

**NINTH ASIAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING  
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Hanoi, Vietnam  
25-26 February 1993**

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

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## OPENING CEREMONY

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<Feb. 25, 1993 10:00-11:30>



Welcome Address  
by  
Hon. Nguyen Khanh  
Deputy Premier of the Government of Vietnam

H.E. Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA  
H.E. Mr. Wang Wei, Acting Chairman of AFPPD  
Distinguished Representatives of Diplomatic Corps in Hanoi,  
Distinguished delegates.

Let me, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, extend our warmest greetings to the MPs of Asian countries, other delegates and distinguished guests attending this 9th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Asian Population and Development Association and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for their considerable contribution to the organization of this Meeting and for entrusting Vietnam with the honour to host this Meeting. We highly appreciate the role of APDA and AFPPD with regards to the reduction of the population growth rate in order to obtain a stability and harmony between the economic growth and the population development in the Asian region.

As you know, up to now many Asian countries are still in poverty and underdevelopment. The foremost reason of this situation is that the population growth is much higher than that of the economy. The population problem is a great challenge to many Asian nations including Vietnam. Although many efforts have been made, the population growth rate has not been reduced as desired. We must, therefore, coordinate all the efforts to fulfill "the Bali Statement on the Population and Sustainable Development" announced at the 4th Asian - Pacific Population Conference in Bali (Indonesia) in August 1992, with the target of attaining a replacement fertility level, equivalent to around 2.2 children per woman in the Asian Pacific region by the year 2010.

We are aware that the population problem can only be solved by the efforts of each nation and the close multilateral cooperation in the exchange of experiences and mutual assistance.

The activities of parliaments in various nations aimed at improving the knowledge of and finding solutions for population problems, therefore, are of great significance.

Vietnam population in 1992 was approximately 70 million ranking the 13th in the world for her population size.

A rapid population growth creates numerous difficulties for our people in the production and daily life, greatly affect the economic and cultural development and the public physical conditions of our people.

Aware of the importance of the population problem, our State has put forth a family planning campaign since 1960s, but its results are still low due to various reasons.

Recently, thanks to the efforts made by State organs, mass organizations, and grateful to the effective assistance from UNFPA, we have achieved progress in the population and family planning activities and shall reach greater results in the future.

Nowadays, the National Committee for Population and Family Planning is intensively finalizing the national strategy for population and family planning for endorsement by the government.

The Vietnamese government have decided to increase the 1993 budget for population and family planning activities by two and half times more than that of 1992, and is providing guidelines for the spending of the budget in accordance to the programme targets.

The current population growth rate of Vietnam is still high at 2.19% per year. Further efforts should be made to reduce this rate and apply successful experiences from countries in the region into our conditions for concrete progress in the population and family planning programme in this decade of 90's.

Dear delegates,

I hope that at this Meeting you will make important recommendations for effectively solving the population and family planning problem in the region, thus contributing to the preparation for the discussion of global issues on population and development to be held by the United Nations in 1994.

I also hope that during your visit to our country you will have a chance to get an insight of the socio-economic situation of Vietnam and to discuss our population and development with the Vietnamese counterparts on issues relating to policies.

May the Meeting be of great Success.

The best of health and happiness to all of you!

Thank you for your attention.

Opening Address  
by  
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
Chairman  
Asian Population and Development Association

Your Excellency,  
Vice Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh,  
The Honorable Nguyen Thi Than,  
Chairwoman of the Vietnam Parliament Association for Population and Development,  
Government representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honored to say a few words on behalf of the Asian Population and Development Association, at the opening of the 9th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development.

It is most significant that this meeting should be held in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was in April 1975 that the tragic Vietnam War ended. In less than twenty years since then, Vietnam and its people have achieved a stunning recovery from the ruins with their unsurpassed wisdom, diligence, and unbending love for their homeland. I would like to express my utmost respect to the country and the people of Vietnam.

The fact that Vietnam has emerged as the world's third largest exporter of rice, following the United States of America and Thailand, speaks of the country's remarkable advancement in the past few years.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Mme. Than, Chairwoman of the Vietnam Parliament Association for Population and Development and its members for their generous hospitality and cooperation which brought us here today at this memorable opening ceremony.

With the understanding and support of UNFPA, APDA was created to be of service to parliamentarians who are putting forth their best efforts to grapple with problems of population and development throughout Asia through various activities. Since 1985, APDA has held annual meetings in Asian countries, each of which has borne fruitful results.

It is indeed a welcoming sign and pleasure to note that many Asian countries have enjoyed high economic growth since the mid 1980s.

From a large perspective of the need for man to coexist with the planet, the population in Asia, which makes up sixty percent of the world's total population, has continued to rise despite our efforts to curb it with the exception of East Asia and ASEAN countries, thus posing a challenge. This calls upon further implementation of family planning. One of the major key issues of the Asian population problem is the rural population.

Demography shows that at least sixty percent of people dwell in rural areas in Asia. In Nepal, rural population accounts for ninety-two percent of its people. Our field survey reveals that the agrarian sector has long reached its limit in sustaining its

population. This is causing the influx of people into the urban areas, especially to the capital of each country, all the more aggravating the conditions of slums. Resolution of this problem is an urgent task.

1993 and 1994 mark an important milestone for the agenda on population and development. Following this meeting, the 4th Conference of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development is slated to be held in October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In September 1994, Cairo, Egypt will be hosting "International Conference on Population and Development". We have decided on the theme, "Population and Development in Asia - Activity Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development, 1994" in order to contribute to its big success. I would like to invite active participation from each of you here to make this conference a success, too.

I am looking forward to hearing the presentations this afternoon on the studies conducted in Vietnam and Malaysia and experiments on population and development in Vietnam. The Asian Population and Development Association is determined to continue to work on the population problems in Asia, with the unwavering support from UNFPA, IPPF, parliamentarians, governments, research institutes, and experts across the region.

Once again, let me extend my heartfelt gratitude to the cooperation and friendship of the Vietnamese people in hosting this conference.

Thank you very much.

Address  
by  
Hon. Wang Wei  
Acting Chairman, AFPPD

Your Excellency,  
Mr. Nguyen Khank, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam,  
Honorable Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA,  
Honorable Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA,  
Honorable Mme. Nguyen Thi Than, Chairwoman of the Committee for Health and  
Social Affairs, the National Assembly of Vietnam,  
Fellow Parliamentarians, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, it is with great pleasure that we have such opportunity to gather in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Yesterday afternoon, we concluded the 6th executive committee meeting. Now we convene the 9th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. It is one of grand gathering among regional parliamentarians and experts. On behalf of the AFPPD and also on my own name I extend my most sincere welcome to each participants. My gratefulness also goes to Vietnamese Parliament Group on Population and Development and Vietnamese Government for their careful preparation and great hospitality and conveniences we are sharing.

Population and development is one of global significant issues. Due to past and new issues, world population situation is quite severe, which arousing widespread attention of international community. Asia as the most populous region, accounts for 60% of world total population, meanwhile Asia is also recognized as one of the fastest developing regions. Long before, many of Asian countries started to implement family planning programs to control population growth persistently. They made great contributions to population stabilization within Asia and the world as a whole.

However, Asians are still facing their harsh population reality. As of 1990, Asia population was estimated about 3.1 billion. According to United Nations' medium estimates 1990, among the 32 most populous countries, one third of them is Asian countries, which takes up 6 among the first ten. Population problems have already be one of hindering factors for economic and social development. To realize the regional goals and targets of economic development, to enhance Asia vitality, and further to meet the increasing demand of material and cultural life of the people, to achieve coordinated growth among economy, social development, environmental protection, resource utilization, to these ends, each country of Asia should seize the opportunity, continue our efforts to get better solution on population and development problems so as to promote Asian and world peace for the well - being of mankind. It depends on untiring common efforts made by each parliament, government, NGO and the people to solve Asian population problems. I also think each country may find out adequate solution gradually to his own specific problems by adequate policy under a relatively stable political situation.

In the meeting, we are going to touch upon population and development, and exchange views on acting strategies on population and development toward the United Nations Population and Development Conference in 1994. I hope this meeting will

develop some significant contribution to the preparation of the UN conference scheduled to be held next year and also to the 21st century.

Since AFPPD's conception, AFPPD did a series of effective activities to promote family planning in each country, to strengthen exchange and cooperation among countries. For years, we have developed sound cooperative relationships with UNFPA, IPPF, JOICFP and other organizations. I highly appreciate such cooperation and assistance, and also would like take this occasion to express my heartfelt thankfulness to the respective officers and experts. AFPPD is determined to promote good cooperation relations with Asian countries, and the countries in other regions, with the international organizations concerned, in turn to achieve awareness and positive actions to population and development issues.

It is our first time to hold such a parliamentarians' meeting in Hanoi. That avail ourselves of this opportunity to gain more understanding on Vietnamese' population and development, to meet more friends, to learn your experience. The 1993, is recorded as Year of Rooster that remind me of a poem wrote by late Ho Chi Minh, which titled "Listen to crow of rooster". It says: An ordinary rooster, Crows loudly heralding the break of day, Awakens the sleeping multitude, Renders outstanding service. May the host country and other member states of AFPPD have great achievement in the aspect of population and development in the Year of Rooster.

I wish you every success in the deliberations on this meeting.

Thank you.

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

Read on her behalf by  
Dr. Hirofumi Ando,  
Director,  
Information and External Relations Division

On behalf of UNFPA, I would like to congratulate the Government of Vietnam, the Vietnam Parliament Association for Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for organizing this regional seminar for parliamentarians from Asian countries. It is indeed a great honor for me to welcome the Parliamentarians on the occasion of this APDA Seminar.

We, at UNFPA, are pleased to have been associated with the efforts of the Asian Population and Development (APDA) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) who are so effectively working towards enhancing awareness and understanding of population issues.

The Asian population will have a decisive influence on the future numbers of human inhabitants on this planet. During this decade, Western Asia will rise from 131 million to 171 million, Eastern Asia from 1,350 million to 1,520 million and Southern Asia from 1,191 to 1,469 million people.

Among major issues relating to population growth is the problem of the large increase of labour force in the developing countries from 2.4 billion in 1990 to 3.7 billion in 2010. In view of the lack of investment needed to create jobs and to stimulate economy, migratory pressures from rural areas to urban areas as well as from developing countries to industrialized countries will certainly continue to grow during the 1990s.

The second major issue is the relationship between population, natural resources and the environment. Although the bulk of environmental degradation is caused by pollution and waste in the industrialized countries, the damage in developing countries is done by a combination of pervasive poverty and rapid population growth, wherein people are driven to use resources faster than they can be replenished.

The third issue relates to education, health, family planning and the status of women. All of these are development goals in themselves but they are vital for economic development and the reduction of population growth.

All these problems will require concerted actions. One long-term action must certainly be to reduce population pressures within developing countries, a policy that will also help reduce pressures on the environment, and permit sustainable development.

The International Strategy for Sustainable Development proposed at Rio - Agenda 21 - stressed the importance of population and social development as one of its priorities. Social development calls for better maternal and child health and family planning services, education and employment of girls and women.

Individual development and well being is the purpose of sustainable development. So all population policies must maintain the basic right of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children and to have the means to practice these rights.

The internationally agreed aim should be to keep the overall population growth within the medium projections of UN - that is to say a world population of 6.2 billion by the year 2000 and to stabilize it at 11 billion in the next century.

To achieve these targets, the number of couples using family planning should be raised by 50%. This will require the doubling of funds devoted to population programmes by the year 2000. Two thirds of the \$4.5 billion population funding today comes from developing countries themselves. The services needed to meet international targets will require about \$9 billion a year in 1989 dollars. Half of this amount should be mobilized by developing countries and the rest by the international community. Developed countries are urged to increase their population assistance to 4% of their aid budget and their ODA to 0.7% of GNP to cope with the increasing needs for population activities in developing countries. In doing so, industrialized countries would simply follow the example already set by Norway which exceeded these targets through the 1980s. The Parliamentarians in Asia have particularly an important role in helping governments to establish appropriate population policies and programmes and to integrate population concerns into overall development plans and programmes. As representatives of their constituents, they are in a position to convey the objectives of the specific plans and programmes formulated by the governments. Likewise, planners in Asia, also, need to take fully into account all considerations when solving goals and targets for population and development activities.

The global international community, including non-governmental organizations, press and media services, also have a contribution to make in terms of increasing financial resources, promoting public participation in population and family planning programmes, and creating awareness of the importance of population and related issues in social and economic development.

The challenge of the Rio process leads us to the challenge of the forthcoming event, the International Conference on Population and Development to be convened in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The Conference has been given the mandate to adopt a consolidated and updated set of recommendations to guide the technical and operational aspects of population policies and programmes.

The preparatory activities for the Conference are in process. Six expert group meetings have already taken place. Two of the five planned regional conferences, the Asian and the African Conferences took place last year. Three Regional Conferences, in Europe, the Arab world and Latin America will take place in the first half of this year.

In addition, UNFPA is planning in cooperation with a number of Governments including the Japanese Government, Parliamentarians, Foundations and NGOs, several



ad hoc consultations and Round Tables which will supplement the substantive preparations for the 1994 conferences.

During the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference on "Population and Sustainable Development: Goals and Strategies into the 21st Century", jointly sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund in Bali last August, we witnessed a sense of urgency and achievement among the leaders of 60 per cent of the world's population. This important event, which concluded with the adoption of the "Bali Declaration", urged countries of the region to "make a firm political and financial commitment to fully incorporate population and environmental concerns into all national efforts to achieve sustainable development." We urge Parliamentarians to help achieve the goals set by this important declaration, in particular for countries with rapid population growth to reduce their fertility rates to 2.2 children per woman, to reduce infant mortality rates to 40 per 1,000 live births, and to reduce by half maternal deaths by the year 2010.

UNFPA is sincerely convinced that you will give population and development issues your utmost attention during your deliberations and redirect development efforts of your governments towards a better balance between population growth, available resources and socio-economic development as a necessary part of national and international strategies for survival, for development, and for the freedom and the future of the generations still to come.

I hope to continue to strengthen our co-operation with you in the years ahead and wish you a very success in the deliberations of this meeting, as well as in the implementation of your future programme of work.

Thank you.

PROGRAM  
of  
The Ninth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting  
on Population and Development

(February 25 - 26, 1993)

Date : Thursday, February 25 and Friday, February 26, 1993

Place : Tay Ho Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

Feb. 25 (Thu)

9:00 - 9:30      Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Nong Duc Manh,  
President, National Assembly of Vietnam  
< at Presidential Palace >

10:00 - 11:00    Opening Ceremony  
< at Meeting Room, Tay Ho Hotel >  
-Welcome Address  
                    Hon. Nguyen Khanh  
                                Deputy Premier of the Government,  
                                Vietnam  
-Opening Address  
                    Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
                                Chairman, Asian Population and  
                                Development Association (APDA)  
-Address  
                    Hon. Wang Wei  
                                Acting Chairman, Asian Forum of  
                                Parliamentarians on Population and  
                                Development (AFPPD)  
-Address by  
                    Dr. Nafis Sadik,  
                                Executive Director, UNFPA  
                                Read on her behalf by Dr. Hirofumi Ando,  
                                Director, Information and External Relations Division,  
                                UNFPA

- 11:00 - 11:45 Water puppet show
- 12:00 - 13:30 Luncheon hosted by Ms. Nguyen Thi Than,  
Chairwoman of The Vietnam Parliament Association  
for Population and Development, Chairwoman of  
The Committee on Social Affairs of The National  
Assembly of Vietnam. <at Thang Loi Hotel >
- [14:00 - 16:40] SESSION I STUDY ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT
- 14:00 - 14:30 1. "Basic Survey on Population and Development in  
Vietnam"  
by Dr. Toshio Kuroda, Director Emeritus, Nihon  
University Population Research Institute
- 14:30 - 15:00 2. "Survey on Rural Population and Agriculture Development  
in Asia"  
by Dr. Shigeto Kawano, Professor Emeritus,  
the University of Tokyo  
(Round table discussion for 15 minutes)
- 15:00 - 15:30 3. "Vietnam Population and Sustainable Development"  
by Dr. Nguyen Luc, Vice Chairman, National  
Committee for Population and Family Planning,  
Vietnam
- 15:30 - 16:00 < Coffee Break >
- 16:00 - 16:40 4. Slide Presentation  
"Living for Tomorrow - Industrial Transition and  
Population in Japan"  
(Round table discussion for 20 minutes)
- 18:30 - 20 :00 Reception hosted by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda,  
Chairman of APDA < at Tay Ho Hotel >

Feb. 26 (Fri)

9:00 - 11:50

## SESSION II

Population and Development in Asia - Activity Strategy on  
Population and Development Towards International  
Conference on Population and Development in 1994

### "AFPPD Proposal" Presentation of Country Proposals

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bangladesh  | Hon. Shajahan Siraji, M.P.            |
| China       | Dr. Chen Ming Guang                   |
| India       | Hon. Mahendra Prasad, M.P.            |
| Indonesia   | Dr. H. Ahmad Muflih Saefuddin, M.P.   |
| Japan       | Hon. Shin Sakurai, M.P.               |
| Korea       | Hon. Lee Hai-Chan, M.P.               |
| Malaysia    | Hon. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.                |
| Nepal       | Dr. Shyam Lal Tabadar, M.P.           |
| New Zealand | Hon. John Blincoe, M.P.               |
| Pakistan    | Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, Sen.          |
| Philippines | Dr. Leticia Ramos Shahani, Sen.       |
| Singapore   | Hon. Lew Syn Pau, M.P.                |
| Sri Lanka   | Dr. Neville Fernando, M.P.            |
| Syria       | Dr. Eng. Mohamad Ghassan Tayara, M.P. |
| Thailand    | Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Sen.           |
| Vietnam     | Hon. Bui Ngoc Thanh, M.P.             |

10:30 - 10:45 < Coffee Break >

10:45 - 11:50 Discussion

12:00 - 13:30 Luncheon hosted by Mr. Wang Wei, Acting  
Chairman of AFPPD < at Tay Ho Hotel >

14:00 - 14:20 CLOSING CEREMONY  
Closing Remarks  
by Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA

by Ms. Nguyen Thi Than, Chairwoman of the  
Vietnam Parliament Association for Population and  
Development, Chairwoman of the Committee on  
Social Affairs of The National Assembly, Vietnam

by Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, Vice-Chairwoman,  
Committee for External Affairs

15:00-17:00      Observation trip

17:15-            Press conference

18:30 - 20:00    Reception hosted by APDA and The Committee on  
Social Affairs, Vietnam < at Tay Ho Hotel >

## Session I

### Study on Population and Development

<Feb. 25, 1993 14:00-16:40>

## Session I

**Chairman Prasop Ratanakorn:**

The first study will be on "Basic Survey on Population and Development in Vietnam." Presentation will be made by our long time old friend, Professor Toshio Kuroda. My big brother. Director Emeritus of Nihon University Population Research Institute. And after his presentation, there will be a discussion for about 15 minutes and then we will proceed on to number two, number three and number four as you will see from your program. May we have the honor to listen to the presentation from dear Professor Kuroda.

## Basic Survey on Population and Development in Vietnam

by

Dr. Toshio Kuroda

Director Emeritus,

Population Research Institute, Nihon University

Mr. Chairman. Honorable parliamentarians and distinguished participants. I am deeply honored to be given the opportunity to make a report.

This morning, the Vice Minister Khanh said, "This meeting should take up Vietnam as study topic" and our study team of APDA made a report of field survey on population and development in Vietnam. But this is only one of the projects which wish to respond to this kind of request. Also, many governmental officials and NGO people in Vietnam have a very heavy job to cooperate to make survey with us. Fortunately, we were able to publish a copy. I think you already have a copy which has been distributed and included in your kits.

Chapter 1 is "Outline"; Chapter 2 is "Population in Vietnam"; Chapter 3 is "Outline of Health and Medical Services"; Chapter 4 "Report on Field Survey"; last chapter covering "Survey Member and Itinerary." So I think it might be better for me to take just Chapter 1 "Outline." Still, this outline also extends to 3 pages or so.

Anyway, Chapter 1 Outline." The content is so short, but I am very much proud of the title. "A dragon rising under Doi Moi - Vietnam's Prospectives for the Future." This very short slogan might indicate the bright future prospect of Vietnam. Then I'd like to pick out some basic points in connection with population and development in Vietnam, but particularly with regard to demographic side.

In East Asia and also in Southeast Asia, you can recognize that. The demographic transition and industrial transition are going to give us very interesting story. How we can develop? In terms of economic development, you can say in that way but demographic transition and economic transition or industrial transition are closely related to each other. So then the basic point of how to speed up demographic transition and economic transition or industrial transition? Of course, we can find out that demographic transition process and industrial transition process have been achieved in some countries. But there are some countries that are different from those countries which have already achieved -- some are lagging behind, some are in between. I think that it is a very important point.

We are in the same situation in terms of demography and economics. Fortunately, each country is in different stage. This means we can learn from each other. And also, demographic transition and economic transition are complementary. Mutually influencing mechanism. I think that it is a very important point. The cases in Vietnam are somewhat different from other countries, of course. And also the very experienced in Vietnam. One point is that Vietnam has been suffering from very severe experience after the World War II. Many Asian countries have been experiencing prosperous economy and demographic transition but Vietnam could not -- the Independence War and the Vietnam War. Briefly speaking, after the World War II, 40 years ago or so, for 30 years out of 40 years Vietnam suffered from war and economic difficulties. This is a very important point. On the other hand,



we can find very wonderful evidences in demography and economic side.

Before going into the understanding of the Vietnam and also estimation for future Vietnam... When we look at Vietnam, very much troubled history, it is interesting to see that there are a number of similarities with the history of China. Over a 10 year period from 1966 to 1976, China experienced Cultural Revolution, often cited as a factor that severely hindered Chinese modernization. Of course, it cannot be compared with China's Cultural Revolution, but the Vietnam War took place over approximately same period, from 1964 to 1975. Despite the different character, these events greatly retarded the development of the two countries. Another point is major restructuring of socialist economy in the two countries. After the Cultural Revolution, China adopted new economic policy which surprised the world. This policy called for major shift from collective farming to production by contract and free market. Vietnam, on the other hand, strengthened its social Soviet-style economic system after the Vietnam War. And this saw new development in the economy. It was only in December of 1986, some 10 years behind China, that Vietnam lodged its new economic system -- what is called historic shift. The new policy makes a challenge to individual expenditures -- market economy and recognition of private enterprise.

When considering Vietnam's future perspective, one point of particular importance is the possibility for progress in demographic transition in the country where the growth rate is still high. First, to look at some statistical data, crude birth rate has recently dropped below 30 per thousand. It is a very interesting point. When crude birth rate comes below 30, it is making a shift from high fertility to low fertility, just started a kind of take-off. However, total fertility is still high, 3.6 or so. On the other hand, infant mortality is very low, already 40. It is relatively very low compared with other countries. In addition, if we calculate demographic transition index, it indicates how much the total fertility rate and average life expectancy at birth have decreased and prolonged respectively. It is still low in the case of Vietnam, 0.63. It's a somewhat complicated terminology. I would like to say that demographic transition is usually caught in three stage, high fertility and high mortality, low mortality and high fertility, and last stage is low mortality and low fertility. So this is going down. In the case of Vietnam, crude birth rate already started to come down in spite of slightly higher TFR. But on the other hand, infant mortality is coming down. I think that this is a very important indication. However, it is maybe natural to consider Vietnam's program with respect to population policy including family planning is far behind those of other South Asian countries. Nevertheless, if we consider the factors behind demographic transition in Vietnam, and in particular the drop in birth rate, we can easily foresee the process of demographic transition will proceed in a speed by no means slower in Vietnam than in other countries. The first factor for this is marked change -- general people's understanding of family planning. According to our survey which we conducted last year from the government people, 1988 demographic health survey, 39% of married women were using birth control. Also, with regard to the number of children desired, in 1988 the percentage of female who said that they would like to have three children or more ranged from as high as 74% in some region to a minimum of 55%. In 1991, however, the majority of the people said that they wanted two or three children. The second factor is very high literacy rate. This is very well known to all of the people here. The next factor, the third one, is the very high female labour force rate -- in Vietnam, 46.9% of labour force. This is higher than the figure of Thailand. It is very high. It means that many women workers play very important role in economic and social field. Finally, Doi Moi

which is based on the new economic policy will no doubt play an effective role in promoting the idea of family planning. With the strengthening of government policies and cooperation of such international organizations as United Nations, we can expect that fertility transition in Vietnam to be achieved even quicker than foreseen.

Just very simple conclusion. Vietnam will be able to effectively apply the lessons learned from various experiences of the rural transition in neighbouring South Asian and East Asian countries to its own demographic transition. And also, active cooperation of these countries will no doubt contribute to accelerating demographic and industrial transition in Vietnam. This is my conclusion. Maybe mistaken, maybe not so rational. But anyway, as I said already, expert ideas will give us more reasonable and more accurate information about Vietnam. Thank you very much.

**Prasop Ratanakorn:**

Thank you very much Professor Kuroda. I think since we have not much time, I would like to proceed to the second paper, and after the second paper, we will have an open discussion for a few more minutes. May we listen to the second topic "Survey on Rural Population and Agriculture Development in Asia" by Dr. Kawano, Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo. Dr. Kawano.

## Survey on Rural Population and Agriculture Development in Asia

by

Dr. Shigeto Kawano

Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo

Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to present my view on the problems of economic development in agricultural sector in Asia, including that of Malaysia. Before dealing with the question of Malaysia, I would like to mention some of the basic condition necessary for the development of agriculture in this area. It is evident that economic development and stability of Asia is also directly related to Japanese development. For this reason, we have made studies on the number of Asian countries including a field survey which looks into various conditions required for economic development through the farming industry. The report of these studies have been already made available in English. The main point of this report is as follows.

The development of productivity in farming industry is a basic prerequisite for economic improvement. The development in the farming industry will make possible provision of food, supply of economic consumer goods and capital asset required for economic development. The development of farming industry will reduce the number of labour force required for that sector, and that will supply the necessary labour force for the second or third industrial sectors. The development of farming industry is not possible without farmers' own initiative in seeking improvement and without their effort toward this end. Increase in production cannot be hoped if the circumstances for farmers are poor, when they cannot afford to own land, when the land rent is high and when your farming rights are not properly secured.

On the subject, United Nations emphasizes the importance of social reform as well as land reform in a proposal. The proposal is a measure for economic development of underdeveloped countries which was submitted in 1949. In light of 50 years, these reforms have been realized in many parts of Asia to various extent and under various situations. This realization of reform in Asia has been an epoch-making event in the world. And together with improved educational standard of farmers as producers has provided the cornerstones -- what has come to be known as "Asia's 21st Century." That is expectation for great development in Asia in the 21st Century. As it has been referred, the education standard of farmers have improved alongside the realization of various reforms. The productivity of farming industry, unlike mechanical production in industrial sector, is often dependent upon the technical and economical knowledge and judgment on the part of each producer in dealing with changing environmental factors such as sunrise, rainfall, temperature and soil condition etc. For this reason, improvement in educational standard and provision of various training programs are necessary. Here too, quite a number of Asian countries are beginning to make reasonable progress. In order for self-motivated, productive farmers to increase productivity and improve land policies, I would like to stress that it is extremely important that public investment be further increased to help the producers in establishing their own productive, favorable producing circumstances. Public investment may be used for the following purposes.

First, for research and experimentation on breeding technology of various crops and cattle, also for research and experiment on mechanization of agriculture. Extensive

and systematic extension for such improved technology related with breeding mechanization. For increased investment in land such as irrigation and draining system, improving the quality and condition of soil, cultivation and expansion of farm field. Public investment has a significant and important role to play, especially in Southeast Asia where there are wide deltas and large rivers abound. For situating the organization of cooperative system and their activities, I would like to add for your own reference that farmers cooperative organization in Japan was founded in 1900 to form a body which was the collective responsibility in issuing low interest loan to producers in the farming industry. This organization, which includes every farming household as union member, play an extremely important role in farming community at present in Japan. Needless to say, the development of policy depend much on mutual aid and cooperation between countries.

I would now like to turn to the question of Malaysia. Regarding industry in Malaysia is dually structured and comprises plantation farming and rice growing. In this paper, however, we have considered the question of Malaysia based mainly on its rice growing industry. Here, it was noted that shifting of labour force from the farming sector to non-farming sector have resulted in increasing the number of abundant farmland so that the existing production system in the farming industry has become difficult to maintain.

The development of farming industry, therefore, was taken up as an issue for the development of farming industry. Redevelopment and development are essentially the same, and the condition set out above apply in the case of Malaysia.

I shall now go into the main part of my paper but the report is a little long to be introduced here again. In the first section of my report, I mentioned the historical development of agricultural policy in Malaysia during these 40 years. But now, I would like to introduce the possible cooperation policies in the development of rice farming -- that's the second section of my paper.

There are many problems to be solved in Malaysia for the purpose of promoting economic development of the country.

First, per capita GNP in Malaysia has already exceeded 2,000 U.S. dollars. So in principle, Malaysia is no longer eligible for receiving interest-free financial aid. The assistance can only take the form of technological cooperation or offering of low-interest loan, and for that matter effective introduction of such financing is naturally a major issue.

Second, financial aid offered by Japan in the form of low interest loan has in the past mainly been for the establishment of economic infrastructure -- energy development, transportation infrastructure etc. And in the case of agriculture, it has been limited to relatively narrow scope, such as construction of urea fertilizer factory, rice cleaning plant, the employment of trainees, rationalization of non-irrigation zone and participation in survey for crop diversification plan. Cooperation and assistance must be based on the policy on the request of the benefiting countries. But as previously mentioned, you can expect Malaysia's rice policy to meet many problems in the future.

Malaysia's plans are based on such premises as redevelopment of idle land and increase in cultivated area, and as such will require more irrigation facilities and land development. Naturally, this will require increased public investment.

Increasing the yield per hectare may be possible through the introduction of further improved varieties of rice and the increased use of fertilizers and chemicals. However, it will be important to keep in mind that rice production is currently supported to a substantial extent by price subsidies and low interest financing. And if this will continue to be the case as a production of rice increases in the future, the financial burden will be formidable. The only way to avoid this is by reducing the cost of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals. As can be seen, large scale mechanization, the extensive direct seeding, improvement in efficiency in all stage of production and distribution and promotion or rationalization of management.

However, this will entail improvement in production efficiency in all stages for this research materials and facilities will be required for testing and research, and training of the human resources necessary for management is also important. Though there are many points which are still unclear concerning the producers for redeveloping idle land, it goes without saying that this will first of all require the active organization and capability of the farmers themselves. For example, promotion of planned planting, focusing on group farming. The same is true for breaking away from the strong governmental characters of the farmers' organization and the same governmental characters of corporation, cooperative and their known efficient management. The same is basically true for the rationalization, distribution and marketing of rice including polished rice.

In this sense, generally speaking, the fundamental condition required for improving productivity in rice production are the supply of various types of materials as well as training of researchers and extension workers and other technicians, and improvement of level of education and awareness for the farmers themselves. This will depend on program for assistance and cooperation which Malaysia itself proposes.

This survey has focuses mainly on the production of rice and, therefore, the proposal made target on the development of production. But in principle, the same can be said of other agricultural sectors.

And lastly, I'm very sorry that we have no preparation to mention about the progress of agriculture in this country. But in principle, I suppose the same policy, the same strategy could be applied to the agricultural development in this country. Thank you very much.

## Session I Discussion

### **Chairman Ghassan Tayara:**

May I ask Dr. Kuroda to sit at the round table, the main table? Our delegates who would like to ask any questions or comment, please do so for this discussion time for 10 minutes. Any questions? Yes, please, Malaysia?

### **Michael Lisa Kaya:**

Honorable Chairman, I would just like to add some comments on the paper given by Professor Kawano. The Malaysian experience with regards to rice production is a natural fact, at the moment very much tied to the policies of the Malaysian government. It is quite true to say that rice production has gradually been decreasing, basically because the Malaysian government is moving towards the policy of industrialization.

The current government, our Prime Minister is stressing on Vision 2020, by which time Malaysia will be a fully industrialized country. And because of that, the new national policy of Malaysia, also is a way of these weaknesses in the sense that we just aim to have 50% self-sufficiency in rice production so that we can continue to have those friendly neighbours like Thailand, Vietnam who can trade with rice, and we concentrate on industrialization. But, on the other hand, with these changes in the policies of the government, it also helps the farmers, because, as has been highlighted by Professor Kawano just now that Malaysia has already exceeded 2000 U.S. dollars in per-capita GNP, and therefore is not eligible for receiving interest-free financial aid, which is quite true.

But what we need now is technological cooperation. So I just want to stress that it is not so much a disadvantage of the government, but it is because of the national policy moving towards industrialization. And we are glad on behalf of Malaysia to say that the farmers in Malaysia are now living above poverty line because of the various policies that have been implemented by the government of Malaysia. Thank you.

### **Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. Any comment from Vietnam about the paper from Professor Kuroda? Please.

### **Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong:**

I would like to thank Dr. Kuroda about his study on Vietnam. I highly appreciated his study. And his opinions about our population and development in Vietnam is very precious for us, but I would like to have some opinion about that in the three decades following World War II, Vietnam only saw ten years of peace, but really we did not enjoy any years of peace, we have almost always war in Vietnam, some kind of war. And then, we do not have the Soviet-style of economic system, we have our own style, a Vietnamese-style economic system. So that when the Soviet-style economic system was destroyed, we made the same, and with our reservation we can strengthen our economy. And then a little smaller detail, about the total fertility rate in Vietnam now, it is about 3.8, it means that in the reproductive years, a woman in Vietnam will have about 3.8 children, and in the cities we have only one or two children per family, but in the countryside we have about four. Thank you very much, and once again I thank very much the Japanese

friends who have carried out the basic survey on population and development in Vietnam.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. Professor Kuroda.

**Toshio Kuroda:**

Thank you so much for your nice comment, also to make clear the situation in Vietnam. And also I am very happy, you are going to understand the relationship between the demographic transition and the economic development transition. I'd like to say, even the pre-demographic transition, and also the pre-economic transition, you can go away from both sides, even from, not only from the economic side, but also from the demographic side, too. It may be, ideally speaking, to push both ways simultaneously. But even if you cannot, when even in a case that you cannot do in that way, but maybe, I think it will be very useful for you from some point of strategy, to push the reduction of population increase. And also this is going to affect the industrial transition favorably.

And of course the economic transition is going to affect the demographic transition much more favorably. So it is, I think, very important for us to understand that way. That is all. If you can understand it, I am very happy. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. Dr. Kawano will respond to Malaysia's question.

**Shigeto Kawano:**

I do appreciate the comment from the Malaysian representative. Malaysia is to try to reduce self-sufficiency rate to 50% to promote the industrialization. And I believe it is an approach of a very advanced economy. However, at the same time I would like to say that agriculture is not limited to rice production, but agriculture includes diverse vegetable and fruit growing. And I believe that by such diversification, basic conditions may become favorable for agricultural development.

As I have enjoyed a great quantity of fruits here in Vietnam, I think that the growing of such fruits will also raise incomes as well as domestic demand. I think that it would be very good in this sense for Malaysia to be a model for other countries to look up to.

**Prasop Ratanakorn:**

Thank you very much. We have to carry on again to topic No.3. This is a case study in Vietnam on population and development by Dr. Nguyen Luc, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning.



## Vietnam Population and Sustainable Development

Speech

by

Dr. Nguyen Luc

Vice Chairman of the NCPFP

Your Excellency, the Presidium,  
Your Excellency Mr. Nguyen Khanh, Deputy Premier of the Government of SRV,  
Your Excellency Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda, Chairman of APDA, Mr. Wang Wei, Acting  
Chairman of AFPPD,  
Dear Parliamentarians and delegates in the regional countries,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NCPFP is very pleased to attend and share problems of population of the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development held in Hanoi. This important event has encouraged us in our efforts to deal with pressing problems of population and sustainable development in this decade.

The population of Vietnam has now reached 70 million. Compared with the last census in 1989, 4.5 million (equivalent to 3 densely populated provinces) have been added to our population. As far as population size is concerned, Vietnam stands 2nd in the South East Asia after Indonesia only.

Vietnam will reach 82 million by the year 2000 if the population growth rate remains 2.1 percent as in the period 1979-1989.

Although, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased to 164.7 percent since 1976, the Gross National Product per head appears not to increase much. GDP may increase twice up to the year 2000. GDP per capita would only be at US\$ 320-350, Vietnam still remains one of the poorest countries by the end of this century.

Being aware of the importance of population and development since the beginning of 1960s, the Vietnam Government has started family planning programme. The NCPFP was set up in 1984 to coordinate all population related activities throughout the country.

In the last 20 years, the TFR has decreased from 6 to 4 in 1990. CBR 1990 was 30.3 per thousand and annual average reduction was 0.46 per thousand between 1979 to 1989 with the efforts made by Health sector and Maternal and Child Health care, CDR was 8.4 per thousand and IMR was 49 per thousand.

However, due to speedy population growth rate of previous centuries, Vietnam has young population structure: 0-24/age group accounts for 39 percent and women account for 51 percent of which 17 million in reproductive age. It is estimated that 500,000 women in reproductive age are added annually which is a factor to obstruct the implementation of fertility reduction. Number of people entering the labouring age is rapidly increased (about 3 percent annually) which is a big problem for employment and training, especially job creation for new labourers.

Vietnam population is unequally distributed, the population density is about 200 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> in average. Population in rural areas account for over 80 percent. There has not been much change of population ratio between urban and rural areas in the last few years, although efforts have been made to redistribute population spots in the last two decades such as forming up new population spots of over 5 million inhabitants, etc.

Since 1986, the national economic development has made some progress thanks to the renovation policy of the Party and Government of Vietnam. Agriculture output has increased by 1.6 times, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased by 4-5 percent annually. However, social economic development can not be stable unless replacement fertility rate and stable population size achieved.

In order to obtain sustainable development in 1990s, the Government of Vietnam has accepted Population and Family Planning Programme as an important part and of the key factors in the socio-economic development, to raise quality of life for every individual, family and the whole society.

The objectives of Population and Family Planning Programme up to the year 2015 are to obtain a small-sized family, replacement fertility rate. The followings are strategic tasks in the 1990s for the implementation of Population and Family Planning Programme:

1. Efforts should be made to create radical and effective change immediately in this decade. All international and national resources as well as all social forces, sectors, mass organizations and communities shall be mobilized to intergrade socio-economic activities with Population and Family Planning objectives, turn into voluntary movement of the people. A small-sized family must be practiced in the vast rural areas, especially in the Red river, the Mekong river and Central Coast areas where the population density and fertility rate are high.

2. IEC strategy on Population and Family Planning Programme must be strongly implemented throughout the country so that every citizen and family should have new awareness and attitude towards traditional customs and habits. Step by step, increase education level and welfare for people, accelerate the accessibility of contraceptives to every household so that they can choose their own methods.

IEC activities on population and family planning must be constant, continuous and informative to the people.

3. Family planning service networks throughout the country should be reorganized to ensure adequate and timely provision of contraceptives to users. Effective, safe and diverse contraceptives should be practised.

Family planning networks of public health sector should operate together with private or collective organization's participation. Apart from provision of contraceptives free of charge for some groups of people, social marketing should be applied for free choice by the people. Family planning programme is closely related to maternal and child health care, therefore, efforts should also be made to reduce malnutrition and Infant Mortality Rate.

4. State budget should be increased for population and family programme. Adequate budget together with foreign aid must be ensured to import contraceptives

and medical equipment for this programme and must be used correctly and effectively to ensure material and technical bases of population and family programme.

5. Perfection of population mechanism at all levels.

Committees for population and family planning at various levels should be perfected. Competent, full-time cadres must be provided to population offices to ensure good management and close coordination with other sectors. This network must be arranged down to communes, hamlets to bring IEC activities as well as contraceptives to the people.

6. Population and family planning policies.

Socio-economic development policies must be closely related to benefits of household and family planning such as land distribution policy, housing, health care, employment, schooling etc -- especially policies relating to women's status, equality between woman and man in the family and society.

7. Legal support.

Legal items should be promulgated by the State to ensure social security for a small-sized family, health care for retired people, protection of environment, legal support for family planning.

In order to successfully carry out the population and family planning policies, apart from the Government's budget, the mobilization of the people's resources as well as assistance from international organizations, NGOs or multi-lateral, bilateral programmes is extremely important. State budget on population and family planning has increased in the last few years accounting for majority of fund for this programme. This would decrease step by step thanks to contribution of community and people once welfare has been ensured and income has been increased.

The UNFPA has adopted US\$36 million assistance to Vietnam for 1992-1995 of which US\$25 million from UNFPA regular resources, the balance of US\$11 million to be mobilized from other resources, including international organizations, bilateral or multi-lateral programmes.

At the moment, it is likely possible that support would be given by Germany, Japan, France, ADB and other countries. From this meeting, we would like once more to highly appreciate and express our thanks to international organizations, governments, NGOs for their assistance in the field of population and family planning in Vietnam. This is not only for population and sustainable development of Vietnam but also of the region and the world all over.

The world nowadays is an unified one, international cooperation and efforts are meaningful to the success of population, sustainable development of politics and economy in the whole world.

We strongly believe that Parliamentarians whose missions assigned by the people are heavy but brilliant will have important contribution to the success of the world, regional and national population programmes by your discussions and recommendations which will be approved in this meeting, supporting directly the implementation of population and family planning programme.

We would like to thank the UNFPA and hope that it will promote its role as a leading agency in coordination, giving financial and technical support as well as information, training and advisors for countries in the region.

With such a cooperation spirit, we strongly believe that the population balance in Asia will be obtained in the near future, the early years of 21st century.

May I wish you good health and success.  
Thank you for your attention.

## Session II

Population and Development in Asia -  
Activity Strategy on Population and Development Towards  
International Conference on Population and Development in 1994

"Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on  
Population and Development (AFPPD) Proposal"

### Country Proposals

<Feb. 26, 1993 9:00-11:50>

## Country Proposal Bangladesh

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Hon. Shajahan Siraji M.P.

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

The continent of Asia is the home of some 59 percent of world population. The two demographic giants - China and India that constitute 38 percent of the world population are also located in the Asian region. Asia will, therefore, continue to play a major role in the future human population growth in this planet. Bangladesh is a small country in Asia. Although, the country occupies a land mass of only 1/3000th part of this world, it is the ninth most populous country in the world and sixth in Asia. The country's 110 million people are squeezed in an area of just 143,330 square kilometers (55,125 miles), yielding an average population density of 718 persons per square kilometer.

Although there have been some progress in population control activities during the recent years - contraceptive use rising from a level of 3 percent in early 70s to 40 percent in early 90s and fertility declining from a level of 7 births to about 5 during the same period, the country has a tremendous growth potential built into its large young age structure. The population of Bangladesh is now 110 million as per 1991 National census. Every year about 2.5 millions are being added to the existing population. Bangladesh population is projected to increase to 143 million by the year 2005 and to 150 million by the year 2010. The people of Bangladesh compete for meager resources in a subsistence level economy marked by a scarcity of land, periodic food shortages, and an abundance of labour. Given the pervasive poverty that exists in Bangladesh it is unlikely that recent progress can even be maintained without substantial new commitments from the international donor community. And Bangladesh needs to lower, not merely maintain, its current population growth rate which, if sustained would double population size in 30 years. The population problem of a country cannot be viewed in isolation from its socio-economic and geo-political situation. Regional and international issues also have a bearing on a country's population and development. Bangladesh is beset with a number of problems which would call for both national and international efforts for their resolution.

1. In meeting the enormous demands for family planning services for the growing population of reproductive age it would require huge amount of resources. The cost of the required contraceptive alone, as estimated for the period 1992-2005 is \$335 million at a constant price of 1992. Apart from the commodity assistance the country needs to develop in-country capability for production of different contraceptives. International assistance, is therefore, a must to address this

programme need.

2. The 1991 census of Bangladesh revealed a female population of 52.4 million representing 48.52 percent of its total population about 22.0 million of these women are in the reproductive age group suggesting potentially alarming demographic ramifications in the next few decades. Due to gender inequality, women have little opportunity for career development and social mobility. Promotion of women's literacy (currently 16 percent as against 31 percent of male counterparts) and employment have been found to have inverse relationship with fertility and population boom. In Bangladesh, investment in women development has been found to be very fruitful. The garment industries of the country which are almost entirely manned by females are contributing a lion's share to the national export earning. Apart from this the major source of female employment is in the rural industries comprising large number of cottage and small enterprises and agro-based industries. Necessary investments in women's development will be beneficial both to the women and the investors. International investment / assistance can boost up the employment generation effort of the women which in turn would improve their lot and reduce their fertility.

3. Besides the resource needs for family planning, the country has pressing needs for resources for other critical sectors. Bangladesh is likely to have 36 million school age children 5-15 years by mid-2000. With a hundred percent enrollment which the government is planning to ensure during the 4th Five Year Plan, the size of investment will be more than double and the size of investment for secondary and higher education may be tripled when the primary school population will make up to them next academic level. So I would like to draw the attention of our friends and donor countries to come forward and extend their generous help and assistance to our literacy drive.

4. Another area of great concern is human resources development, manpower development through training and retraining, both in-country and abroad, is a long standing need for the national programme. In order for the country to be sustainable for family planning programme, there is a need for trained manpower in planning, management, MIS, logistics, IEC, finance and accounting including computer capabilities. While the donor-country based intermediaries continue to work, the local intermediaries should have the opportunity to work as counterpart and develop their capabilities so that when donor support is reduced there is in-country organizational capability to sustain the programme.

5. I would like to mention some regional problems which are also affecting our lives and livings.

The ecological balance of Bangladesh and its agriculture have been greatly endangered by the barrage "Farakka" in the neighbouring India on the common river - the Ganges. Due to control of water flow by the Farakka Barrage, in dry season, the rivers of Bangladesh as well as its soil become dry, and in the monsoon, the country goes under flood water. This issue is a long standing one, and deserves regional and international attention for a proper solution.

6. Another issue is the entry of a large number of Myanmar (Burmese) Muslims called 'Rohynga' in Bangladesh. This problem is creating further environmental imbalance on this over-populated and poor country. This problem too, deserves regional and international attention and efforts towards its resolution.

#### Conclusion

Bangladesh faces a challenging demographic situation with a dismal outlook on economic growth and overall development. Millions of people may have to face overwhelming grim realities of life when the densities of population will rise to 1038 per square kilometer from the present level of about 718 persons per square kilometer. This tiny piece of land can hardly provide full amenities needed for improving the quality of life. It is a matter of realities which hardly needs any elaboration that an integrated approach to deal with population environment, women development and poverty alleviation would be most effective. In these efforts, external assistance for countries like Bangladesh would continue to be very vital. To reap the maximum benefit out of external assistance individual country (the recipient) should have full liberty to use them. There should not be pressure to accept conditions that do not fit well with the recipient's culture, attitude and way of life.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Thank you all.



Country Proposal  
China

Care, Support and Social Security of the  
Elderly in China

by  
Dr. Chen Ming Guang

Distinguished Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past decades, China has explored ways of implementing family planning, which has experienced up and down. Family planning policies and programs have achieved remarkable results and good social effect.

Since 1950's, China population growing trends have persisted for nearly 30 years with annual increment of 2.5 millions. When entering into the 21st century, those young adults today shall join the aged cohort successively. Aging problems will be more prominent than what it is today. Since 1970's, great success of China family planning policy has decreased the birth rate remarkably, with the improved living and health care services, the life expectancy is prolonged noticeably. Consequently the proportion of the elderly increased gradually.

The fourth national census in 1990 shows total population of China reached to 1.13 billion, 60 and over accounts for 8.59%, among them the 65 and over is 5.58%, medium age 25.25 years. Compared with the results of 1982 national census, within the 8 years of intercensal period, the proportion of 60 and over increased by 0.96%, and 65 and over by 0.67%, age medium increased by 2.34 years. Some estimates say in the year 2000, 65 and over would reach to 86 million, that would be equivalent to 7% of the total population of China by then. China shall enter aging society. UN population division revised medium estimates show, even though the proportion of 60 and over make up only 19.10% of total population, slightly lower than the levels of USA, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom and France. However in 1990-2025, this proportion increase rate is higher and faster than any of them. China is to be the top populous in term of the elderly. By 2035, it will be 35%. Five years later, aging in China reach its summit, elderly will be around 250 million, with aging index 17%. The time taken from 7% to 17% is half of that taken by western developed countries. Aging shall be one of important problem of social development in the 21st century. To make efficient policy to resolve and meet the increasing demand of the elderly for clothing, food, housing, transportation, employment, health care, entertainment etc., it is close related to the overall strategy of social and economic development.

As you know, China is a big agriculture country. Its majority of population is residing in rural areas. Therefore the priority of care, support and social security programs for the elderly should be put to the rural aged. The results of the 4th national census carried out on the first of July in 1990 show that 73.77% of population resides in the rural areas. Furthermore aging level of rural areas is somewhat slightly higher than that of urban (county and city). We may estimate that there are about 75% of aged population living in rural areas. In the future years,

further decline of the fertility of rural women at childbearing age and more influx of surplus young adult labours to urban, would accelerate the rate of aging in rural areas, resulting in a higher degree of aging compared to the overall level of China. Rural economy is underdeveloped and uneven. The majority of Chinese rural areas still has no either social security or old age insurance system.

The results of one survey on rural elderly conducted in 1987 show the distribution of their major financial sources among the elderly is as following, 50.71% from work participation, 38.07% from children support, only 4.7% from retirement pension, 6.50% need social relief. The legal measures for old age support are basic to protect their right, which are built up step by step and to be improved. China Constitution says: Citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to material assistance from the state and society when they are old, ill or disabled. The state develops social insurance, social relief and medical and health services that are required for citizens to enjoy this right. The livelihood of retired personnel is ensured by the state and society. China marriage law says: children shall have the duty to support and assist their parents. If children fail to perform their duty, parents who are unable to work or have difficulty in providing for themselves shall have the right and demand support payments from their children. In cases where a person refuses to abide by the judgments or rulings on support payments, the people's court shall enforce the execution of the judgments or rulings in accordance with the law. The organizations concerned shall have the duty to assist such executions. As to the disables concerned, China Disable Protection Act stipulates special clauses about employment, welfare so as to ensure them to enjoy as equal opportunity as others. Those are legislative approaches to ensure material assistance to those who lose their labour ability because of aging. Some concrete measures are still on the trial basis and to be improved.

With the growth of aging population, feasible option is to develop multiform old age support foundation or insurance, input by individuals, collective units, and enterprises, combined as source of foundation or insurance. From the point of 60 years, eligible elderly may get a monthly package of money or insurance pension for livelihood. Such measures have proved popular among farmers. It also displays some promotion function to family planning. Some areas' insurance coverage reached above 90%. Majority of city employee lives on their retirement pension when they old, some of them get re-entry into employment and live on personal saving interests to supplement their demand. Nowadays, the elderly in rural areas, major part of aged population, depends mainly on his or her families. Many old folks' homes have been set up. With the reform and opening policy, some elderly gain more income and livelihood get improved.

We shall stick to the basic national conditions of our own and bring the superiority of our social system into full play. On the one hand, because of China's general condition is vast in territory, but uneven in development, we will suit local conditions to develop feasible social security system. We continue to advocate and encourage the family support system, request children take some responsibilities on the other. We will make our endeavors to resolve the problems of old age support through active integration of social support and children support.

Thank you.

## Country Proposal India

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Hon. Mahendra Prasad M.P.

#### Introduction

The last UN International Conference on Population met in Mexico City in August 1984 to appraise the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974. The Conference reaffirmed the full validity of the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action and adopted a set of recommendations for further implementation of the Plan in the years ahead. With the aim of taking stock of the implementation of the 1984 Mexico City Conference the next U.N. Decadal Conference on Population and Development is slated to be held in Cairo in 1994.

From the very inception of the country's planning process as early as in 1951, we, in India, had recognized the importance of the inter-relationship between population and socio-economic development. However, after becoming a signatory to the World Population Plan of Action in 1974, much greater attention has been paid to the integration of population policies into the development process.

#### The Indian Scenario

In India, decadal census is the main source for data on population. The last census was held in February-March 1991. The salient features that emerge on the basis of the 1991 census are:

- (a) As of 1st March, 1991, India's population stood at 844 million, which is 161 million more than what the 1981 census had enumerated.
- (b) The decadal rate of growth of population during 1981-91 was 23.5 per cent as against 24.6 per cent during 1971-81.
- (c) The exponential annual rate of growth in 1981-91 is 2.11 per cent compared to 2.22 per cent in 1971-81, showing a marginal decline of 0.11 per cent over the last decade.
- (d) The decadal change in the level of birth and death rate is as follows:

|            | 1971-81 | 1981-91 |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Birth rate | 37.2    | 32.73   |
| Death rate | 15.0    | 11.50   |
| IMR        | 127.1   | 97.7    |

- (e) Sex ratio (the number of females per 1000 males) has declined from 934 in 1981 to 927 in 1991.
- (f) Literacy rate has risen from 43.6% to 52.1%. For the first time, the number of literates (aged 7 and above) exceeded the number of illiterates. The male and female literacy rates were 63.9% and 39.4% respectively.

(g) Density of population has risen from 216 in 1971-81 to 274 per sq.km.

The census figures confirm that the number of people being added to India's population each year exceeds that of China. It is frightening to realize that the 161 million rise in population over the decade means that we have added a Japan to our population in just ten years or an Australia every year. It also means that while growth may have decelerated marginally, we have added 25 million more in the last decade than we did in 1971-81, when the figure was 135 million.

Rise in literacy is the only redeeming feature of the first set of 1991 census figures. Though we have finally managed to become a nation where over half the population is literate, percentage-wise the rate of growth of literates is lower (8.5) than in the earlier (1971-81) decade (9.1).

The sphere in which we continue to perform badly is in relation to the status of females. The sex ratio has declined over the decade with the number of females falling to 927 per 1000 males against 934 in 1981. This shows that the old social attitudes towards the girl child and women have not changed. Female foeticide, low nutritional standards and limited access to health facilities for females and disparate literacy levels, all contribute to this appalling trend. Females continue to lag far behind males in literacy: the female literacy rate is only 39.4% compared to 63.7 per cent for males. Again, there are regional variations, with Rajasthan at one end of the spectrum and Kerala at the other.

Though we are still able to feed our population to a substantial degree using food subsidies, actual need is much greater. Further cause for anxiety arises because we are not able to generate jobs commensurate with the growth in population. The fact that a higher literacy rate and younger population means greater pressure on white collar jobs, also causes concern. The growth of educated unemployed can lead to increasing socio-economic tensions.

The 0.11 per cent decline in the population growth rate over the last decade is too slight for comfort. This accords with the trend in stagnation in birth rate over the first half of the decade, especially in the northern states of UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which account for 40 per cent of the country's population. There has been a gradual decline in the birth rate over the second half of the 1980s but these four northern states lag 20 years behind the rest of India in demographic and socio-economic trends.

#### Long Term Goals

The long-term demographic goals, as laid down in the National Health Policy (1983), are to achieve a birth rate of 21 per thousand, a death rate of 9 per thousand, and a natural growth rate of 1.2 per cent, infant mortality rate of below 60 per thousand live births and couple protection rate of 60 per cent by the turn of the century. Given the actual level of achievements, the Seventh Five Year Plan estimated that these goals may not be achieved before 2006-11 A.D. It is a matter of serious concern that the Eighth Five Year Plan further pushed these goals to the period 2011-16.

#### Political Commitment

As emphasized time and again at different international conferences on population related issues, one of the main pillars on which the attainment of population goals rests is political commitment. Fortunately this has been amply demonstrated in

pronouncements by the highest authority in the land. Population issues are now in the center stage of the national agenda. The Eighth Plan (1992-97) accords high priority to population control. While addressing the members of the National Development Council, Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, outlined India's strategy for population control and human resource development during the Eighth Plan in the following words:

"Looking ahead, my vision of the year 2000 is that poverty would be almost completely eliminated and conditions of near full employment would prevail. Basic needs in respect of food, drinking water, clothing, universal elementary education, adult literacy and access to health facilities will be provided for. There will be a marked improvement in the living standards for all women who will have equal status, life expectancy will increase to well over sixty years and infant mortality will decline sharply."

**Small Family Norm Compulsory for Election to Parliament/Legislative Assemblies**  
To demonstrate political will and commitment for population control, a Constitutional amendment bill was introduced in the Parliament Session ended on 23 December 1992. It seeks to add a new Article 47-A under Directive Principles of State Policy in Part 4 of the Constitution to provide that the state shall endeavour to promote population control and the small family norm. A clause is also sought to be added to the Fundamental Duties, a duty to adopt and promote the small family norm. The proposed amendment would not apply to any person who had more than two children on the date of its commencement or within a period of one year of such commencement. However, if such a person had another child after the said period of one year, he would incur disqualification. Similarly, in the case of a person having only one child on the date of commencement of the amendment or within a period of one year of such commencement, it is proposed to provide that if a subsequent childbirth results in the birth of more than one child he will not incur any disqualification. It is also proposed to provide that the mere act of giving a child in adoption will not enable a person to escape disqualification. The proposal is based on the recommendations of the National Development Committee on Population.

#### **Assistance to State Linked with Performance**

State Governments are being forced to pull up their socks as far as family planning and literacy are concerned if they want to get more money from the Central Government. The Planning Commission has, for the first time, taken a tough stand and made these criteria conditional for fund allocations.

Rough targets on the crude birth rate (CBR), infant mortality rate (IMR) and female literacy have been given to the states and two per cent of their total allocation in 1993-94 will depend on their performance. This two per cent runs into crores of rupees for many states; so it is hoped that the criteria will be taken more seriously than mere exhortations.

The targets have been calculated according to the present CBR and IMR of the states and the target set in the national health policy for the year 2000. For instance, Madhya Pradesh, with the highest CBR of 37 per thousand in the country, has been asked to bring it down to 35 by next year in the hope that in the next eight years, the state will reduce it to 21 (the target set out for the whole country in 2000). The crude birth rate of the country as a whole is 30.2 per thousand at present.

Similarly, for the infant mortality rate, Orissa, which has the highest IMR, has been asked to bring it down from 122 per thousand to 114.2 by next year so that the target of 60 by 2000 will be possible. The all India average is 80.

One per cent of the funds allocated by the Center to the states will depend on the performance on the CBR and IMR front, while one per cent will depend on the female literacy rate. A mathematical formula has been worked out to determine how much money a state should get if it partially meets its targets.

#### Role of Voluntary Organizations

For supplementing the efforts of the Government, it is necessary to involve the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and voluntary agencies in a very big way. In order to promote voluntary efforts local level individuals (youths in the villages, panchayat level leaders, private medical practitioners including practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine, ex-servicemen, retired government servants with social conscience etc.) have to be identified and approached to motivate them to participate in the Family Welfare Programme. The network of cooperative sector institutions, organized sector, trade unions, Zila Parishads, Municipal Corporations, Panchayats etc. has to be fully involved in the implementation of Family Welfare Programme.

IAPPD Activity Strategy: People's participation in community development with cooperation of elected representatives at grassroots level

Taking a cue from the strong political will in favour of population control, the IAPPD (Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development) intends to provide a thrust to this overriding natural priority which constitutes the foundation for the success of all developmental efforts. For this purpose, the IAPPD has designed a project in its ongoing endeavor for people's involvement in the implementation of the family planning programme at the micro level. The project which is a five-year action plan, envisages involvement, at the national level, of elected representatives in a few selected problem districts in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (having high Crude Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate and low Couple Protection Rate) in transforming the family planning programme into a people's movement. It seeks to promote voluntary action on the part of elected representatives of the people functioning at the grassroots level, viz. leaders of Panchayati Raj institutions. This would be in line with the aim and goals of the health, family welfare, education, literacy, women's development and such other programmes of the government. This is certainly not launching any new venture independently of the official programme but aims at bridging the long-standing gap that has compromised the performance of the official programme. Its role is entirely complementary to that of the government. Implementation of the project will improve the image of the programme in the eyes of the people so that the beneficiaries among them voluntarily and readily come forward to take advantage of the officially provided facilities. The IAPPD will be a bridge between the administration for health, family welfare and related development programmes, and the people at large at the grassroots level. A detailed idea of the modus operandi of the project can be had from the project design, copies of which have been made available separately.

#### Promoting awareness about spread of AIDS

Another area where the IAPPD would like to supplement governmental effort is promotion of awareness and eliciting community support with a view to sustaining and reinforcing global effort to stop the spread of AIDS in India. Experts who had

gathered in New Delhi for a five-day International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific have warned that India will have the largest number of people infected by the Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS (Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome) before the turn of this century if adequate precautions are not taken immediately. Dr. Michael H. Merson, Director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS gives India only three years to do everything about it. Heavy density of population, low literacy, poor living conditions and hygiene levels, societal inhibitions on sex and public apathy, make India extremely vulnerable to AIDS. Already India has 10,700 HIV infected cases and 230 full blown AIDS cases. Far from being just a health issue, the growing pandemic of AIDS threatens the economies of all the developing countries. It is too much to expect that the government organization set up to control the spread of AIDS in India would per se be able to achieve the desired level of public awareness and community support. To help bridge the gap which the essentially bureaucratic functioning of the programme for controlling the spread of AIDS will inevitably create in evoking people's response, the IAPPD has in mind a two-tier programme.

In the first place IAPPD contemplates to organize a National Conference to be held in New Delhi to which all Members of Parliament belonging to both Houses irrespective of their party affiliations, at least 10 legislators from each State to be nominated by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly / Chairman of the Legislative Council, a sizeable number of social scientists, educationists, members of voluntary organizations, as well as student leaders, should be invited to participate. To ensure that the conference has the requisite impact, the IAPPD will invite the Prime Minister to inaugurate it, the Speaker, Lok Sabha to preside over it and the Health Minister to deliver a keynote address. Heads of UN Agencies like the World Bank and WHO already working in the field on controlling this killer scourge, will also be invited to participate.

A detailed outline of the project in this regard can be gleaned from the Project Design copies of which will be available separately.

In the light of the conclusions that may be reached at this Conference, the IAPPD will eventually evolve a mechanism of promoting voluntary action on a regular basis on the part of people through the elected representatives functioning at the grassroots level.

#### Recommendation

Keeping in view the cent per cent viability of these projects which are absolutely pragmatic in their content, it is recommended that the requisite funds be made available for their implementation.

#### Conclusion

The IAPPD would be happy to implement the projects outlined above if adequate funds are forthcoming.

## Country Proposal Indonesia

### Community Participation on Population Work Program by Dr. H.A.M. Saefuddin M.P.

#### Introduction

Development might be defined as collective efforts, by a nation to affect social transformation through a succession of stages to achieve a better future with guarantees an adequate standard of living and dignity. We, all nations in the world believe that development and population have a close interrelationship. More people in a country cause more development efforts to improve the quality of life and to make betterment of the family welfare.

Family welfare of a nation, we believe not only includes material well-being but also spiritual prosperity. It emphasizes the principle of establishing an equilibrium between the material and the spiritual aspects of life. But more emphasis on quality than on quantity of the family households. Therefore, the population workprogram should support and stimulate family and nation welfare which has a wider meaning than only birth control or the limitation of births.

The predicaments relating to the uncontrolled expansion of the population present a great challenge to developing countries including Asian countries. A high rate of population growth, limited facilities for education, employment and health care, and relatively low rate of economic growth place a great constraint on efforts to improve the quality of life of nation.

To address the problem of uncontrolled population growth and help to increase the possibilities of achieving sustainable development, therefore, we should elaborate a progressive population work strategy which would seem to be the best appropriate one.

#### Problems

In most Asian countries, one common condition is the inadequate number of facilities for health and family welfare services compared to the size of the target audience to be covered in the country. The ratio of clinic, doctors and paramedics to the population to be served is still low, often little awareness in the community concerning the importance of health and the family welfare status, and the community has low participation in population workprogram.

#### Community Involvement

Population-workprogram in Asian countries including Indonesia, is related to the larger concepts of family, community and national welfare, and refers not only to contraception. Hence, it is important that the community should be involved in the population works and activities.

Promoting community involvement and participation within a population program or particularly in family planning program, has many advantages among others:



1. Increasing program accessibility. Family planning and population work can be expanded beyond government facilities. And using existing institutions and channels in the community, the program can reach a larger target audience.
2. Increasing program acceptability. The target audience is involved in every aspect of population program management. This will strengthen awareness and responsibility of community in the program.
3. Increasing affordability. The development of community institutions and the assistance of population work volunteers and NGO's will decrease program cost and make it more affordable.
4. Increasing program sustainability. Population program and family planning services should be designed within the context of the social, economic as well as cultural background of the community. The locally oriented approach can improve program continuity and decrease the number of drop-outs.
5. Entry point to other development programs of the country. Networks and institutions in the community which had been established for population work and family planning services can also be used as media for developing other programs of any sector of development.
6. Community development can bridge the gap of trust and confidence which often exist between a population program and the target groups.

#### Population Work Activity

The important to the effectiveness of the population workprogram is the transfer of responsibility from the national / country level into the hands of the community to increase the efficiency of program management. To make population work and family planning more acceptable at the grass roots level, various program activities using an integrated approach should be utilized, which contain such components as income generation, nutrition supplements, primary health care, agriculture, cooperatives and education scholarships. In this way, strong political and technical commitment should be developed at the national level and local level.

The strategic activities of population workprogram using an integrated approach experienced in Indonesia among others are:

1. Improving mother and child welfare. Indonesia has launched a number of integrated family planning and nutrition programs. In collaboration with the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Religious Affairs and financial support from USAID, UNFPA and UNICEF, the government implements the Family Nutrition Improvement Program (started 1979) to seek improve the nutritional status of the community. Almost all villages throughout the country participate in this program. The communities take an active role in executing the program to ensure a greater impact upon maternal and child health, and family welfare. In 1984 the Integrated Family Planning and Health Services (Posyandu) was launched to promote the small, prosperous and happy family norm. At the local level in community center, Posyandu's are organized and managed by local communities.
2. Increasing the family income. To facilitate the realization of the small, happy and prosperous family norm, the government embarked on a novel scheme to integrate income generation into the existing family planning program, based on the

premise that upgrading women's productive activities is an effective means of breaking the cycle of poverty and high fertility. As women have become more aware of the benefits of this activity, they continue to participate in the family planning program. Financial support for this program has come from the Indonesian State Budget and local Banks, USAID, UNFPA, the World Bank and ASEAN Population Commission.

3. Providing scholarship. Priority is given to children of acceptors practicing family planning continuously for ten years or more and belonging to the low income group.

4. Youth role enhancement. The National Youth Organization and the government launched a nationwide family planning education program directed specially at pre-reproductive groups particularly those living in villages and sub-districts. Enhancing the participation of youth in solving the population problem is also the objective of this activity.

5. Self-reliant family planning. The general objective of this activity is to promote the community's awareness of its role and responsibility for developing and maintaining any types of population workprograms and activities.

#### Institutional Development -- An Implication

Development of community institutions will encourage community participation, which in turn will strengthen the awareness that population workprogram is actually the responsibility of the community.

On the other hand, development of community institutions constitutes a shift from clinical-oriented service program to a community-based movement to solve the population and development problems. It is advisable to design, develop and implement population workprogram and activities which are based on local community condition. Several approaches which incorporate development activities needed by a particular community can be used as an entry point to introduce and eventually stimulate active involvement and participation in the population work or activities.

With this in mind, the government of Asian countries in cooperation with the regional and international organizations should take the initiative to convince its community to participate in the population program through a series of gradual stages.

Finally, political commitment essential to the success of population works should be established for all levels and in all sectors of development. The government of Asian countries commitment may result increased support and participation by the state institutions and agencies, as well as private institutions, NGO's and the community.

## Country Proposal Japan

### Towards a Community that Preserves Human Dignity by Hon. Shin Sakurai M.P.

#### I. Introduction

Will humankind be able to survive on this earth?  
Will our children be able to inherit this earth?  
Do we, who are now living, know what our duties are?  
The duty to build the future for humankind.  
The duty to protect, foster, and give love to all living things.  
The duty to create a society where each one of us is respected.  
For better tomorrow, let us stand up now.

All around the world, at this very moment, five new babies are born each second. Today, the world's population increases by 261,000 persons, which means that every day a population equivalent to that of a typical Medium-size city in Asia is born. We have acted without consideration and wisdom. We have increased the population, spoiled water and air, destroyed and desertified our earth. Will we be able to pass this earth on to our children?

As we near the 21st century, the problem of population, despite differences of religions, ideologies and creeds, is not a matter to be left to endless discussion. It is time for us to act swiftly to bring about solutions to the problem. We must find effective methods to solve this problem, and act boldly with courage and determination, in order to coexist with the earth. The future of humankind depends on "what we choose to do now." Herein lies a challenge to our sense of wisdom. Our commitments, decisions, and actions in the next ten years will decide the future of humankind and of our earth.

The world population at present, in 1994, is estimated at 5,613,500,000, and the population in Asia is estimated at 3,342,900,000. The Asian population comprises 60% of the world population, thus is an important factor in judging the state of the world's population.

Through the efforts of each nation, Asia has been relatively successful in addressing the problem of population and economic development, compared with other parts of the world. Although it has not solved its problem entirely, the success in Asia has given new hope not only to its own peoples, but to the nations in other regions of the world. These achievements were discussed at the 4th Asian Pacific Conference on Population and Development, held in Bali, Indonesia in 1992; and subsequently, they received a wide interest in the African Conference on Population and Development, held in the same year. Needless to say, the commitments that Asian nations have given to the problem of population and development, have a strong influence on other developing countries who struggle with similar problems.

Considering that Asia has an important role to play in regard to the problem of population, "The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development" will make the following proposals at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. The objectives of the proposal will center on the balanced co-existence of humankind and the earth; and the protection of human dignity.

## II. Program of Action for Solving the Problem of Population

The majority of the Asian peoples live in poverty-stricken rural areas. The population problem in Asia is symbolized by population explosion in these rural areas, and the city slums caused by the inflow of population from there. These are two tragic aspects in Asia today. To solve these problems, we propose the following:

1. Control birth rate by implementing and diffusing comprehensive family planning programs, as well as reduce Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates.

Specifically:

- a) Reduce the Total Fertility Rate to 2.2 in the high fertility area of Asia by 2010.
- b) Reduce the Infant Mortality Rates to below 40 per 1000 Live Birth by 2010.
- c) Reduce to half the Maternal Mortality Rates in Asia by 2010.

2. Eradicate poverty.

3. Establish self-sufficiency in food, and create job opportunities through an efficient program of developing more self-reliant farming areas and farming methods.

4. Improve the education standard and literacy rates, especially those of women, through increased income, thus improving the status of women subjugated to lower position in the traditional social structure.

5. Improve living conditions, by giving women better status.

Implementation of these key measures will in turn enable the provision of safe drinking and farming water, stimulate the establishment of basic medical and public sanitary needs, and further promote complete family planning.

## III. Increasing Public Awareness to the Problem of Population

The problem of population and its solutions is not something that can be enforced. There is a need for the public to understand what the plan can actually accomplish. In this respect, we will need the cooperation of the mass media in launching an effective public relations activity on the problem of population. Public relations are essential in helping the public understand and appreciate the population problem, thus forming a consensus. In appealing to the public it is important to present the problem of population whenever possible, as a struggle not only for the preservation of the human race; but also as a struggle for the protection of human dignity. We, parliamentarians representatives of our people, can help the PR activity through our influence on the government and media.

## IV. Fund Needed for the Solution of the Problem of Population

The problem of population makes us realize that there is only one earth. If we destroy our earth, there is nowhere else to turn to. Both the advanced and

developing nations should consider in earnest the following question, "what is it that we can do, right now?"

Large amount of capital is needed to solve the problem of population. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that 9 billion dollars a year is required. The procurement of capital would have to be left to the individual efforts of each nation. For without the accurate perception and earnest commitment towards the problem of population, nothing may be accomplished.

It is necessary for Japan and other advanced nations to support actively in terms of capital and technological assistance. Furthermore, there is a need to support and build intra- and inter- regional cooperation based on mutual trust. We need to coordinate closely with international organizations and non-governmental organizations, and implement grass-roots measures. The advanced nations, in addition to the existing aid giving through the UN and bilateral channels, must formulate other types of cooperation, such as mutually-linked support where advanced nations assist cooperative efforts among developing nations.

Those of us who desire world peace are faced with an extremely worrisome situation. Following the collapse of the Cold War structure, the arms race between the US and the former USSR requiring a large sum of money has come to a close. However, regional conflicts continue to erupt in many parts of the world, and Asia has become "the world's market for arms trade." The capital that flow into arms trade is immense. Each nation should make efforts to solve these conflicts peacefully, and direct this flow of funds towards solving the problem of population.

On the other hand, as a result of structural adjustment during the 1980's, many Asian nations revised their expenditures; and subsequently, budgets related to public health, health care, and medical care have uniformly been suppressed. These trends are hindrance to the solution of the problem of population, and require immediate attention.

## V. Conclusion

The problem of population is a struggle for the common interest of humankind superseding differences in regions, nationalities, religion, ideology and creeds. Moreover, it is our own struggle for the preservation of human dignity. This struggle will make us realize that there is but one human community. Humankind has never fought this battle in its history. If we are victorious in this struggle for the happiness and peace of our human community, we will have added a new and hopeful page to the history of our civilization.

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, on behalf of elected representatives of the people, propose that through the resolution of the population problem, we should realize "co-existence of humankind and the earth", and create "a community that protects the well-being of the people in each nation, and peacefully preserves the dignity of humans." It is not an easy path, but, our conscience and knowledge suggest that human dignity can only be preserved through peaceful means. Population should be resolved not with short-term vision but through cooperation of each nation with long-term vision for the preservation of human race. Let us win our "battle for peace" and erect monument in the history of our civilization.

## Country Proposal Korea

### Activity Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Hon. Lee Hai-Chan M.P.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to have this opportunity to present a few words on population and development in Asia.

Mr. Chairman!

First, let me briefly refer to the demographic situation of my country, the Republic of Korea. The past thirty years has witnessed a rapid population change in Korea. At the beginning of the 1960's the population growth rate per annum was 3.0 percent, and the prospects of the population growth were very pessimistic. However, thanks to both successful family planning measure and economic development, the rate has downed to below 1.0 percent by 1986. During a similar period, the total fertility rate in Korea has dropped from 6.0 in 1960 to 1.6 in 1988.

It may be easily recognized that changes in population size and structure have significant effects on society and the economy. The drastic decline of fertility worked favorably for the rapid economic growth of Korea. The rapid decline in dependency ratio and abundant supply of young labour force, due to a rapid decline in fertility and a slow aging process, was a powerful factor to facilitate and accelerate the economic growth in our country.

Distinguished delegates!

There has been increasing recognition that the demographic concerns are highly interrelated with socio-economic development, environment, women's status, and poverty issues. It is a well known fact that in many countries, the high population growth and density are the main factors that causes various environmental problems, such as land degradation, deforestation, and air and water pollution. Not only this but, rapid population growth places a tremendous burden on a country's material resources and services. Under increasing competition for scarce resources and services associated with population growth, women, who are already disadvantaged, will suffer even greater disparities and lower status. Furthermore, the number of people living below the poverty line has increased in several countries, especially where fertility and population growth rate remained high or has not declined significantly.

It is well remembered that the Third Asia and Pacific Population Conference in 1982 adopted the Colombo Plan of Action, which set as a regional goal to attain the replacement level of fertility by the year 2000. However, the Fourth Conference in 1992 observed that it would be difficult for a majority of the Asian countries to attain replacement fertility before 2015. In countries where this target has not been achieved, special efforts are needed to establish sustained and successful family planning programmes.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Every country has its own specific array of population problems and policy objectives. However, the leadership exhibited by political leaders and parliamentarians is required in the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes dealing with population and development issues and problems. And needless to say, dealing the population problems also requires international cooperations.

The Korean people are most appreciative of the invaluable contributions extended to us in the past by many countries and international organization, particularly in providing technical and financial support for successful implementation of our population policies. We are now, in turn, prepared to provide the technical cooperation for other Asian countries.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Delegates!

I would like to conclude my presentation by saying that the Republic of Korea is ready to share her experiences, both successes and failures, as other Asian countries search for ways to achieve their goals and strategies on population and development into the 21st century. We hope that in the long-run, this will be way by which we can control the population problem throughout the world, thus contributing to development toward prosperity.

Thank you very much.

Country Proposal  
Malaysia

Population and Development in Asia -  
Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International  
Conference on Population and Development in 1994

by  
Hon. Ibrahim Ali M.P.

The Honourable Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I first and foremost congratulate the organizing committee for their success in organizing this momentous forum. I also wish to express my appreciation for your hospitality extended to us during our stay here.

I have a special interest for this country; Vietnam - the land and her people. The nearest coast-line of Vietnam is hardly 250 miles away from my home village. Indeed, interactions and migrations between the people of Vietnam and Malaysia has a long historical lineage.

Since my student days, I have been following with admiration the enthusiasm, courage and strength of the Vietnamese people fighting for their right. That now, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is directing her resource of resilience towards a dynamic Doi Moi is a novel effort.

Dear fellow politicians,  
We are gathered here together from the countries of Asia to discuss never ending issues that concerns us all as part of world population and respectively our development into the future, with reference to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

When we looked at the statistics on Asian population, we were generally disturbed by the grind of its growth. However, recent experience has shown us that to a certain extend, population growth may not lead to socio-economic problems provided we learn to manage and we learn to cope with life in orderly organized manner.

In other words, we need to accept the fact that population growth is not necessarily a threat to the quality of modern life. On the contrary, negative population growth as is happening in some developed countries is becoming a phenomenon of great concern. The experience of people's agony throughout life with one child or no child bothers morality and psychology of the affected mass.

It is not proper to assume that population out growth is the cause of social malaise in a nation. The root cause of the problem is due to mismanagement by the government, that is, not giving proper attention to administration, policies, properly planned human resource development, etc. Quality of life of human race shall never



be worse off for as long as we live by the virtue enshrined in our denomination; as for me it is Islam. Let us now begin to think positive about our fellow men and women.

In the case of Malaysia, we have almost doubled our population during the past two decades or so. Yet, from a population of 18 millions right now, we are preparing for an ultimate progressive population of 70 millions people. Malaysia is and will still be a good place to live in.

Our Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has enunciated a national visionary goal coded VISION 2020. By that, we mean Malaysia aspires to attain a fully industrialized and developed nation status by the year 2020. While we strive for a disciplined and productive workforce, we also guide our future generation with the spirit of caring and just society, ingrained with moral values. We are managing our people into the future with a properly planned development programme.

Talking about development, we are constantly confronting with the hazards of its side-effect. This includes the environmental problems on our planet earth to-day. What transpired at the previous Rio Summit where we discussed on global development and environment, is a clear manifestation for us to realize the significance of a common objective for the survival of our future generation. This, however, is by no means easy.

With the spirit of pioneers, we just have to keep striving for international co-operation. Primarily, the need for regional co-operation is of utmost importance. There has never been in our history that the success of this goal is so much needed.

As we all are aware, South East Asia is the fastest growing region in the world today. However, as we struggle to prosper economically, we face to protectionist policy of the developed Western countries. In this respect, in order to safe-guard our interest, what options do we have now?

We have come to the conclusion that there is no other alternatives for us, but to resort for an enhanced South-South co-operation.

The developed Western Countries are safe-guarding their interest too. Unfortunately, they put us in a very disadvantageous situation. From time to time we are being bombarded with misconceptions in the way we manage our people, and the way we manage our natural resources. Obviously we are having different sets of values; but we are indirectly not allowed to uphold ours for anything that does not give immediate benefit to them.

Politically, we are criticized for being undemocratic although we keep reiterating our own definition democracy. Our programme on forest rejuvenation for the good course of our economy is condemned as deforestation like the way they did in the West. From environment stand point, we believe that we do not own this earth, but we owe it from our posterity.

Only Asians understand Asia. Therefore, what hope do Asians have for them to depend on the generosity of the protectionist developed West?

In view of our time constraint, for further background information on my country, please refer to my enclosed report (Appendix A).

Lastly, but by no means least, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome fellow politicians to the next 4th General Assembly of Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development which will be held in Malaysia this coming October. We all look forward to another meaningful meeting.

Thank you Hon. Chairman for giving me the time.

## Country Proposal Nepal

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Dr. Shyam Lal Tabadar M.P.

The population of a developing country is characterized normally by high fertility and mortality accompanied by rapid population growth. The issue of population is both economic and social development issue. The quality of population is subject to the availability of social services coupled with economic resources.

Nepal's population basically went on increasing rapidly since 1952 to date. The first ever conducted census in 1911 recorded a total population of 5.6 million which today, as revealed by 1991 census, stands at 18.5 million. The average intercensal population growth rate during 1952/54 and 1961 was 1.65 percent per year which jumped to 2.66 during 1971-81 period. However the 1991 census figured 2.08 percent per year showing some improvement in Nepal's efforts to bring down the population growth rate. This high growth rate is mainly attributed to rapid decline in the death rate while not being by the decline in the birth rate though this too showed some declining tendency.

The rapid growth of population in Nepal, as in most of the South Asian countries, has affected almost every aspect of social and economic sector. It has caused increasing pressure on the limited land resources of the country. It has also resulted in forest depletion, causing frequent land slides, floods and soil erosion. The economic growth rate too is very slow. It is also becoming very difficult to meet the growing demands of people for education, employment, health services, drinking water and other basic needs. The control of population growth has thus become an urgent necessity for Nepal in order to achieve its long term objective of alleviating wide spread poverty and improving the quality of life for all.

Population policies have been incorporated in the development plans since 1965. A Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Project was established in 1968 to formulate and implement the FP/MCH programmes. A National Commission on Population was established in 1982 which formulated a comprehensive National Population Strategy in the following year. Despite these various efforts over the past many years the total fertility rate and population growth rate still remain very high causing a great challenge for the development of Nepal.

The present government of Nepali Congress that came in office after being democratically elected in 1991 has adopted development policy mainly with a view to alleviate the wide spread poverty in the country. The population policy formulated as an integral part of development planning aims at balancing between socio-economic development with demographic components. The present government is fully committed to implement population, family planning, health, environment and

general development in integrated manner conducive to the government policy and pleaded in the election manifesto.

The government has introduced a new multi-sectoral population policy and programmes. The new population policy are as follows:

- 1) Creation of social and economic environment conducive to the formation of small families. This, involves supporting and accelerating social development programmes designed to alleviate poverty and raise living standard.
- 2) Promotion of women's development, adult literacy, and education programmes which help improve the economic and social status of women, including their access to family planning.
- 3) Integration of family planning programmes with primary and general health programmes, so that the economic, social and institutional resources of the health sector will be utilized more effectively to promote healthier but small families.
- 4) Expansion of health post and hospital activities to provide more family planning services delivery and expansion of outreach service delivery.
- 5) Promotion of NGO's and private organizations which can improve the delivery of family planning services at the village level and stimulate demand for these services.

In order to implement the intended population policy the HMG has already worked out a strategy with a view to bring a better co-ordination of the population programs by developing various ways and means. The strategy involves taking advantage of both direct and indirect population policy measures, and gives more explicit attention than in the past to development efforts which may bring about the social and economic conditions for establishing small family norms. Experience in several countries in the region shows that broad based social and economic development itself leads to a reduction in mortality and fertility. Many of His Majesty's Government's (HMG's) development efforts in poverty alleviation, education, health, agriculture, housing etc. which themselves are not primarily aimed at reducing fertility and mortality, can nonetheless be expected to contribute indirectly to these demographic objectives. HMG will give due consideration to these empirical interrelationships, and where possible make them the basis for more integration and effective planning in population and development so that the social and economic context for smaller families can be institutionalized more widely as soon as possible.

The new approach also entails a number of institutional reforms to facilitate program implementation, improve the absorptive capacity of line agencies, introduce coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and increase the role of the community and the private sector in population activities.

The Government has set the following targets for the year 2000: (i) reduce the TFR to 4.0 from an estimated 5.8 in 1992; (ii) reduce the IMR to 50 deaths per 1000 live births from 102 in 1992; (iii) reduce child mortality to 70 deaths per 1000 children under age 5 per year from 165 in 1992; (iv) reduce the maternal mortality rate to 4 deaths per 1000 live births from 8.5 in 1992; and (v) increase the average life expectancy at birth to 65 years from 55.0 in 1992.

Reducing fertility and mortality to these levels implies that the crude birth rate

(CBR) will be 27.5 live births per thousand population per year in the year 2000, compared to 36 in 1992; and that the crude death rate (CDR) will be 10.3 deaths per thousand population per year in the year 2000, compared to 14 in 1992. Under realistic assumptions it can be shown that for the TFR to decline to 4.0 by the year 2000 it will be necessary to increase the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) from 23 percent of eligible couples in 1992 to 37.6 percent in 2000.

The most urgent population objective, and the one which intimately related to the priority HMG is giving to poverty alleviation in the Eighth Development Plan (1992/93 - 1996/97), is to reduce fertility levels in order to lower the population growth rate. It has been estimated that the number of people in Nepal living in absolute poverty will double by the year 2010 to reach 20 million if current population and development trends continue, whereas if a vigorous program to reduce fertility is implemented it might realistically be expected to help halve the number to 5 million. Reducing fertility will be done using both direct and indirect means.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nepal is fully committed to develop all regions of the country through appropriate allocation of investment to improve the basic needs requirement of the people, including education, health, housing and employment, and by increasing the standard of living. These targets are difficult to achieve without controlling the high population growth rate and its built in momentum for growth. The national political parties have also realized the problems created by rising population growth rate on poverty and environment. Realising the important role that the parliamentarians play in solving the population problems, a "Population and Social Committee" in the House of Representatives has been established.

## Country Proposal New Zealand

### Population and Development in Asia Towards the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Hon. John Blincoe M.P.

#### Introduction

At the outset, I want to say how pleased I am to have the opportunity to visit Vietnam. Members of Parliament from New Zealand do not get to Vietnam very often, but I hope they will more in future, as friendly relations between our two countries develop. It is particularly good to be here to discuss important matters with Parliamentary colleagues from throughout the Asian region. New Zealand is far away from Vietnam, yet the issues that bring us all together here are of common concern. I want to thank those who have made this meeting possible: the Asian Population and Development Association and the Committee on Social Affairs of the National Assembly of Vietnam. Your contributions are warmly appreciated.

#### A view from New Zealand

While New Zealand is very much part of the Asian/Pacific region - in geographical, political, economic and environmental terms - it might be thought that its perspective on population and sustainable development would be quite different from most countries of this vast and varied region.

With less than 3.5 million people in an area only a little smaller than Japan, New Zealand doesn't personify the crushing population pressures of parts of the Asian/Pacific region. Nevertheless, New Zealanders are waking up to the realities.

For New Zealand these realities include increasing population densities in our Pacific Island developing country neighbours. The population pressures in some are just as real as in some of the very populous fast-growing Asian countries. If they are not contained, New Zealand will come under pressure in years to come to accept the population surpluses by way of emigration.

Another reality for New Zealanders, is our collective impact on the planet's resources. Because of our consumption rates, we have a much greater per capita impact on the global environment than our relatively modest population number would at first suggest. One of our objectives in New Zealand and in developed countries must generally be to drastically reduce that impact.

There is no room for complacency. We are all in this together in an increasingly interrelated world. Population issues must be dealt with effectively if the Earth Summit's goal of sustainable development is to be achieved.

Fortunately, this interrelated world is coming to acknowledge the place which population concerns have and must have in our collective quest for sustainability and

security.

But we don't have a great deal of time, either as parliamentarians or as inhabitants of this great region, to prepare ourselves for the last major opportunity this decade to really make a difference to the way our countries, our region and the whole world deal with the issue of population and its place in the overall context of sustainable development.

That opportunity is the International Conference on Population and Development, which the whole international community, through the United Nations, is to participate in at Cairo in September 1994.

#### The 1994 Conference in Context

First of all let's set it in context. The 1994 conference will be a successor to the earlier 1974 and 1984 world conferences on population. It will, however, also be something quite different. The theme of the 1994 conference is "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Frankly, when you think about such a theme, you find yourself asking - what does it exclude? Almost nothing! It touches on the full spectrum of social and economic concerns.

The challenge is considerable - to relate the various aspects of population to issues of economic growth and sustainability.

To put it a different way - we as the international community are being challenged to fully integrate population concerns into all our efforts at achieving sustainable development. The challenge is great but the need for a successful integration of this type is even greater and very urgent. The commitment which we as parliamentarians must bring to our national preparations for the Cairo conference is a determination to prevent population concerns from being treated as an optional extra, something to be excluded or included at will.

In this process, the experience of UNCED is most relevant. In that process, the international community agreed that environmental matters could not be treated as an optional aspect of development if that development was to be sustainable. UNCED was not so forthright about population issues. The truth is, however, that they cannot be treated as optional either if development is to be sustainable.

Let us therefore work to achieve for population what UNCED achieved for environmental concerns.

Across the Asian/Pacific region, perspectives on population, economic growth and sustainable development vary greatly. In our region we have the largest, most populous and some of the smallest members of the international community. We also have some of the most encouraging success stories in terms of reduction of population growth levels. But we also have some of the greatest remaining challenges. Each of us must address these issues within the cultural, social and economic dimensions of our own countries.

At the same time we must share our experiences - both our successes and our failures. Cooperation within the region has considerable potential for improvement.

#### Outcomes of the 1994 Conference

There are a number of common elements which I believe we should all be able to

embrace as we tackle preparations for the 1994 conference.

- a) The imperative of choice. Individuals must be allowed to choose and be provided with options.
- b) Coercion from whatever quarter must be rejected.
- c) Empowerment of people.

One of the strongest building blocks of a healthy society is a population which is able to take decisions from a position of informed understanding. That means, in simple terms, that we must get basic education to all - especially to the women and adolescent girls with whom lies the answer to total fertility levels and population numbers. Raising the status of women is critically important. We in New Zealand have a particular focus on that in 1993 because it is 100 years ago this year that New Zealand women gained the vote.

When you take these three principles as a whole - choice, no coercion and empowerment - the result should be a better quality of life for people. In many countries of our region, this has already been clearly demonstrated.

And that is what the 1994 conference should be about - it should be about the quality of life as much as about the quantity of life. It should be about not only the first nine months of life, but also the next 99 years.

The 1994 conference will also be about financial commitment. In the Bali Declaration last August, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) noted that by the year 2000, around \$US9 billion per year would be required to support core population programmes around the world. That is double the current spending. A substantial proportion of the \$US9 billion needs to be spent in the Asian/Pacific region.

It was suggested in the Bali Declaration that 4% of official development assistance (ODA) should be allocated to population programmes. That is a worthy target. So is increasing ODA to approach the UN target of 0.7% of national income. New Zealand has a considerable distance to go in meeting both those targets, and so have developed countries generally.

#### Conclusion

Our immediate task as parliamentarians is to ensure that our colleague parliamentarians in our own countries, and especially our governments, take the 1994 conference as seriously as they took last year's Earth Summit. One can understand the fatigue being felt after the effort for Rio, but we must not let our efforts flag in addressing this critical issue of population. If we flagged now on the population issue, the achievements of the Earth Summit would be seriously undermined. We must not let that happen.

Parliamentarians will have an important role in the ongoing population debate, before, during and after the 1994 conference. In that debate, we must reflect what our constituents say, we must reflect their realities, but we must also give them leadership. If we fail to do that, we will rightly be condemned by generations to come for doing too little too late.



## Country Proposal Pakistan

### Brief on Population Welfare Programme in Pakistan by Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, Sen.

#### 1. Socio-Economic and Demographic Situation

The rapid population growth of Pakistan during the last 4 decades has resulted in acute imbalance in population and resources. Its population has increased from 32.5 million at the time of independence (1947) to 120 million as of today. This makes Pakistan the eighth most populous country in the world with one of the highest rate of growth of population.

2. Today, the country's economy is facing a great challenge to fulfil the basic needs of its 120 million population. The whole structure of Pakistan's socio-economic development will be adversely affected if population continues to grow at the current rate of 2.9 per cent per annum. This has led to a situation that 36.8 million (31%) Pakistanis are living below the poverty line, 46 million (5%) are illiterate adults, 53.55 million people (45%) do not have access to safe drinking water and basic health services, 97.58 million (82%) are without access to adequate sanitation, 12 million (62%) children under five are malnourished.

3. A major factor responsible for increase in the population growth rate has been a significant decline in the crude death rate (CDR) while the crude birth rate (CBR) has shown a modest decline. The current CBR is estimated at around 39.0 per thousand population. According to the latest estimates a Pakistani woman on an average produced 6 live births by the time she completed her fertility. As a result 534 babies are born every hour. The prevalence of high level of fertility has resulted in a high proportion of children and high dependency ratio. Due to unfavourable age structure more funds are being diverted to meet the immediate basic needs of the population, thus shrinking the level of savings and investment and adversely affecting the socio-economic development process of the country.

4. The composition of population by age shows that Pakistan has a very young population: those under the age of 15 years account for 41 per cent. The persons in the age group 15-64 years form 55.6 per cent while 3.4 per cent are above 65 years.

5. The population between the ages of 10 and 65 is 67.1% (79.85 million). The size of the labour force (10 years and above) has been estimated at 34.1 million (30.34 million males and 3.75 million females). Every year about 0.75 million persons are being added to the existing labour force. There is a wide variation in the labour force participation rates of males (49 per cent) and females (7 per cent).

6. With 35 per cent literacy rate, Pakistan ranks 111th out of 125 countries of the world. The literacy rate for male has gone up to 45.5% and for female to 21.3% in 1991-92. Although the literacy rate has increased, still in absolute terms, the number of illiterates has more than doubled i.e. increasing from 22 million in 1961

to 46 million in 1991.

#### Population Welfare Programme

7. Policy and Strategy Shifts: The succeeding paragraphs summarize the main policy and strategy shifts in Pakistan's Population Welfare Programme between 1953 and 1991. This partly explains the up and down which the Programme went through.

8. Fertility control efforts commencing in 1953 with the establishment of Family Planning Association of Pakistan marked the beginning of the family planning activities in the country. During the First Five Year Plan, 1955-60, provision was made to strengthen activities of the voluntary organization (FPAP) to motivate couples for the acceptance of small family norms and to provide family planning services. The evolution of the programme since 1955-60 is shown in Annexure-A.

9. The programme, during the last two decades i.e. 1960-80 had continued under different titles and adopted different strategies with a view to improve the acceptance and continuation of fertility control practices, arresting the high rate of population growth and redressing its adverse effects on the national development process. Briefly: various phases of the programme had been (i) target oriented approach (1965-69); (ii) the continuous motivation system (1970-73); (iii) contraceptive - inundation (1974-77); and (iv) the multi-sectoral approach (1980-83).

10. During 1977-80 Family Planning Council and Boards were abolished and programme was federalized. The programme activities were suspended during political turmoil in the country. In 1981 the Continuous Motivation System (CMS) was abolished; male/female 'worker teams disbanded; family planning posts reduced from 16,000 to 8,500 and services of 4223 trained employees including 1051 officers dispensed with.

11. In September 1983, field activities were transferred to the Provinces under a Presidential Ordinance for implementation of the programme. Consequently Provincial Population Welfare Departments were established. Federal government retained tasks such as policy, planning, targets, training, procurement, storage, seeking foreign funding, social marketing of contraceptives, IEC (part), monitoring, research, evaluation and support to NGOs. To broaden the service base of the programme, the Federal Government established NGO Coordinating Council for Population Welfare to involve and coordinate the work of NGOs with desired flexibility and introduced Social Marketing of Contraceptives during the Sixth Plan (1983-88). In 1990 the Population Welfare Division was given the status of Ministry of Population Welfare (MPW) and moved out from the Ministry of Planning and Development in 1991, a policy decision was taken to accelerate the programme to make up for the deficiencies of the first 3 years of the 7th Plan in expending the service delivery infrastructure.

#### Current Programme

12. The current programme, which was started in 1981, is based on "multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional approach". The multi-sectoral approach requires all the sectors to contribute to the promotion of small family norm. The multi-sectoral approach goes beyond family planning efforts and extends to various development sectors for fertility reduction. It is an outcome of the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) which was adopted by the World Population Conference held under the aegis of the United Nations in 1974 in Bucharest. According to WPPA, the basis for an effective solution of population problems is socio-economic transformation. Some of the

fertility determinants are literacy of women, their employment and social status and reduction in infant mortality. Thus, acceleration of socio-economic activities is required along with family planning programmes for fertility reduction. A corollary of the multi-sectoral approach is that all sectors should contribute to the promotion of small family norm e.g. the education sector should introduce population education in their curricula for creating awareness, extension workers of agriculture department should carry family planning messages in their field contacts, the media should play a supportive role, while the health sector should vigorously promote child spacing, breast-feeding and dispense family planning services. The multi-dimensional approach, which is replacement of the single-purpose family planning approach, implies that family planning motivation and services should be provided as a package of several services such as mother and child health, treatment for minor ailments etc.

13. The Programme, which is being totally funded from the federal development budget (without any contribution from the provinces), consists of 5 projects. The Federal component is implemented by the MPW and others by the Provinces, the broad criterion being that the service delivery components would be implemented by the provinces. The organizational structure of the Ministry and the Provincial Population Welfare Departments are at Annexure A&B respectively. The Provinces are provided funds for the project components and project personnel, who are provincial employees, through quarterly releases by the Federal Government. Two third of the funds (including cost of contraceptives) are utilized by the Provinces.

14. The project components are grouped into five main categories:

- i) Federal and Provincial administrative set up and support components such as contraceptive procurement;
- ii) Training component which includes twelve institutes for clinical training and three for non-clinical training;
- iii) Research component, which includes three national institutes for research in fertility control, reproductive physiology, and population studies;
- iv) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component which includes education and motivational activities; and
- v) Service delivery components.

Programme in the Seventh Plan (1988-1993)

15. a) The multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach of the programme, initiated in 1981, has been continued during the 7th Plan. The policy for the Seventh Plan as in the previous plans laid emphasis on lowering the population growth rate. This was to be achieved through expansion in service delivery and intensive motivational campaign. In the Seventh Plan there was a shift towards more effective contraceptive methods, such as surgery, IUD and injectables. Strengthening of field supervision and a more effective IEC programmes were also stressed. Provision for maternal and child health services through programme outlets continued. Greater and more effective involvement of NGOs, Hakeems, Homeopaths was envisaged. Distribution of contraceptives through SMC was to be promoted.

b) The performance of service outlets of other departments and agencies (Health, Social Welfare, Local Government and Rural Development, Labour, and large public sector organizations such as PIA, Railway, WAPDA, Armed Forces) which was not satisfactory in the preceding plans, was improved through strengthening the training of their health staff.

c) The role of Traditional Birth Attendances (TBAs) was considered essential in the villages to motivate couples, provide non-clinical contraceptives and refer IUD and contraceptive surgery cases. The involvement of registered medical practitioners in the delivery of family planning services was considered important for improving the service network of the programme.

d) The targets for clinical methods (contraceptive surgery, injectable and IUD) could not be achieved fully by 1991 because the envisaged expansion in service delivery infrastructure consisting of new Reproductive Health Services 'A' centres, Family Welfare Centres, Mobile Service Units as well as anticipated effective involvement of the Health Departments was not done.

e) The performance of non-clinical contraceptives was apparently satisfactory but it cannot be stated with certainty that the contraceptives sold were used as intended. Low price of the contraceptives carried with it an element of over-reporting. The prices of condoms and oral pills were enhanced in late 1991 and it was hoped that this measure would reduce over-reporting, without affecting the real demand.

f) The government expressed serious concern over the rapid increase of population and set the target to reduce the annual rate of population growth from 2.9 per cent to 2.5 per cent by the end of the present decade. Population Welfare Programme was made a part of the Social Action Programme which was started as a concerted effort to raise the level of human development.

g) The financial allocation during the Seventh Plan along with utilization is given in the Table below:

Financial Outlay of the Population Welfare Programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan, 1988-1993

| Year    | Plan Allocation | ADP      | Expenditure | % Utilization |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1988-89 | 514.000         | 445.274  | 450.056     | 101           |
| 1989-90 | 675.000         | 465.500  | 477.699     | 103           |
| 1990-91 | 760.000         | 597.120  | 653.069     | 109           |
| 1991-92 | 785.000         | 702.015  | 762.771     | 109           |
| 1992-93 | 801.000         | 828.900  | 828.900     | 100           |
| Total   | 3535.000        | 3038.809 | 3172.495    | 104           |

(Million Rs.)

h) This table reveals that the annual allocation during the first four years was less than the Plan allocation. While there was a distinct increase in the ADP allocation for the fourth year, it still remained less than the Plan allocation. The increase in the last year of the Plan is not only significant, but also higher than the Plan allocation. The component-wise break down of the current ADP is at Annex-D.

i) By the end of the Seventh Plan 1296 FWCs (including six for AJK), 79 Reproductive Health 'A' type centres, 138 Reproductive Health 'B' type centres, 130 MSUs, 13 Extension Teams. 174 outlets of Target Group Institutions, 494 outlets of NGOs, 2824 health outlets, 160 outlets of other departments and 230 outlets of AJK and Northern Areas would be dispensing family planning services. The Province-wise break up of service delivery infrastructure is given in the table at Annex-C.

j) In addition, 2500 RMPs, 5000 TBAs, 2500 Hakeems and 1500 Homeopaths were enlisted for promotion of family planning services. Furthermore, 67000 outlets of commercial sector were utilized for the distribution of condoms through SMC programme.

k) The twelve Regional Training Institutes (RTIs) and three Population Welfare Training Institutes (PWTIs) continued to provide in-service training/refresher and orientation to programme personnel, employees of other nation building departments, community based groups, teachers and paramedics. Lady Doctors were also trained in contraceptive surgery.

l) To mobilize public involvement and participation in the programme, population conventions were held in which elected representatives of different tiers, particularly villages and district level Councillors were involved.

#### Achievements

16. Since the operation of the current programme, the programme efforts succeeded to raise contraceptive use prevalence rate from 5-6% in 1981 to 13-14% in 1992-93 which resulted in decline of the crude birth rate from 45 per thousand population in 1981 to 39 per thousand population in 1992-93. Consequently the growth rate was reduced from 3.1% to 2.9%. Greater success in fertility reduction could not be achieved due to lack of coverage particularly in rural areas, low literacy levels, particularly in females and pro-fertility socio-cultural environment, such as early female marriages, child labour, lack of social security etc. In spite of these factors, the programme achieved high level of awareness and knowledge (60%) among fertile couples.

#### High Level Programme Monitoring

17. High level programme monitoring had never taken place in the past decades which was a great set back to the programme for its improvement. For the first time the present Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Population Welfare in late 1991 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning & Development, with Ministers of Education, Health, Information & Broadcasting and Minister of State for Population Welfare as members. The Committee meets frequently and has held six meetings so far which has helped programme implementation to a great extent. Similar Committees are being set up in the Provinces.

18. The main problems and constraints faced by the programme are summarized below:

##### a) Lack of Political Commitment

High level and sustained political support and commitment to the programme was missing in the past till 1990. In such circumstances, the performance and the ability of the programme to attract sufficient resources was not at the desired level because of the low priority accorded to family planning. The requisite inter-sectoral linkage for mobilizing the programme were limited. This lack of high level support is now changing.

##### b) Inadequate Coverage

Despite all the efforts inadequate coverage is still a major problem of concern in the programme. Coverage does not exceed more than 20-25 percent of the total population. In the rural area, it is as low as 5%. Clients would have to walk, on

an average, more than 9 kilometers in Punjab and more than 47 kilometers in Baluchistan to reach a FWC. The expansion in service delivery outlets has been modest when compared to the growth in population.

c) Restraints on Communication

Except for the "Fewer Children; Happy Family" and "Two Children, Happy Family" slogans publicized and the programme publicity carried out during the World Population Year, 1974, and International Conference on Population, 1984, little was done in terms of having a viable communication strategy to reach the target groups for creation of small family norm.

d) Lack of Involvement of Other Sectors in Family Planning Effort

All successful family planning programmes have utilized the existing health infrastructure of other departments and agencies. This has not come about in an effective manner in Pakistan; their reported contribution in birth aversion has been less than 3 per cent.

Eighth Five Year Plan (1993-98)

Renewed Emphasis

19. There is now a full realization at the highest political level of the consequences of high population growth rate and it is being treated as a serious issue confronting the nation. Therefore Government expressed its concern and is determined to reduce the annual rate of growth from 2.9 to 2.5 per cent by the end of the present decade.

Political Commitment : Prime Minister's Speech

20. The Population Welfare Programme in Pakistan has after over two decades received open political support. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, while inaugurating the National Population Conference on July 11, 1991 declared "Population Welfare is the best guarantee for the social and economic development and indeed the well-being of our country and our people. I, therefore, stand here before you this morning not merely as the Chief Executive of this country,... I am here to share with you my deepest concern over the serious consequences of the massive increase of population of Pakistan. I am here to remind you that finding a solution to the problem is our collective national responsibility which we can only ignore at great peril not only to ourselves but to our future generations. We had therefore promised to the people that on the way to socio-economic progress we shall follow a policy of population welfare, bringing down the rate of population increase from 3.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent within this decade".

21. An open commitment of involvement of all socio-economic development sectors has been ordered. The Prime Minister has issued directive to all the federal and provincial ministries/departments to extend full support for an active integrated approach for the implementation of the Population Welfare Programme. Under this directive inter-ministerial committees have been set up at the federal and provincial levels to review and monitor the progress of the programme.

22. The Eighth Plan has been formulated after all-round consultations and deliberations. The Planning and Development Division, in order to formulate recommendations and meet the programme requirements set up a committee with Secretary Ministry of Population Welfare as chairman and representatives of concerned federal ministries and provincial departments, NGOs, Private Sector and Experts. Various sub-committees were also set up to study the problems in-depth. The committee, after reviewing past performance of the programme and demographic

trends, made important recommendations in respect of demographic goals, target setting, service delivery, demand creation, manpower development, monitoring, research evaluation, greater involvement of NGOs and the private sector, etc. These recommendations provide the basis for the formulation of the Programme for the 8th Plan.

#### Objective of the Eighth Plan

23. The objectives of the Eighth Plan are:

- i) to raise the level of contraceptive use from 14.0 per cent in 1992-1993 to 24.4 per cent at the end of the Plan period, i.e. in 1997-98;
- ii) to reduce the level of total fertility rate (TFR) from 5.97 to 5.40;
- iii) to reduce the level of CBR from 39.00 to 35.00;
- iv) to prevent 4.661 million births during the Plan period; and, finally,
- v) to reduce the population growth rate from 2.9 per cent in 1992-1993 to 2.6 per cent per annum by 1997-1998, so that the target to reduce the population growth rate to 2.5 per cent per annum by the year 2000 is achieved. Here, it may be mentioned that the Planning Commission has projected a figure for population growth rate of 2.7 per cent per annum for the end-Plan period to guard against any slippage in attainment of targets.

#### National Targets

24. The overall total fertility rate (TFR), crude birth rate (CBR), crude death rate (CDR), population growth rate (PGR), contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) and number of users of contraceptives for the bench mark year, 1992-1993 and targets for each year of the plan period, 1993-1998 are given in the Table at Annex-E.

25. Year-wise details of selected physical targets of service delivery infrastructure for the 8th Plan are given in the Table at Annex-F.

#### Financial Outlay

26. To achieve the demographic targets, an allocation of Rs. 9.1 billion has made for the Eighth Five Year Plan; it is an almost three fold increase over the Seventh Plan allocation. Out of the Rs. 9.1 billion Rs. 3.2 billion are for the federal components and Rs. 5.9 billion for the provincial components. The federal component also includes Rs. 1.47 billion for contraceptive procurement which would be transferred to the provinces. Project component wise cost estimates, separately for the federal and provincial programmes are at Annex-G.

27. Details of Service Delivery infrastructure is discussed in subsequent paragraphs.

#### Service Delivery

##### Strategy

28. The major problems faced in the programme in the past have been the inadequate coverage of population and poor performance in the field, in particular in the rural settings. Thus the main focus of the strategy in the programme of the Eighth Five Year Plan is to expand the programme coverage of population from 20 per cent to over 80 per cent and to improve the efficiency of implementation. This will be achieved by increasing the present urban coverage of 54 per cent to 100 per cent and rural coverage from 5 per cent to over 70 per cent. It is intended to extend the programme to cover the entire population by the year 2000.

##### Urban Strategy

- a) The number of FWCs in the urban areas will be increased from 690 to 900; the new centers will be established in Katchi Abadis, slum areas and areas of low income concentration. The low performing existing would be relocated to the areas of larger demand.
- b) The number of RHSCs 'A' type will be increased from the existing 79 to 101 which would cover all district headquarters and selected tehsils.
- c) The number of RHSCs 'B' type, will be increased by enlisting suitable hospitals of municipal and town committee, TGIs, and private sector where operation theatres and related facilities are available.
- d) The number of health service outlets operating in TGIs such as Railway, PIA, Defense Services, KPT, Steel Mill, Fauji Foundation, Agricultural Development Bank and other similar institutions will be increased to provide family planning services from the present 174 to 450 in the Eighth Plan.
- e) All health outlets operating under the Departments of Health, Local Government and Rural Development, Labour, Social Welfare and Inspectorate General of Frontier Constabulary which are generally located in the urban area would be effectively involved in dispensation of family planning services. The medical and para-medical staff will be provided training/orientation and refreshers in family planning techniques along with necessary equipment, IEC material and regular supply of contraceptives.
- f) All RMPs operating in the urban areas would be effectively involved to provide clinical and non-clinical methods depending on the facilities available with them.
- g) Hakeems and Homeopaths would be involved in clinical and non-clinical methods and as catalysts for motivational role.
- h) The role of the SMC component would be expanded during the 8th Plan to include distribution of oral pills, injectables and IUDs besides condoms. Non-clinical contraceptives would continue to be made available at chemist, grocery and other shops. The RMPs, Homeopaths and Hakeems would be provided with clinical and non-clinical contraceptives, IEC material and training through this system.

#### Rural Strategy

29. There are 45,000 villages in the rural setting with population of 85 million. Out of these, 13,060 villages have population of 2,000 or more and account for nearly 70% of rural population. The strategic measures include:

- a) The efficacy of the existing 600 FWCs will be improved by relocation, as necessary.
- b) The coverage will be increased further by effective involvement of BHUs, RHCs and MCHCs.
- c) The existing 130 MSUs located in tehsils will be increased to 251 to provide services in remote areas.
- d) The number of existing TBAs will be increased from 5,000 to 7,000. They will motivate, provide non-clinical contraceptives and refer cases for clinical and surgical methods. They will also serve as support staff to MSUs and Health outlets.



e) An innovative strategy being adopted in the rural areas is to introduce VFPWs in villages with population of 2,000 and above. In every village one suitable educated married woman of over 25 years of age, who is a permanent resident of the village would be selected, trained and engaged on contract basis. This scheme has been implemented on a pilot basis in the Seventh Plan and will be expanded to 12,000 villages covering 60-70 per cent of the rural population.

30. The efficiency of the existing service delivery would be improved through refresher and in-service training, strict supervision, validation of performance, relocation of centres, and re-deployment of some of the staff. The FWCs, RHSCs and MSUs would be increased. The health outlets of the public and private sectors including NGOs, TBAs, RMPs, Hakeems/Homeopaths would be involved to the maximum with intensified system of review and monitoring.

#### Service Delivery Infrastructure

31. Various types of service delivery points involved in the programme are described below:

##### Family Welfare Centres (FWCs)

a) The FWCs have been the main service delivery network of the programme. The number of FWCs will be increased from 1296 to 1506 in a phased manner during the Eighth Plan period. These additions will be made in katchi abadies and urban slums.

b) The FWCs will provide a range of mother/child health services, family planning services and treatment of minor ailments to population of five to seven thousand.

##### Reproductive Health Service Centres (RHSCs)

a) More emphasis would be placed on the contraceptive surgery and other clinical methods such as IUD and injectables for effective achievement of targets. The number of 'A' type RHSCs would be increased from 79 to 101 in a phased manner.

b) The existing 11 extension teams would be merged into 'A' type centres and all the centres would undertake extension work on a regular basis.

c) Each RHS 'A' centre will be headed by a lady doctor with its own operating facilities, medicines and transport. Provision for construction/renovation of new centres within the hospital premises will be made.

At present 12 'A' type RHS Centres are providing training to doctors. Two of these Centres are being upgraded as Master Training Centres, one at Lady Wellington Hospital Lahore and the other at Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre Karachi. These centres will be suitably equipped with audio-visuals, teaching aids and related staff.

In addition, the network of contraceptive surgery facilities would be reinforced by enlisting service outlets of NGOs, private sector, semi-autonomous bodies and tehsil hospitals as 'B' type RHSCs (not covered under 'A' centres) with trained doctors having operation theater facilities. These units will be registered with the programme and provided with performance related reimbursement cost. The doctors so identified would be imparted training and provided with mini-lap kits.

##### Mobile Service Units (MSUs)

To meet the increasing service needs particularly in rural areas, the outreach service would be reinforced by increasing the number of the MSUs from 130 to 251 in a phased manner. These units would cover far-flung areas where no family planning and health facilities exist.

The MSUs will be established at tehsil level to provide coverage to the villages through regular camping services. It is envisaged that these units will provide health and family planning services and undertake supervision. The TBAs involved in the programme will serve as contact points in the village for the camp services. They will also establish linkage with VFPWs.

#### Community Based Service Delivery System in Rural Area

a) This activity constitutes the major new input for the Eighth Plan. It is aimed at improving and strengthening the service delivery system in the rural area and is a departure from the past strategies. The scheme which has been tested in the Seventh Plan, envisages selection of local 12,000 educated (middle/matric) married women of 25 years of age or more, in villages having a population of 2,000 and above, with at least two per union council. They would be given four months training which would consist of motivational techniques, registration of eligible couples and familiarization with the basic health issues and comprehensive course in all family planning techniques except IUD insertion and contraceptive surgery.

b) This cadre of Village Family Planning Workers (VFPW) would be trained at training centres which would be specially established at tehsil level. Each worker would be engaged on contract basis and paid a fixed amount of rupees one thousand per month as a retainer fee. She would also be provided medicines and stationery items worth Rs. 200 / - per month.

c) These workers would establish points at their houses where family planning display boards would be installed. They would register eligible married women in households of their respective villages. They would visit the eligible women on regular basis for motivation, counseling and provide service delivery at their doorsteps and refer cases of surgery and IUD to the nearby Reproductive Health Service Centres or FWCs. They would also be responsible for maintaining records of family planning acceptors and periodic reporting.

d) To improve efficiency, continuity of contraceptive use and quality of service, these VFPWs would be supervised by the FWWs who will be provided transport. In addition, community participation would be ensured for supervision, monitoring and vigilance at implementation levels.

#### Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

a) The involvement of NGOs in the programme will be strengthened through training, technical assistance and selected operational inputs to improve service delivery, particularly in urban slums, katchi abadies and labour colonies.

b) During the Eighth Plan increased allocation will be made for the NGO sector to strengthen the institutional set up, which at present is in the form of Non-Governmental Organizations Co-ordinating Council (NGOCC). The NGOs will run a cost-effective and efficient service network. They will also try innovative approaches Training facilities in the country and abroad will be extended to NGOs to improve their skills. Regular supply of contraceptives will be ensured for their

service outlets, combined IEC programme will be developed and launched in order to benefit from each others expertise and specialization. NGOs having infrastructure in the rural areas will be accorded priority in the allocation of resources to establish family planning/health facilities in the rural areas.

c) NGOs would also be invited to undertake family planning activities in specified districts.

d) The NGOs programme will be reviewed regularly with a view to share experience and provide a forum for interaction and opportunity for NGOs to gain from each others experience. It is expected that the NGO sector would be able to increase its service network from the existing level of 494 to 1000 by the end of the Eighth Plan.

#### Social Marketing of Contraceptives (SMC)

a) The SMC Project would continue distribution of condoms through the commercial network. At present the distribution figure of SMC is about 60 million units of condoms per annum with concentration in urban and semi-urban areas, through 72,000 outlets.

b) The scope of the component would be expanded during the 8th Five Year Plan. It is intended to supply oral pills, injectables and IUDs to RMPs, Hakeems and Homeopaths, private hospitals and dispensaries through the SMC system. Training/orientation in contraceptive technology would also be provided to the medical and para-medical personnel. The SMC component would develop its own IEC material according to the requirement of the various target groups.

#### Provincial Line Departments including Health Departments

a) During the Sixth and Seventh Plans the performance of these outlets was not satisfactory. During the Eighth Plan period the involvement of health outlets of the Provincial Line Departments such as Health, Labour, Local Government & Rural Development, Social Welfare and Inspectorate General of Frontier Constabulary will be made more effective. Currently the number of health outlets where the family planning component has been introduced is around 3000. As and when the health and other departments operationalize more health outlets, family planning component would be added. This would be done by providing essential family planning training, equipment, IEC material and contraceptives. The outlets of provincial health departments, where there is a female doctor or a para-medic, would be identified. The staff would be given special training in family planning and provided with essential supply of equipment, IEC material and supply of contraceptives.

b) Training/orientation will be provided at the RTIs of MPW and Public Health Schools of the health department.

c) All identified outlets with trained staff will display family planning signboards outside the health units. The mass media and all related IEC campaigns will project the family planning services through this network.

d) To ensure functioning of the component, joint progress/review meeting at the federal and provincial levels and by the inter-ministerial committee will be held as a regular feature. The District Technical Committees headed by District Health Officer with District Population Welfare Officer, Medical Superintendent and a representative of NGOs (where-ever present) as members, would be responsible to

monitor the progress against given targets and co-ordinate the activities at the local level.

#### Target Group Institutions (TGIs)

a) The TGIs, although represent potential source for extending family planning information and services, their performance in the past has been extremely low. During the Seventh Plan, 14 TGIs such as Defense Services (Army, Air Force, Navy & CSD) Railway, PIA, KPT, Steel Mill, Fauji Foundation, Agricultural Development Bank, Post Office, PTC, WAPDA & POF Wah, with 174 health outlets have been involved in the programme to a varying degree.

b) In the Eighth Plan it is proposed to extend the coverage to 450 outlets and associate maximum number of the TGIs which have large workforce. The input of the programme will include training/orientation, supply of equipment, IEC material and contraceptives. All the outlets will be required to display family planning sign-boards outside their hospitals/clinics. The TGIs would take full responsibility for services as well as motivational activities. The provincial and district offices of the programme would assist TGIs in this activity and provide local support for co-ordination, monitoring and logistics.

#### Involvement of Traditional

##### Birth Attendants (TBAs)

a) The TBAs play an important role in the community particularly in the rural areas. Recognizing their importance the number of TBAs would be increased from 5,000 to 7,000 during the Eighth Plan.

b) The TBAs would serve as village based contacts for programme services, motivating couples, distributing non-clinical contraceptives and referring clients for clinical methods. They would work under FWCs' supervision, while maintaining close links with MSUs.

c) Each TBA will be recruited on a contract basis and paid a retainer fee which is currently Rs. 200 / - per month, with additional Rs. 25 / - per month to meet the travel cost for visiting the centres for replenishment of contraceptives, referral of clients for clinical methods and to attend training/orientation courses.

d) Each TBA will be provided with IEC material and a sign board to be displayed at her residence to indicate availability of family planning services. Their performance would be monitored regularly by FWCs and tehsil staff.

#### Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs)

##### and Private Hospitals

a) During the Eighth Plan period RMPs around 22,500 and a large number of private hospitals will be associated in the delivery of family planning services.

b) The RMPs will be identified and enlisted by the SMC. They will be given one to three days orientation in family planning methods and will be provided with necessary reference material to be used by them in administering contraceptive services.

#### Northern Areas

a) Family Planning Services would be reinforced in Northern Areas during the Eighth Plan by involving existing health outlets which include 17 hospitals, 19 dispensaries

and 50 first-aid posts of the health department. Training and orientation would be given to the medical, para-medical and non-technical staff working under the health department. The outlets will be supplied with necessary equipment, IEC material and contraceptives. All the units will be provided with family planning sign-boards to be displayed outside the outlets.

b) Adequate infrastructure would be created for carrying out and supervising family planning services in the Northern Areas. Two RHS 'A' centres would be established at district hospitals in Gilgit and Skardu. Special IEC activity would be developed for the area.

#### AJK Population Welfare Programme

a) A separate and suitable infrastructure comprising both secretariat and field staff would be established for exclusive attention to the Population Welfare Programme.

b) Family planning activities would be strengthened by involving the existing 120 health outlets. Training/orientation would be provided to 12 gynecologists, 54 lady medical officers and health visitors through RTIs and RHS 'A' centres. The outlets would be provided with necessary equipment, material and regular supply of contraceptives. Special IEC material would be developed for AJK and all family planning outlets would display sign-boards showing availability of family planning services.

c) The efficiency of the six existing FWCs would be improved through training/refresher courses, regular supervision and adequate provision of operational requirement. To strengthen contraceptive surgery facility, two RHS 'A' centres would be established at district headquarter hospitals.

d) They will be provided with injectables, IUDs and other non-clinical contraceptives. The supplies will be provided through SMC system. Each RMP would be given a sign-board indicating that family planning services are available at his/her clinic. The doctors will charge fee from their patients for providing family planning services and will not be given additional incentives.

#### Hakeems and Homeopaths

a) During the Eighth Plan period, the performance of Hakeems and Homeopaths to serve as catalysts, referral and distribution points for condoms, oral pill and injectables, will be improved. It is proposed to increase their involvement in the programme from the existing 4,000 to 14,500 during the Eighth Plan period, through the district/tehsil set up. They would be given orientation, IEC material, supply of condoms, oral pills, injectables and information about the nearest service delivery units for referral of contraceptive surgery and IUD cases.

b) Besides, the curricula and textbooks used by Tibbia and Homeopathic colleges would be reviewed for inclusion of family planning component. All identified interested and enlisted Hakeems and Homeopaths would be persuaded to display family planning sign boards at their clinics/matabs. This component will form part of the field activity and will be implemented by the districts with the involvement of Assistant Director, Hakeems located in each provincial office.

#### Special Programme

i) Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA)

a) Family planning services will be extended to the seven agencies and four frontier regions of FATA through their existing health infrastructure consisting of 320 various types of health outlets.

b) Training will be imparted to doctors, lady health visitors and TBAs. Orientation would be arranged for members of the Jirgas as part of special inter-personal communication campaign. IEC material, sign-boards, equipment and regular supply of contraceptives would be provided to all the outlets. The provincial population welfare department of NWFP will be responsible for implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of the activities in FATA.

#### Innovatives

A block allocation will be made under this component to test new approaches and potential areas where family planning could be introduced to accelerate its acceptance and improve the IEC campaign. These may also include developing and modifying of programme strategies, introducing service charges, devising reliable information on vital statistics, improving the quality of services, providing a variety of contraceptive methods, etc. This component would provide flexibility to the programme to add new elements as the need emerges and potentials are identified. Tested approaches, if found viable and economically feasible, would be considered for introduction on larger scale during the Eighth Plan period.

## Country Proposal Philippines

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Dr. Leticia Ramos Shahani, Sen.

#### Introduction

Like most other countries, the Philippines experienced a surge in population growth when its death rate began to fall due to technological advances in medicine and improved health and nutrition service delivery systems. This change - having relatively more survivors - began in the early 1930s and continues to this day. At the current annual growth rate of 2.3% - which will *double* our population in about 30 years, from 60,690,000 in 1990 to 121,380,000 in 2020 - our government will find it more and more difficult to sustain, let alone increase investments in education, health, and other social services that will improve our people's lives and promote further economic progress. At the family level, the continuing high fertility rate reduces the amount of time and resources devoted to each child's development, making for a bleak start in life. And, as the poor tend to have large family sizes, they are the ones who suffer more when services cannot match the increase in their numbers.

The Philippine Government recognized early the implications of high population growth on the country's socio-economic development. In 1967, the Philippines signed the United Nations Declaration on Population which stressed that population problems must be recognized as a principal element in long-range planning if governments are to achieve their economic goals and fulfill the aspirations of the people.

#### The Philippine Development Plan

The Philippines' current Medium Term Development Plan specifically aims for sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, reduction of inequality, generation of productive employment, and attainment of social justice. The next plan for 1993-1998 which our National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is now in the process of formulating will continue to pursue these goals with even more vigor.

To correct the lopsided development of the country which has been both a cause and effect of excessive migration to the metropolis and rapid urbanization, the Philippine Government has embarked on explicit policies and strategies aimed at effective *decentralization*. The recent enactment of the Local Government Code, and the resulting empowerment of our local communities are expected to lead to much greater success in attaining a truly broad-based and widely dispersed development of our economy and society. An important part of this dispersal strategy is the active promotion of regional growth corridors and industrial centres in the countryside.

Recognizing that basic structural change is needed for our country to be able to rejoin the ranks of our very dynamic neighbors, the overriding strategy for Philippine development under the Ramos presidency is "*people empowerment towards world competitiveness*." While human development indicators continue to leave much scope for improvement - which we intend to address resolutely - we recognize that attainment of a world competitive economy is required for us to make the attainment of our human welfare goals sustainable and stable.

#### The Specific Policies

Under this broad strategy, we are now identifying more specific policies to address the interrelated problems of poverty, slow economic growth, rapid population growth, and environmental degradation.

First, we intend to articulate a coherent and comprehensive *population and sustainable development policy* that would include better access to quality education, nutrition, health care and family planning services, employment opportunities, and access and control over resources such as land and other productive assets. Fuller recognition and further enhancement of the role of women in attaining sustainable development figure prominently in this policy.

Second, the Government considers *family planning* as an important component of its human development efforts, insofar as it promotes maternal and child health, and overall population and sustainable development concerns. It will intensify its information, education and communication campaign and the provision of all medically and legally acceptable family planning methods to enable families to make informed choices according to their culture and religious beliefs. Furthermore, the Government will encourage even greater participation of the private sector, especially NGOs, in fulfilling the unmet needs of couples for family planning. In this regard, we project to be able to effect a reduction in our population growth rate from the present 2.5% to 1.9% by the turn of the century.

Third, the Philippine Government continues to show its commitment to these efforts by *increasing the flow of public resources allocated to social services*, especially health and family planning, while striving to further improve the quality of such services. We in the legislature support these efforts and will do our part in ensuring their effectiveness.

#### Conclusion

In summary, the Philippines, under the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, renews its commitment to achieving an appropriate balance between population, resources, and economic growth towards a truly sustainable development. We agree that there is a need to review and assess the changes in the population situation worldwide through the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. We participated in the Asia and Pacific planning conference, and are making arrangements for the IPC, which we believe, should include legislators as official delegates. We therefore suggest that a separate meeting of parliamentarians/legislators prior and preparatory to the Cairo conference be convened as soon as feasible.

Thank you.



## Country Proposal Singapore

### Population and Development in Singapore - Activity Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Hon. Lew Syn Pau M.P.

Since the last International Conference on Population and Development in 1984, the pattern and distribution of populations in the Asian and Pacific regions have changed considerably. Many countries in these regions have been able to lower their population growth rates. Where it remains high, the main goal is to reduce them to levels that will not impede socio-economic development. For countries which have achieved low rates of population growth, other policy issues have come to the fore - quality of life, human resource development, migration, aging of the population and labour force.

Singapore will be participating in the 1994 conference. We are a newly industrialized country faced with changing demographics. We intend to share our experience in coping with these changes with all participating countries.

#### Changes In Singapore's Demography and Population Policy

The Singapore government launched the National Family Planning and Population Programme in 1966. This had a significant impact on population growth. Within 20 years, Singapore's total fertility rate (TFR) fell by almost 70% from 4.7 in 1965 to 1.4 in 1986, after breaking through the replacement level in 1975. The present fertility rate, at 1.8, has remained below the replacement level of 2.1.

As Singapore progresses, it becomes less critical for the government to control population growth to meet resource constraints. With persistent labour shortages in recent years, it is also clear that the expanding economy could support a larger population base. As our fertility rate persists at below-replacement level, we face a number of problems - an aging workforce, increasing welfare and health care burdens and a shortage of younger workers.

The New Population Policy - the revised population policy in 1987 - provides generous incentives for child bearing. The current policy concern is to maintain a balanced age structure and moderate population increase in tandem with economic growth.

The median age of our population in 1990 is 29.8. Presently, the population structure is at its optimum with 68% in the working ages. The young constitute about 23% of the population and the elderly, 9%. This youthful age structure is favourable for a rapidly expanding economy.

#### Human Resource Development

The post-war baby boom has benefited Singapore's economy. The large number of

new job entrants in the 1970s met the growing manpower demand for rapid industrialization. However, towards the late seventies, sectoral labour shortages began to emerge. The labour supply from smaller birth cohorts was not enough to meet the strong labour demand generated by continued high economic growth.

One of the government's response is to improve the workforce through planned productivity initiatives and expand vocational, technical and tertiary education.

#### Productivity Initiatives

The National Productivity Board (NPB) has launched a series of productivity initiatives to create a higher quality work force. NPB's programmes focus on three main aspects - promotion, training and worker involvement.

It actively promotes public awareness of productivity through publications, seminars, talks and television films and, since 1982, the annual Productivity Month.

A number of training programmes on productivity application are conducted regularly, including courses on labour-management relations, management skills and workers' core skills for effectiveness and change (COSEC). Some 10,000 employees have benefited from such programmes in 1991.

A Quality Control Circle (QCC) programme has been launched since 1980 to foster worker participation in decision-making at the shop-floor level. In 1991, 11,720 QCCs were formed with a total membership of 81,170.

Various continuing education programmes for workers have also been launched. These programmes offer workers opportunities to complete their primary and secondary education.

The government also provides financial support for the various worker training and continuing education programmes. A Skills Development Fund (SDF) was established in 1979 to provide funds for the subsidised training of workers. This is to encourage employers to upgrade the skills of their workers.

#### Vocational, Technical and Tertiary Education

Singapore is committed to the policy of educating its people to their maximum potential. In the last 10 years, vocational, technical and tertiary educational facilities have expanded rapidly in Singapore. The higher quality of an educated workforce will facilitate the restructuring of our economy to cater to more sophisticated and knowledge-intensive industries and services in the future.

#### Planning for an Aging Population

The increase in the number of senior citizens has grown over the years. The elderly, aged 60 years and over, has risen by 50% from 170,000 in 1980 to 247,000 in 1990. By the year 2030, the number is expected to increase to 861,000, accounting for at least one quarter of the population.

Programme planning for the elderly is coordinated through three principal organisations - the Ministry of Community Development, the Ministry of Health and the National Council of Social Services. These three agencies, together with other government bodies, provide a comprehensive range of services.

To encourage older workers to remain in employment, the Central Provident Fund

(CPF) contribution rates have been lowered and the government will legislate a higher retirement age.

The Ministry of Health has outlined its strategies to send more doctors for geriatrician training, to provide more day care and rehabilitative programmes, to build more community hospitals with health care services for the aged, and to expand and upgrade its nursing and stroke rehabilitation services.

Various public housing schemes have been implemented to encourage families of different generations to stay together. The Multi-Tier Family Scheme gives multiple generation families priority allocation for public apartments. The Joint Application Scheme allows married children and their parents to be allocated adjoining public apartments.

Presently, a person who is caring for an aged dependent can claim income tax relief of S\$3,500. In order to encourage Singaporeans to save for their parent's old age financial security, their contributions to their parents' CPF accounts are tax exempt.

Under a new funding scheme for voluntary welfare organisations providing institutional care facilities for the elderly, the government will provide grants of up to S\$92 million on a "80-20" cost sharing basis over the next few years.

#### Concluding Remarks

Human resource development and population aging have been identified as the two major issues arising from Singapore's population policies and programmes. The infrastructure for further development of human resources and services for the elderly are being put in place. Hence, we are confident that we can continue to achieve greater socio-economic development and enjoy a better quality life in the coming century.

## Country Proposal Sri Lanka

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Dr. Neville Fernando M.P.

#### Key issues for Discussion

Every 10 years a World Conference on Population and Development is held. About once in 10 years a new generation of politicians hold office. These politicians arriving a decade later at National, District and Local Government level have had little or no exposure to population dynamics. Since the last population conference, population in developing countries have increased by at least 50%. Along with this increase one sees enormous social problems where ethnic, religious and tribal division of countries have taken place globally. In the last two years since the dismantling of Russia, the world has nearly doubled the number of states in the UN system. Each of these countries are faced with serious unemployment and many socio-economic problems.

Japan continues to provide modern easy - to - operate consumer goods. The US and developed countries of the West continue to push military hardware to newly independent countries to destroy themselves. So the population problems as McNamara said "could be solved one way or the other".

We in Sri Lanka are most concerned about the rapid destruction of forests and the pollution of the atmosphere. The forests are denuded essentially for new habitats - (growing population) - and for firewood. Disposal of garbage will be another problem specially in the urban areas which are built up areas. Two types of garbage are met with - those that decompose i.e. vegetable or animal matter and those that don't - e.g. Polythene and Plastic.

Pollution is compounded by the fact that increasing number of second hand Japanese vehicles blowing clouds of smoke are being imported. We are thankful we have not been effected by oil slicks as yet.

My concern is that we need a healthy educated, well fed, well employed nation. I feel that to improve the quality of life is more important than temporary poorly paid jobs. We must first be on a sound economic footing and this is not possible with increasing - population but with planned population growth. We cannot be happy with increasing number of malnourished, undereducated and mentally retarded people.

In Sri Lanka today we lose 7,000 Acres of bearing coconut for housing annually. Coconut oil is the only source of Vit A & D for the poor people. Sri Lanka may have to import coconuts in the future.

Unplanned human settlement is leading to less and less land for agriculture which will result in more import of food items. Marshes and mangroves are filled or drained resulting in loss of valuable ecosystems and flash floods. Which Colombo experienced to the great surprise of the Citizens for the first time.

A dangerous result of stamp size housing blocks are the problem of disposal of sewerage and drinking water where there are no pipe borne water supplies. There would be serious faecal contamination with bowel diseases.

I believe that high quality family planning programmes - especially in combination with other efforts to raise the status of women, improve the health of children and create economic opportunity for the poor - can dramatically slow down population growth. A Sri Lanka NGO Community Development Services of which I am President (having been a member since 1973) implements programmes towards this end. Efforts are made to include environment issues and water management for agriculture and home use.

I think we should also make every effort to combat AIDS as this virus will have spread far and wide by the time we launch counter offensives. This needs our immediate intervention.

Over the last two decades life expectancy has increased world wide and will continue to do so particularly in the developing world. The elderly are more likely to suffer from strokes, cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes and arthritis. This necessitates costly medical treatment. We should develop policies that adequately respond to aging. The concept of extended families taking the strain is no longer possible.

## Country Proposal Syrian Arab Republic

### Brief on Population and Their Activities in Syrian Arab Republic by

Dr. Eng. Mohamad Ghassan Tayara M.P.

#### Location

The Syrian Arab Republic is located in the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Iraq from the east, Palestine and Jordan from the south, and Turkey from the north, but, although of its beautiful climate, S.A.R. is located in a hot region of the Middle East where Israel is heating the atmosphere on the Syrian borders, and the southern part of Syria.

The total area is 18,518,000 H.A. distributed as follows:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1 - Cultivated and invested lands                    | 4,297,000 H.A. |
| 2 - Cultivated and invested lands<br>(Left for rest) | 1,263,000 H.A. |
| 3.- Cultivated and non invested lands                | 505,000 H.A.   |
| 4 - Uncultivable lands                               | 3,679,000 H.A. |
| 5 - Steppe and pastures                              | 8,231,000 H.A. |
| 6 - Forests  | 543,000 H.A.   |
| Total: 18,518,000 H.A.                               |                |

In order to give a clear image, I stated in schedule No.1 the detailed information which indicates the development in the distribution of SAR lands between the years 1984-1988. S.A.R. has put programmes for the development of agriculture in order to benefit of these left lands and our country is in need to modern technology in agriculture, therefore the government has set up programmes on this concern.

We could notice from the above mentioned numbers that the total area of the cultivated lands is 6065 H.A., where 32.7% is left for rest (fallow land).

#### Population

The population in the Syrian Arab Republic is nearly 13.084 million person, according to the available statistics, while it was in the first half of 1986 (10,621,000).

#### Population Growth Rate

The population growth rate has been developed during the period 1960 - and to day, according to the followings:

|                     |             |                   |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| During the interval | 1960 - 1970 | 49.9 per thousand |
| During the interval | 1970 - 1981 | 40.9 per thousand |
| During the interval | 1987        | 35.0 per thousand |

This rate varies from region to region where we find it higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas. But, in general the rate of the annual population growth in Syria

is considered high, the reason of this referred to the religious influences, social relations, also, it is subject of pride for those who have more children.

#### Distribution of Population

Syria's population was multiplied within a period not exceeding 22 years. The population - as per the 1960 census - was 4,565,000 against 6,305,000 - as per 1970 census - and reached 9,046,000 in 1981 census which denoted that the growth increase averaged 174,000 per annum between the decades 1960-1970 against 249,000 between 1970-1981.

The total population in the year 2000 is expected to reach 16,462,000 and to be 22,216,000 in 2010 which means that Syria's population will multiply during 23 years and this is a short term if it is compared with it's resemblance in many of the world's countries. And this entails to concentrate the efforts towards developing the economical resources and to provide sufficient requisites for the growing number of population.

In order to give a clear idea on the distribution of population in the Syrian Arab Republic according to labour force, I have enclosed schedule No.2.

Schedule No.3 specifies that the percentage of the youth amongst SAR population is high. This, from one hand is a distinctive mark, and it lays on the state a heavy burden such that to secure suitable works opportunities for the ascending generation, such percentage which surpasses the available possibilities.

The area and it's possibilities are corresponding with the population requirements. But, the international economic crises are now reflecting and influencing a small country like Syria. Furthermore, the national role which Syria is leading in the Middle East requires the allocation of increasing amounts for the military support for defense purposes of our people's rights in living peacefully in their land.

This also lays shadows as regarding the level of living. Therefore, we in Syria, are looking forward for a just and perpetual peace in our region, and to subside the tension focuses in the world by remitting the finances which are spent on the armament race for benefit of servicing the development, and the scientific research which will influence on the development of living standard to all citizens.

Syrian Arab Republic government and the non-governmental organisations pay much attention to the causes of family planning and children welfare.

The media also played an important role in encouraging the citizens to contact medical centers spread all over the Syrian Arab Republic.

Within the last three years many seminars were held on the themes of population and development, public health, preventive medicine and children welfare also many campaigns of vaccination for children under five years also anti-tetanus vaccinations for pregnant women with the assistance of the World Health Organisation.

While death rate of new born was 45 per thousand, it decreased now to 8.1 per thousand. Also, mothers' death-rate (while or after delivery) decreased as a result of organising visits programs for pregnant women under the patronage of the management of child and mother welfare in the SAR.

The population cause gained an unlimited attention beginning 1960 which witnessed the implementation of the first "Social and Economical Development Five Years Plan".

When the necessity arise - at that period - towards providing a broad base of demographic, economic and social diagrams which are useful to clarify the society's features, and to measure the sudden alterations developments on different phenomena.

The results of census and population surveys provide many diagrams - which are considered as a corner stone which assists in the preparation of the consequent development plans, and scientific research.

Population's growth rate in SAR (which amounts to 35 per thousand annually) is considered amongst higher levels in the world. Many evidences as the population youthful age structure, death and fertility rates denote that growth rate is expected to continue till the end of the eightieth.

As a consequence to the implementation of consecutive development plans the social and economic changes have led to a relative and gradual decrease in fertility levels beginning of the 1980 in comparison with the previous decades.

Also this changes have led to a remarkable decrease in death rate principally in children and infants.

Development plans have led to enormous changes on the social and economic levels which left its prints on the map of the geographical distribution of population. It is expected that the diffusion of females education, education health and vaccination campaigns also progressing health level especially the services of infancy and motherhood welfare would lead to a continuous decrease in fertility rates, and infants death.

The illiteracy percentage is retreating continuously - if compared with the last two decades - due to the horizontal development in the educational sector and the efforts to eliminate illiteracy, but still there is an urgent need to intense and aggregate efforts of all the society sectors to face this phenomena and to eliminate it. Within the sixtieth, SAR have witnessed a very active population movement and an unstable situation amongst the SAR districts. This causes the decrease of the agricultural labour force and the accumulation in urban areas principally the big cities, and the difficulty to accommodate more population in these centers, which entails to pay more efforts to provide housing, and the necessary facilities.

Rural areas have lost 300,000 person within the sixtieth due to the internal migration against quarter of this number in the seventieth.

In the eightieth, development plans were directed towards finding a balanced social and economic changes between districts and to decrease differences between urban and rural areas.

As from the fourth "Five Year Plan" the government paid the agricultural question it's concern in development plans which assist in increasing population stability and the development of all districts in a balanced way.

150 infants are born in each second, e.g. 220,000 infants in each day, thus, the



world's population is increasing 80,000,000 person per year, such that the earth's population will reach 6,000,000,000 person at the end of this century. This number will increase to 7,000,000,000 in the year 2010, and will reach 8,000,000,000 in the year 2020.

The increases of population in the world requires the multiplication of efforts to maintain food, housing, clothing, and jobs. This consequently requires to allocate respectable sums.

The end of the cold war between the two giants United States and the Soviet Union, and reaching agreements on just solutions on the tension areas (e.g. the Middle East and it's central question the Palestinian question, and in a way to guarantee the Arab peoples' right in establishing it's own independent state on the occupied Arab lands by Israel).

These procedures would permit to increase expenditure in the sphere of development and to maintain a better life to earth inhabitants and face the huge and expected increases in population.

We do hope that within this international reconciliation we could reach to an international universal economic system in which a human being may find it's happiness.

I may have dealt with subjects that are not requested since my duty is to give a brief about population and their activities in the SAR.

I have mentioned in the preface of my brief that religious impacts and influences, social relations, are playing the important role in increasing the rate of the annual population's growth, therefore, an association to organise the family planning were established, it is a non-governmental organisation, cooperating with "The Union of Women" (which is also a non-governmental organisation) - in order to communicate awareness within the youth males and females to organise the planning of their families in the future.

Also the government is working for the diffusion of education in the rural areas and to eliminate illiteracy. Intensive programmes were followed to serve this purpose.

Also, the government is interested in health care principally in the field of infancy and motherhood care.

At the Syrian Arab Republic People's Council a national committee was formed to assist governmental associations in order to reach an acceptable averages of annual population growth.

As an annex to this paper I attached some statistical schedule according to the latest statistics on labour forces, their distribution, in compliance with economic activities and number of immigrants.

- Population (10 years age and over) by type activity and sex(urban -rural).

- Economic activity Syria in population (10 years age and over) by educational status, economic activity and sex.

- Economic activity migrants (10 years age and over) by economic activity educational status and sex.

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## Country Proposal Thailand

### Population and Development in Asia - Action Strategy on Population and Development Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 by Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Sen.

Thailand is a tropical country with a total area of about 514,000 square kilometers. Whilst the majority of the workforce are occupied in the agricultural sector, this figure is decreasing. Standard of living, health and education are relatively high compared to other Southeast Asia countries. GNP per capital was about US\$1,640 in 1991. According to the preliminary 1990 Census report, the Northeast; which occupies the largest area of the country, accounted for about 35 per cent of the total population; the Central, 33 per cent; the North, 19 per cent; and the South, 13 per cent.

#### 1. Demographic Situation and Outlook

During the 1960s the population growth rate was the highest, reaching 3.0 to 3.3 per cent. In 1970 the Government officially launched the National Family Planning Programme (NFPP) aimed at reducing the population growth rate further. Consequently it decreased to about 2.5 per cent in 1976, 2.1 per cent in 1981, and about 1.4 per cent in 1991. The present Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992-1996) has targeted to reduce population growth rate further to 1.2 per cent by the end of the Plan.

The total fertility rate (TFR), has dropped from about 6.1 during 1968-1969 to below 2.5 at present. However, a fertility differential clearly exists between the regions. While the fertility rate of women in the North, Central and Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA) is close to or below a replacement level, that in the Northeast and the South and among minority groups is still high, between 2.9 and 3.3.

The mortality level is quite low due to vast improvements in public health and education. In 1990, the crude death rate was estimated at about 5 to 6 per 1,000 population. While the death rate was low, the infant mortality rate was about 34.5 per 1,000 live births in 1991. The decrease in the mortality rate has been reflected in an increase in life expectancy; about 64 years for females in 1989-1990.

Due to a reduction in fertility during the last 20 years, significant changes in the population age structure have emerged. The population under 15 years of age accounted for about 32 per cent in 1991, as compared to 45 per cent in 1970. Meanwhile, the percentage of population over 60 years of age has increased slightly from about 5 per cent in 1970 to 6 per cent in 1991. It is estimated by the year 2000, young and old age groups will account for about 27 and 8 per cent of total population respectively.

The urban population grew at about 3.5 per cent annually during 1975-1984. This

was due mainly to internal migration from the rural areas to the BMA where residents suffer severe shortages of public utilities, facilities and housing, and increases in unemployment, crime, environmental deterioration and pollution.

## 2. Population, Environment and Development

During the recent years of rapid economic growth, as the economic structure has become increasingly oriented towards the modern industrial and service sectors and as the traditional rural agricultural society is steadily being transformed into an urban industrial society, environmental quality has deteriorated, with increasingly serious pollution problems.

Thailand's development, which has been remarkably successful, has caused four serious problems. The first problem is the continuing depletion and degradation of the country's vital natural resources. The second problem is the persistence of poverty among the rural population and the growing rural-urban income gap. The third problem is that resource conflicts are on the rise because of growing demands for land, water, and forests by nonagricultural sectors and by a growing urban population. Finally, the fourth problem is the deteriorating environmental quality due to unregulated industrial and urban growth.

In order to conserve and improve environmental quality to ensure human safety and a higher quality of life, simultaneously with national economic and social development, the development plan has been formulated via the following:

- 1) Enforce the "polluter-principle" to ensure that polluters indeed are required to shoulder the burdens of treatment and disposal of pollution, and
- 2) Improve organization, administration and management, as well as amend laws.

## 3 Metropolitan Growth, Urbanization and Their Implication

As urban growth has been proceeding at a more rapid pace than a growth of the rural population, changes in levels of urbanization have been positive.

The urban system of Thailand is dominated by the capital city or Bangkok: a city which in terms of population size was ranked the 26th largest in the world in the 1980s.

Several population projection indicate that the growth of the urban population will be focused on Bangkok Vicinity into the next century. In part, this reflects the young age structure of the population in this area; an age structure which has been heavily influenced by the high-levels of in-migration over the last two decades. In large part, however, it is the continued economic dominance of Bangkok combined with the high cost of land in Bangkok that is predicted to help maintain the attractiveness of the Bangkok Vicinity as a migrant destination.

Population redistribution policies of the Thai government have gone far beyond promoting the growth of provinces close to Bangkok. The main policy suggestions focus on the promotion of industry in areas outside of Bangkok and the decentralization of services from Bangkok.

The government of Thailand has made intensive and continuing efforts to formulate plans to deal with urban issues.

#### 4. Developing More Effective Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Programmes

The National Family Planning Programme (NFPP) has been effective in reducing the population growth rate according to targets set by successive Five Year Plans in the last two decades through quantitative target oriented strategies. The success of the National Family Planning Programme can be traced to both the provision of an extensive system of contraceptives distribution and the efforts to legitimize the preference for fewer children and increase awareness of the possibility of controlling family size through effective and acceptable means. Past successes do not, however, imply that the programme should rest on its laurels - there are still unmet needs and new perhaps more difficult challenges ahead. Neither do the past successes mean that previously tried and tested strategies should be perpetuated. The Seventh Plan's renewed emphasis on human resource development puts new challenges on the health sector. Since health is a national responsibility, therefore the task of providing MCH/FP services should be shared within a national and intersectoral framework.

#### 5. Policies and Programmes for Fully Involving Women in the Development Process

The composite proportion of women in Thailand's total population has been constantly around 50 per cent of the total population, a proportion which signifies equal importance of men and women in the history of economic, social, political and cultural development in Thailand.

The role and status of Thai women, however, have gained more increasing prominence after Thai Government adopted the UN proclamation of 1975 as the International Women Year and the period 1976-1985 as the Decade for Women. The women development plan is also an integral part of the current Five-Year National Development Plan.

In addition, the National Commission on Women Affairs, whose members are from GO and NGO involved in policy decision and programme/project implementation, has been established to coordinate and monitor efforts of public and voluntary agencies to integrate women's concerns into development process. Several success stories can be cited as proof of the women's role and participation in development activities.

Though the women illiteracy rate has declined over the years, women still attain less education, the majority of them completed only primary school and lower.

Since the basic impediment to women's participation in broader development activities is lack of education. Therefore, essential measures are currently introduced so as to increase women higher education attainment such as scholarship, free stationery, the extension of compulsory education from 6 years to 9 years.

#### 6. Population and Poverty Alleviation

Despite Thailand's rapid economic development and considerable in controlling population growth, regional income and fertility differentials still exist. Fertility among married women in the Northeast and South and the minority group in the past and present is quite high which caused them to have a large families. Consequently, widened because the income of people in Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) has grown at a much higher rate than that of people in other regions.

With respect to rural-urban income inequalities, in 1976 income of the rural people was about US\$130, while that of the urban people was US\$316, on average, or 2.4 times of the income of people living in rural areas. In 1987/1988, rural income per head rose to US\$357 a year and that of people in cities rose to US\$1,079 per annum, representing a 3 folds difference. The gaps, moreover, tend to widen further unless appropriate measures are enforced intensively.

## 7. Internal and International Migration and Its Implication for Socio-Economic Development Policies

While migrants in Bangkok may be most visible to researchers and policy makers, they comprise only a small fraction of Thai migrants. The volume and complexity of Thai migration flows has only recently been recognized. Although national level data which measures the different types of migration streams is not yet available, there is increasing evidence from censuses, small-scale surveys and anecdotal accounts that migration is extremely common and that there are many different forms of movement.

A distinguishing characteristic of Thai migration patterns is the high level of female migration. The overall sex ratio of recent migrants in the period 1985-1990 was 117 males for every 100 females. Males dominated most inter-regional migration streams. However, this is mainly because of the dominance of males in migration streams directed to rural areas. In some urban-directed streams females dominate, especially at younger ages. The higher proportion of female migrants is most evident for migration to Bangkok. For every 100 females who migrated to Bangkok in the period 1985-1990 there were 87 male migrants. The sex ratio of migrants to Bangkok has declined from the 98 registered for the period 1965-1970. If a greater proportion of temporary migrants, a type of migration not adequately captured by census data, are included the proportion of females increases.

The Thai government has made several efforts to regulate the international movement of Thai contract labour. This has been undertaken primarily through the attempted licensing of labour recruiters and through setting minimum conditions for contracts. There still remains a lot to be done in these areas, however, as unscrupulous recruiters and exploitation of migrants is still common.

## 8. Mortality and Fertility Transition and Their Consequences

Mortality transition in Thailand began around 1950 when crude death rates dropped from 27 in 1948 to 18 in 1955. During the first phase of the transition (1947 to 1960), a gain in life expectancy at birth of 11 years was observed. Mortality continued to fall steadily after 1960 although, in more recent years, the decline has started to level off at a relatively low level. It was found that, during these periods, infant mortality, one of the most revealing health indicators, has declined substantially. The life expectancy at birth for males and females in 1992 are 66 years and 71 years respectively. Females now can expect to live about 5 year longer than males.

When considering the causes of deaths in the present decade, non-infectious diseases and accidents seem to be increasingly important causes of death and have become an unsolved health problem of the country. The infectious diseases namely, pneumonia, diarrhea, disease of the digestive system and viral disease, remain a major health problems among under one and under five population.

## 9. Population Aging and Its Economic and Social Implications

As of 1980, Thailand's age structure resembled fairly closely that of the world's less developed regions taken as a whole where 6 per cent of the total population was aged 60 and over. Thailand is experiencing unusually fast growth of the elderly population, however, in comparison to other less developed countries. During the 1970-80 decade, the 3.9 per cent annual growth rate of the population aged 60 and over in Thailand exceeded considerably the 2.7 per cent rate for the elderly population of the world's less developed regions as a whole.

Given the disproportionately large increases projected for the elderly, their share of the total population will increase. The population aged 60 and over will grow from 5 per cent of the population in 1980 to 9 per cent by 2010 and to 13 per cent by 2020. Thus the Thai population will become noticeably older in the next few decades provided fertility remains low and mortality continues to improve. The elderly population itself is projected to age somewhat with the population aged 75 and over representing a slightly larger per cent of the total elderly 60 and over in the future. The sex ratio of the elderly (males per 100 females) is not projected to change very much with the deficit of men relative to women persisting at about the same relative level throughout the period covered by the projections.

## 10. Population Policy Formulation and Implementation Issues

The success of Thailand's population programme is mainly due to popular demand and to a clear recognition of the problem - that rapid population growth poses a great hindrance to the country's development - and the translation of this into explicit policies and effective action programmes. Thailand previously had a demographic profile common to many developing countries, and in 1970 the Government adopted a population policy to lower the high rate of population growth through a reduction in fertility to be achieved through the promotion of voluntary family planning.

The goal of the NFPP is to provide quality family planning services to those who voluntarily requests them. The NFPP has formulated the targets for family planning acceptors consistent with the target of country population growth rate reduction and these have been incorporated into the National Development Plan (1972-1976). It was then implemented through the existing maternal and child health facilities of the MOPH.

Even though the MOPH constitutes the largest health delivery system in the country, there are several other government and non-government organizations associated with the NFPP. Several non-governmental organizations provide family planning services, disseminate family planning information, and otherwise complement and supplement the government programme. The National Coordinating Committee is responsible for coordinating NFPP efforts and those of the NGOs.

The Executive Committee on Population Education of the Ministry of Education is responsible for development of population education in both in-and out-of-school systems as population education has been recognized as a major tool for changing to a small family size norm in the long-term. In addition to helping the family planning campaign, population education activities also support campaigns against deforestation, AIDS. For environment policy and planning, the office of the National Environment Board works closely with the NESDB's environment policies consistent with the overall development programme and strategies.

Integration of population in development planning has become an issue of interest. The importance of integrating population variables into development planning has been increasingly recognized by the country's planners and policy makers. The central planning agency seeks to carry out the integration process. Population variables such as population projections of various levels, and other demographic data and information have been intensively utilized in the planning process for both macro and sectoral planning of NESDB and other relate ministries in the present Seventh Plan.

Regarding to the national goal and objectives of the TCDC program, Thai government is ready to offer technical assistance to other developing countries on the basis of potential and resources available and similarities in socio-economic situation regardless of the different political system.



Country Proposal  
Vietnam

Population and Development in Vietnam  
by  
Hon. Bui Ngoc Thanh M.P.

Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Delegates,

As members of Parliament Association on Population and Development, we are aware that in order to achieve the sustainable development for our countries, one of the most important questions is to reduce the population growth rate so as to reach a desired level and the population stability. Vietnam is one of the poorest countries in the world and has a high rate of population growth, which creates a great difficulty in the development of our country.

The rapid population growth not only lowers the average income per capita but also results in a very poor living standard for a large number of inhabitants. For a gradual solution to this situation, Vietnam National Assembly and Government have made important decisions to step up activities for an effective population and family planning program.

On 15 April, 1992, the National Assembly have adopted a new Constitution in which Article 40 of Charter III provides that the State, mass organizations and all citizens are responsible for maternal and child health and to implement the family planning programme. A Minister was appointed population activities in our Government.

The second session of 9th legislature of the National Assembly have also reviewed the implementation of the population programme and urged the government to speed up these activities.

As pointed out in the speech delivered by the Honorable Vice-Premier, Mr. Nguyen Khanh, the 1993 budget allocation for population and family planning activities have increased by 2.5 times in comparison that of the previous year. The Vietnam Government is formulating a population strategy for the period from now to the first decade of 21st century, in which population targets and solutions have been clearly defined.

In our opinion, the following important work should be fulfilled from now to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994:

1 - To upgrade education, information and communication so that every individual knows and accepts a small-size family with good health, happiness and well-off; the State should allocate proper resources for the population and family planning program. The National Assembly and other legislative organs should increase their supervision activities in order to ensure an effective implementation of the population and family planning programme at all levels.

2 - Population is a socio-economic problem, and a solutions for it should be achieved by socio-economic measures. However, the impact of economic measures is subject to the strength and weakness of each country's economy. In Vietnam, the economic development is still lower than that of many countries in the region and the world. Coupled with our own efforts, we, therefore, need external assistance from other countries for development of a strong economy. Once the economy is well-developed, the shortage of food can be eliminated, the poverty can be reduced gradually and the living standard, culture and education for the population will be improved.

3 - Together with the improvement of the material, cultural and spiritual life, health care for the people is very important, because it is the most valuable resource of each person and of the whole society. Vietnam is actively striving for the prevention of diseases such as AIDS, cancer, and is carrying out campaigns against the evil of prostitution and drug abuse etc. which will destroy our health and race. The said fatal diseases and evils are not confined only in a particular country, so efforts to solve them should be coordinated.

We highly appreciate any programmes or projects put forward by any nations in the region and in the world for researching the public health and measures to overcome the said evils in Vietnam.

Finding solutions for the above-mentioned problems is an important contribution to the improvement of people's living standard and for further development. The implementation of population activities should be accelerated in a larger scale after 1994.

This is our initial opinions and I highly appreciate any suggestions from you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all delegates for your kind attention.

Activity Strategy of Asia Towards  
International Conference on Population and Development in 1994

Country Proposal

Round Table Discussion

<Feb. 26, 1993 10:45-11:50>

## Round Table Discussion

### Activity Strategy of Asia Towards International Conference on Population and Development in 1994

**Chairman Ghassan Tayara:**

I will be glad to give you time as you wish, but please try not to speak for more than three or four minutes so that everybody can have his own time.

**Shin Sakurai:**

Coming back to my proposal, I would like to take this up more concretely at the meeting in Malaysia, and thus I would thus like to have all of your support on the five points of the action program, so that it can be submitted at the Malaysia meeting. Therein I have also mentioned the issue of funding. Even though our parliamentarian's group works together with national governments, who each takes responsibility to cover its own respective expenses, I request you contribute as much as you can to the United Nations for use in aid to aspiring poorer countries. So in order that we can ensure smooth progress along these lines, I would like all of you to also cooperate in adopting this proposal with respect to funding. The third point is that, I request that all of you make concerted efforts towards promoting and preparing for the 1994 meeting to be convened in Cairo.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. Please, Dr. Kuroda.

**Toshio Kuroda:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In connection with the proposal from Japan, I personally think that after listening to the statements made by each country's delegate, I feel, recounting the Asian Pacific Conference on Population held last August in Bali, and also before in 1982, I tentatively came to a suggestion. Just looking at very simple mortality data in Asia, particularly in terms of longevity of females.

This is coming to be sometimes shorter than males in some countries, and sometimes coming to be equal. But in very few countries, the female longevity is much longer. That must be a very general one. And by social standards, usually female longevity should be longer than male longevity by five years or so. Then, thinking about the data on mortality in Asia, there is not much discrepancy in this respect, also because of infant and child mortality, and also maternity mortality. I think this is very closely connected with the female situation, the so-called women's status problem.

This is now very commonly recognized by every country, by international conferences. So then I think we have so many recommendation or proposals, so many, you can't mention them, but among them it may be better for us to emphasize some specific points. And then I think about the female status and how to achieve its improvement. Basically, I think, the important one is the mortality problem. So then, in order to improve the female status, a very basic factor is education. My very personal proposal is that female education should be in this

way.

For example, 100% attendance of primary school education. Even the middle school education must be taken by all female children. This is, of course, free of charge, paid by the government of any country. In addition to primary school and middle school, again I am thinking about college education. College education in some countries already have some very nice, adequate scholarships given to them [females], and I think in this way the heightened female education level is a very basic one. Some of you may think that this is such a long way, but in this long way we are going to finish female education, 100% of enrollment in primary schools, and 100% for the middle schools, too. And also present enough scholarships to females who wish to go up to college education.

I think this will take some time, but, in the long run, eventually, this will come to be a very strong factor to bring down the mortality, not only female, infant and child mortality. And this is going to have a very great effect on family life, and people's health. And also, of course, females becoming young wives will come to be much more educated, infant mortality coming down, nutrition going up and it will be very easy for them to accept family planning. They can understand very easily if literacy goes up. They can easily understand family welfare, and manpower problem.

The basic proposal will take much time to realize, but it is the shortest way to achieve many important elements, not only from the standpoint of individuals but also national and community standpoint. So I would like to support this one point, female education. And also 100% enrollment in primary and middle school. And college education and university education will provide just much more opportunity to get scholarship to go up to higher education. There is good evidence even in Asia such as Sri Lanka and Kerala, India. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Who else? Please Dr. Fernando from Sri Lanka.

**Neville Fernando:**

Mr. Chairman. There is one matter I would like to raise, especially after listening to the presentation. I'm wondering what a lot of money some countries have to spend on wars. When you look at the Asian region, starting with Syria in the Middle East, coming to my own homeland Sri Lanka, in the northern and eastern provinces there is ongoing war. Then going up to India, there is a war more or less, there is a lot of political instability from Hindu and Muslim riots. The same is true for Bangladesh and Pakistan.

And even in this part of the world, there is a lot of conflict going on. So if all this money that is spent on war and defense can be utilized for development, I think this world will be a better place to live in. So we should find out how this war is caused and who is causing this. Who are the people who benefit by having a war? Certainly not our countries. It is the manufacturers of arms and ammunition, who, I believe, make money. For them, it is a big industry. For them, it is a source of employment for their people. For us, it is death and bloodshed, and we remain as poor countries.

So I think it is very essential, especially for Japan and China, being two of the biggest countries in the world, who can influence the Western countries that are the manufacturers of war weapons, ammunition, planes and all the fighting equipment. Especially Japan and China should impress on the West and America to stop selling these weapons to our part of the world. That is very essential. And I think that Japan itself is against war and is looking for peace all over. And we will certainly support you to the head in this matter. It is very essential that we stop the manufacture of the arms and weapons because they have become the biggest industry in the world and I'm sure there must be some sort of conspiracy to involve the rest of the world because they gain by having it. For them, it is the solution to their unemployment problem. I think all of you agree that we could have much more money for development if these wars were ended.

And I think I would take this opportunity to thank India because India is now playing a very positive role in our part of the world in trying to stop the war in the north and the east, and if that happens, I think nearly 2 billion rupees which is now spent on defense could instead be spent on development, which we find to be really difficult. I was talking Dr. Tayara. He himself was saying that in Syria, they cannot develop their country because most of the money is spent on war.

**Mahendra Prasad:**

I just wanted to make one correction to my friend from Sri Lanka. He has mentioned the word "instability" for India and Sri Lanka. I may tell you that there is no instability in India. There is no instability in Sri Lanka either. My assessment of Sri Lanka differs with my friend. Sri Lanka is a stable country and India is also a stable country. We do have a problem. Of course, it is unfortunate, but we do have a problem. And I think that the problem will be over. So I think there is no instability.

**Shin Sakurai:**

Dr. Fernando has made the point that China and Japan should take the leadership in halting the activities of the merchants of death, the merchants of weapons. As I mentioned in my proposal, I agree entirely. Japan has made a decision not to provide any gratuitous ODA to developing countries that export weapons. Japan also providing its economic aid with careful examination.

If possible, it is necessary for us to adopt a resolution at this meeting and send a message to the respective countries. This topic should also be taken up at the conference in Malaysia and discussed at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo so that we can form an international coalition to put an end to export of weapons and oppression through arms.

Even if we try to put things under control by force at a particular region, there will ultimately be a reaction to that through means of force. I think the most important thing is to seek world peace through discussion, although it may take much time. I request that this topic be taken up by all means.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. I want to add. We cannot say that we cannot help the country which spends a lot of money in weapons. We should say, "Let us fight for peace." This

is the question because if you will not help me to have aid, it means you will leave me and my enemy will have an opportunity to take a part of my land. Let us speak about how we fight in all over the world to have peace everywhere. This is the question. Who want to have the floor?

**Ibrahim Ali:**

Honorable Chairman. I would like to refer to our Sri Lanka opinion. I do agree very much with what Sri Lanka has said just now. To add a point, from the Malaysian point of view, although we do agree that population outburst is a problem for the world today, in order to have a better living, we have to control the outburst of population. But at the same time, we do believe that looking at the whole world, we still have enough resources to retain for the development. If we can improve the standard of living for all the people on the planet earth.

I do agree very much with Vietnam's opinion during the presentation of the country paper. For example, Vietnam needs investment. For Asian countries like Vietnam, or partly Malaysia for the last 30 years, we need investment. When we have investment, we can have jobs for the local people. Then we can put use products, and products can be marketed. We have market throughout the world. So our problem is that, although we have investment, we have a problem marketing our product. If we cannot market our product, then we cannot provide jobs to our people. And if you cannot provide jobs to our people, then we cannot have a good standard of living.

Anyway, at the bottom of it, the most important thing is what Professor Kuroda just said now. It is the reeducation. This has been experienced by Malaysia. We in 1981, our prime minister launched what is called the Look East Policy. We looked to Japan and Korea for technical know-how, for technology investment. And it was in 1981, and now it is already 1993 -- looking back 11 years. We have seen that we have made a lot of progress. Malaysian people have changed entirely. We have acquired technological knowledge, we have a lot of manufacturing companies now and we are able to produce good products. Well, it's fine but we have come close to a point now where we have to face a what we call the market problem. A problem in getting the market of the developed countries. If we look to the other point, we need to increase our population so that we can have our own market. If we depend solely on the developed countries, we couldn't have that much market. Now we refer to the NAFTA Agreement. We look to some political developments of the world now. If we look at the Rio Summit, the post conference, all the problems faced by the developing countries. So I would like to throw this opinion for discussion so that it can give an answer to some questions that ask what Malaysia is so eager to increase its population to 70 million.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Who else want to take the floor?

**Hironori Inoue:**

I cannot agree with the point that was made just now by the delegate from Malaysia. I think that the first thing that needs to be done to improve the lives of the people is to improve the standard of education and the quality of labour. The population of Japan will be shifting from no increase to decrease by the year 2020.

Although there are numerous discussion regarding decreasing population, we are not making political efforts to increase population.

As for the point made by the delegate from Sri Lanka and by Mr. Sakurai regarding manufacture and export of weapons, Japan has made it a national policy to not export weapons and is working hard towards realization of peace. The Chairman has also made a positive comment to promote war for the sake of peace.

However, no country engages itself in war for the sake of war. The excuse they make is that the war is for the sake of peace. I think that world peace will not be established unless we strive to reduce the export of weaponry. As Mr. Sakurai just mentioned, I think it is necessary for China and Japan to play the central role in stopping weapons export in Southeast Asia and in reducing economic aid to countries of the world that are exporting or importing weapons. This is the kind of approach that is needed.

**Ghassan Tayara:**  
Who else?

**Neville Fernando:**

On this creation of weapons, if you take the example of my own country Sri Lanka, we are compelled to purchase weapons because of the ongoing war caused by the terrorists. The terrorists get the money to purchase weapons, they have organizations in every part of the world, fortunately not in East Asia. East Asia is free of that. But if you go to England, France, Switzerland, Austria, and on the other side, U.K. and Canada -- in all these countries, terrorist organizations are allowed to function openly in London and have their office with their name, collecting funds. They collect millions of dollars by way of, I don't know how they get that money, but they collect millions of dollars in all these Western countries, in the States and Canada. With this money they buy weapons.

Recently, about a month or two ago, fortunately with the help of the Indian Navy, Indian Navy managed to catch one shipload of weapons worth millions of dollars containing enough ammunition to blow out the entire island of Sri Lanka. Fortunately for us, the Indian Navy intercepted this vessel, and the terrorist blasted that vessel and committed suicide. So now, from where do they get this money? Certainly not from the Government of Sri Lanka. Government of Sri Lanka has to buy weapons to fight the terrorists. Otherwise, if you don't get weapons, no country will give us weapons for free and fortunately for us, there are one or two countries that help us, but most of the Western countries are turning a blind eye -- I don't know why -- they are refusing to give us help to fight the war. But on the other hand, they are helping the terrorists. So I think this is very unfortunate, and in this I think China and Japan could help us by asking those countries, the Western countries, to ban terrorism in those countries.

These Tamil terrorists killed the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and they were planing to kill Mr. Yelzin when he came to India. Not only that, I think they were involved in bombing incidents in London itself. So this is the worst organization. They are involved in all these activities, selling drugs, they are the biggest smugglers of drugs in the world and I think I don't know why the Western countries keep on helping these terrorists without helping us to win the war by not supplying weapons



and ammunition to the terrorists. So I appeal once again to China and to Japan to force these Western countries to stop giving aid to the terrorists.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. First, I want to say one thing. If we will speak about trade of weapons, this is very complicated question. If we will not fight against such kind of industry, it should be resolved at the United Nations that this kind of industry should be changed to peaceful industry. Otherwise, all the time, there will be war, there will be terrorism in every country.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Please, Mr. Kaya from Malaysia.

**Michael Lisa Kaya:**

Thank you Mr. Honorable Chairman and fellow parliamentary delegates. I would just like to clarify one aspect -- to prove the points raised by our delegates from Malaysia, to respond to delegates from Japan. It's not that we are trying to defend our policy but I think our fellow parliamentarians didn't get it well.

We support what the professor from Japan said that if you increase the level of education of fewer people, definitely it has some impact on population control. I don't want to speak very high but very simple example. In my own family, I'm a native of Sarawak, there are only 8,000 of us and we live in the hill tribes. I have three children, I went through tertiary education. My sister after me has 11 children and she's not educated. That's why you can see. Malaysia has a very active education policy since the last 30 years and it's been changing to suit the requirement of population at large. So for that matter, I think we just want to clarify that education has an impact. We give very high budget on education for women, for children, for young people, and professor, we support what you said.

Secondly, we would like to highlight, I do agree personally, with what our honorable chairman says. If we start to talk we don't trade weapons, then every nation's policy will be stepping on its other toes. But what we should do is, as parliamentarians, responsible to make laws in each country, we can forward something to United Nations just like what Japan is doing. They don't give aid to developing nation which exports weaponry. So what we should do is try to maintain peace.

And in Malaysia, since the last rebellion 1962, now is 1993, 31 years we have developed very well because of political stability, we have got rid of Chinese elements of communists by making friends with China. The delegate from Sri Lanka, don't get us wrong but we are just giving some simple example. By making friends with China, our prime minister visited China, so the Malayan Communist Party, which used be terrorists in Malaysia, now they have laid down the weapons and Malaysia can start to progress. And we have diplomatic relation with China also. So I urge that Japan is doing something very well. Can Chinese delegates say to us what would they do in regards to maintaining peace, especially in this part of the world. Since 60% of the world population is in Asia, we should have a force against the Western world with regards to peace.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

I think Mr. Sakurai also want to speak?

**Shin Sakurai:**

Dr. Fernando. Japan is currently taking active measures against terrorism that you had mentioned through enactment of the Violence Prohibition Act. I am familiar with the measures against terrorism adopted by Sri Lanka because I heard many things about them from Mr. Osamu Nitta, who used to be with the National Police Agency and had been our ambassador to Sri Lanka until recently. I think that the issue of use of force that has been discussed here and the measures against such acts violence at home are two different issues. No country can maintain peace by allowing such things to happen. I think that it is possible to maintain public order in this sense can be achieved without importing weapons from overseas.

I don't think any country approves the export of weapons for terrorism. As it is the weapon merchants who are responsible for this, efforts should be made on an international scale to prohibit this thoroughly. Shouldn't we make proposals against use of force at a meeting like this by taking these matters into consideration?

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. Please Dr. Shahani.

**Leticia Ramos Shahani:**

Mr. Chairman. Could I just change the topic from this armament to women? I'd like to ask our Vietnamese friends what is the status of the Vietnamese women and whether the new and more vigorous thrust of your population policy with the bigger budget in the family planning are means more health services for women, more educational opportunities for women, more employment for women. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Anybody from Vietnam will answer?

**Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong:**

In answering your question regarding the status of women in Vietnam, I would like to present a document to the participants of this meeting.

Yes. There are 395 parliamentary members and 73 of them are women. Women also hold various publicly-elected posts on municipal levels, so 20 to 22% of such posts are held by women. We have one woman minister and several woman vice-ministers. I am also here as the representative of parliamentarians, so there are quite a few women who are working as the head of various committees. In other words, there are many women who are parliamentarians and are working as chairwoman.

Among Vietnamese women, however, there are cases in rural areas where women are the most consistent workers of the family, a difficult situation experienced by other regions of Southeast Asia. In the case of poor families, they send their boys to school but not girls. Moreover, illiteracy rate is higher among women. A large

difference exists as only 87% of women can read as opposed to 93% of men.

That is why I am fighting in the society to obtain women's rights. We are offering vocational training for self-sustenance of family housewives because some of them are economically dependent on their husbands and are in a difficult situation. We also want to make it possible for them to increase their own income so that they can become equal. That in itself will be one end of the population policy.

While the social advancement of women in our country is in progress with the introduction of the open policy, it is said that women will have to work twice as hard in order to get a certain position. In addition to the burden of household work, the working women experience difference in wages.. Normally, they have work twice as hard to get the same position as men. In addition to that, they have to do the household work and live with lower wages.

Regarding the budget, the budget for education has been increased by two or three times compared to a couple of years ago. The budget for public health has also been increased. In relation with family planning, it is difficult to increase its amount in a national budget that is small to begin with. So we are asking to make the pie bigger. We want the amount of budget for this entire area so that we can increase the budget for public health and the budget for women.

As Ms. Shahani had mentioned, it is necessary to improve public services including public health services. Our economic system has changed from the previous system. We had a socialist system but that system has changed, and now we are able to procure a portion of public funds from the private sector, or should I say individuals.

So we can now use these funds to cover the cost of services that are used for public health, particularly those that are offered to women and children. We have launched a campaign to eradicate children's diseases that are killing infants such as tetanus, and also promoting maternal and child health services for maternal and child health. Conveyance of information and communication are included in this effort. Dissemination activities are carried out along with family planning in rural areas in an effort to change the awareness of the general public regarding health.

While total fertility rate is still 3.8, it used to be higher than 4. It has dropped slightly but used to be much higher than other countries. I am taking this opportunity to learn from other parliamentarians, and I am learning particularly from what has been said by the delegate from China. I am following the experience of China with special interest and feel that grassroots movement is particularly important. After learning that China has created an organization for promoting one child policy, I understand that this is one of the ideas.

Then Mr. Sakurai placed emphasis on peace. We learned that maintaining world peace is most important, and that importance is not only in the survival of mankind but also in dignity as a human being. I think this is important. Dr. Ratanakorn stressed the need for financial assistance to the poorest countries and to the developing countries, but I would also like to stress the importance of this point.

I also agree with the need for education as indicated by Ms. Shahani, the delegate from New Zealand and Dr. Kuroda. I agree in particular with the importance of educating women, particularly those in their adolescence. Thank you very much.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. I want to say about my country. In our country, 10% of the parliament is women. We have two ministers who are women -- minister of culture and minister of high education. We have two women ambassadors and my wife is the head of my family and my son's family. You see the influence of women in our country. Anybody want to take the floor?

**Shin Sakurai:**

The same is true for Japan. The delegate from Malaysia who just presented his ideas was saying that they don't have enough labour unless they increase their population. Japan is confronted with that problem at the very moment. While industrial facilities are considerably developed in Japan. The number of young people are gradually decreasing and this is resulting in smaller working population. Japan is going through a serious recession and it is said that young labour is needed to overcome it.

However, the insatiable economic pursuit driven by one's own financial power and abilities will inevitably fail, and, as you said, there is no viable economy unless there are people who buy what you produce.

Japan is being criticized from the U.S. and the rest of the world for continuing to produce without regard for other countries. I believe that, although economy is something that we need to get happy, it does not have to accomplish anything beyond that. In relation to the speech made by the delegate from Vietnam, I mentioned using Sweden as reference. I mentioned this because as we try to maintain the balance with the economy in our pursuit of "our requirements for happiness," it has deep involvement with the population issue.

I do not intend to argue each and every point with the delegate from Malaysia. However, if you pursue the policy you mentioned, you will come up against the same wall that Japan is running into now. That is why I would like you to use the case of Japan and the case of Sweden as reference in your search for a better way, so that you will not have to make the same mistake that Japan made in the past. I would like to talk with you about the balance with the economic pursuit if we have a chance. I want you to think thoroughly so that you will not try to increase childbirth to expand the economic market.

**Ibrahim Ali:**

I would like to have a short response on what Japan commented on Malaysia. I don't see much difference as far as our opinions are concerned in talking about the problems we are discussing today. And we are not pursuing our own interest but I would like to say that it is also good to have the voice of a small country or a developing country is now being heard.

Because when we are pursuing our interest, we can say that. "The powerful Western countries were taking their own interest for so long." So we would like to have our points heard at international forum. Well, we do agree because, for us, we would like to learn from Japan because Japan is our model anyway. In the form of industrialization, we look for the Look East Policy. But we are talking in the sense that why we would like to increase our population. At the same time, we look into the well being of our people because we believe that, as far as we are concerned,

we have a lot of natural resources. Our population is 18 million only. We can take our resources for development. And so long as we manage the government properly. We have the right policy -- the policy that we thought can be best put into action which can result in good living for the people. That's only what we are trying to say in this meeting. Thank you very much.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Before finishing, I also want to ask one question. When I was listening to and seeing the slides demonstrated by APDA, three questions arose in my head. First, what is the meaning of know how. What is the cost of know how. What is the meaning of transfer of suitable technology. These are the three questions which should be sometimes be similar for our developing countries because many time we understand the know how and the transfer of technology that sell us very new equipment. We sometimes throw a lot of money to have such kind of equipment, but cannot develop them and we cannot exploit such kind of equipment. So this also should be in our mind for developing our country. Thank you.

**Neville Fernando:**

I would like to respond to Senator Shahani about the status of women in Sri Lanka. Long before the West elected their woman prime minister, Sri Lanka in 1960 elected Ms. Bandaranaike, the first woman prime minister in the whole world. So I think in Sri Lanka, the status of women is the same as that of the world. There is no discrimination. In fact, we have our minister of health served by a lady, then we have three state ministers and several public organizations are headed by women. So there is no discrimination at all. But, however, I feel that as a mother, I think they should devote more of their time for their children at home. I would like to give one example of my daughter who is married to a cardiologist. She has two servants but she looks after the children. I sometimes feel sorry for her because from the time she gets up, at about 5:30 in the morning the smallest child gets up and starts to play about, from that time till she goes to bed about 10 o'clock, she has to devote her entire time to the children. She's with the children. I think in Sri Lanka, the mother is the head of the family. She's the finance minister. The father earns the money but it is the mother who controls the finances. She's the one who spends, not the husband. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

This is the discrimination. Women want to be the minister of foreign affairs, not the minister of finance. This is the question.

**Leticia Shahani:**

Well I'm not really, Mr. Chairman, talking about the exceptions. I think I'm more interested in the status of women in mass and when I asked the question from our friends in Vietnam, I wanted to find out whether they were saying the status of women is high, whether the family planning practices are not really placed more as a burden on women. Because that is what is happening -- it is always the woman who has to take the pill if she was to look after the children -- so she has the double burden. So I think, Mr. President, maybe in one of our meetings we should raise the issue "should not Asian men also help in household work?" "should they not also learn how to cook?" That's what we are trying to say.

We are not asking how many women there are in parliament. This is a way is a token but we go back to the basics. For instance, if we go to Dr. Fernando's illustration of his daughter. Well, all right, she sacrifices for the children. How about her husband? Her husband should help in raising the family. I'm just using that as an illustration. So I think the women of Asia should stop accepting this double burden that it is always the women who accept that. And we should also demand from the men. Sharing of household work, sharing of raising the children, and that will really be equality. I know that men won't like this. And maybe they are uncomfortable because Asian men are so used to being treated as the lords and masters of the homes. But I think they should see the handwriting on the wall. The women will not accept this situation permanently. I think the walls have begun to crumble. And I hope, Mr. President, that APDA and the Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development will look into this very basic matter in our meetings. It's not just having women become ministers and so on, but going to the very basics of society. What really is the sharing of burden in determining the number of children and in sharing household responsibilities. I think that will be the equality between men and women. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you. I agree with Ms. Shahani that men should take care of children, but not to be pregnant. This is the question.

**Jehan Panezai:**

I fully endorse the idea of Ms. Shahani. This is not the question of in which country how many ladies are prime ministers or ministers. Of course in Pakistan, you know that two years back we led the entire Moslem world having a lady prime minister -- she was there for two years. And with a huge population of 110 million. And now I am holding the prestigious office of the vice chairman of the Senate, but you can see few women in the front line. It's not the question that how many women in the interior of our country, like 70% of the people are living in a rural area. But you can see how many women are working in the field, from 5:30 in the morning till 10:00 pm, they are working day and night. But as Ms. Shahani said, our Asian men are like lords. They are like children. So we don't want this situation. We want that, as Ms. Shahani said, in the next meeting we should consider the situation of women, and at least the behaviour of the men. Thank you.

**John Blincoe:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to make a number of comments about slightly different subjects. So I will start.

Firstly on the question of status of women. I think this will to be an ongoing struggle throughout the world. In New Zealand, women were given the vote 100 years ago this year. But through the struggle before women can become equal with men continues. And I think, actually, continues throughout the western world because it is so often the case that women, even professional women end up married in the household as well as holding down their professional job. I'm not in a good position to speak I'm here thousands of kilometers away from home and my wife is raising our two daughters. And that is the choice which we have made together, but she has done it at the expense of her own professional career. And that is a choice, which even in the western world, thousands of women are confronted with,

so the struggle continues.

The second comment I wanted to make is about the need to increase official development assistance of the target of 0.7% laid down by Rio and also the target laid down at Bali that we should give population core funding up to 4% of that. Maybe what we ought to do is let us stage the increase over a period years, and at the same time pay for that out of decreasing the arms budgets. So when somebody asks, "Where is the money coming from?," we can say, "Here is where the money is coming from. We are going to increase the aid levels at this rate and we're going to decrease the weapon spending at the same rate." And I think perhaps if we have a target approach with a program over a period of 5 or 10 years, it might actually work.

The third question is on which, I guess relates to what the Malaysian delegation has been saying about international trade. We in New Zealand in some sense found ourselves between the developed and the developing countries because we rely heavily on international trade, largely on commodities. And one of the great restraints in our economy is that we cannot trade freely, for instance, with Europe. And there were times when we have some difficulty getting access to markets in Japan. And so feel with our Asian colleagues the need for liberalization of world trade so that all countries can trade fairly with each other. And so we've found ourselves really identifying with the Malaysian problems. But I think that the way to solve that is by freeing up trade and not trying to create a big internal market.

The last point I want to make which I guess is the most important is the context in which we are meeting, and the context in which the Earth Summit took place last year. The fact that we are faced with is that the ecology of the earth, the life support system of the earth is collapsing even as we speak here, and we actually need to take extremely urgent action if our children are going to have any sort of quality of life at all. And that is why all of us have got to cooperate whether we come from developed countries, developing countries, because we have one single planet. And in my assessment we have about five years left to get the programs in place, otherwise it will be too late to achieve a decent standard of living for all the people on our planet which is what we must all aspire to do.

**Michael Lisa Kaya:**

Mr. Chairman. Honorable Parliamentary Delegates. I just would like to add some comments with regard to what has been addressed by the delegate from Philippines regarding women's role.

Of course, when you talk about women's role, you're talking about ministers, like in Malaysia, our international trade and industry minister is a woman, our deputy minister is a woman also. But what our country is doing at the moment is, in this year's budget. A lot of stress has been given to "happy family, quality of life." Our target also is to have this caring society that is consistent with the welfare within the family. In the Malaysian context, the husband also goes to marketing but the question of how far women should lead in the nation or the society is very hard to define. Because in Malaysia, we have Islam as our official religion and the majority of the people are Muslims by tradition. Even if you want to give women a leading role, only certain kind of women can do that. So there is limitation. For example, in the modern days, I may be a bit tricky in my address, but you ask some women to be on the top, they don't want it. So what can you do. What I'm

trying to say here is that we recognize the role of women but I think there are certain limitations depending on which nation, which culture you are. Even in my personal native culture, we still place a very important role on the men. But what is necessary is quality of life and happy family. Thank you.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Thank you very much. I want to say, first of all, everyone want to be a head, but how you educate him to like to be a head. The question is no women will say no if she has right education. You see, as I understand from Dr. Shahani, she's not speaking about someone who is a minister or in high department. She is speaking about thousands and millions of women who are working hard in the rural area. We should take care of them. We should take all of them, educate them, help them, ask the old man to do the job with them. Because let me say for you, if a woman in our rural area is riding on a donkey, this is not a problem. But if she drives are car, something will happen in the village. So this is the question. How we can educate men and women in such a way that they are equal.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Any person want to take the floor? Last one? Dr. Fernando.

**Neville Fernando:**

Mr. Chairman. I have a suggestion to make because when the country papers are read out, you have placed the guillotine in seven minutes and most of the papers could not be read, especially China could not present her paper at all. So I would suggest that either the Secretariat or the Executive Committee go through all these country papers and get whatever material from that, and have one paper that could be discussed at Kuala Lumpur and then presented at the 1994 Conference. I think otherwise our delegates who have come thousands of miles away just to take part, just presents paper for seven minutes might feel dishonored.

**Ibrahim Ali:**

Mr. Chairman. I just would like to take this opportunity as the chairman of Malaysian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population, and on behalf of the Malaysian Committee, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the APPD Committee members who decided Malaysia to be the host country for the next Fourth General Assembly in October. So therefore, I would like to welcome everybody to Kuala Lumpur and we hope to have a meaningful meeting. Thank you very much.

**Ghassan Tayara:**

Are you supporting the suggestion made by Dr. Fernando? Yes? OK.

(Note from the Executive Office: According to a resolution that was passed during this meeting, country proposals have been edited based on papers prepared by each country instead of transcribing the actual presentation.)



## Closing Ceremony

<Feb. 26, 1993 14:00-14:30>

Closing Remarks  
by  
Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda  
Chairman, APDA

We now successfully close this meeting that was held over the last two days after engaging in fruitful discussions. I am fully indebted to Hon. Ms. Than and the organizers in Vietnam who worked hard in organizing this meeting.

I would like to also thank the parliamentarians representing respective countries for their zealous presentation and discussion and for keeping the time that was allotted to them. As a result, we were able to close the meeting earlier than scheduled. Please fully enjoy the "free time" after this because it is a valuable "dividend" that was created by your efforts.

Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to express my gratitude to you all. The importance of the following three points were indicated by the representatives as actual action programs concerning "population and development issues" that strives for a society in which human dignity can be maintained.

- (1) Improvement of educational standard of women
- (2) Effective utilization of mass media
- (3) Peaceful utilization of funds made available after cutback in defense spending

I understand that the proposals from respective countries will be compiled at the AFPPD Secretariat and distributed to you at a later date. They will also be discussed and adopted as AFPPD Proposal at the conference in Kuala Lumpur in October.

As one of the organizers, I feel honored and grateful that Asia has taken its start here for leading the International Conference on Population and Development which will be held in September of next year in Cairo.

I would like to close my remarks in gratitude by expressing my respect to those of you who are contributing to the noble cause of world peace through population and development issues and praying for prosperity of the host country, Vietnam.

Closing Remarks  
by  
Ms. Nguyen Thi Than  
Chairwoman of Vietnam Parliament Association  
for Population and Development

The Esteemed Chairman of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development!

The Esteemed Chairman of the Asian Population and Development Association!  
Distinguished delegates and guests!

On behalf of the Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development of the National Assembly of Vietnam and on my personal behalf, I would like to express our gratitude to the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), the various national associations of parliamentarians in the region, international organizations and delegates for your great contribution to the successful organization of this very significant and important conference.

Dear distinguished guests,

This 9th Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, coupled with the annual meetings, have brought about countless lessons and further precious experiences in identifying coordinating solutions for specific population issues faced by individual countries in the region.

Within a limited period of only 2 days, you, dear representatives of many national and international organizations, have actively coordinated your efforts in very broad, sincere and frank discussions aimed at identifying population and development goals and policies for individual countries and for our Asia, contributing to the stabilization of the world population.

Currently, the growth rate of the world population is very high. Her population may double after every 40 years, and it would have reached a peak of 8 to 14 billions of whom nearly 60% are in Asia by the middle of the next century.

Development constitutes the greatest challenge today to all nations, especially to the developing ones. The population growth, which is much faster than that of development, has been the root cause of the existing poverty. Although a number of nations in the Asian region have obtained certain economic development results, many others are still in the status of poverty and underdevelopment. Numerous efforts have been exerted, but the population growth rate has not been reduced at our desired level, and there are countless problems ahead to be dealt with.

Once again, we have profoundly recognized the importance as well as the influence of a sound population and development policy on each of the nations in the region. A solution for this issue requires harmonious measures including the balance of food, energy and natural resources supplies; the problems of economic, technical and scientific development, population distribution, rural development and urbanization; the issues of population structure and many others closely relating to educational attainment and capacities, social information and awareness on the rights, the roles

and functions of women and the youths in the society.

On behalf for the women parliamentarians in this meeting, I would like to lay stress on the role of women and their problems. Women should be equal with men both in society and in their families. Men should share house works with women in order to create favourable opportunities for women to take part in social activities more and more.

Humanity needs a sustainable development. The 1992 Summit Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro bears a historic significance for its having attained basic agreements on important issues for the survival of this planet. The international conference on population and development of 1994 will speak out the concern of the international community on this issue. I am hopeful that the important opinions expressed at this conference will become a view point and a common voice for each nation in our region in the process of actions to search and settle in the most successful way all population issues for development and prosperity.

Distinguished guests,

I would like to thank, once again, the Asian Population and Development Association and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for having entrusted us with the honor to host this conference. I hope this would be the foundation for further development of the close cooperative relationship between Asian population and development organizations and international organizations, between associations of parliamentarians for population and development of countries in the region and that of Vietnam; and for further achievements in implementing population policies in each nation.

I wish you good health and further successes in your position of noble responsibility.

**Prasop Ratanakorn:**

Now I would like to request Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, the Vice Chairwoman of Committee for External Affairs to present her closing remarks.

Closing Remarks:  
by  
Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong  
Vice Chairwoman,  
Committee for External Affairs

Ladies and gentlemen! There has been a proposal from the delegate from the Philippines. A delegate from the Philippines has proposed that the equal sharing of the burden of family planning and childcare between men and women shall be added in the agenda at the AFPPD Conference which will be held in October of this year in Kuala Lumpur and that UNFPA submit background information based on studies in the Asian countries for this purpose. I would like to convey this proposal to all of you.

As a delegate from Vietnam, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all. I would also like to thank APDA, AFPPD, the organizing committee and the people who have worked for the executive office. It was due to their full preparation and organization that we were able to achieve such a great success.

This is the first time that we are holding a conference of this nature in Vietnam. My apologies to you all for anything amiss on our part. I apologize for shortcomings in hotel service and other matters but at the same hope that you will visit Vietnam again in the near future. I would like to see you more often. I think that our mutual understanding will deepen further by seeing each other. If peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity can be realized in Asian countries, then it can eventually be realized in the entire world.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you. I pray for the safe arrival of the participants to their homes, and for the health of their family. I would like to conclude my speech by thanking you for coming to Vietnam.

Thank you for your attention.

**Prasop Ratanakorn:**

Now I announce the meeting closed. We'll see you in Kuala Lumpur on October 26. Don't forget!

## List of Participants of the 9th APDA Meeting

### BANGLADESH

Mr. Shajahan Siraji, M.P. Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Group of AFPPD

### CHINA

Mr. Wang Wei, M.P. Acting Chairman, AFPPD  
Vice-Chairman, Education, Science, Culture and  
Public Health Committee, NPC  
Advisor, China Family Planning Association

Dr. Chen Ming Guang Director, Department of Population, Health and  
Sports, ESCPH Committee, NPC

### INDIA

Mr. Mahendra Prasad, Vice Chairman, AFPPD  
M.P. Trustee, Indian Association of Parliamentarians  
on Population and Development (IAPPD)

Mr. V. P. Patil, M.P. Member of IAPPD

Mr. Man Mohan Sharma Executive Secretary, IAPPD

### INDONESIA

Dr. H. Ahmad Muflih Anggota DPR/MPR-RI  
Saefuddin, M.P.

### JAPAN

Mr. Shin Sakurai, M.P. Vice Chairman AFPPD / Director, APDA  
Executive Director, Japan Parliamentarians  
Federation for Population (JPFP)

Dr. Hironori Inoue, M.P. Vice Chairman, JPFP

Dr. Hisashi Kazama, M.P. Member, JPFP

### KOREA

Mr. Lee Hai-Chan, M.P.      Member, Korean Parliamentary League on  
Children, Population and Development (CPD)

Mr. Cho Il-Hyun, M.P.      Member, CPD

Mr. Koo Cheon-Seo, M.P.      Member, CPD

Mr. Kong Kyu-Teck      Secretary

### MALAYSIA

Mr. Ibrahim Ali, M.P.      Chairman, Malaysian Parliamentarians Forum on  
Population and Development

Mr. Michael Lisa Kaya,      House of Representatives  
M.P.

Ms. Paduka Hajah      Former Deputy Secretary General, AFPPD  
Rahmah Osman      Former Deputy Minister, Transport

Mr. Ismail Awang      Secretary for the Malaysia Delegation

### NEPAL

Dr. Shyam Lal Tabadar,      Chairman, Population and Social Committee  
M.P.      of the House of Representatives

### NEW ZEALAND

Mr. John Blincoe, M.P.      Labour Conservation Spokesperson

### PAKISTAN

Senator Dr. Noor Jehan      Deputy Chairperson Senate  
Panzai

## **PHILIPPINES**

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Dr. Leticia Ramos<br>Shahani, Senator | Vice Chairperson, AFPPD<br>Co-Chairperson, Philippines Legislator's<br>Committee on Population and Development<br>Foundation, INC (PLCPD) |
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|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Mr. Manuel Puey,<br>Congressman | Member, PLCPD |
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|                    |                           |
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| Ms. Cecile Joaquin | Executive Director, PLCPD |
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|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. Wilfredo dela Cruz | Staff of Sen. Shahani |
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| Mr. Emmanuel Q. Yap | Staff of Sen. Shahani |
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## **SINGAPORE**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mr. Lew Syn Pau, M.P. | Member of Parliament for Tanglin<br>Chairman, Government Parliamentary<br>Committee for Education |
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## **SRI LANKA**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Dr. Neville Fernando,<br>M.P. | Deputy Secretary General, AFPPD<br>Senior Vice Chairman, Sri Lankan<br>Parliamentarians for Population and Development |
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## **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Dr. Eng. Mohamad<br>Ghassan Tayara, M.P. | Vice Chairman, AFPPD<br>Member of S.P.C.P.D. / President, OSEA |
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## **THAILAND**

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn,<br>Senator Prof. | Secretary General, AFPPD |
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|---|---|
| Mr. Cherdchai<br>Theerattanont, General | Member, Thai Parliamentarians Popualtion and<br>Development group |
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| Dr. Roongtam Ladpli,<br>Senator Prof. | Member, Thai Parliamentarians Popualtion and<br>Development group |
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Dr. Viki Vikit Viranuvatti APPU

Mr. Tayudh Sriyuksiri Secretary

**VIETNAM**

Ms. Nguyen Thi Than,  
M.P. Chairwoman of the Vietnam Parliament Association  
for Population and Development  
Chairwoman, Committee for Social Affairs

Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc  
Phuong, M.P. Vice Chairwoman, Committee for External  
Affairs

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoai  
Thu, M.P. Vice Chairman, Committee for Social Affairs

Ms. Truong Thi Khue,  
M.P. Member, Committee for Social Affairs

Mr. Bui Ngoc Thanh,  
M.P. Vice Chairman, Committee for Social Affairs

Mr. Le Quoc Khanh,  
M.P. Vice Chairman, Committee for Social Affairs

Mr. Le Van Truyen,  
M.P. Vice Chairman, Committee for Social Affairs

Prof. Hoang Dinh Cau,  
M.P. Member, Committee for Social Affairs

Mr. Nguyen Phuc Dinh,  
M.P. Member, Committee for Social Affairs

Mr. Nguyen Khac Tao,  
M.P. Member, Committee for External Relations

Mr. Hoang Bich Son,  
M.P. Chairman, Committee for External Relations

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Vu Mao                    | Chairman, National Assembly Office                                  |
| Ms. Tran Thi Tam Dan,<br>M.P. | Chairwoman, Committee for Culture,<br>Education, Youth and Children |
| Mr. Vu Dinh Cu                | Chairman, Committee for Science<br>Technology and Environment       |
| Mr. Luong Xuan Quy,<br>M.P.   | Member, Committee for Science<br>Technology and Environment         |
| Mr. Mai Thuc Lan, M.P.        | Chairman, Committee for Economy and Budget                          |
| Mr. Cu Hoa Van, M.P.          | Vice Chairman, Council of Nationalities                             |
| Prof. Ho Phuong               | Expert, Government Office   |

#### **HONORABLE GUESTS**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Mr. Nguyen Khanh | Deputy Premier of the Government of Vietnam |
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#### **EXPERTS**

|                    |  |
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| Dr. Shigeto Kawano | Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo<br>Director, APDA, Japan                             |
| Dr. Toshio Kuroda  | Director Emeritus, Nihon University,<br>Population Research Institute / Director, APDA,<br>Japan |
| Dr. Nguyen Luc     | Vice-Chairman, National Committee for<br>Population and Family Planning, Vietnam                 |

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Dr. Hirofumi Ando      | Director, Information and External Relations<br>Division, UNFPA                                   |
| Mr. V. T. Palan        | Regional Director of the East and South East<br>Asia and Oceania Region, IPPF                     |
| Ms. Linda Demers       | Country Director in Vietnam, UNFPA  |
| Ms. Ma. Luisa Punsalan | Program Officer, Global Committee of<br>Parliamentarians on Population and Development<br>(GCPPD) |
| Mr. Shiv Khare         | Consultant, AFPPD Bangkok Office  |

### **APDA**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Mr. Fukusaburo Maeda | Chairman, APDA                               |
| Mr. Tsuguo Hirose    | Executive Director / Secretary General, APDA |
| Mr. Masaaki Endo     | Assistant Secretary General, APDA            |
| Ms. Kumiko Sakurai   | Senior Programme Officer, APDA               |
| Mr. Osamu Kusumoto   | Senior Researchist, APDA                     |
| Ms. Noriko Oda       | Coordinator, APDA                            |

### **INTERPRETER**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Mr. Dong Zhiquan     | China |
| Ms. Sachiko Tanaka   | Japan |
| Ms. Yoshiko Takeyama | Japan |
| Ms. Hiroko Suzuki    | Japan |