GDP from RM 115 billion in 1990 to RM 920 billion in 2020 (in 1990 prices), implying a growth rate of about 7.0% per annum. Based on a projected annual population growth of 1.9% between 1990 and 2000, the anticipated output growth translates into an increase in per capita income by at least four times. In order to support higher levels of per capita income, the economy is expected to undergo further structural transformation towards modern, higher-value added and more productive economic activities mainly in the manufacturing and services sectors of the economy. This structural transformation will need to be accompanied by greater shift towards new technology usage requiring new skill configurations.

## Population and Female Labor Participation

Prospective changes in population in terms of growth, distribution and age structure have deep-rooted implications for those involved in policy formulation and planning. Malaysia's population is expected to continue to grow at a relatively high rate compared with most other countries in South-East and East Asia. As compared to a growth rate of 2.6% per annum in the 1980's, it is expected to gradually experience a fall to 1.9% and 1.5% respectively in the following two decades. By year 2020 Malaysia's population would reach 32 million as compared to 18 million in 1990. The smaller growth rate is due to current trends in declining fertility rates, attributable to higher educational levels, higher marriage-age, increasing urbanization, improved standards of living and declining family-size.

Recent trends indicate that the labor market is currently experiencing a full-employment situation, where the unemployment rate had fallen from about 5.1% in 1990 to about 2.8% in 1994. During the same period employment generation grew at about 3.5% per annum whilst the labor force growth rate averaged 2.8% per annum, thus creating a net shortage in the supply of local labor. The tight labor market situation was to an extent aggravated by problems such as weaknesses in labor mobility between labor surplus

and labor shortage regions, labor market information systems, skills mismatches and generally low female labor force participation rates. Given the tight labor market situation, the recruitment of foreign labor was allowed as a temporary measure to supplement the labor market. The total share of foreign labor is estimated at 15% (about 1.15 million workers) of the total of number employed in all sectors of the economy.

Taking the longer term perspective, that is between the years 1990-2020, the population in the age group of below 15 years is expected to decline from 37% in 1990 to about 28% in the year 2020, reflecting the projected decline in the total fertility rate. On the other hand, the proportion of those in the working-age group (15-64 years), is expected to increase from 59% in 1990 to 65% in the year 2020. This reflects a 2.3% annual growth for the population in the 15-64 years working-age group. Overall, the population structure in year 2020 will remain youthful, with an medium age of 28 years as compared with 22 years currently. By comparison, the median age for the population in Europe will be 40 years. Though this augurs well for the economy which currently experiences a tight labor supply situation in the light of robust economic conditions, the future challenges would call for continuing efforts in the direction of generating and sustaining productive employment for the working-age population who would make up 65% (20 million) of the total population (32 million) in year 2020.

Other than the trends in population dynamics as mentioned above, two main options may be cited as important alternatives to support and sustain the growing Malaysian economy that is expected to undergo further structural transformations, namely

- (i) abandoning labor-intensive production processes and moving towards higher value-added and highly automated production technologies, and
- (ii) increasing female labor force participation rates.

The first option is currently being adopted and implemented in full gear in direct response to reducing continued dependence on foreign labor in the country. This strategy is preempted by the fact that there is a ready supply of skilled manpower both in terms of quality and quantity. Therefore efforts towards upgrading the skills delivery system and developing it into an efficient training services support industry is being given top priority.

The second option above, namely increasing female labor force participation rate has social as well as economic implications. Over the past two decades the overall labor force participation rate (LFPR) have been experiencing an upward trend, increasing from 60% in 1970 to 66.5% in 1990. However, while the male LFPR has more or less peaked at around 85%, the female LFPR at 48% can be considered relatively low by comparison with the developed OECD countries where female LFPR stands at around 62%; i.e. a difference of 14% which if fully tapped would account for about half the total size of foreign labor currently employed in Malaysia. The structure of female population in the working-age group (15-64 years) in 1990 suggest that there exists a relatively substantial proportion of housewives who choose to remain outside the labor market for reasons such as their role in looking after family needs and welfare and rigidities in the labor market. In 1990, approximately 77% (2.3 million) of the total population in the working-age group who choose to remain outside the labor market were females (Peninsular Malaysia only) a majority of them (66%) were in the more active 20-54 age group, and that 80% comprised of housewives. The distribution of female labor according to industry and gender is shown in table below:

**Distribution of Female Labor By Industry and Gender 1990 (in thousands)**

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Industry	Male	Female
Agriculture and Forestry	1140.1	597.9
Mining and Quarrying	32.2	4.8
Manufacturing	714.4	618.6
Electricity, Gas and Water	43.7	3.3
Construction	405.7	18.3
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	747.8	470.2
Transport, Storage and Communications	268.4	33.6
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	169.7	88.3
Other services	825.3	503.7
Total	4347.3	2338.7

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Source: Sixth Malaysia Plan and Department of Statistics.

Wooing more female labor participation in economic development would mean higher family income and better standards of living. However, being an economy in transition in the development continuum, several constraints stand in the way that inhibit full incorporation of women in the mainstream of national development. The National Policy on Women formulated and adopted by the Government in 1989, takes due cognizance of the fact that women do have a key role in development, but their full and equal participation have been hampered by the following constraints:

- (i) the dual, and often competing responsibilities of family and career restrict the mobility and increased participation of women in the labor market;
- (ii) gender differentiation in schools not only transforms into occupational differentiation later, it also limits the adaptability and participation of women in the labor market;
- (iii) social mores and prejudices regarding the role and status of women in society and in the labor market restrain their involvement in economic activities;
- (iv) women are often perceived as secondary earners who only supplement family incomes rather than as co-earners. Consequently, income-generating projects targeted at women generally reinforce their home-maker roles, providing few opportunities for the acquisition of new and marketable skills;
- (v) the working environment is generally not conducive to the sustained employment of women. The fixed hours of work, the lack of support services for child upbringing, as well as the lack of provision for time off for child rearing preclude prolonged female participation in the labor market. This also limits opportunities for training and career enhancement;
- (vi) women with children, who are financially dependent on their husbands, are particularly vulnerable in cases of domestic violence. Their lack of skills very often limits their options, preventing them from securing alternative sources of income;



(vii) several laws that discriminate against women serve to institutionalize the inequalities between women and men; and

(viii) the inadequate representation and participation of women in all policy and decision making bodies pose serious draw backs for redressing discrimination against women through institutional processes.

#### Policy Framework and Strategies for Facilitating Female Labor Participation in Economic Development

The National Policy on Women reflects the needs, interests and aspirations of women in Malaysia. The goals of the policy as set out in the Sixth Malaysia Plan (SMP, 1991-1995) are:

(i) to ensure equitable sharing in the acquisition of resources and information, as well as access to opportunities and benefits of development, for both women and men, and

(ii) to integrate women in all sectors of national development in order to improve the quality of life, eradicate poverty, abolish ignorance and illiteracy and ensure a peaceful and prosperous nation.

These goals have been translated into broad strategies upon which all other action plans are drawn out and implemented. The broad strategies as outlined in the SMP are as follows:

(i) strengthen the national machinery to address women's issues;

(ii) reorientate the institutional process for the planning, implementation and monitoring of Government policies and programs to accommodate women's concerns;

(iii) raise public awareness and sensitize the Government bureaucracy with regard to women's concerns;

(iv) activate NGOs in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of socio-economic programmers; and

(v) redress problems of discrimination and promote affirmative action for the benefit of women in particular.

In response to the constraints and the policy framework mentioned above with respect to women participation in economic development especially in relation to meeting labor market needs and human resource development, various measures are being implemented by the government in Malaysia. The salient ones are listed below:

(i) removing rigidities in the Employment Act of 1955 to enable more women to enter the labor market to work on part-time and flex-time basis whilst ensuring the accruable proportionate benefits of employment are retained as per the full-time worker. The Employment Act is being further reviewed and appropriate amendments will be incorporated to be in consonance with labor market needs. The potential for women to enter into gainful economic activities is indeed great and that the legal framework for employment must respond as an enabling factor in facilitating greater women participation (especially housewives) in the labor market.

(ii) encouraging employers in the setting up of child-care centers at or near workplaces where working mothers/parents can have access to children during time-off periods.

Guidelines on the setting up of such centers have been finalized by the Labor Department. Tax deductions for the establishment of such centers have been approved by the Treasury.

(iii) an incentive scheme is also being studied to enable the deduction of costs from taxable income incurred by both parents and employers in obtaining/providing child-minding services/child-care facilities with the view to optimizing productive employment through higher value-added activities which have net tangible benefits at the macro economic and family levels. This scheme should be formulated with respect to considerations for social and family stability and development.

(iv) encouraging employers to schedule appropriate shift-hours of work whereby the spouses 'lose' only minimal family-contact-hours through partial over-lapping of working hours between the working parents;

(v) setting up centers managed by trained counselors at strategic locations to provide counseling services on family welfare and development. This would also include the setting up of in-house initiatives (such as clubs) backed by management and encompasses social, religious and psychological support activities;

(vi) encouraging the setting up of proper housing and hostel facilities for workers from rural areas and other urban centers who may require temporary shelters whilst adjusting and re-orientating to local conditions;

(vii) establishing a Women's Skills Training Institute with the possibility of building more of such institutes in future to provide appropriate skills and entrepreneurial training in order to promote greater vertical mobility for women in the labor market. Such an institute would be a necessity bearing in mind that women workers with relatively less education are concentrated in specific segments of occupations in the labor market (e.g. production workers in textiles, apparel and electronics industries);

(viii) encouraging the setting up of industries in labor surplus areas, especially rural regions where female labor participation rates are lower;

(ix) encouraging employers to provide, where possible home-based jobs with materials and the know-how necessary for the production of products and services. Such opportunities are being increasingly made possible through developments in communications and information technology such as Electronic Data Interchange/Value-Added Network Systems/ information superhighway; and

(x) Facilitating more women to acquire new skills through the distribution of video-tape materials that give sufficient information on the various skills training programs which would enable them to make career choices with respect to individual aptitude and aspirations.

The above measures are not exhaustive and are not intended to cover the whole range of women related issues and problems. Aspects such as reproductive health, family planning and development, women in informal sectors, cultural, religious, social, NGO activities and roles in institutional strengthening, administrative and legal reforms are omitted to give clarity, focus and content, specifically with regard to the subject matter relating to women participation in the economic development in Malaysia.

## Conclusion

Some of the strategies and measures outlined in this paper impinge on aspects such as social norms and value systems that have evolved over time and with the level of affluence of the Malaysian society. Such measures, prior to its implementation need to be thoroughly studied in terms of its non-intended social consequences and appropriate policy instruments need to be devised to avoid negative outcomes. Secondly the implementation of measures to enable more women participation in economic development to a large extent depend on the willingness and cooperation of employers. No employers would undertake social programs if there is no accruable benefit that arises from it. For instance, the provision of facilities for counseling services would in fact add on as a cost to the employer. However, in a tight labor market situation the prudent employer would consider it as a feasible alternative instead of paying higher wages or possibly foregoing the opportunity cost involved in reducing production output. Thirdly, what is applicable in the Malaysian context may not be applicable in other countries unless it is modified where feasible, and adapted to suit local conditions. In the Malaysian context, ethnic, cultural, social and religious diversity, coupled with an environment of good economic growth and full-employment, renders policy makers and planners different sets of challenges that need to be tackled in a unique way in consonance with such diversities such that planned actions are implementable.

Country Paper  
Nepal  
by  
Hon. Ms. Kamala Devi Pant, M.P.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Participants, Organizers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be present here to participate in the 11th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. As you all know, Nepal, a tiny county, is sandwiched between the two most populous countries of the world, India in the South, East and West and China in the North. Nepal's economy is based on agriculture and over 60 per cent of its GDP comes from this sector. Moreover, 81 per cent of the labor force is engaged in the agricultural sector and over 70 per cent of Nepal's exports are based on it. The county's geographical position characterized by its land locked nature.

The process of economic development in Nepal is a recent phenomenon. The first Development Plan was launched in 1956. The narrow resource base, its uneven distribution and inadequate infrastructure facilities have complicated the task of economic development. As a result, the economy based on agriculture is characterized by high poverty. The economic performance of Nepal since the first development plan has been less than satisfactory with output increasing at a rate less than the growth in population in Nepal. At the same time, low participation of women in the labor force, which is one of the indicators of the women's status, is another characteristics of the Nepal's economic structure. The subordinate status of women in Nepal and the weaker position of women relative to women in other Asian societies, are key to the explanation why the participation rate of women in the labor force has been low. The patriarchal structure of Nepali society greatly limits the possibilities for women to be active outside the home. The limited participation of women in economic activities outside the home and the high percentage of women who are illiterate are the example of the low status of women in Nepali society.

One of the main reasons for the low participation of women in economic development in Nepal is lower levels of educational attainment of women. The sex ratio among students nonetheless becomes more masculine with higher levels of education. However, in spite of these efforts only 25 per cent of women were classified as literate according to the 1991 census.

In Nepal, another hindrance for lower participation of women in economic development is low age at marriage of women which is thought to be a useful indicator of relative status in a household. Low age at marriage means low levels of education. Generally after marriage women do not continue their schooling and start doing their household duties in Nepal. When a young woman reaches maturity, her family is usually under pressure to arrange marriage as soon as possible. The government is aware of the fact that female age at marriage in Nepal is low and it is one of the main reasons for lower female participation rate in economic development. Accordingly, efforts have been made by using mass media to motivate people to marry late. However, the efforts of the government have not come into practice. In this situation the introduction of a law regarding minimum age at marriage of women is necessary. Therefore the existing minimum female age at marriage of eighteen years without parents' consent should be increased. The legislation should not only be introduced but also promulgated widely and enforced. Legal and social pressure is necessary to implement legislation in a society where social organization is still an important factor where marriage is concern.

The traditional socio-cultural reasons have been discouraging women to work outside home. Accordingly, social change is important to rise the women's participation rate in the economic development in Nepal.

Although there is not any separate ministry for the welfare of women in Nepal, the Ministry of Labor has identified the importance of women labor and made special provision for female workers. There is no discrimination between men and women workers in wages for the similar type of jobs in Nepal. Although there is an equal opportunity for women to work in Nepal, very few women are in decision making position either in government or in non-government organization. Although there are rules and regulations for the security of jobs for women, they are not fully enforced and implemented. Accordingly, attention should not only be given to secure female jobs but also involve women in economic activities. As we all know, rapid economic development is not possible unless women are not involved in economic activities. Although Nepalese government has been providing female skill development training in different parts of the county, it is not effective enough to involve as many women as possible. The lack of suitable jobs for women and low intake of them in any job centers have made low participation of women in economic activities in Nepal.

The effective mobilization and utilization of women in development program would not only enhance their social status but also economic development. Accordingly, the inter-relationship between women labor force participation and economic development require sustained attention if their positive potential for development is to be harnessed effectively. The implications of these interrelationships with respect to such fundamental variables as fertility, employment, productivity and distribution have also been widely recognized. Women are the largest source of under-utilized human resources in Nepal. This is reflected in the low economic activity rates among women.

Overall discussion leads to the conclusion that government should make a comprehensive policy to involve women in economic activities in Nepal. The important in this respect is to make a program which can alter traditional socio-cultural factors in a variety of ways. As mentioned earlier, low levels of educational attainment have been main hindrances for social change in Nepal. Accordingly, policies, plans and programs should be formulated to focus on employment generation, including the promotion of self-employment. The potential of the informal sector to generate employment should be fully utilized. Small-scale and cottage industries should be supported through special consideration in industrial regulations and provide an appropriate incentives to support their contribution to employment creation especially for women. Special attention should also be paid to the promotion of employment in the rural informal sector which can involve women in these sectors. Vocational and technical training should be made relevant to prospective employment conditions especially for women in Nepal. Vocational training programs should be related to existing and emerging opportunities to increase women's active economic participation. Adult education programs should be developed to teach basic literacy to those with little or no formal education, especially women as a critical means of improving their prospects of employment and enhancing their quality of life. In this respect the role of parliamentarians will be a crucial one. This is because the parliamentarians will have a close link with both people at the grass roots level and government at the national levels.

Thank you very much.

Country Paper  
New Zealand  
by  
Hon. Ms. Jill White, M.P.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's a great pleasure for me to be here, and I would first of all like to express grateful thanks to APDA for the opportunity and all the assistance they have given.

There are two points I would like to make before I start my speech. First, is that I too have shortened it to fit into the time available. Secondly, I belong to the Labor Opposition Party, not the Government Party. In fairness, I think I have to say that.

The 1980s and 1990s has been a period of great economic and social change in New Zealand. There is ongoing debate still about the role of the state, and about the level of social costs, which should be put on community and family.

Through the 1980s there was considerable emphasis on New Zealand's business sector becoming open and internationally competitive. While the state continued a very active social support role for the ill, the unemployed, the elderly and single parents, deregulation and loss of government subsidies led to a profound upheaval in the economic sector.

Since the 1990, reduction in social spending has been a focus of Government policy. Many policy changes have added to the economic stress on families. There has been a growth of poverty and the phenomenon of the "feminization of poverty." Poverty was a woman's face. Now, I appreciate that, coming from New Zealand, this would be called "relative poverty." But what I'm talking about here is not just a lower standard of living than we regard as desirable, but an increasing difficulty in getting out of the situation that one finds oneself in. I'm talking about very limited choices in life for some women.

The Employment Contracts Act has seen a profound effect on workers' pay and conditions. There has been a reduction in union power and collective bargaining, with much greater emphasis on individual contracts for employees. This has affected those women who have lost union protection but have had little experience at negotiating for themselves. Many such women also undervalue themselves. There has been reductions in income for many and decrease in job security for most. Casualization of labor has occurred.

On average, women's earnings are about 75% of male earnings. The age of eligibility for the guaranteed retirement income is increasing. For some older women who have had limited earning power and have limited ability to save, the future can be frightening. We too, have an aging population in New Zealand.

There are two threads to what I want to say as a New Zealand woman parliamentarian. The first thread is that there is more poverty and less security than there was 10 years ago in New Zealand, and women bear much of the brunt of this. The second is that positive strategies are being searched for to enable women to participate more fully in all aspects of life.

I want to highlight some features of women's participation in economic life. First, is that women's income is increasingly important for the economic survival of many families. So we have women in the labor force use their earning capacity to support themselves, to contribute to a joint income, or increasingly to provide the only income for the family unit. Now, this may be where there are single parent families, or where a woman has a partner but she is the only one who is earning. More women, and more married women in particular, are in the labor force.

I've included some figures for your interest, but would just make the point that, while women are delaying child bearing, the highest rate of women's participation in the labor force today is in the stage of life where they are caring for children. This, of course, can contribute markedly to stress on women as they try to balance demands of work and family.

The trend to more women as sole breadwinners relates to the changes which occurred in job opportunities in New Zealand in the 1980s. Jobs in the service sector where most women worked grew, but fell sharply in the manufacturing sector where men worked.

Maori and Pacific Island Polynesian women show somewhat differences in their labor force participation as seen in Table 1.

Table 1

Year	All women	Maori women	Pacific Island
1981	38.6%		
1986	45.2%	49.9%	54.3%
1991	44.7%	45%	45%

Table 1: Maori and Pacific Island women participation in the labor force as compared to all New Zealand women.

Figures from Statistics New Zealand, December 1993, "All About Women in New Zealand;"

One difference which is not included in Table 1 is in relation to full -time and part-time work. Economic necessity means employed women with no partner and employed Maori and Pacific Island women are more likely to be full-time. Those with children under 12 or with partners having an income of \$50,000 plus are more likely to be part-time. Those latter woman, the \$50,000 plus, are those who have the greatest choices.

We are in a time of barriers and a time of opportunity. More women, for example, are in professions and management, and we have more than ever in Parliament. Twenty percent of New Zealand Parliament is women.

So, what I'm saying is that opportunities are not equal for all, and the barriers are not equal for all. In Appendix 1, I've listed a variety of strategies I believe are important for New Zealand women. I want to discuss just three strategies to attack some of the barriers to women's participation in roles of their choice.

When we talk about strategies for women going into the 21st century we cannot get away from the word "empowerment"...but...how do we achieve it! And after empowerment, what then?

Community development is an accepted strategy towards the empowerment of women. In practice, it will mean something different in each country but there will also be important similarities.

By community development I mean women together taking part in the decision-making which affects their lives, obtaining a share of resources and being actively involved in working through the solutions they have determined. Women, I believe, are particularly good at purposeful collective decision-making. And I stress they gain confidence, in themselves, in doing so.

I have listed four aspects of community development: but I want to mention just two things to add to the debate.

First, there is an extremely important link between community development and education for women, and I come back to that gaining confidence again.

Secondly, community development can have significant international aspects linking women. New Zealand Labor Women are linked with women of Vietnam, for example, through the Women of Vietnam Project.

When we think of empowerment and confidence in oneself, we must look to women in their homes. And although I noticed that this was the subject of the last meeting that I was not at, I believe that the second strategy I'm going to talk about has implications for women in the labor force as well. And that is the strategy for overcoming violence in the home.

Violence is a significant disempowering factor in many women's lives, and can block development in all areas of their lives.

New Zealand has recently introduced a Domestic Violence Bill which goes significantly further than earlier legislation in giving protection from domestic violence and applying sanctions to the perpetrator.

The Bill covers violence which is physical, sexual or psychological, and it encompasses a wide range of what can be called "domestic relationships." A key mechanism is the Court issuing a protection order against someone who has committed an act of violence or has persuaded someone else to commit the violence. Protection orders apply whether people are living together or apart.

The Court has further very significant powers, and one is that those who are the perpetrators of the violence must be sent to counseling or to a program to confront their own violence and inadequacy in relationships and to work through the outcomes.

This, of course, raises the important issues about resourcing of programs, and men's groups as well as women's groups have both been making submissions to the Government about the need to adequately resource these programs.

The third strategy I want to move to is "family friendly" workplaces. This idea is being introduced to New Zealand employers in the stage sector. "Family Friendly" organizations are putting attention and energy into introducing flexibility into the work place. The aim is to reduce the conflict between family and work interests by negotiating



through problems. This is not just applicable to people with young children but those with elderly relatives, teenage children, family members with disabilities.

The program recognizes that life is different now in New Zealand. The changes in health and social welfare have meant more responsibility put on families to care for the ill, the old, those with disabilities. At the same time economic realities mean that most two adult families need two incomes.

It's also increasingly recognized that we need women's skills for continued and sustainable development. Flexibility in the workplace is one way of gaining those skills.

In conclusion there is one concern I must express: I mentioned earlier those women who have choices. And I am concerned about potential for a growing division between rich and poor women in my country and other countries so that the 21st century could see a wealthy elite who have little appreciation of the realities of life for women who are poor. When I say wealthy and poor I mean in financial terms but also in relation to education, access to health care and to good housing. For the wealthy there is high employment and good career prospects, even an international life style which lifts them further from their sisters.

We must continue to develop strategies to build women's awareness of each other's situation and solidarity with each other.

Mr. chairman, fellow delegates, Thank you.

## Appendix 1

### Strategy One:

Legislative underpinning, eg.,

- (i) Industrial relations law which allows fair bargaining including on behalf of the collective where desired.
- (ii) Environmental law re. sustainability of natural and physical resources.
- (iii) Domestic violence protection.
- (iv) Pay equity legislation.
- (v) Minimum wage increased.

### Strategy Two:

- (vi) Workplace policies of flexibility, enabling balance of family and work responsibilities.
- (vii) Promotion of Equal Employment initiatives.

### Strategy Three:

- (viii) Education of girls and women to participate with confidence, e.g. in political life, in industrial negotiations.

### Strategy Four:

- (ix) Quality child care, family planning and education.

### Strategy Five:

- (x) Promote "work portfolio" concept.

### Strategy Six:

- (xi) Use of political change eg Mixed Member Proportional representation introduction as a window of opportunity.

### Strategy Seven:

- (xii) Research on needs of particular groups of women e.g. young adults entering labor force.

Country Paper  
Singapore  
by  
Hon. Ms. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, M.P.

Mr. Chairman. I think we all agree that we are rushing for time, and I have distributed my speech earlier, so I now try to just outline some of the important points.

First of all, I would like to explain that in Singapore, the population is 3 million -- it's very small. Of the 3 million, the citizens is 2.3 million. We have 300,000 foreign workers, expatriates and non-citizens. So women stand for 49.4%.

In the early '50s and '60s, we had low skill jobs and labor-intensive jobs. But in the '70s, '80s and '90s, we moved towards higher skills and capital-intensive jobs.

And the overall government policy, or the national priority, is that female labor force participation should go up, and also integration of work and family life. And how to achieve this? The government, the labor and the management should work together. We believe in capitalism and we should move the whole community towards better economic growth, better standard of living, and, of course, higher productivity and quality of life.

The Trends: Women in the Work Force

You can see the increase in age and more married women participating in the work force, and also higher education for women, and also women's participation in various kinds of jobs, and better wages and improvement in standard of living, and also increase in expectation among women.

However, you can see that women still face some problems. Basically, I think they are still employed by traditional types of jobs, like teaching, nursing and clerical works. And women earn about 73% of the men's jobs. And reason for leaving the job, later on I'll explain. The highest participation rate for women is when they are single. That's below 25 years old, which is about 80%. But they leave the work force after marriage because of home care and child care. According to a survey conducted in 1986, women prefer to take care of children if there is no satisfactory arrangement for child care. And the decrease is in size of family.

This is based on the 1990 population census. You can see that the work force is 1.6 million. And women stand for 680,000. But today, in 1994, women's participation in the work force is 40% -- it's not 38%, it's 40%.

Just now, I mentioned about the women's participation rate. You can see the changes in '74, '84 and '94. In '94, the highest was about 37%, and is among those women in the age of 20 to 24. And today, the highest women's participation rate is about 80%. But overall age has increased, but you can see the pattern is that it still drops after marriage, and there is no second peak compared to Japan.

So today, women's participation rate is about 51%. Compared to men -- you can see the black color is men, it's stable and it's always close to 80%. And women in the '70s was about 30%, and you can see today, it's moved to about 50%.

What is the reason for this increase of women's participation? I'd like to contribute it to various reasons. One is better educational attainment. Today, women stand about 45% of the university student enrollment. And as a whole, 25% of the women receive A

level diploma and university education. Actually, at an average educational attainment in Singapore, women obtain higher education level in work force than men. You can see here -- the university and also diploma.

And the other area is legislation. In 1961, we adopted this Women's Charter providing the women with the right to work, to own the property, to use the maiden name after marriage, and also have equal opportunity for education and for employment. The other reason for women to participate is self improvement. Because of the improvement of education, I think women also want to be useful to the society. Then another reason is family planning. Because the size of the family decreased, as I mentioned yesterday, the total fertility rate is 1.8 and the average child for married women is 2.8 children. So because of this, I think more women have less responsibility at home and can come out to work. And also child care facilities, and the day care for the aged, or you can say family-friendly policies.

And another very important point, as my friend from New Zealand has just said, is supplemental family income. Today, for the family in which only men work, the average family income is about 1,700 Singapore dollars. When both of the couple work, they can have more than 3,000 dollars income. So this will help the family a lot, and this also encourages women to work.

When you compare to the women's participation to United Kingdom, Japan and the United States, it is still not so high. This is the curve in Singapore. And there is no second peak. So we hope that we could encourage more women to reenter the market. I will touch on this later on.

Coming to the women by occupation, just now I mentioned that total work force is 40% instead of 38%. Professional and chemical is 40% of the total, family situation and managerial is 18.2%, and clerical 73.5%, servant services is about 38%, agriculture and production is about 35%.

This is another way to explain by occupation. You can see that government administration is 36%, executive is 16%, and manager is 8%. But you can see that more and more women participate in financial analysis, and also as a school teacher. But lately, according to the figures, women do very well in law, as doctors and also as bankers and administrators.

So you can see the changes. Manufacturing was 38% but is now reduced to 28%, and you can see the improvement in community and personal services, and also financial services.

Just now I mentioned the point that more married women enroll to the market. So you can see that, previously among the total women work force, 34% were married, but now about 49% are married.

What about wages? You can see that previously, 72% earned under 400, but today, this is the improvement, it's the 1993 figure, you can see 23.6% earned below 1,000, about 19% earned about 1,000.

Lastly, let me talk about the challenges for the future. We are facing aging population. I mentioned just now that 8 working persons support 1 aged, but in 2030, 2 working persons will support 1 aged. And we have fewer children because more women are better educated, and there are less marriages and more single women. So the fertility rate decreased. And the number of children also decreased. We have a debate lately.

We don't encourage single mothers. When they say single mothers, they do not include divorced and widowed women.

And our thing is how to balance work and family. I think this creates some tension between men and women. And another problem is, economically, Singapore attempted rationalization and internationalization. So we encourage further participation of women. And how to do it? We felt that, especially those women who had to bring up the family and their children, they should reenter the market. One of the priorities is to retrain and to give more training to the women to upgrade their skills to face the challenges. And the other area is to encourage employers, and also the government, to offer more family-friendly policies, for instance, to set up more child care centers, set-up more day care for the aged, and incentive to help married women and employers to help their family employees.

I think I have covered most of them. And the other area is the government trying to encourage more women to participate in the decision-making level. Also the whole society has a campaign lately to promote family and social cohesiveness. I think the difference in earning between skilled and unskilled families poses a great challenge to Singapore. Whether you like it or not, the skilled workers enjoy a very good pay and unskilled workers, because of the competition of the region, especially India, China, Indochina, so we need to upgrade both men and women of these unskilled workers. So these are the challenges facing us. Thank you.

Country Paper  
Syria  
by  
Hon. Dr. Mohammad Ghassan Tayara, M.P.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to finish my speech in 10 minutes. First of all, I want to thank APDA for giving this opportunity to meet with new friends and old friends. Of course, as we've heard in the morning, most speakers were women. Now, as our friend from Indonesia said, that the issue of equality is not the issue of women, it is the issue of society. So I have the right to speak about this subject.

First, total area of Syria is about 18.5 million hectares, cultivated area is about 6.2 million hectares, forests are about 600,000 hectares, uncultivated area is about 12 million hectares. Population is now about 15.4 million. We can divide them into urban area and rural area, and by male and female. In urban area, male population is 3.988 million and female population is 3.56 million. In rural area, male population is 3.970 million and female population is 3.886 million. As you can see, approximately, there is no difference between male and female population. So I want to say that it's not right to say that in our country you can have many wives because there is not enough women for such a thing.

The population growth rate has been declining through the period 1960 and today. For example, during the interval 1960 to 1970, it was approximately 50 per thousand. During the interval 1970 to 1981, it was 40.9 per thousand. During the interval 1981 to 1987, it was 35 per thousand. During the interval 1987 to 1994, it was 31.6 per thousand. This rate varies from region to region, where we find it higher in rural areas than in urban areas. But in general, the rate of annual population growth in Syria is considered high.

The reason for this are; 1) reference to religious influences, 2) social relation, 3) and also it is subject of pride for those who have more children. Of course it's the reality also. In 1960, it was approximately 45 per thousand, while it is now it's 5.5 per thousand, so there is big progress in such field.

If we return back to our subject, "Strategy for Prosperity and Peace -- Family Labor Participation and Economic Development." Let us say like that. In constitution and laws, they are equal in everything. But what we have in society? This is the question. We have the first problem of people getting married very early. Approximately 70% of women marry between ages of 18 and 20. We have more than 10% who get married between ages 14 and 18. So this is the first problem we have to solve.

Second problem. We have in urban and rural areas women who are unpaid workers. They either work with their husband or they are working instead of their husband on their land, where the husband is working other jobs. This is the question. Of course, the strategy of the government is to work with non-governmental organizations. For example, with the Union of Women, each year the government, in the budget of the government allocates approximately 1 million dollars to this organization to build training section, education section and health care, and also what we call "garden for children," where they take the children and teaches them. Even there is another law, each factory where there is more than 50 women, they should have their own garden for children so that they can help women to go to their work. But the only question is how to rebuild in men and women together, that they can work for this job. The question is, of course, in education, to educate men and women so that they can feel equal. The law is there. The constitution is there. But how to work with all the traditions. This is

what we call our strategy and this is the big problem. Of course, in the government, there is a law that says everybody should finish 6 years of education. And of course, there is a law that says all education should be offered free of charge. Also there is a law that says the education in university should be offered free of charge. But despite all these, we cannot find girls in the areas going to universities.

Now we can say that a big progress has been made in some special fields of education, medicine, architectural engineering, not all kinds of engineering, languages and some literature fields. This we can see in universities. Approximately 40% of students are women. So the question is whether we should allocate more money for non-governmental organizations to help the government, because as it is said again and again, the question is not the law, the question is the mind of the men and women. When she gets married, she leaves her job. Not because her husband did not want her to work. She did not want to work also. There is two: the husband did not want her to work, and the wife also did not want to work. Sometimes the rural party says that there should be a certain percentage of candidates for parliament or regional parliament. But they do not want to do such a job.

The question, as you see, is different, and we want to do a lot.

Last thing, although there is some peace process is growing in the Middle East, I'm sorry to say, there is no movement ahead. We are still at the same point. When there is peace, of course, we can allocate more money to educate the society that we are equal. Thank you very much.

Country Paper  
Thailand  
by  
Hon. Ms. Ladawan Wongsriwong, M.P.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. Today, I would like to talk with you about the strategies to solve child prostitution problems in Thailand.

I have been an MP for two years representing Phayao constituency in the North of Thailand. I am also the president of an NGO. 'the Young Northern Women's Development Foundation.'

For a long time, young girls under 18 have been forced into prostitution. I have always been upset because most of the under-age prostitutes come from the North of Thailand. I decided that I would try to eradicate underage prostitution in my country.

I have instituted a four pronged attack on this scourge:

One, to increase public awareness through various kinds of media;

Two, to amend the laws, such as the Prostitution Suppression Act, the new law that I am sponsoring to Parliament in May, provides heavy penalties for customers, parents and procurers;

Three, to improve and to develop the quality of life of young girls and their families. I have asked the provincial government to build more wells, to provide fresh water for home use and agriculture, and also to improve roads. I have urged the Government to construct a labor training institute. I have also commenced an agri-industrial project with farmers, Agriculture Promotion Department, a private enterprise and I myself, to produce and market cans of baby corn. In fact, next week, the Grand Asia Food Industry Co. Ltd. will market our product in Japan at Yaohan Department Store. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Yaohan;

Four, education and scholarship. I have devised ways for schools in Phayao to locate and target potential underage prostitutes, and to check the background of the students. For example, are they poor? If so, we can provide scholarships and financial support for the first 3 years of secondary school.

I started this project in 1993 and I found that 1577 children, 714 boys and 863 girls, in Phayao province could not attend secondary school due to poverty. And schools closed in April of that year on completion of primary school. However, in May we found only 116 of those children could be located, 58 boys and girls, 40 of those children wanted vocational training, 19 boys and 21 girls. That was the year I started to raise fund to support 116 young children's education.

In 1994, I conducted a similar survey in Phayao and Chiang Rai, the major source of child prostitutes in Thailand. I found that 520 young girls required scholarships so I did the fund raising to support them. I am also pleased to mention a 40,000 dollars donation from Her Royal Highness the King's mother. I used it as the beginning capital to establish a foundation in early 1995 "The Young Northern Women's Development Foundation." I intend to raise a minimum of 400,000 dollars and invest this and use any interest occurred to provide scholarships to needy and deserving students. His majesty the King Bhumiphol's Royal Foundation recently established a boarding school in Phayao providing both primary and secondary education.



I am confident that this problem can be resolved if all those involved try to stop child prostitution. Perhaps, you think I am overly optimistic but let me quote some statistics from my survey of Chiang Rai and Phayao. In 1994, children attending secondary school was 92% in Chiang Rai and 95 % in Phayao. In fact, following the result of this survey, the Education Department has instituted similar surveys nationwide. This month, at the end of the school year, I conducted a survey in Chiang Rai and Phayao as you can see from this chart.

In Chiang Rai, 16,000 boys and girls completed primary school, 1,075 were given scholarship by the Education Department, 100 were given scholarship by TV Channel 3, and 310 girls require scholarships.

My foundation would like to provide scholarships for those young girls 956 in Phayao and 310 in Chiang Rai. Each girl requires only 120 dollars to complete 3 years of secondary school, so my foundation must raise about 160,000 dollars. If we can raise this amount of money, we can achieve 100 % attendance at secondary school this year. It would mean, for at least this year, there will be no child prostitutes from Phayao or Chiang Rai. Let me show you this diagram.

In 1993, 70-80 % of the children attending school in Chiang Rai and Phayao, and 20-30 % did not.

In 1994, 92-95 % attending school, 5-8 % did not.

And here in 1995 it is our hope to have 100 % attending school, as you can see any children that fall below the line of 20-30 % and 5-8 % are in danger of becoming child prostitutes and child laborers.

Ours is a worthy cause for children because they are our hope to the future. Any failure to invest for the future can only result in wasted lives and human tragedy. Thank you.

Country Paper  
Vietnam  
by  
Hon. Ms. Nguyen Thi Than, M.P.

I The Present Situation of Female Labor force.

1. Overview

Dear Madame Chairman, Dear All Distinguished Participants. First of all I would like to thank APDA for giving the opportunity for our delegation to come here and I would like to present some information on labor and women in Vietnam.

Vietnam is an Asian country well-known not only for its heroic struggle for independence but also for its achievements in renovation process, especially in social policies, social welfare and education.

According to the most up-date statistical data (1994), the population of Vietnam is 72 million, female population is 51.8%. The population growth rate is 2.26%, in the rural areas, it's 2.7%. The average longevity of male population is 63 years, of female population 67.5 years. Eighty percent of the Vietnam population live in the countryside, that is why in the rural areas there is concentrated 72% of the total labor forces. The average number of people in a household is 5 in the rural areas and 4.8 in the urban areas.

In the accordance with the Asian traditions, extended families with many generations living in the household are quite numerous in Vietnam.

In the highest areas, there are 40% of such families and in the lowest areas, it's 20%. This difference is explained by the different levels of development in these areas. The process of forming of nuclear families is influenced by industrialization and different socio-economic policies, especially the land allocation policy. Young couples would like to be separated from the parents' household in order to get land for farming. According to the 1994 statistical data, in average, 32% of woman are the head of the young households. This percentage is very high in urban areas at 55%, and delta areas 40 to 45%. In the remote, mountainous areas this percentage is only 20%.

Concerning economic aspect, Vietnam is considered a country with the lowest per capita income (US\$ 260 in 1994). The agriculture sector occupies very big percentage in GDP.

According to the data of the 1989 population census, 87% of the women are literate; 78.6% of women of working age are engaged in productive activities; about 10% in housekeeping activities.

Among the total of 28.7 million employees there are 15 million women, and 72.8% of work force in agriculture are women. In industrial sector female work force is concentrated in labor intensive industries with low income such as textile, garments leather products factories etc. In these industries 63.6% of work force are women. The percentage of female work force in some other industries is as follows: in forestry 40%; in energy 28%; in transportation 25%.

Women occupy high percentage in the health care sector and in the education system-up to 65%. In a word, the female work force is concentrated in the industries demanding skills but with low income.

In handicraft industry (65%) and in small businesses and in childcare sector majority of work force are female workers. On the contrary, the percentage of female labor force in high-tech industries and in administrative organs is lower. In the governmental institutions the percentage of female labor force is as follows: in the National Assembly 17.7%; in the provincial People's Councils 11%; in the district People's Councils 13%.

Before 1945, there was no woman with university degree in Vietnam, but according to the statistical data (1995), 40% of the university's and college's students, 20% of professors and teachers, 30% of medical doctors and 52% of pharmacists are women.

The above mentioned data show that the percentage of female labor force in the national work force of Vietnam is relatively high in comparison with that of neighboring countries. High participation of female labor force indicates:

- The positive results of the social policy aiming at equality between genders in politics, economy, culture in Vietnam.
- The initial state of development faced with a lot of difficulties when women have to share responsibility in earning a living for family.

Since 1986, Vietnam is carrying out Doi moi (renovation) policy with the objective to transform the central planned economy into a multi-sector market one with the state management. The economic reforms have a profound impact on our society: the economic growth-rate is quite high for continuing last 4 years; the living standard has been raised especially for women.

Nevertheless, a number of problems occurred such as fast urbanization, unequal distribution of income and welfare, unemployment and poverty especially in remote rural and mountainous areas that have very negative impact on women and children. The abolition of the state subsidies especially for education and health care has very negative impact on women and children. In many areas, especially rural ones, 70 to 80% of pregnant women are suffering from blood shortage, 50% of children under 5 years old are suffering from malnutrition. The male preference legacy from the traditional Asian feudal society is a very big constraint in realization of social female policies.

## 2. Characteristic features of the Vietnam female labor force

### 2.1 The total labor force

The total labor force in Vietnam is increasing quickly every years. According to the data of the General Statistics Department:

- In 1990: the total labor force is 32.183.941; female labor force is 16.298.625, occupies 50.64%.
- In 1995: the total labor force is 36.979.480; female labor force is 18.495.700, occupies 50%.
- In 2000 the total labor force will be 42.373.105; female labor force will be 20.968.421, occupies 49.48%.

Thus in 10 years from 1990 to 2000 the labor force will increased on 10 million people and there will be a shortage of two million jobs at the year 2000. The growth rate of female labor force will be decreasing from 2.53% in 1990 down to 2.51% in 2000.

Concerning the national work force, 80% are engaged in agricultural activities (among them 41.75% are women), 19.47% are engaged in urban economic activities (among them 10.25% are women). We can see that the concentration of the national work force especially female work force in rural areas is too high. The percentage of female work force in some informal sector of economy is as follows:

1. Retail sellers 74.54%
2. Handicraft
  - Tailors 70.50%;
  - Carpenters 1.92%;
  - Others 46.57%
3. Service sector
  - Cooks and waitresses 73.15%;
  - Hairdressers 92.30%;
  - Housekeepers 70.68%;
  - Others 80.00%
4. Industrial workers 17.14%

The female workers in informal sector have very few skills and no training; their employment is not stable, but their income is higher than that of the female workers in agriculture.

Thanks to their hardworking attitude, skillfulness, and emerging multi-sector market economy, many women can set up their own small businesses and have additional earning.

## 2.2 Concerning the quality of the female labor force.

Concerning education, the literacy among female population is lower than among male population (In the countryside, 79.99% of female population above ten years are literate; in urban areas the percentage is 90.73%. The average percentage of literacy of population of both genders is 82.31%) (GSD's data).

Concerning professional and technical training, female laborers are in less favorable situation. The percentage of female laborers with academic degrees is very small: 5.82% of Ph.D or Doctors of sciences; 11.16% of highly trained female labor force will be a problem for the socio-economic development of Vietnam. Besides, only well-trained and skillful laborers can enjoy a better chance to get employed and to earn more. It would become a problem of equity between genders.

At present, the population growth rate is still high. The development of the system of public education and training can not cope with the population growth. The expenditure for education is still small. All these have limited the access of women to education and training.

## 3. Current policies concerning female labor force.

The problem of female labor force has been paid a lot of attention even in the Political Program of our Party in 1930, and in our Constitution and legal system.

During last 10 years, thanks to the Doi moi (renovation) policy, Vietnam has achieved a lot on political, economic and cultural life. An important component of the Doi moi policy is investment in people realized through education, health care and creation of better conditions for women.

Our policy concerning female labor force is defined in the Constitution 1992, Law on marriage and family, Labor Code; in the Resolution No.4 on improvement and renovation of policy concerning women in the new stage of development. The main objective of this policy is to activate the participation of female population in every sphere of social life and to offer a better chance for women.

## II Female labor force strategy toward the year 2000.

Female liberation, realization of all the potentials of women is the purpose of the Vietnamese Revolution.

To achieve this a labor force development programs should be carried out by the Government. A special attention should be paid for young girls and children in remote, rural and mountainous areas. It is important to achieve equal education and training for both genders in the XXI century. There should be some kind of state subsidies such as scholarships, reduced teaching fees for capable girls from poor families. It is important to encourage young women to go to school, on different training course to get better education and training. The Government should provide big choices of education forms such as open Universities, distance education etc. in order offer women a better chance to study. And here training for business women is a very useful form.

It's important to foresee the demand of the labor market in order to adjust the existing education and training program.

It's important to have a differentiated employment policy including technical training, social insurance for women in highly dangerous industries, for disadvantaged women etc.

The better implementation of policy on population and family planning is very important to offer women a better chance.

It's important to give women a comprehensive training, especially in childcare.

Thank you very much for your attention.

## Discussion

Chairwoman Dr. Hao:

Ladies and Gentlemen. I think we have finished all the talks according to the tentative program. But we still have almost one hour before the coffee break for discussion. And I hope all of you will take part in the discussion.

Dr.. Mboi (Indonesia):

I have a question to the Syrian report. Dr. Tayara, may I ask a question? I think you said that both in the urban areas and in the rural areas, you have more men than women. In most countries, you would find that women would be more predominant in the rural areas. Maybe you can help us by giving us the expected life at birth.

Dr. Tayara (Syria):

In our country, we should speak about the pride to have children more than girls. The question, of course, it is not so high. The difference is about 80,000 -- 82,000, something like that. In rural area, male is 3.970 million, whereas female is 3.886 million, so the difference is not so big. And this is the question. So, in our country, we can say that male and female population is approximately equal, and they will not change their place where they live from rural to urban area if there is no difference in education. So, I don't think there should be more women than men in rural areas all over the world.

Dr. Mboi (Indonesia):

What is the average life expectancy for men and women?

Dr. Tayara (Syria):

I don't have the figure for women with me, but for women, life expectancy is a little bit, two or three years, more.

Chairwoman Dr. Hao:

Any other discussion?

Ms. White (New Zealand):

I would like to ask a question to Ms. Wongsriwong of the Thailand report, which I found a very interesting report on the problem of child prostitution. And I would like to ask how much of the problem is contributed to by overseas tourists coming to Thailand for child sex. In New Zealand, we are in the process of actually passing a law to outlaw this because we think it's very wrong. But I'd be interested in your comments on that.

Ms. Wongsriwong (Thailand):

I received a lot of letters from the people of your country supporting the law. At the next meeting in May, I'm sure the amendment of my law can resolve this problem because my law will punish the procurer and the customers, too.

Mr. Hollis (Australia):

My comment is also to Thailand. I found your paper very very interesting. And Australia, two years ago, passed the law that New Zealand is talking about. It's any Australian citizen who is found having sex with underage people in Thailand or anywhere, they are subject to the laws in Australia. The difficulty sometimes is to bring them back to Australia to face the court. But that is the law in Australia now, and there have been some cases from Thailand where Australian males have been found to have had sex with children, and they are treated exactly the same by the courts, that if they had sex with underage, with minors, in Australia, regardless of where the country is, the offense is the same, and they are dealt with that way. And I think until that happens, until there is an international movement to outlaw sex with minors, and countries take the strong step of dealing with their nationals on this level, until that happens, this plague on humanity is not going to be eradicated. And it is really not up to the Thai government, it is up to the individual governments, and we each should push our governments to initiate that sentence, that wherever their nationals are found to have had sex with minors, that would be the same offense as if it had happened in their own country. Thank you.

Ms. Wongsriwong (Thailand):

Thank you. I think it must start all over the world now.

I would like to add more. Actually, it is not the issue that happened just in Thailand and you agree that we all should act now to do anything against that kind of crime. So I would like to ask you to act now. Thank you.

Mr. Mulimba (Zambia):

Madame Chairperson. My colleague from Zimbabwe said that we are the luckiest people here because we did not sweat to present papers to this meeting, which we saw, a number of us, every deed, were all excellent papers. I hope that when they have been compiled into the report of the 11th APDA Meeting, we'll be privileged to have the papers attached to the report because we would like to discuss them, especially with our women members of our parliament. In Zimbabwe, Zambia and in the parliaments of whole Africa, they will be extremely useful. The number of experiences described here are very similar to most of us. The position of women, is not so much as has been explained here, at least our constitutions and laws provide for equality. But it is the practice. The allocation of resources to reproductive health facilities and services, to education about the rights, sexual rights of women, to school places and... One area which, unfortunately at the international conferences, I have been privileged to attend some of them, almost all of us who represent our governments at these international conventions insist that international conventions should be made subject to national sovereignty, to our national laws, to our culture, and to our religious beliefs.

And it is clear that in some cases, perhaps the majority of cases, insistence on the preservation of religious and cultural beliefs go to undermine, go to oppress the position of women. And almost all religions, whether it is Christianity, or it is in a mosque or synagogue, they are all dominated by men. So I think the members of the parliament should be very worried about those growths in the international conventions, and to heighten awareness in countries, and to ensure that adequate resources are in the budget when we are discussing our national budgets on the floor of the house, that we can make amendments, that we can articulate and ensure that our ministers are putting sufficient funds to raise the status of women.

Lastly, I've been waiting to get a comment from our Indian colleagues on the area discussion yesterday on the role of government in the marketing of agricultural produce. We in Zambia, have had a very devastating 3 years of collapse of the marketing system of our staple crop, that is maize, because IMF and World Bank have insisted that our government should move away from marketing, that it should be left to market forces. Now, what has happened is that, in the rural areas, and that is where the majority of women farmers are, who have been producing more than 60% of our maize, there are no roads, and so the market forces have not moved to these areas. So the women are not able to get their produce to the markets.

And what has happened is that, some unscrupulous fellows, some of them even representing the government treasury, have gotten and bought this maize at ridiculous prices. Their buy is reinforcing the poverty of the households of these peasant farmers, especially those that are female headed. And clearly this condition must be revised by colleagues in these institutions but lend us money, and that is where, as I was saying yesterday, I think Japan and number of other countries that contribute, that have got controlling shares, in these institutions must revise that because market forces have not worked in Zambia to assist the peasant farmers' market. Government must have some role, but as I was saying, I'm very anxious to get the comments of our colleagues from India in this case. But we're delighted that we have been exposed to this experience. When we come to organize our own conferences, we know exactly how much to allocate to which subject. So as we make some exposure, we're grateful.

Dr. Tayara (Syria):

I want to turn back to the subject of prostitution. I'm sorry to say the law will never protect the nation from such disease. For example, in France, for a woman to be able to work as a prostitute, she should have a special certificate but if you find 100 women as prostitutes with certificate, you will find 1,000 prostitutes without certificate. And the police cannot do anything about them even if they see them. So I agree with our colleague from Thailand. Education, training and finding jobs will be the solution. Thank you.

Mr. Kataria (India):

Madame Chairperson. Thank you very much to allow me to speak. Yesterday, a paper was read by Dr. Kawano on agricultural and rural development in India. He has made a comparison of two important states in India, Punjab and Bihar. I am from Punjab. And whatever Dr. Kawano has stated in his research paper, most of the things I agree with him. But I would like to explain two points. As he wanted to know, I don't know whether he is here or not. He has talked about fertilizers. India was one country where agriculture was a gamble and dream. From a begging bowl for our own consumption, we have become a state who is in a position to export our agricultural produce. He wanted to know about our fertilizers. It is correct that we are still importing fertilizers, and he has suggested the remedy is abundance of fertilizers and low cost fertilizers. He was worried that this is not happening in India.

I wanted to submit before this August assembly, that we have set up a large giant plant of fertilizer in our country, and in this very year, 5 more plants of nitrogen fertilizers are coming up in our country, and we have also set up 3 plants in different countries in a joint venture. And the products of those plants will also come down to India. This is about the nitrogen fertilizer. We don't have potash fertilizers in our country and we are importing it, and giving subsidy to the farmers. As far as phosphoric fertilizers are concerned we are also importing it because we don't produce much, but we don't have the raw material. But still, we have many plants in our country and we import phos-



phoric fertilizers and give it our subsidy to our farmers so that they can use it and produce both.

And as far as the marketing is concerned, my friend from Zambia has asked us what is the policy of marketing. Previously, there was a ban that agricultural produce cannot be sent by the farmers from one state to another state. India is a very big country, in some part of the country beet is produced, in some part of the country rice is produced, but farmers were not permitted to reap the benefits of where the prices are the highest. Government of India has formulated a new agricultural policy and has given the status of industry to agriculture, and under this policy, the government can send its produce to any part of the country. In addition to that, farm sector has been exempted from income tax. Three subsidies are being given to farmers for providing them low cost fertilizers and seeds. And more important is that post harvesting institutions and centers are being established and farmers are being trained in the use of new techniques. Financial assistance like cooperative and commercial banks are being given for the purchase of tractors, new varieties of hybrid seeds, insecticides and other things. And most of the programs have been launched for the rural development and 30 crores of rupees have been sanctioned for providing all of these facilities in the rural sector. Irrigation facilities are being increased by giving special assistance and concessional rates for farms, tools, tractors, for purchasing seed and all that.

As far as Bihar is concerned, it is a geographical condition which is responsible for the backwardness of that state as compared to Punjab. And the government is doing its best to provide pesticides, insecticides, chemical fertilizers, hybrids and seeds to the farmers, and things are coming up very fast, and I think with little more passage of time, the economy of Indian farmers and Indian agriculture will be at par with those of advanced countries.

Dr. Mboi (Indonesia):

Thank you Madame Chairman. I have one question or comment to my colleague from Thailand and one for APDA, and maybe for all of us, and Professor Prasop just reminded me that my questions, my numerous questions of yesterday to Professor Kuroda may be answered this afternoon.

First of all, to Thailand. I was fairly interested and I salute you for your work on this worthy cause. We know that Thai prostitution is a fairly complex issue, which we're sure cannot be resolved one person crusade. Not even one country crusade. It has to be solved by all of us in the end. Because related to that is what I have mentioned also in my paper. It's the international migration of women looking for work, either voluntarily or forced into it. Because, for instance, we have the reports from Thailand, from the Philippines, and now recently some from Indonesia also, of women who are enticed to go to other more developed countries, even in our region, in Asia, or in Europe, and are basically forced into prostitution. And their age really becomes younger and younger. Because the men who demand this "service" want cleaner girls, even demand virgins so that they become younger and younger. And it is very important that this not be talked about as a woman's issue. It is very important this be talked about as a population issue, as a human rights issue.

So that brings me down to the second part, which is maybe to APDA or all of us. If next year, the outcome of our 3 successive years' meeting is going to give a comprehensive recommendation on policies and strategies relating to women in the 21st Century, where are we now? This is the middle. We have received the compilation of this, of which I wanted to compliment the organizers, but we have not really come to terms on how do we see the policy developing, or the strategy developing next year.

From the very very interesting presentations today, 13 presentations, we can almost see the difference between the countries that are still struggling with low economic growth and, let us say not yet too successful population programs.

And then we have countries that are in transition. Struggling with poverty but also growing in terms of economic growth as well as in population policies and programs. And then we have those countries that, like our colleagues from Singapore and Japan are saying, their main problem is aging, their main headache is aging. But also we see that there are already new problems, especially in the relationship between men and women. We were having a very lively and productive discussion at lunch today about that whole relationship of men and women, and families. So maybe there should be a stimulation for us all, for us all to look at. When we were talking about housewives last year, what did we agree upon? Or where are we going? And then today, we are talking about the working women, including child workers. We haven't even talked about girl child workers. It's a big, big, big problem in some of our countries. And we didn't have any time to discuss it because we only had presented 8 minutes, 10 minutes.

So maybe Madame Chairman, this is a comment, a question, or maybe also a suggestion, that to be able to come up with relevant recommendations for our region, for Asia, there should be a different kind of meeting. Not just presenting country reports and compiling it, and then very small discussion which goes everywhere. Maybe my other colleagues would like to comment on this. How do we come next year to really have good recommendations? We know the problems. What specific Asian solutions do we have? Thank you.

Ms. Kawahashi (Japan):

Thank you Madame Chairman. I have listened with so much interest, very significant deliberations. This meeting of Asian parliamentarians, as well as our colleagues from Africa, may be advised to put together some plans for concrete actions and strategies. I do not have the answer myself. However, I would like to continue the discussion on the same subject. The Thai delegate spoke about the prostitution. And I believe that most of the blame should go to the Japanese men. We are the perpetrators. And it was with pain that we heard the presentation. When our country was very poor, we have seen many child prostitution. Poverty has given rise to such profession if you will.

In other words, they were not able to support their lives by any other means. What did those people do? Did they do nothing? No. Women citizens' movements, the grass-roots movements, initiated by women took the lead in trying to extend helping hands to those poor girls in terms of education, and also by providing training on skill. So it was women in the private sector that worked hard to save those little girls from their sufferings. We have a domestic law that prohibits prostitution in Japan right now. However, I believe a delegate from Australia, or maybe I am wrong, correct me if I am wrong, they talked about juvenile prostitution which is prohibited or regulated by law.

But I'm afraid that the Japanese society has reached the point where we have the consensus to formulate such comprehensive law. We have not yet reached a point, to our regret, to take even more extensive or comprehensive legal measures. Now, in this context, I believe that NGOs have a very important role to play. In this respect, it was the NGOs that worked very hard in Cairo, transcending different barriers of religion, tradition, and culture. We have had very active discussions. And such NGO participation encourage the true grassroots movement. It was not we all accept something which is given from top to down, but rather, we have witnessed a bottom-up movement.

Now speaking of the country Japan, whether it is human rights or environmental issues, there is still lack of awareness and understanding. And NGOs where women are at the core are working very hard to tackle these issues, and the Japanese government is now putting more emphasis on the importance of the role of such NGOs. And also the Japanese government extends its official development assistance. They are trying to make sure that the money is spent effectively, and the money be channeled to the people where they have the true needs. And the Japanese government has come to realize that cooperation and mutual understanding exchange between the NGOs of Japan and the recipient country would be essential. After all, NGOs would be in a better position to really appreciate the needs of the people in the developing nations.

So relatively, starting from last year, the government has come to realize the essential role to be played by NGOs. And as we talk about further development of Asia and Africa, I believe we must put more light on the roles of NGOs. And there are Asian NIES countries, emerging countries, which are enjoying rapid economic growth. The same is true for China. Now for those countries, again if I may share a Japanese experience, we have to overcome the problems which would hinder the participation movement in the labor market -- Japan's experience of failure in other words. For a woman to have a career in the society, she had to give up other choices such as child rearing. It was left to the individual effort to advance her own career. The society, the government gave very little help to those working women.

Therefore, those working women have so much difficulties in trying to coexist her work as well as her role as mother at home. As a result, the total fertility rate has come down to the level of 1.46 which is comparable to that of Italy. So what I'm trying to say is that, please do learn from the Japanese failures, and please do not repeat our failures. I hope that by sharing the experience that the NIES and emerging countries would do better. In other words, we would like you to improve the environment for working women so that there will be equal opportunity and such social support as childcare leave laws and regulations. If you take a step ahead in setting up those institutional and legal environment, then I'm sure you will not have to see too drastic a drop in fertility rate. So again, to my friends, I hope that by sharing our experience, the success and the failure, that you will be able to put together strategies of great diversity which will certainly be tuned to your own needs in your own society.

Mr. Hollis (Australia):

I want to return to a comment that our colleague from Zambia made and it's an issue that has concerned me for some time, and concerned me very much at the parliamentarians' meeting in Cairo. That is the challenge to cultural and religious beliefs. So that people don't think that I am being critical, the biggest challenge must come to the Catholic Church, which I thought was the role of the older men from the Vatican, what they did in Cairo was an absolute disgrace. I actually at the parliamentarians' meeting in Cairo, I actually challenged where everyone was searching desperately for consensus, and it was agreed that cultural and religious freedoms wouldn't be challenged. I actually spoke up against this, and said until we challenge cultural and religious freedom, many of the issues that want to confront would not be confronted because it's a very convenient way for men, mainly men, to keep women in a subjective position.

And I used, Madame Chair, the example of China. Had China not challenged the cultural tradition of feet binding, it would still be there. And until some of those cultural and religious -- and I know it's very very sensitive issue -- and that's why I used the example of Catholic Church, and I was brought up as a Catholic. But until we challenge this and until we stop putting them a sign "That's too difficult," we are not going to make any progress. And no progress has ever been made in any field unless old

habits, old traditions are challenged. And sometimes, I mean, there are some dreadful traditions. You know, from female circumcision to a whole range of things that deserve to be challenged. Deserve to be challenged.

And sometimes, I, at the Cairo parliamentarians' meeting, when I challenged the resolution saying that I couldn't go along with not challenging cultural and religious freedom, some people came to see me, or asked me, requested me, not to persist with my speaking of my resolution because they wanted consensus and it was very important at Cairo, where we had so many representatives of parliament from all over the world and everyone was wanting a consensus decision, and I came from a tradition of praising consensus, so I agreed. But many other people who came to see me said that they agreed with what I was saying. They said, "We agree with you, but we cannot push it. It is too difficult here, and if you persist with what you are saying, we will not have any consensus and it's very important that we can put out a statement saying we have consensus."

So I realized I did not have very much support in what I was saying. So I didn't persist with it but sooner or later, as my colleague from Zambia said, and not underestimating the sensitivity of the issue and the difficulty of the issue, sooner or later we are going to have to challenge some of these traditions, whether religious traditions or what, if we are really serious, about the advancement of women and women taking their rightful position, that there are some traditions that are being imposed by men, which have got to be challenged. And if we are not prepared to challenge them, why do we keep coming to these meetings and talking about all these issues? So we really have got to challenge that, and it is a difficult issue, but we must face up to it.

Mr. Hirose (APDA):

Thank you Madame Chair. I would like to go back to what Dr. Mboi of Indonesia was saying, I think put her finger on the right goal. And beginning last year, APDA has had a 3 year program "Women in the 21st Century - Strategy for Peace and Prosperity." And I feel deep in my heart that we were right, APDA was right, in choosing that theme for the next 3 years. But the limit is the time and money, that's the most unfortunate thing. We have discussed child prostitution and housewife problems -- they are included in the topics that we have chosen as the 3 year program. Next year is the final year of the 3 year program and we need to summarize, wrap it up. So the participation of women in society and strategy for women's participation -- that should be the theme for next year. So what I would like to see is to come up with a policy recommendation next year. We may need a drafting committee next year to bring together the fruits of deliberations of this year and last year, so I hope this group will discuss how we can do that for next year, to wrap up the 3 year program. Thank you.

Ms. Kang (Korea):

Fellow parliamentarians. I listened in earnest to your questions and your responses. I don't have a question, however, but a plea and a thought nearing the conclusion of this conference to leave you with. I would like to express a few items on the subject of protection and equality of women in the workforce and their relating status in the 21st Century. With the implementation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, discriminatory practices in areas concerning female laborers, from promotion, placement, training, hopefully, will be rectified. Also with the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, we should be able to solve discrimination in wage earnings. Additionally, because female laborers usually bear the burden of child rearing, family planning, as a benefit to

society we must implement activities to aid in easing the burdens at childbirth, childcare and child education.

The responsibility of a society as a whole is to set things in motion. Childcare is important. Social guarantees in child rearing and child birth and the assurance of women's employment afterwards. But also let me stress the female laborer's role during her premarital status. It's important to ensure and provide a safe workplace. Most importantly, a woman must be able to feel free to choose her own occupation without any remorse. In this way, social status will rise. All in all, we must provide proper education, proper training to ensure equality and stress the importance of women's role in any steadfastly growing industrial society. I hope you take my words with confidence in what way, and hope for better future conferences in Beijing and next year as well. Thank you.

Chairwoman Dr. Hao:

Next, Zimbabwe. Singapore will follow Zimbabwe and then India.

Mr. Chinamasa (Zimbabwe):

Thank you very much Madame Chairman. I just have a few comments, and if not praise, to our friend from Thailand. It's very interesting how parliamentarians, in their respective countries and in their isolated focus of constituencies, seem to be carrying out programs that are very similar. I was so interested when she was demonstrating on the graph what she was doing about trying to rescue, particularly girls that have dropped out after primary education. We do have the same problem in Zimbabwe. We have, because of the economic structural adjustment, an increasing number of particularly girls dropping out. The traditional prejudices against girls is emerging. They are getting little girls that are left out after primary education under difficult economic conditions. In my constituency, in Zimbabwe, I have set up a committee comprising secondary school teachers and primary school teachers, to try to compile statistics of children who are unable to continue their education after primary level. And it is really amazing and frustrating to discover the number of girls who are dropping out of the educational system. And what we have done is to work with non-governmental organizations. I'm told in Japan, you have planned donations. I must say, I'm so grateful to them because they have come forward and given some funds which we have used to assist the dropouts, particularly the girls after primary education, to continue their secondary education.

But we have a dilemma. After their secondary education, so what happens? Even the economy is not expanding and there are no jobs for those post-secondary education people, particularly girls, I must emphasize. Because boys can still go to vocational training colleges. They can do building, engineering, carpentry and so on -- sectors where women are still prejudiced, are not open to young girls. This is my question for my friend from Thailand. You are doing wonderful work in rescuing the young girls from engaging in prostitution and early sexual activities, and encouraging them continue with their education. But after their secondary school education is, you know, a lot of them now are going through their secondary education at a very early age. Some are completing at 16 years, and older ones at 17 years. Now what do you do with these girls after they have completed their secondary education if there is no employment for these girls? Is there no likelihood that there is still foul play, the evils, that we are trying to rescue them from? That one I leave for everyone to ponder. What we should do, we should correspond and exchange information as to what is the progress in that area.

Coming to my friend from India, thank you very much for pointing out the problem of actual market. In our House of Assembly in Parliament, I've tried to allege to the government as to the problem may not be that of production or availability of food, but distribution of food is our problem in Zimbabwe. We do have some areas in the country that are better in terms of production of food and agricultural commodities. But finding these in the every corner of the country is the problem. And as my colleague, the gentleman from Zambia was saying, the World Bank is insisting that the government must privatize all government enterprises, the Game Marketing Board, Dairy Board, Cold Storage Commission, that are used to provide ready market for the poor peasants' crops. Because immediately they are used to produce maize and the market was there, they just marketed the GLP. If you had a dairy cow and milk, and there was a ready market, the Dairy Board. But the World Bank is saying before you can get aid from them, you have to privatize all the government enterprises. No subsidies, even to the peasant farmers. And this is causing a problem now. Once you are exposed the peasants to the rapid forces of the market -- they have no education, they have no information and what they do is produce.

But to understand the market forces and be able to operate within the framework of the market forces is always the problem for them. And you get a lot of commodity produce just rot -- they are special fruits and they don't know what to do with it. What am I going to do? I've got these fruits rotting. We have no means of studying the market. Even if we are going to sell them to the market we don't know where. And the only institution that help to absorb the commodities from the peasants are the ones we are now privatizing. We are giving to individuals who don't care. They are only after profit. And they don't care about the welfare of the peasants. That's the problem we are also facing in Zimbabwe. Thank you Madame Chair. I'm sorry for taking so much time.

Ms. Shoon (Singapore):

Thank you Madame Chairman. I would like to make a few comments and also ask a question. I should say that if we bring so many people from different countries, we cannot expect to have one answer for various problems. So we can see from the country reports, all of us have different situations and different development in the social and economic context. But I learned a lot from hearing various reports and I'm quite optimistic about all of the developments. Even today, Thailand faces this child prostitution problem, but I'm sure within 5 years or 10 years the situation will change. Because today Thailand has progressed and achieved rapid economic growth. So I would like to say that finally we can have some international guideline, but ultimately, as an individual country, or as individual parliamentarian, we should learn those experiences we think is more relevant to our own country and try to bring this idea to the parliament for debates.

I should say that mankind has learned from experiences and history. I don't think that the past is all wrong. We should base on something and build on it. We should select and keep those things that are good from the past. Just now, I listened to the Japanese delegates and would like to ask this question. You say that today Japan is facing the problem of rapid aging population and very low fertility rate. This is the problem. But yesterday Professor Kuroda said that, with this ratio of 1, we have a longer time to enjoy this good situation and we have a longer time to prepare our country for the aging society. So I want to ask the ladies, the delegates, as leaders and politicians, how do you respond to this problem in the context of increase of female labor force participation, especially in the case of Japan? Is there contradiction that you want to encourage more women to participate in the work force, but at the same time you are going to solve the problem of very low fertility rate?

Chairwoman Dr. Hao:

Since there is not enough time, India will be the last to make the comment.

Mr. Kataria (India):

Thank you very much. I appreciate the crusade launched by our colleague from Thailand against child prostitution in her country. But I wanted to point out the real basic problem. Why do children and women become prostitutes? Unless we understand that basic problem, and fight that situation, any cosmetic laws -- the laws are there, in many countries laws are -- there is a law in France that says the prostitutes should have a certificate -- hundreds have but thousands are there -- it is because of poverty. It is because of poverty that a father sends his child to become a prostitute. Unless we tackle that problem, and we have a commitment to tackle that problem, then we will go on discussing this thing. We must fight this problem because it is the most dishonoring thing for a woman. And this is the Year of Woman, and we must take out some certain measures to fight this menace and I strongly support the efforts of my colleague Ms. Wongsriwong.

Chairwoman Dr. Hao:

Ladies and Gentleman. I think we made a very good discussion this afternoon. We also made a lot of very good suggestions to the future work of APDA. I think APDA must take all of these suggestions into consideration in order to promote women's status in Asia and to promote women's movement in Asia.

## **Closing Ceremony**

(16:00~16:20 Mar. 15, 1995)



Closing address  
by  
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
Chairman  
Asian Population and Development Association

Dear friends and ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to thank the distinguished members of parliaments for conducting an enthusiastic discussion during the last two days. You have contributed greatly to the fruitful results and I am most satisfied that the APDA Meeting has built a bridge to the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September.

During the conference it was most significant that we had members of parliament from the African region which staggers from the seriousness of the population issues. In particular, I hope that the Meeting will be instrumental in promoting further exchange between Asia and Africa for the purposes of economic development.

I believe there was lively discussion on the main theme of the Meeting: "Women's participation in labor and economic development--a strategy for the 21st century" with many active interventions of women parliamentarians. It was most encouraging.

We have five years to the 21st century. The population increase in some parts of Asia is far more alarming than originally predicted. We must expediently resolve the problems which are the consequences of population; including global environment, urbanization and the backwardness of agriculture. It is the women who hold the key to these pressing problems. We must not hesitate all investment in improving the status of women. When women's issues are resolved, we have the breakthrough to the population problems.

Indeed we have learned a great deal through discussion on the theme of women during the two days. I am now convinced that we have the beginnings of the solution to the population issue in the broad sense. I hope that the result of the discussion of the meeting will be fully reflected in the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women which will be held in September in China.

In concluding the conference I would like to express my most profound gratitude to the members of parliament from Asia and Africa as well as to all those who have participated.

May you continue to contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world and to peace. With my prayers for your continued health and happiness, I declare the meeting closed.

Thank you very much.

Address  
by  
Hon. Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn  
Secretary General  
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Mr. Maeda, my dear friends. It gives me great joy to see APDA and AFPPD growing up together closely like brothers. I have had the great fortune of nursing them and seeing them develop.

First crawling, now walking, the partnership of APDA and AFPPD is unique. We look to each other for guidance and support. APDA has made good progress under leadership of Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda. For AFPPD, we are now approaching 15 years of our existence. This is the age of maturity and self-examination. So we have to give ourselves a new direction.

The APDA seminar has been a useful event. The status of women in our region is on the increase. Three South Asian countries that currently hold position of prime minister are women. We are now looking to verging women's conference of the United Nations in September. We in AFPPD need to promote the participation of women parliamentarians and need to organize more events for them.

In fact, the first women parliamentarian meeting was in New Delhi many years ago. It happened to be I was the only man at that meeting. To represent the Chairman of AFPPD, my dear former chairman. It reminded me of Three Musketeers that time. Mr. Sato of Japan, Sat Paul Mittal of India, and myself, the smallest one from Thailand. However, now we have many activities, including international programs that took place in Cairo and in Copenhagen. AFPPD Vietnam and AFPPD itself will soon organize a seminar in Indochina on the status of women and on reproductive health.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to APDA Chairman, Mr. Maeda, and my friend Chairman Sakurai of AFPPD, Chairman Dr. Nakayama of JPFP, UNFPA Deputy Secretary Director Dr. Ando, and my colleague Mr. Palan, who is next to me, of IPPF for their great support.

We look forward to continuing to work with APDA in the future. In fact, I wish you all a continued success in your deliberation. Speaking about the status of women and women's activities, it reminded me of Mother Teresa who devoted herself to help the poor people, to solve the problem of poverty in Calcutta for 30 years. And she was one of the Nobel Prize laureates. Mother Teresa used to say, "The most suffering to mankind is poverty. But poverty can be solved by charity." For example, only one song We Are the World that can raise money for 86 million dollars. However, the most suffering itself is loneliness. Loneliness can only be cured by love. So let us not forget at home, with family or in any community. But we need not only economic growth, but understanding and love. Also we need your spiritual leadership. So I wish you all the great success, happiness and a safe journey. Till we meet again soon.

Closing remarks  
by  
Mr. V. T. Palan  
Regional Director of the East and South East Asia and Oceania Region,  
IPPF

Mr. Maeda, Chairman of APDA, Professor Ratanakorn, Secretary General of AFFPD.  
Distinguished Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Secretary General of IPPF, I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to say a few words at the closing ceremony of this very important meeting of the Asian Population and Development Association.

This meeting has particular significance, coming as it does, post-Cairo and post-Copenhagen with a clear call for resource mobilization, nationally and internationally, to meet the agendas you have set under sexual and reproductive health.

The Parliamentarians' group for Asia has been the only organization that has over the years grown from strength to strength and has been consistent and active and dynamic in discussing various population and related issues over the years. Over the years the Asian Parliamentarians have covered a range of topics, covering reproductive health, population and development issues, which are extremely germane to the future well-being of the global community. These issues are particularly relevant to the developing countries in Asia where one of the major obstacles to economic development has been the lack of attention, commitment and financial resource availability allocated to the question of reproductive health and indeed population management.

The Asian Parliamentarians have systematically and successfully examined the different dimensions of the population and development problematique. This time around the meeting has focused on the question of Female Labor Force Participation and Economic Development. Clearly if we are to make any significant impact on population reduction, be it for demographic reason, health reason or indeed as of an individual's basic right, we must and should address the role of women and their full participation in the formal sectors of the labor force. It is therefore very pertinent that this matter has now been addressed in this meeting. If we are to see significant changes in the role of women in the 21st Century, clearly the question of their secular education as well as their participation in labor force becomes a vital issue; only then can we hope to bring down birth rates, improve the status of women, improve the quality of the family life and reduce maternal mortality, reduce infant mortality and promote economic development in an economic and sustainable way. If women are to move into the non-traditional roles, there is no doubt that the single most important variable that needs to be addressed must be their educational levels and opportunities to participate in the formal labor force. As Parliamentarians, the fact that you have discussed these issues in great lengths over the past 2 days does help in teasing out the main factors and issues involved in this area of collective concerns.

Clearly, while regional discussions of this nature are of vital importance, of equal importance will be the need to discuss these issues rationally and logically at the national level. It is only then that we can ensure the widest number of Parliamentarians having the opportunity to digest and discuss the various issues and dimensions in this area of concern, namely, the role of women in the 21st century. Out of these realizations, national Parliamentarians can then influence governments to introduce appropriate legislation to not only facilitate but introduce legislation to open educational opportunities for women and job opportunities for women in the labor force sector of various countries.

It is only through this realization and understanding of these problems that national governments through Parliamentarians, as a spearhead, can develop programs to bring about an improvement in the status of women and in their increased participation in the labor force. I am sure that it is our collective responsibility that we do what we have done in the last 2 days in Tokyo will now be replicated in as many countries in Asia as possible, amongst Parliamentarians, so that there is a fuller and wider understanding of the issues.

I was very much impressed by this afternoon's discussion. By the kind of concerns that we have raised in this 45 minutes of actual genuine feeling from people who are around this table. This type of emotions have to be created at the national level. It's only then, that this group of Parliamentarians can become the dynamo that can bring about the changes that we all look forward to having.

I would like to conclude by extending IPPF's deepest appreciation for the excellent work that has been carried out thus far by the Asian Parliamentarians and indicate IPPF's continued support for this organization and our continued collaboration. We are indeed pleased that we have yet again been given the opportunity to be here with you once again and to participate in the deliberations.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you a very safe journey home. Thank you.

## APPENDIXES

Statement and Declaration of International Conference (Meeting) of  
Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Appendix 1: Cairo Declaration of International Conference of  
Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development

Appendix 2: Kuala Lumpur Statement of International Conference of  
Asian Parliamentarians on Environment and Sustainable Development

Appendix 3: Copenhagen Statement of International Meeting of  
Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development.

## **Appendix 1**

Cairo Declaration of  
International Conference of Parliamentarians  
on  
Population and Development  
  
Cairo, Egypt

### **I. Cairo Declaration on Population and Development**

1.1 We, the Parliamentarians meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 3-4 September 1994, at the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development to discuss the issues of population and development on the eve of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), issue the following declaration:

1.2 We welcome the Cairo Conference as a manifestation of the variety of human cultures and traditions. Despite differences in beliefs and customs, we are of the view that leaders and peoples of the world should help bring about universal harmony and cooperation. Parliamentarians have a major role to play in this regard.

1.3 We therefore attach great importance to a successful outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development, which comes at a pivotal time in the development of partnerships for global strategies identified in the series of United Nations conferences on environment, human rights, social development, and the role of women. We support the strategy of fully integrating population issues into all development planning policies and programs. We therefore call on representatives to the ICPD to reach a consensus on the Program of Action of the ICPD.

#### **Population and Sustainable Development**

1.4 Parliamentarians the world over have long recognized the delicate balance between population and natural resources. We believe that the population issue should be seen not in isolation, but within the larger context of sustainable development of the planet for the betterment of humankind: economic activity that increases the quality of life for all people through curbing excessive consumption and generating productive growth; alleviating poverty; achieving sustainable agricultural and industrial production, energy and natural resources in harmony with the environment; and improving health care and the quality of, and access to, education. Actions we take now to overcome the population and development problems of today will decide the future course of humankind. Resolution of such problems is essential to assuring dignity of all human beings. In addition, formulation of new and wide-ranging economic policies supportive of sustainable development, and initiation of international agreements based on such policies and approaches are essential.

#### **Reproductive Health and Family Planning**

1.5 We welcome the approach that places family planning in the broader framework of reproductive health care. We urge all national governments to make responsible efforts to resolve their population issues in a way that respects their own national and cultural identity, values and tradition. We therefore commit ourselves, as elected representatives of the people, to do our utmost to remove all remaining barriers in our countries that inhibit access to family planning services, information and education, as well as to help support the provision of reproductive health and family planning services as

widely as possible. We further urge Governments to ensure that all population and development policies and programs in our countries safeguard internationally recognized human rights.

1.6 We acknowledge the fact that abortions constitute a major public health concern for women all over the world. Since the use of family planning methods may prevent the prevalence of unplanned pregnancies, we call upon all national Governments to reduce the need for abortion by providing universal access to family planning information and services.

#### Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

1.7 The empowerment of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status are highly important ends in themselves. We further believe that human development cannot be sustained unless women are guaranteed equal rights and equal status with men. In this process women should be seen not merely as the beneficiaries of change but as the agents of change as well. This entails an enhancement of their own gender awareness. We believe that education is the single most important element on the road to equality and empowerment of women. Education should also aim at eliminating negative gender stereotypes in order to improve the status of women, with a view to achieving cooperation and partnership between men and women. We therefore strongly support the education goals set forth in the ICPD Program of Action as adopted in Cairo, and commit ourselves to removing all legal, social and cultural barriers in our countries that discriminate against women and prevent their full participation in society, including in public and political life. We call upon legislators all over the world to join us in our efforts to empower women as a matter of national priority, and we call upon Governments to enforce legislation in this respect.

#### Health and Mortality

1.8 Despite some improvements in human life expectancy, preventable and treatable illnesses are still the leading killers of young children and women. There remains at least half a million women dying annually from the complications of pregnancy and childbirth and 99.5% of these maternal deaths occur in developing countries. Large numbers of people remain at risk from infectious, parasitic and respiratory diseases. HIV/AIDS is the cause of a high incidence of deaths. Therefore the targeting of financial resources, particularly from donor countries, to these vulnerable groups is urgently needed to focus on reducing child and maternal mortality rates.

1.9 We therefore support the right of all people to have access to primary health care by the end of the current decade and pledge to work to reduce the disparities in health conditions and mortality risks between and within countries as detailed in the goals contained in the Program of Action.

#### Resource Mobilization

1.10 The quality and success of population and development programs depend, to a considerable extent, on how strategically a country allocates its resources among various sectors. This in turn depends on the social, political, economic and cultural realities of the country and its population policy and program priorities. We accept the responsibility as elected representatives of the people to translate public support for population and development activities into the most beneficial distribution of budgetary, human and administrative resources. We take note of the strong international consensus on the need to mobilize significant domestic and external financial resources and endorse the estimated resource requirements set forth in the draft Program of Action.

Additional resources to population and development programs should be made available by shifting resources, especially from defense expenditures.

1.11 We therefore pledge to work to enact legislation to increase domestic funding for population and development programs, as appropriate, and call upon the international community to provide the resources required to implement activities to reach the goals objectives of the Program of Action. At the same time, efficient use of existing resources is also important and should be pursued through such measures as decentralization, peoples' participation, a focus on target groups and an increase of national capacities.

#### Call to Action

1.12 Given our role in the civil society as representatives of people, we parliamentarians are uniquely placed to implement the ICPD Program of Action, as adopted at Cairo, at the national and sub-national level and to introduce a new concern for the planet and for humankind for the pursuit of national policies of our governments. We call on parliamentarians everywhere to:

- enact legislation to enable Governments to formulate and implement national population policies and programs specifically, improvement of the legal, social, economic and cultural status of women;
- appeal to Governments which have not done so to sign the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to have their parliaments ratify the convention and to monitor its implementation;
- establish mechanisms for parliamentarians to monitor and evaluate such policies and programs on population;
- approve budgetary provisions to increase financial resources allocated to the implementation of population policies and programs, and to enact legislation in support of such provisions;
- generate public support among constituents for the mobilization and allocation of domestic resources to support national population and development policies and programs;
- create greater awareness among policy makers and the general public about population and development issues, within the global context of sustainable development;
- promote the active participation of local governments, community groups and non-governmental organizations, especially women's groups, in implementing the Program of Action as adopted at the Cairo Conference;
- establish and/or strengthen, at sub-national, national, regional and global levels, parliamentary committees on population and development;
- promote and expand cooperation among parliamentarians around the globe in the field of population and sustainable development.

#### From Commitment to Action



1.13 We hereby pledge to translate our personal commitment into political action as set forth in this Declaration, both in our national legislatures and elsewhere, as appropriate, and to encourage others to join us in meeting this urgent challenge.

## Appendix 2

### Kuala Lumpur Statement of International Conference of Asian Parliamentarians on Environment and Sustainable Development

1. We, the Parliamentarians having met at Shah Alam, Malaysia, from 8 - 10 November 1994 at the International Conference of Asian Parliamentarians on Environment and Sustainable Development : -

- Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Non-legally Binding Statement of Forest Principles;
- Deeply concerned about the delayed response and lack of commitments on the part of most developed countries towards promised financial resources and transfer of new environmentally friendly technology;
- Recognizing that poverty, population growth and environmental degradation are closely interrelated and that economic development for poverty eradication and environmental protection must be viewed as an integral part of the development process;
- Recognizing that people are an integral part of the environment and population increase is having adverse impact on the environment; and
- Reaffirming that parliamentarians act as the linkage between people and the government with regard to economic development, conservation and enhancement of the environment.

2. Reaffirming our roles as representatives of people of: -

- make every effort to generate public support for the mobilization and allocation of domestic resources to support population planning, environmental protection and sustainable development;
- adopt an integrated and balanced approach to environment and development;
- eradicate poverty through sustainable development;

3. We, the Parliamentarians, recommend that: -

- capacity building being an essential catalyst for the developing countries in achieving the objectives of Agenda 21, must be accelerated;
- environmental concerns must not be exploited to introduce trade barriers and other economic sanctions;
- promotion of active participation of local government, community groups, private sectors, non-governmental organizations, women and youth in the implementation of programs leading to sustainable development;
- promotion of public education, awareness and communication and information exchanges to bring about positive, effective and wider participation of the masses;

- global partnership is essential in ensuring the successful realization of Agenda 21;
- international community to initiate immediate actions to enable all countries to combat coastal pollution and depleting marine resources;
- developed countries should fulfill their pledges of provision of financial and technological resources;
- formulation of national and regional energy conservation policies including promotion of sustainable use of renewable energy;
- equitable sharing of benefits arising from usage of biological resources;
- need for proper population planning to safeguard the environment;
- support new information initiatives such as an Asian Satellite Television Network on sustainable development;
- Malaysia to take a leading role in promoting and coordinating of bio-diversity activities in the Asia and Pacific region;
- formulation of an international agreement to regulate production, transport and storage of environmentally hazardous wastes;
- prior informed consent should be made mandatory through a legally binding international agreement for any export of hazardous chemical; and
- to promote safe alternatives and reduce the dependence on pesticide and chemical fertilizers harmful to the environment;

We, urge all Government to carry out the commitment made at UNCED 1992 to achieve sustainable development to protect the environment for the benefit and well being of the people.

Shah Alam, Malaysia  
10 November 1994

## Appendix 3

### Copenhagen Statement of International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development

We, the parliamentarians attending the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4 and 5 March 1995, in addressing ourselves to the interrelated issues of population and social development,

- Recognize that the World Summit for Social Development is an integral part of the development dialogue currently under way in the series of major international conferences either taking place or having taken place, including, inter alia, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women;
- Recognize further, in this regard, that population, sustained economic growth, social development, sustainable development, security and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as are efforts to slow down rapid population growth, eradicate poverty, protect the environment, create jobs and reduce unemployment, and promote social integration whereby all people, and in particular women, as well as people with disabilities, participate equally and fully in all spheres of social, cultural, economic and political life;
- Accept therefore the responsibility to support legislative initiatives, demonstrate political will, and help mobilize government and public support to address these interdependent and mutually reinforcing issues;
- Acknowledge that social development is primarily a national responsibility, one requiring individual and societal action as well as international commitment;
- Note with concern that poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, ethnic and other conflicts and social disintegration continue to afflict many countries and are disproportionately affecting women and children;
- Recognize that servicing of debt and lack of easy access to external markets by developing countries and by former socialist countries in transition are contributing to the persistence of poverty; and thus urge the international community to review their policies in this regard;
- Recognize further the importance of achieving sustainable agricultural production, including food self-sufficiency wherever appropriate;
- Acknowledge the need to create a social and economic environment that permits and promotes a more equitable access for all people to employment, income, food security, water and sanitation, resources, and social services;
- Acknowledge further that humankind is confronted with global issues such as, inter alia, international migration, the impact of the development process on the environment, and international drug trafficking, the root causes of which need to be addressed through international understanding and collaboration at all levels;

- Acknowledge also, in this regard, the need to promote universal access to education and to health-care services, including reproductive health-care and family planning services, and to promote equal partnership between men and women in the family, in the economy, and in society;
- Affirm the need to re-orient national budgets and national priorities to address the basic needs of people and to reduce inequities between and among them; affirm further that the 20/20 principle concerning social development is a useful concept in the fight against poverty and in development cooperation.
- Affirm also the unique and important role of parliamentarians in this respect and, correspondingly, the need to develop networks among parliamentarians at the national, regional and interregional levels, not only to create awareness and understanding of the interdependence of social and economic issues, but also to exchange experiences and to enhance and expand cooperation in addressing such issues;
- Emphasize, in this context, the importance of building up national capacity, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish a people-centered framework for social development and to respond to the material and spiritual needs of all individuals, and in this regard, of promoting national and international cooperation, and in particular South-South cooperation;
- Emphasize further that empowerment of women and creation of easy and equal access for women to education, health, employment, political participation, assets and credit, etc., are fundamental in seeking a lasting solution to the interrelated issues of sustainable development, sustained economic growth, social development and population.

We therefore declare our firm commitment to implement the actions set forth in the Program of Action once adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, particularly those related to the principles and objectives of the Program of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, and call upon parliamentarians everywhere to redouble their efforts to secure the necessary resources to implement the activities set forth in both programs of action. In this regard, countries should strive to achieve the fulfillment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for overall Official Development Assistance, as soon as possible and are invited to examine further their priorities of distribution to achieve the maximum benefit to developing countries.

# List of Participants

## The 11th APDA Meeting

### **AUSTRALIA**

Mr. Colin Hollis, M.P.

Treasurer, AFPPD

### **BANGLADESH**

Mr. Shajahan Siraj, M.P.

Chairman, Bangladesh Group of  
AFPPD

### **CHINA**

Mr. Zhao Dongwan, M.P.

Member of the Standing Committee and  
Chairman of the Education, Science, Culture &  
Public Health (ESCPH) Committee, NPC

Dr. Hao Yichun, M.P. (Ms)

Member of the Standing Committee and Vice  
Chairwoman of ESCPH Committee, NPC  
Vice Chairwoman, AFPPD

Mr. Chang Chongxuan, M.P.

Member of the Standing Committee and the  
ESCPH Committee, NPC  
Vice Chairman of the Family Planning  
Association

### **INDIA**

Mr. Virendra Kataria, M.P.

Member of the Indian  
Association of Parliamentarians on Population  
and Development  
(IAPPD)

Ms. Chandra Prabha Urs, M.P.

Member of IAPPD

Mr. Vishweshwar Bhagat, M.P.

Member of IAPPD

### **INDONESIA**

Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, M.P. (Ms.)

Member of Parliamentary Commission: Health,  
Population, Welfare, Women and Social Affairs

### **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Ms. Sun-Young Kang, M.P.

Member of the Korean Parliamentary League on  
Children, Population and Environment (CPE)

**NEPAL**

Ms. Kamala Devi Pant, M.P.

Member of the Population and Social Committee  
of the House of Representatives

**NEW ZEALAND**

Ms. Jill White, M.P.

Chairperson of Social and Economic Working  
Party and of Regional Policy Statement Working  
Party

**SINGAPORE**

Ms. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, M.P.

Member, National Trades Union Congress

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Dr. Eng. Mohammad Ghassan  
Tayara, MP

Vice Chairman of AFPPD  
Member of Parliament, SAR  
People's Council, President of the Order of  
Syrian Engineer's Council

**THAILAND**

Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop  
Ratanakorn

Secretary General of AFPPD  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Health,  
Thailand

Ms. Ladawan Wongsriwong, M.P. Member of Parliament

**VIETNAM**

Ms. Nguyen Thi Than, MP

Vice Chairwoman of AFPPD  
Chairwoman, Committee for Social Affairs

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, MP

Vice Chairwoman, Committee for Social Affairs

**ZAMBIA**

Mr. Lavu Mulimba, M.P.

Chairman of Steering Committee, African and  
Middle Eastern Committee of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Deveopment  
National Chairman of the Planned Parenthood  
Association of Zambia

**ZIMBABWE**

Mr. M.T.S. Chinamasa, M.P.

Secretary General, African and Middle Eastern  
Committee of Parliamentarians on Population  
and Deveopment

## **JAPAN**

Mr. Michihiko Kano, M.P.	Senior Vice Chairman of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), Director of APDA
Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P.	Chairman of AFPPD Executive Director of JPFP Director of APDA
Mr. Shogo Abe, M.P.	Vice-Chairman of JPFP
Mr. Shozo Azuma, M.P.	Director of JPFP
Mr. Hirohisa Kurihara, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Tomiko Okazaki, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Yuriko Ono, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Mr. Ichiji Ishii, M.P.	Deputy Executive Director and Secretary General of JPFP
Ms. Kayoko Shimizu, M.P.	Deputy Secretary General of JPFP
Ms. Chieko Nohno, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Kinuko Ofuchi, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Nobuko Mori, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Yukiko Kawahashi, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Akiko Domoto, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Dr. Eimatsu Takakuwa, M.P.	Member of JPFP
Ms. Tamako Nakanishi, M.P.	Member of JPFP

## **Experts**

Dr. Shigeto Kawano	Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Director, APDA
Dr. Toshio Kuroda	Director Emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute Director, APDA

## **International Organizations**

Dr. Hirofumi Ando	Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
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Mr. V. T. Palan	Regional Director of the East and South East Asia and Oceania Region, IPPF
Mr. Shiv Khare	Executive Director, AFPPD

### **Other Related Organizations**

Ms. Li Ying	Director of Office of the ESCPH Committee, NPC (China)
Mr. Yang Shengwan	Vice Director, Department of Population, Health and Sports, of the ESCPH Committee, NPC (China)
Mr. Liu Minchao	Secretary to Mr. Zhao Dongwan, M.P. (China)
Mr. Cai Hong	Interpreter (China) China-Japan Friendship Association
Mr. Man Mohan Sharma	Executive Secretary, IAPPD (India)
Ms. Jeong-Suk Hong	General Director, CPE (Korea)
Ms. Janny Han	Interpreter of CPE (Korea)
Ms. Insil Kim	Secretary (Korea)
Ms. Supalak Tangchitseen	Secretary to Ms. Ladawan Wongsriwong, M.P. (Thai)
Dr. Nguyen Van Tien	Secretary of the Vietnam Parliamentarian's Association on Population and Development (Vietnam)

### **APDA**

Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda	Chairman
Mr. Tsuguo Hirose	Executive Director, Secretary General
Mr. Masaaki Endo	Assistant Secretary General
Ms. Kumiko Sakurai	Senior Program Officer
Mr. Osamu Kusumoto	Senior Researcher
Ms. Harumi Ohsawa	Staff
Ms. Haruyo Kitabata	Staff

**Interpreters**

Ms. Fujiko Hara	Japan
Ms. Keiko Murata	Japan
Ms. Yoshiko Takeyama	Japan
Ms. Kaoru Otsubo	Japan
Mr. Ma Li-Zhong	China



