



Newsletter

First Quarter 2016
The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



AFPPD is Gearing up for...

Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development – Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit, April 26-27, Tokyo, Japan

Message from Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, Chair of AFPPD

On behalf of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), and the 2016 G7 Summit host nation Japan, I welcome you all to this Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD2016), which will make an important contribution to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. The GCPPD has set an ambitious goal and strategic agenda, building upon the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations last September.

First and foremost, the GCPPD aims to solicit high-level commitments and encourage political action by global parliamentarians, leveraging the G7 Summit to help ensure that critical issues are tackled worldwide without delay. To achieve this goal, we are meeting as a global platform gathered by parliamentarians to address population and development issues. Why “global?” Increasingly, critical emerging issues cannot be tackled without global collective action. Even as a Japanese politician, my life-long dream is to realize the health and well-being of not only my fellow Japanese citizens but also citizens of the broader Asia-Pacific and around the world. Members of Parliament, standing alone, cannot realize this vision. We need a platform for like-minded parliamentarians and experts from all over the world to address the world’s most critical population and development issues, as well as emerging trans-boundary issues such as deadly infectious diseases including Ebola and Zika, and merciless natural disasters caused by climate change.

Why “parliamentarians”? The role of parliamentarians is explicitly laid out in Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Declaration, Means of Implementation: “We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments.” Parliamentarians are accountable

for ensuring effective governance and leadership through legislation, shaping and supporting government policy-making and implementation for each sustainable development goal. The GCPPD takes place at a crucial moment, one month after the adoption by the UN Statistical Commission of a global indicator framework and associated global and universal indicators. The GCPPD will give global parliamentarians a platform to deepen their understanding of parliamentarians’ collective role at the global level, reaffirming the role of parliamentarians both at the national and global levels in the SDGs era.

Finally, why “population and development?” I believe we are gathering because we understand that these issues are so central to human security and the quality of life. Thus, in the spirit of the SDGs’ guiding principle of “no one left behind,” the GCPPD is aligned with the strategic focus of the AFPPD’s three Standing Committees, namely, gender equality and women’s empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing, covering all populations throughout their lifetimes. Building on key outcomes from the 2008 G8 Summit, the GCPPD will explore the strengthening of health systems, including universal health coverage, which can be effective means of implementing the SDGs in specific national contexts.

I look forward to seeing you all, and to your active participation in this critically important expression of the voice of global parliamentarians in global political action. Together, we can share knowledge and take collective action to ensure effective policymaking and implementation at the national, regional and global levels. Together, we must set a high standard for all global parliamentarians, by exhibiting political will and making concrete commitments in the first year of the SDG era. See you in Tokyo!

Conference information is available at:
<http://www.afppd.org/view-event.php?event=1>

The “Child Marriage” Meeting Successfully Concluded with the [Kathmandu Declaration](#)

KATHMANDU, NEPAL - On 22-23 March 2016, AFPPD organized the *South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage, “Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage,”* in collaboration with the Nepalese Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (NFPPD). The meeting facilitated parliamentarians’ learning on how to build preventive mechanisms into legislation, thus promoting gender responsive policies and legislation and effective implementation of policies and enforcement of laws.

The meeting was inaugurated by **Rt. Honorable Nanda Bahadur Pun Pasang, the Vice President of Nepal**. An inaugural session was followed by three sessions with panelists ranging from social scientists to subject matter experts as well as Parliamentarians. The meeting was also attended by **H. E. Ambassador Glenn White** from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and **Ms. Anjali Sen**, Regional Director of South Asia Regional Office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.



Lighting Ceremony by Vice President of Nepal Rt. Hon. Nanda Bahadur Pun Pasang, with Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP Nepal



Hon. Dr. Sharman Stone (Australia) discussing with H.E. Ambassador Glenn White (Australia), and Hon. Bhisma Nath Adhikari, MP Nepal



Hon. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP Pakistan, shares a case study on child marriage

At the conclusion of the meeting, 25 Members of Parliament from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, adopted the Kathmandu Declaration to accelerate collective efforts both nationally and sub-regionally for ending early, child, and forced marriage. Recognizing early, child, and forced marriage as a grave violation of fundamental human rights, an unlawful harmful practice, and a severe form of violence against children and child labor, the members of parliament endorsed the Kathmandu Declaration. To achieve these commitments, the parliamentarians committed to fostering collaboration, partnerships and interdependence among branches of government, and create and support partnerships

between government, political parties, regional and national human rights institutions, local community leaders, faith communities, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and inter-governmental and donor organizations, with the aim of creating holistic, effective, and sustainable solutions to the root causes of early, child, and forced marriage.

Kathmandu Declaration:

<http://www.afppd.org/events/event-docs/11-kathmandu-declaration.pdf>

The Conference Report on the South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage:

<http://www.afppd.org/Resources/23-conference-report-sa-parliamentarians-meeting-on-child-marriage.pdf>



AFPPD Executive Director Mika Marumoto expresses her appreciation to Vice President of Nepal Rt. Hon. Nanda Bahadur Pun Pasang



In total, 63 Asia-Pacific MPs and 32 experts and stakeholders gather at the Child Marriage Meeting in Kathmandu



First Joint Standing Committees' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and on Investing in Youth

AFPPD Convenes 1st Joint Standing Committees' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Investing in Youth

KATHMANDU, NEPAL – Back-to-back with the Child Marriage meeting in Nepal on 23 March 2016, AFPPD convened the first Joint Standing Committees' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and on Investing in Youth. The introductory meeting familiarized AFPPD's new Standing Committee members with the background and objectives of the Standing Committees, followed by a brainstorming session to deliberate a ***Proposed AFPPD Strategic Priorities Framework*** and tentative activity plans. The Strategic Priorities Framework was revised and improved by the participating Standing Committee members who shared the issues faced by their respective countries and sub-regions. The AFPPD's Strategic Priorities Framework will be officially approved at the 80th Executive Committee meeting.



Hon. Mr. Sharif Rahimzoda (MP Tajikistan) representing the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee in Investing on Youth



Hon. Mr. Toka Hagai (MP Cook Islands), Ms. Zulfiya Barotova (Special adviser to the Vice-Speaker of Tajikistan), Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam (MP Bangladesh) and Hon. Mr. Farhad Hossain (MP Bangladesh)



Hon. Lord Tu'i'afitu (Deputy Speaker of Tonga), Dr. Mika Marumoto (AFPPD Executive Director), Hon. Mr. Dastan Bekeshev (MP Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Ahmadhon Yusupkhanov (Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Staff), Hon. Mr. Sasindran Muthuvel (MP Papua New Guinea), Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald (UNFPA APRO)

Thailand's National Legislative Assembly Approves Prevention and Remedial Measures for Adolescent Pregnancy Bill



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont
Member of Parliament, Thailand
AFPPD Secretary-General

BANGKOK, THAILAND - On February 4, 2016, the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) approved a bill to address the teen pregnancy problem prevalent in Thailand. *The Prevention and Remedial Measures for Adolescent Pregnancy Bill* ("Adolescent Pregnancy" Bill), consisting of 23 sections, stipulates that young people aged 10 to 19 must be given access

to reproductive health information and services. Schools must offer comprehensive sexuality education, provide

consultations on pregnancy prevention, and allow teenage mothers to continue their studies at school until graduation. The Adolescent Pregnancy Bill also imposes a maximum jail term of one month and/or a fine of 10,000 Baht for anyone refusing to assist endangered teenagers. The NLA approved the bill with 179 votes in favor and six abstentions. The new law came into effect 120 days after its announcement in the Royal Gazette.

AFPPD's interview with **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont** who played a critical role in the drafting and passage of the Bill is available at:

<http://www.afppd.org/News/6-nla-prevention-and-remedial-measures-for-adolescent-pregnancy--bill-final-11-march.pdf>

8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, Nay Pyi Taw



Welcome banner at the 8th APCRSHR Conference venue

NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR - On 24-26 February, AFPPD Executive Director Dr. Mika Marumoto participated in the *8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (8th APCRSHR)* in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. On 25th February she contributed as a resource person to the parliamentary session organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Regional Office (IPPF SARO). The Session focused on the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of parliamentarians. A dozen South Asian parliamentarians participated in the session, including AFPPD member National Committees, the India Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and the Nepalese Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (NFPPD). Country reports were presented by participating MPs from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Pakistan.



(Center) Hon. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi (MP Pakistan) shared the status of her country's SDGs national planning process



Conference participants: representatives from IPPF, AFPPD, UNFPA and members of parliaments from India, Nepal, Maldives, and Pakistan

AFPPD Standing Committees' Co-Chairs Attending ICFP 2016, Bali

BALI, INDONESIA – On 25-28 January 2016, the 4th International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) was co-hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia (BKKBN) in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. The ICFP brought together over 3,000 participants. The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) collaborated with the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) to support participation of ten parliamentarians from Belgium, Denmark, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Senegal, Serbia, Tonga, and the UK.

The AFPPD delegation from four Asia-Pacific countries were: (1) **Hon. Mme. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah** (Indonesia), Chairperson of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD) that was re-established in December 2015 after one year of inaction due to the loss of IFPPD core members to the election; (2) **Hon. Lord Fusitu'a** (Tonga), Co-chair of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; (3) **Hon. Jan Logie** (New Zealand) representing Hon. Barbara Kuriger, Co-chair of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; and (4) **Hon. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay** (Nepal), Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth.

Every other year since 2009, ICFP has brought together the family planning community to share best practices, celebrate successes, and chart a course forward. In interacting with family planning researchers, program implementers, advocates, youth leaders and others, the AFPPD delegation became better equipped to plan the AFPPD activities for the new Strategic Cycle 2016-2019, as well as their respective National Committees' annual plan of activities.



Hon. Mme. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah
Member of Parliament, Indonesia
Chair of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD)



Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay
Member of Parliament, Nepal
Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth



Hon. Ms. Jan Logie
Member of Parliament, New Zealand
Representing Hon. Barbara Kuriger,
Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment



Hon. Lord Fusitu'a
Member of Parliament, Tonga
Co-chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Aside from attending conference sessions, the AFPPD Standing Committee Co-chairs held an internal planning session to discuss AFPPD's strategic issues that should be tabled at the 1st Standing Committee Meeting, as well as at the 80th Executive Committee Meeting. Hon. Dina Upadhyay (Nepal) graciously accepted to co-organize the AFPPD's 1st Joint Standing Committees' Meeting (on women and youth) and the South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage in Kathmandu. The delegation also participated in meetings with AFPPD's partners and a field visit to a youth clinic run by PKBI (the Indonesian Family Planning Agency) in Denpasar.

UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Planning Session, Bangkok

BANGKOK, THAILAND - AFPPD Executive Director Mika Marumoto was invited to attend the *UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Planning Meeting* on 19-21 January as a resource person for Session 3 "Policy Change Priorities from the Region." She presented the newly adopted *AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019*, discussing AFPPD target countries and National Committees, as well as AFPPD's strategic priorities within the Sustainable

Development Goals framework. Twenty UNFPA Country Offices and one Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific were briefed about opportunities to collaborate with the AFPPD and its member National Committees. The AFPPD Executive Director's participation has facilitated further cooperation between AFPPD and UNFPA Country Offices in the region, including Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

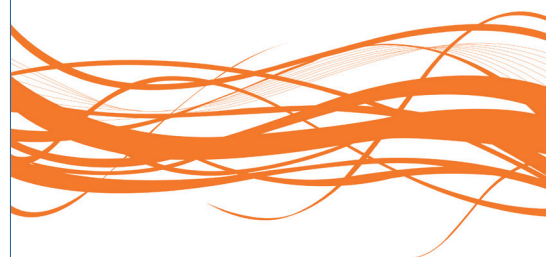
A New Publication on “Child Marriage”

The new AFPPD report *Parliamentary Good Practices for Effective Implementation of Laws and Policies for Prevention of Child Marriage* was released on 22 March 2016 at the South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage in Kathmandu, Nepal. The new report presents ten case studies of good practices in a wide variety of cultural contexts from seven countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Malawi, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The new report aims to address the root causes of child marriage in target communities, identify barriers and obstacles to the effective implementation of relevant laws and policies, and assess a variety of programmatic and policy approaches to overcoming the problem of child marriage, with a particular focus on measureable, proven results. The new report can provide parliamentarians with major lessons learned through these good practices and a toolkit for child marriage prevention programming.

AFPPD Report on “Good Practices for Prevention of Child Marriage”:

<http://www.afppd.org/Resources/19-parliamentary-good-practices-prevention-of-child-marriage.pdf>

Parliamentary Good Practices for Effective Implementation of Laws and Policies for Prevention of Child Marriage



Australian Aid IPPF South Asia Region

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PARLIAMENTARIAN RESOURCE KIT ON SRHR AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT LINKS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN THE POST 2015 2nd Edition



This publication was made possible with the financial support from the Government of Japan and the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund.

2nd Edition of Parliamentary Resource Kit on SRHR and Population Development Links

The report is intended for parliamentarians and other stakeholders to be able to refer to the updated and latest information on the SDGs.

2nd Edition of Parliamentary Resource Kit:

<http://afppd.org/Resources/27-2nd-edition-parliamentarian-resource-kit.pdf>



AFPPD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



AFPPD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report provides a summary of AFPPD's achievements in 2015. The report also features stories from the National Committees on how they champion population and development issues in their countries.

AFPPD 2015 Annual Report:

<http://afppd.org/Resources/28-afppd-2015-annual-report.pdf>



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Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi
Member of Parliament, Japan



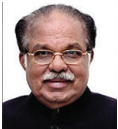
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