

*Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit*

*Tokyo, Japan,
2023 April 25-26*



*6 students from Japan and South Korea with the Former Prime Minister Fukuda and Hon. Kamikawa

6 students from Japan and South Korea were able to have a tremendous opportunity to listen to the official conversation that parliamentarians had prior to the G7 Summit. At the end of the first day's discussions, those young leaders were able to deliver short speeches to express their gratitude and honor to parliamentarians from several countries, and some even expressed their concerns and suggestions as leaders of future generations. Numerous matters were discussed during the conference, including sexual and reproductive health, aging society, and investment in youth. On November 15, 2022, our planet reached a world population of 8 billion people, which provided the conference with the extraordinary necessity to discuss the future of an aging society and youth development to achieve the United Nation's sustainable development goals in the near future.





The conference began with delightful welcoming speeches from the leaders of Japan, H.E. the prime minister, Fumio Kishida. The prime minister Kishida emphasized the significance of the world population of 8 billion people and the importance of forming an appropriate solution in each varying societies such as Saharan Africa, which has a high fertility rate, and some countries in Asia and Latin America struggle to empower the

youth. In addition to that, the prime minister Kishida also mentioned the prominence of constructing equitable health coverage (universal healthcare system) and securing women's rights.

The most interesting discussion that grabbed my attention was the plans to manage an aging society. Solutions that I came up with were reducing explicit costs of raising children, which could include government-supported childcare services, improvements in public education, and direct financial assistance to parents. However, the lessons I learned in the conference is an alternative solution to reduce poverty among elderlies. In fact, during the conference, the common solution that was proposed by numerous delegates was to reduce the dependency ratio. Dependency ratio means "a demographic measure of the ratio of the number of dependents to the total working-age population in a country or region." Throughout a person's life, there are 3 economic stages: childhood, working age, and retirement. After retirement, due to a lack of income, the government and their children are responsible for supporting the elderly financially. This indicates that as the government's support for the elderly increases, the burden of working-age individuals declines. Numerous parliamentarians and speakers signified the importance of reducing the dependency ratio; however, the way of accumulating finance for pension payments in a society with decreasing working-age population still remained a matter of concern.

In addition to the topic of an aging society, women's empowerment and investment in youth for development were also interesting topics that were majorly discussed in the conference. India attempted to manage a healthy population structure by appointing house workers who inform women about reproductive health and deliver contraceptive devices. This policy highly assisted India in stabilizing the fertility rate, which ensured the Indian government to monitor and manage newborns better. Similarly, a middle eastern nation, Jordan, which has one of the youngest population demographics in the world, is attempting to increase government spending on youth development by accurately identifying socioeconomic inequalities, modifying the educational system for the young people to meet labor market needs, and investing in youth entrepreneurial skills.

Throughout the discussions, I have felt that political, social, economic, and environmental policies must be synergies to obtain the ultimate goal that society desires.

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List of media coverage in Korea.

- <http://www.discoverynews.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=1000454>
- <http://www.kdpress.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=119536>
- <https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20230427038400371>
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