



PRESS RELEASE

AFPPD Concluded Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing with Recommendations for APEC and AFPPD General Assembly



AFPPD Chairperson, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan, opened the second meeting of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing on August 17, 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. (Photo: AFPPD)

HO CHI MINH CITY, 22 August 2017 – The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) convened the second meeting of its **Standing Committee on Active Ageing** on August 17 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. 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 of Japan, emphasized that ageing is 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 Sleaf, 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 second AFPPD Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing saw parliamentarians from 22 economies engaged in discussions on long-term care with experts on August 17, 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. (Photo: AFPPD)

The meeting concluded with recommendations for regional and global actions that will be 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.

The AFPPD Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing followed the AFPPD delegates’ participation in the **Multistakeholder Forum on Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth**, held on the sideline of the third APEC Senior Officials’ Meeting.

AFPPD also launched the Vietnamese version of its flagship knowledge product, [*Briefing Cards for Parliamentarians*](#), highlighting evidence-based policies and good practices on active ageing, investing in youth, and gender equality and women’s empowerment.

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Background: As of August 2017, AFPPD is a network of 30 parliamentary committees across the Asia-Pacific region. AFPPD advocates for parliamentary action and change, in support of population and development issues: gender equality and women’s empowerment including sexual and reproductive health and rights; investing in youth; active ageing; and population dynamics.

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