



Newsletter

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on
Population and Development

Third Quarter: July–September 2017

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Dr. Mika Marumoto



New executive members join Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Timor-Leste (2017–2020)

On September 26, the election for the new executive Members of the Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares de Timor-Leste (GMPTL) for the period, 2017–2020, was held. **Page 14**



AFPPD, partners organize multistakeholder forum, tackles innovative long-term care

On August 15, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) successfully co-organized the Multistakeholder Forum on Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth. **Page 4**



AFPPD, Kazakhstan parliamentarians tackle youth issues, buckle up for 2018 youth conference

On September 18–19, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) delegation led by **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi** met with **Hon. Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev** and other members of parliament of Kazakhstan. **Page 9**

Role of parliamentarians highlighted by AFPPD Executive Director in ageing forum in Iran



The Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing welcomed 30 experts from 15 countries as well as 70 participants from various organizations in Iran to address ageing issues in Asia-Pacific. (Photo: UNFPA)

TABRIZ, IRAN – On July 3–5, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) participated in the Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing in Tabriz, Iran. Organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and HelpAge International, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and

Social Welfare and the State Welfare Organization (SWO) of Iran, the forum aimed to facilitate knowledge sharing among Asia-Pacific countries and contribute to the policy formulation on ageing.

The AFPPD Executive Director, **Dr. Mika Marumoto**, delivered a keynote speech, stressing the role of



AFPPD Executive Director (right) moderated a session titled “Are Asian Societies Prepared?” at the Regional Forum on Policy Implications of Population Ageing in July. (Photo: UNFPA)

parliamentarians in addressing ageing issues, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also highlighted AFPPD's influence to the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders in mainstreaming healthy and active ageing in the global agenda, following the success of the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD). Dr. Marumoto also moderated a session titled "Are Asian Societies Prepared?" in which three experts from Thailand, Pakistan

and Iran participated. During this conference, Dr. Marumoto had a consultation with **Dr Leila Joudan**, UNFPA Country Representative in Iran, and **Mr. Eduardo Klien**, HelpAge International Asia-Pacific Regional Director, **Hon. Dr. Abdolreza Azizi**, MP, Iran and the Chairperson of the Social Commission of the Parliament, and other members. The discussion resulted in Iran's rejoining AFPPD as strengthened National Committee.

AFPPD represented at Expert Group Meeting on ICPD and SDGs

BANGKOK, THAILAND – On July 5–6, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) participated in the Expert Group Meeting to identify synergies between the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region. The meeting brought together experts from academia, governments and civil society to assess the population and development issues in Asia-Pacific and provide inputs to a road map for the five-year review meeting of the outcomes of the 6th Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) in 2018.

Among the participants were AFPPD Secretary-General, **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont** (MP, Thailand), and AFPPD Policy Research and Advocacy Advisor,

Ms. Seema Gaikwad. They put forward AFPPD's position related to ageing such as rights of older people to income security, health and social services, social protection, as well as issues concerning long-term care. Highlighting the importance of investing in youth, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont and Ms. Gaikwad provided recommendations on the quality of labor market, ensuring a smooth transition from education to employment. Experts also emphasized the need to address all forms of violence against women. Among other topics discussed in the meeting included data collection and the need for disaggregated data on income, gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics.



Member National Committee Highlight: India

India's TB issues discussed in IAPPD co-organized meeting

NAGPUR, INDIA – On July 28–29, the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and International Union Against Tuberculosis (TB) Lung Diseases jointly organized a side event to the National Summit on TB. Legislators met to sensitize and discuss the

situation of TB in the states of India, particularly with reference to the Maharashtra state. The meeting was organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India, under the leadership of the Minister for State for Health and Family Welfare of India, **Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste**.

IAPPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in India.

AUGUST

AFPPD, partners organize multistakeholder forum on ageing towards APEC, tackles innovative long-term care



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, AFPPD Secretary-General and MP Thailand, and Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and MP Japan, closed the forum with remarks on the future of regional and multisectoral collaboration to address rapid population ageing in Asia-Pacific. (Photo: AFPPD)



Hon. Mr. Murtaza Javeed Abassi, Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of Parliament of Bhutan, and Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and MP, Japan, participated in a virtual reality experience of dementia following the multistakeholder forum. (Photo: AFPPD)

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIET NAM – On August 15, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) successfully co-organized the Multistakeholder Forum on Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth. In collaboration with the Government of Japan, Government of Vietnam, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), HelpAge International, and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the forum was held on the sideline of the third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Officials' Meeting. In total, over 260 delegates attended including policymakers, government officials, civil society leaders, business leaders, and academic experts. The AFPPD delegation was comprised of over 70 parliamentarians from 22 economies in Asia-Pacific.

The forum aimed to raise awareness of the urgency of rapid ageing in Asia-Pacific countries, and to share good innovative practices. Participants recognized that population ageing is not merely a domestic issue but it transcends national borders, which requires a multisectoral

approach to address its complex challenges.

The AFPPD delegation held several roles in the forum. In the opening, **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi**, AFPPD Chairperson and MP Japan, delivered a keynote speech, followed by **Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah**, Chairperson of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD). IFPPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in Indonesia. **Mr. Suvinda Singappuli**, Director of the National Secretariat for Elders at the Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare, Sri Lanka, was a panelist in the third session on the “Regional Approach to Capacity Development and the Cross-Border Movement of Care Workers.” **Hon. Professor Takemi** and **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont**, AFPPD Secretary-General and MP Thailand, closed the forum discussing the way forward on regional and multisectoral collaboration.

As part of the forum, the delegates had a rare opportunity to experience a virtual reality of dementia at the JETRO Exhibition. They came to learn common daily challenges faced by an elderly living with dementia.

AFPPD parliamentarians conduct study tours to Viet Nam long-term care service facilities

HO CHI MINH CITY & BEN TRE, VIET NAM – On August 16, the delegation of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) conducted two study visits in Viet Nam to enrich their understanding of health care and long-term care for the elderly.

One group of 43 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 15 economies visited the Ben Tre Social Protection Centre in Ben Tre City. The objective of this visit was to learn good practices of community-based older persons associations in rural Viet Nam.

The participants had the opportunity to interact with some coordinators of the center,

visiting facilities and residents. Briefly introducing the situation of the older population in Ben Tre Province, the Director of the Social Protection Centre noted that persons aged 60 and above account for 11.5% of Ben Tre's total population. This makes it one of Vietnam's most aged provinces. Nearly 92% of Ben Tre elders reside in rural areas. Following the visit to Social Protection Centre facilities, **Mr. Quyen Tran** from HelpAge International delivered a presentation on the Inter-generational Self-Help Clubs development (ISHC) model. The delegates also visited the ISHC in the Son Dinh Commune of Ben Tre Province to interact with an elderly entrepreneur and a home-care volunteer.



An AFPPD delegation of 37 parliamentarians from nine Asia-Pacific economies posed with representatives of the Cho Ray Hospital following an interactive discussion on health care in Viet Nam. (Photo: AFPPD)



Hon. Dr. Pen Pannha (Cambodia, Permanent Deputy Chairperson of CAPPD) participated in the discussion during question and answer session at the Intergenerational Self-Help Club. (Photo: AFPPD)

Another study tour took place at the Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Thirty-seven (37) parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from nine economies attended. The objective of this visit was to share knowledge among parliamentarians by increasing their understanding of healthcare services at Cho Ray Hospital. The delegation was welcomed by several department chiefs of the hospital to receive a briefing on the history and future plans of the hospital. Participants and hospital representatives engaged in an interactive

discussion concerning universal health coverage (UHC) in Viet Nam, training courses provided in the hospital, and the role of community health centers. The delegation also visited several departments including the Rehabilitation Department.

These study tours complemented the delegation's participation in the Multistakeholder Forum on Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth Towards APEC and the AFPPD Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing, held on August

AFPPD concludes Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing with recommendations for APEC and AFPPD General Assembly

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIET NAM – On August 17, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) convened the second meeting of its Standing Committee on Active Ageing. More than 60 parliamentarians from 22 economies in Asia-Pacific attended and shared their experiences in responding to the socio-economic challenges of ageing.

Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and Member of the House of Councillors, Japan, emphasized that ageing was not solely a domestic issue. “Parliamentarians have the critical role in building up consensus to create a common regional approach to address ageing-related issues beyond national boundaries,” he said.

Ms. Thelma Kay, former Chief of the Social Development Division at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), shed light on a wide variation of long-term care classification available in the world, while exploring the feasibility of regional and international harmonization of long-term care certification. She stressed the need for bilateral, regional and global cooperative arrangements, asking participants to reflect on the role of global mandates such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in leveraging further

action on ageing.

Ms. Bridget Sleep, Rights Policy Adviser at HelpAge International, called on governments to take further action in the global movement toward a convention on the rights of older persons. “The road to any new international human rights treaty is a long one,” she said. “For a new convention to reflect the lived experience of older people in Asia-Pacific, Asia-Pacific governments must participate in the debate.”

The meeting concluded with recommendations for regional and global actions that were shared with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the AFPPD General Assembly in October. Among the highlighted recommendations include the need for quality evidence-based policymaking through conducting ageing surveys in order to ensure demand-driven services and policy outcomes for ageing populations in the region. “Special attention should be devoted to long-term care policies at an early stage. Political commitment to long-term care is critical. We need to influence APEC leaders to promote and mainstream healthy and active ageing,” added

Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, Member of Parliament of Viet Nam and Executive Committee Member of AFPPD.



Dr. Mika Marumoto, AFPPD Executive Director, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson, Hon. Mr. Bui Sy Loi, First Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs, and Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, Vice Chairperson and General-Secretary of VAPPD, opened the 2nd Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing, August 17, 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. (Photo: AFPPD)



Member National Committee Highlight: Nepal

Nepalese parliamentarians engage in gender equality workshop in Kathmandu



The National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Nepal (NFPPD) successfully organized a workshop on the Sustainable Development Goal 5 with the participation of 54 members of parliament from Nepal. (Photo: NFPPD)

KATHMANDU, NEPAL – On August 28, the National Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Nepal (NFPPD) organized a workshop for parliamentarians on “SDG-5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls” in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Among the participants were 54 members of parliament of different parties, representatives from the National Planning Commission (NPC), UNFPA, UN Women, SANKALPA, a women’s alliance for peace, justice and democracy. **Hon. Ranju Kumari Jha**, Chairperson of the Women, Children, Senior Citizen and Social Welfare, Legislative-Parliament, was the chief guest.

The workshop was divided into two sessions—inaugural session and presentation session—followed by a floor discussion. The first presentation highlighted the perspective of the Government of Nepal on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5

on Gender Equality by **Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada**, former Vice Chairperson of NPC. The second presentation, delivered by **Ms. Sudha Pant** of UNFPA and **Ms. Kirti Thapa** of UN Women, provided an overview of the SDGs in the context of eliminating gender based violence and harmful practices. The third presentation titled, “Progress of Women in Nepal,” was delivered by **Ms. Lily Thapa**, Chairperson of SANKALPA.

The workshop successfully concluded with the participation and engagement of Nepalese parliamentarians on the importance of SDG 5. As a Member State, Nepal is determined to comply with the standards set by the United Nations by developing and shaping its national policies. This workshop was held at an opportune moment to address the challenges in developing and implementing laws or policies in accordance with SDG 5, ensuring that no one would be left behind.

NFPPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in Nepal.

AFPPD, Kazakhstan parliamentarians tackle youth issues, buckle up for 2018

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN – On September 18–19, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) delegation led by **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi** visited **H.E. Prime Minister Bakhytzhan Sagintayev** and **Hon. Chairman Nigmatulin Nurlan** of the Mazhilis Parliament (lower house), arranged by **Hon. Mrs. Gulmira Isimbayeva**, Chairperson of the Parliamentarians' Group on Family and Population of Kazakhstan (Otbasy), and AFPPD Vice Chairperson. The meetings focused on the country's timely population-related issues, especially investing in youth.

In his discussion with Hon. Chairman Nurlan, Hon. Professor Takemi commended the country's youth policies and good practices, with youth unemployment among the lowest in Central Asia. He stressed, however, "There are issues of growing concern over young people, shared by our AFPPD member parliamentarians. Substance abuse and religious extremism are some examples. All these challenges may be overcome if they have proper education and job opportunities."

The AFPPD delegation conducted meetings with relevant ministers on the possibility for Kazakhstan and AFPPD to co-organize a youth conference in 2018.



Above: Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and MP, Japan, met with H.E. Prime Minister: Bakhytzhan Sagintayev, during a consultation visit in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Below: Hon. Professor Takemi also met with Hon. Chairman Nigmatulin Nurlan of the Mazhilis Parliament (lower house) during the same visit in Kazakhstan. (Photo: Government of Kazakhstan)

On 6–8 October, this proposal was officially approved by the AFPPD Executive Committee and the 12th General Assembly.

Kyrgyzstan commits to combat health issues amidst financial woes



The AFPPD delegation led by Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson met H.E. Prime Minister Sapar Isakov to discuss health issues. (Photo: Government of Kyrgyzstan)

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN – On September 20, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, **Hon. Mr. Sapar Isakov**, welcomed the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) delegation headed by **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi** and **Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev**, Chairman of the National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development (NCKPD) to discuss key health-related issues and challenges in the country, particularly funding for the health sector. Hon. Professor Takemi spoke of AFPPD's call for member countries' parliamentarians

to allocate sufficient national budget to the health sector. Prime Minister Isakov, in response, committed to strengthening the health sector through the government’s *40 Steps to Prosperity* strategy.

Hon. Professor Takemi stressed the importance of universal health coverage (UHC) to tackle all health-related issues and called for parliamentarians’ collective action towards this. “If we rely only on the Ministry of Health alone, it may move slowly and inefficiently. All other ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, have to be involved in the process. The role of parliamentarians is crucial in this regard,” he remarked.

In a separate consultation meeting with parliamentarians, Hon. Mr. Artykbayev admitted

the challenge of addressing health needs comprehensively given the prevailing inter-sectoral disconnection. Parliamentarians also spoke of the lack of funding as a hindrance to implementing health policies. To this, Hon. Professor Takemi replied that the 3.2% of Kyrgyzstan’s GDP allotted to the health sector was insufficient. “The country can collaborate, for instance, with the International Development Association to obtain external funding, but the key is national funding,” he urged the parliamentarians.

In a meeting with **Hon. Mr. Talantbek Batyraliev**, Minister of Health, the government’s commitment to provide quality health services to the public was emphasized by working with members of parliament on developing the “Health Strategy for 2030.”

AFPPD delegation discusses with Tajikistan parliamentarians on next steps

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN – On September 21, **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi** fronted for the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) delegation in a consultation visit in Tajikistan, which included meetings with **Hon. Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda**, **Hon. Chairperson Shukurjon Zuhurov** of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli (lower house) and other parliamentarians committed to population and development work. Hon. Prime Minister Rasulzoda

highlighted AFPPD’s activities as contributing factors to achieving the country’s goal to further decrease poverty rate by 2030. Hon. Chairperson Zuhurov stated that Tajikistan had been prioritizing issues related to population, including poverty reduction, gender equality, education, infectious diseases, and maternal and child mortality, among others, had been actively working towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Hon. Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda and other parliamentarians of the Republic of Tajikistan welcomed Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and MP, Japan. (Photo: Government of Tajikistan)



Member National Committee Highlight: India and Japan

Role of parliamentarians in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reinforced in New Delhi conference

NEW DELHI, INDIA – On September 13–15, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) jointly organized a conference titled, “Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the Interlinkage between Population Issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Part III.” Parliamentarians from 18 Asia-Pacific and African countries attended the event, discussing the role of parliamentarians in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, **Hon. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**, Union Minister of Minority and Parliamentary Affairs of India. The valedictory address was delivered by Chief Guest, **Hon. Prof. P.J. Kurien**, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Chairman of IAPPD and Vice Chairperson of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). The conference concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, which was handed over to the Vice President of India.

IAPPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in India. APDA is the Secretariat of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF), the member National Committee of AFPPD in Japan.



Parliamentarians from 18 Asia-Pacific and African countries met to discuss the role of parliamentarians in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on September 13–15, 2017, in New Delhi, India. (Photo: IAPPD)



Member National Committee Highlight: Philippines

Advocates in Philippines push for full implementation of Reproductive Health Law



Filipino advocates launched #ImplementRH to address the challenges concerning the implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law. (Photo: PLCPD)

QUEZON CITY AND ALBAY, PHILIPPINES – Filipino advocates have launched a series of activities to expand the discussion on the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law under the title, “#ImplementRH.” This action followed the Supreme Court’s statement on May 2017 which denied the government’s motion to lift the temporary restraining order on contraceptive implants. The series aims to address the challenges to the implementation of the RH Law, preparing for the upcoming congressional review and oversight of the law.

From June to September, four media events were held. In a press conference held in Quezon City on June 1, the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), along with the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines (DSWP) and EnGendeRights, informed the media and the public of the Supreme Court’s decision, and

registered their position as fervent advocates of reproductive health. PLCPD stressed that problems in implementation, funding, information, and access to services create a situation wherein there was an increasingly alarming number of mistimed, unwanted pregnancies. All three urged the Food and Drug Administration Philippines (FDA) to comply with the Supreme Court decision and vowed to remain vigilant against any attempt to hinder the full implementation of the RPRH Law.

In July, a media briefing was held in the province of Albay, where PLCPD joined local government units to support the RPRH Law through ordinances and resolutions. The media briefing was held in conjunction with a forum organized by the provincial government of Albay on the launching of a provincial executive order supporting the RPRH Law. The briefing was held with the attendance of over 800 community health workers.

PLCPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in the Philippines.



Member National Committee Highlight: Kazakhstan

AFPPD, Kazakhstan National Committee discuss active ageing, UHC

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN – On September 19, more than 20 members of the Parliamentarians' Group on Family and Population of Kazakhstan (Otbasy) participated in a dialogue with **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi**, Chairperson and **Dr. Mika Marumoto**, Executive Director, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Among the members of parliament who welcomed them were **Hon. Mrs. Gulmira Isimbayeva**, Otbasy Chairperson and AFPPD Vice Chairperson, **Hon. Mr. Shavhat Anesuly Utemisov**, **Hon. Ms. Aigul Kabdushevna Nurkina**, **Hon. Ms. Irina Petrovna Aronova**, **Hon. Ms. Galina Alexandrovna Baymakhanova**, and **Hon. Ms. Meruert Aytkazhieva Kazbekova**.

The members of the national committee updated AFPPD on the recently approved pension security

package which would increase the amount by 20%. “Retired persons can continue working in certain institutions or industries,” they added. Hon. Professor Takemi highlighted challenges faced by elderly people in accessing health-care facilities and services in rural areas, and suggested the importance of making community- and home-based services available. He cautioned the participants by sharing some key lessons learned from developed countries such as Japan and UK in designing and maintaining a financially sustainable UHC system. Dr. Marumoto also shared one of the recommendations by the AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing that each national committee take the initiative in implementing a “national ageing survey” to ensure demand-driven policy outcomes for older persons in each country context.

Otbasy is the member National Committee of AFPPD in Kazakhstan.



Member National Committee Highlight: Tajikistan

Tajikistan National Committee holds SDG workshop on CRVS



AFPPD delegation, as well as representatives from various government agencies of Tajikistan, non-government organizations and international organizations participated in the SDG workshop on CRVS organized by NCTPD. (Photo: AFPPD)

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN – On September 22, the National Committee on Population and Development under the Parliament of Tajikistan (NCTPD) headed by **Hon. Ms. Khayriniso Yusufi**, Vice Chairperson of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli (lower house), organized a workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in addressing the needs of the vulnerable, reaching the furthest behind, thereby achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Supported by a small grant from the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), and attended by Chairperson **Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi** and Executive Director **Dr Mika Marumoto**, the workshop

mobilized representatives from various government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and international organizations in order to assess the country’s progress and challenges in further improving its CRVS. This inaugural multistakeholder meeting on CRVS enhanced the exchange of ideas and knowledge among parliamentarians, government officials and international experts to have a better understanding of the policy development with respect to the CRVS. Resource speakers included **Hon. Ms. Shahnoza Nodiri**, Deputy Minister of Justice and **Hon. Ms. Hasanzoda Gulnora Kenja**, Director of Statistics Agency of Tajikistan.

NCTPD is the member National Committee of AFPPD in Tajikistan.



Member National Committee Highlight: Timor-Leste

New executive members join Women’s Parliamentary Caucus of Timor-Leste (2017-2020)

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE – On September 26, the Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares de Timor-Leste (GMPTL or Women’s Parliamentary Caucus) elected new executive members for the term 2017–2020. Following are new members: **Hon. Ms. Brigida Antónia Correia**, President, representing the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction Party; **Hon. Ms. Nurima Ribeiro Alkatiri**, Vice-President, representing the Front-for-an-Independent-Timor-Leste or FRETILIN Party; and **Hon. Ms. Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmiento**, Secretary, representing the Popular Liberation Party.



Members of the Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares de Timor-Leste and key stakeholders posed following election for new Executive Members. (Photo: GMPTL)

In the handover speech, **Hon. Ms. Albina Freitas Marçal**, former Vice-President of GMPTL, highlighted the results achieved in 2012–2017. This included the adoption of gender-sensitive laws on human trafficking, the Community Law which increased the number of women leaders elected at the rural and local level from 2% to 5%, the Land and Property Law, and the ratification of the ILO Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration.

She also highlighted GMPTL's advocacy efforts in realizing gender-sensitive state budgets. This

resulted in budget allocations to shelters for victims of gender-based violence within referral hospitals, facilities for existing shelters, capacity building activities on data gathering for health officers, and HIV/AIDS prevention campaign. The newly elected executive members stated in their remarks that they would continue to study other countries’ laws in order to draft and improve Timor-Leste’s own laws related to gender equality, marriage, and early pregnancy protection and prevention.

GMPTL is the member National Committee of AFPPD in Timor-Leste.

PUBLICATION CORNER



Briefing Cards for Parliamentarians

The briefing cards highlight evidence-based good policy practices and legislation on issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing. The Vietnamese version was launched in August 2017.

Final copies: distributed to 30 National Committees and 3 Associate Members.

Language: [English](#), [Lao](#), [Russian](#) and [Vietnamese](#)



AFPPD Central Asian Sub-Regional Conference June 28–29, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

PARTICIPANT STATISTICS
Total: 97

Members of Parliament: 34
Male: 20
Female: 14

Parliamentary Staff and Government: 37

Resource Persons: 16
Observers: 3
AFPPD Staff: 7

Language: [English](#) and [Russian](#)



Investing in Healthy and Active Aging for Sustainable Growth

August 15, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

PARTICIPANT STATISTICS
Total: 117

Members of Parliament: 63
Male: 40
Female: 23

Parliamentary Staff and Government: 34
Resource Persons: 12
AFPPD Staff: 8

Language: [English](#)

AFPPD's UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop on Effective Use of Data for Policy Making on Ageing
5-6 December 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand



AFPPD would like to thank our donors, National Committees and Members of Parliament for their valuable support throughout 2017. AFPPD would also like to thank IAPPD, India; APDA, Japan; NFPPD, Nepal; PLCPD, Philippines; and GMPTL, Timor-Leste for their contributions to this Third Quarter Newsletter.

Published by:

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Payathai Plaza, Payathai Road, Bangkok, Thailand
www.afppd.org