

**Minutes of  
AFPPD 90th Executive Committee Meeting  
12:00-14:00 Hrs, 19 April 2021**

**<Online>**



From  
the People of Japan



**90<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD**  
19 April 2021 || 12:00-14:00 (Tokyo Time)  
**Online Meeting**

Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (MP Japan, AFPPD Chair) chaired the 90th Online Executive Committee Meeting, held at 12.00–14.00 hours on 19 April 2021 from Tokyo, Japan. The following Executive Committee members, or their representatives, and observers attended the meeting:

**Present:**

**Executive Committee Members or representatives (6):**

1. Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP Japan, AFPPD Chair
2. Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, AFPPD Secretary-General
3. Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India
4. Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, MP Philippines
5. Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam (Limited Power of Attorney)
6. Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia (Limited Power of Attorney)

**Former Executive Committee Member:**

1. Hon. Viplove Thakur, Former MP and former AFPPD Vice Chair, India

**AFPPD Secretariat:**

1. Prof. Kiyoko Ikegami, Interim Executive Director
2. Ms. Nenita Dalde, Manager, Advocacy and Partnership, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD) and Rapporteur
3. Ms. Yoko Oshima, Assistant to AFPPD Interim Executive Director
4. Ms. Eri Osada, AFPPD Staff

**National Committee Secretariat Staff / Personal Assistants**

1. Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)
2. Mr. Romeo Dongeto, Executive Director, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)
3. Ms. Vu Thi Binh Minh, Department for Social Affairs, Vietnam National Assembly Office (VAPPD)
4. Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)
5. Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa, Chief Manager, International Affairs, APDA
6. Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, Assistant Manager of International Affairs/Senior Researcher, APDA
7. Mr. Yoshiharu Makino, Secretary to Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi

**\*Incumbent office bearers that were not in attendance (5):**

- Australia
- China
- Kazakhstan
- Iran
- Tonga (Pacific)

## Agenda

- a) Confirm the Minutes of the 89<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD, on 13th November 2020
- b) Report AFPPD Activities: From November 2020 to April 2021 by Prof. Kiyoko Ikegami, Interim Executive Director
- c) Propose amendment of AFPPD Constitution for General Assembly
- d) Propose the candidate of new office bearers of AFPPD 2021-2024
- e) Propose Agenda of General Assembly on 24 May 2021
- f) Propose International Conference (follow up of ICPD), Tokyo, November 2021
- g) Propose Agenda of 91<sup>st</sup> AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting, November 2021, and Agenda of International Conference in November
- h) Any other matter with the permission of the Chairperson

## Process Documentation

The session was called to order by Hon. Prof. Takemi, AFPPD Chair and Presiding Officer, following the declaration of a quorum. Six out of the 11 members of the Board were either in attendance or were represented.

In his opening statement, Hon. Takemi looked back at the six months following AFPPD's revitalization; that several activities have been carried out "gradually but steadily", which included seminars on the impacts of COVID-19 on ageing (December 17, 2020) and gender (April 5, 2021), as well as the conduct of one executive committee meeting (November 13, 2020).

### **Nominations for the AFPPD Executive Committee members 2021-2024**

First in the day's agenda is the approval of the nomination and recommendations for the 2021-2024 AFPPD Executive Committee members. The results will be presented during the AFPPD General Assembly scheduled on May 24, 2021 via an online platform. Hon. Takemi enumerated the MPs who have been notified by the secretariat as office bearers and they are the following: Japan as Chair, Vice Chairs are Australia, China, India, Philippines, and Kazakhstan; the Secretary General is Thailand; and the Treasurer is Cambodia. Members of the Board are Malaysia, Viet Nam and Tonga. Except for Malaysia, the countries cited are incumbent office bearers. Iran used to be a member of the AFPPD Board but due to the difficulty in reaching out to the National Secretariat, no confirmation of their acceptance can be made. Hence, Malaysia's ascent. Malaysia has been a very active member of AFPPD and has declared willingness to accept the nomination.

Hon. Takemi asked the body if there were questions or concerns regarding the nominations. Upon hearing none, Hon. Thakur moved for the adoption of the list and the Chair acceded. Hon. Takemi further noted that considering there was practically no change in the line-up and given that only six months have passed since AFPPD's 'reborn' and the new COVID-19-imposed situation had put limits on what the organization can do, keeping the status quo was the most practical resolution.

Hon. Dr. Jetn did not raise any concerns either and Hon. Takemi recognized his unwavering contributions to AFPPD.

Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba who came into the meeting room a bit late attended to represent Hon. Edcel Lagman. She accepted the nomination of the Philippines as one of the AFPPD Vice Chairs and as such, the basis for the nominations was strengthened.

### **Proposed amendment to the AFPPD Constitution**

Due to the movement of the AFPPD Secretariat's office from Bangkok, Thailand to Tokyo, Japan in 2020, the current AFPPD Constitution needs to be amended to reflect the change.

To wit, *“the AFPPD Secretariat shall be located at a place to be decided by the General Assembly of the AFPPD. The AFPPD Secretariat will function as executing agency of the AFPPD programs under the supervision of the Chair and the Secretary General. Some functions and the role of AFPPD Secretariat can be shared by National Committee Secretariat for effective implementation of activities.”*

The Chair emphasized that upon the approval of the members of the ExeCom, the new formulation will supersede the existing relevant provision in the Constitution. The new formulation also offers some level of flexibility for members so much so that should they decide to move the secretariat's office elsewhere in Asia in the future, it can do so by invoking the said provision. Hon. Takemi shared that once AFPPD regains its footing, he will be happy to see the AFPPD secretariat's office located in another Asian country. Hon. Dr. Jetn, Hon. Thakur and Hon. Hooda all gave their nods of approval to the proposed amendment. The Chair subsequently declared the proposed amendment adopted.

## PHOTO SESSION



Hon. Takemi jokingly referred to the photo as evidence that indeed majority of the ExeCom members are present in the meeting, thus, there was sufficient basis for the approvals, to which Hon. Hooda replied in jest that it is also a proof of COVID-19 times. Hon. Takemi informed the body that the meeting was not initially intended to happen online, and that there are actually enough financial resources to cover the twice-a-year face-to-face ExeCom meetings and one general assembly; but COVID-19 happened. Nevertheless, the Chair is hopeful that come autumn, the next board meeting will finally happen in person in Tokyo or elsewhere. At such time, more members can participate and endorse the bases for collaborations based on mutual trust. He underscored that meetings held in person are extremely important in building mutual trust. Unfortunately, the General Assembly that is scheduled on May 24, 2021 will still be a virtual activity.

Hon. Takemi introduced Prof. Kiyoko Ikegami, AFPPD Interim Executive Director, for her presentation of the activities that have been undertaken by AFPPD in the immediately preceding previous months.

### **AFPPD Activities**

Prof. Ikegami started with the calling for confirmation of the Minutes of the 89<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting held on November 13, 2020.

She proceeded with the presentation of the online activities organized by AFPPD from November 2020 up to April 2021. She reminded everyone that documentations of the activities are already uploaded and can be downloaded in the AFPPD website.

- November 13, 2020 – 89<sup>th</sup> ExeCom Meeting
- December 17, 2020 – Impacts of COVID-19 on Ageing

- The results of the research on ageing in four countries (Australia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Kazakhstan) were presented in the seminar
- Thirty-three participants administered the post-seminar survey and the results were in affirmative
- January 2021 – Ageing research was started and results will be uploaded soon
- March 2021 – Youth research in four countries (Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines and Tajikistan) have been undertaken
- April 2021 – Evaluation of the AFPPD Needs Assessment. Results of the AFPPD Needs Assessment will be presented by Yoko Kagawa (Consultant) in the General Assembly.



Prof. Ikegami shared some of the most important recommendations, which included the setting-up of more country-specific programs to be led by the national committees since they possess the knowledge of their respective country's profile and can coordinate with their MPs.

- April 5, 2021 – Impacts of COVID-19 on Gender
- May 24, 2021 – AFPPD General Assembly

Prof. Ikegami announced that the agenda for the planned international conference to be held in Tokyo, Japan in November is still in the draft stage and is pending the approval of the ExeCom members. Once approved, it will be presented during the General Assembly in May.

Prof. Ikegami shares Hon. Takemi's hope that the international conference in November be held in person.

Before the Chair closed the session and declared all agenda items covered and approved, he opened the floor for questions.

Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba requested the AFPPD secretariat to collate the experiences of countries in Asia and the Pacific who were able to pass legislations ending child marriages, including the arguments posted by opposition groups and how they were addressed by the parliamentarians, advocates and champions.

The Chair acknowledged the importance of the request and committed to take action and prioritize the same in the next program cycle.

Prof. Ikegami thanked all the attendees for the time that they spent in the meeting as well as in other AFPPD activities.

On a side note, Hon. Hooda shared that India imposed a lockdown during the weekend causing heavy traffic. He added that India's COVID-19 situation is becoming alarming. Hon. Takemi said that the new COVID-19 variants are even worse and are infecting more individuals, especially the ageing population who are already more vulnerable as it is.

In closing, Hon. Takemi reminded everyone that the role of AFPPD in addressing the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in Asia as a whole is something that members should talk about in the coming general assembly. He emphasized the equal importance of discussions around investment in youth. He added that while many countries in Asia are seeing an increase in their youth population as a factor for development, some members of the sectors themselves cannot adapt in the new economic development trends and are finding it hard to land sustainable jobs, access education, and secure meaningful alternatives for their lives. His challenge to AFPPD is its capacity to expand the choices of the youth to uplift their lives given that Asia as a whole has diverse contexts in terms of gender, youth and ageing, and there is no cookie-cutter or uniform approach for these. AFPPD's ability to build consensus beyond national boundaries within Asia can encourage each government to collaborate in a much more efficient manner and it is AFPPD's job to serve as a lighthouse given this backdrop.

Finally, the Chair reiterated his invitation for additional proposals for inclusion in the agenda during the General Assembly, which can be communicated thru the secretariat at anytime. He thanked everyone once again and bade them to stay safe from COVID-19, and assured that the documentation of the meeting will be shared with everyone soon.

**\*\*\*NOTHING FOLLOWS\*\*\***