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Advancing Gender Equality: AFPPD National-level Workshop on Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Central Asia

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 - The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) organized a national-level event, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The workshop focused on key policy initiatives to address gender-based violence (GBV) in Central Asia. In the context of the ICPD's commitment to the empowerment of adolescents and young people, the workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of Tajikistan members of NC and enhance their role in addressing youth development and gender issues.

The conference emphasized the key role of young people in sustainable development, with a focus on providing them with access to quality education and skills. Ensuring that adolescents and young people receive

comprehensive information on family life education, especially sexual and reproductive health services, was identified as critical. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to such services through closures and diversion of resources was recognized, highlighting the need for innovative approaches.

The national-level event in Tajikistan served as a platform for robust discussions and knowledge sharing among parliamentarians, international organizations and civil society representatives. The commitment to addressing gender-based violence and promoting youth development in Central Asia remains a top priority, as evidenced by the collaborative efforts outlined in the conference's conclusions and recommendations. It is also aimed to strengthen the capacity development of National Committee, which is one of the priorities of AFPPD strategic plan for 2023-2025.

This activity is part of AFPPD-UNFPA EECARO project for the



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Central Asian region and supported by Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

In his opening remarks, AFPPD Chair Hon. Takemi Keizo addressed delegates underscoring AFPPD's pivotal role in combating gender based violence. Recognizing the urgency, especially during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Chair Takemi urged parliamentary action to enact protective legislation and establish programmes to protect women and girls. Emphasising inclusive national strategies and gender-based preparedness, he urged parliamentarians to play a key role in formulating comprehensive plans for women's health and gender equality during the ICPD30 review.

#01 GROUP PHOTO OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE

#02 PICTURE FROM OPENING REMARK, HON. PROF. TAKEMI KEIZO (ONLINE)

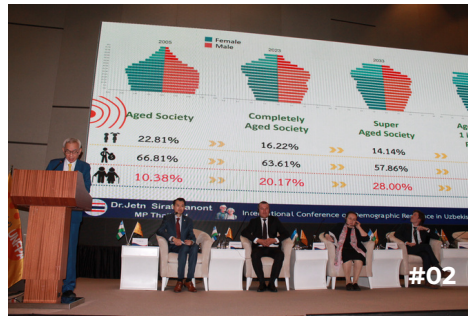


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Unlocking the demographic dividend: Lessons from the International Conference on Demographic Resilience in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN, 28-29 November 2023 - The International Conference on Demographic Resilience, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, provided an important platform for global experts to delve into the intricacies of demography and its profound impact on the labor market. The event highlighted Uzbekistan's efforts to harness the demographic dividend for sustainable growth.

A key focus of the sessions were to provide a platform for dialogue on the challenges and obstacles to effectively harnessing the demographic dividend. Participants engaged in discussions to share best practices and success stories from countries that have effectively harnessed the demographic dividend. These lessons are crucial for designing policies and strategies that can enhance human capital develop-



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ment, improve labor market outcomes and promote sustainable economic growth.

The host side invited AFPPD members to attend and share the case studies of their respectful countries. Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand and AFPPD Secretary General shared about policies for achieving healthy aging in his country. Other delegates from Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have delivered presentations and were enjoyed in broad discussion on demographic resilience, education, labor and national investment in youth. "As parliamentarians, we can help expand the fullness and richness of human lives with the enactment of rights-based, culturally-appropriate, health-oriented, and development-driven laws." said Hon. Edcel Lagman, Acting Chairperson of AFPPD in the opening remark.

- #01 Participants of conference
- #02 Picture taken during the session
- #03 Hon. Edcel Lagman (online) during the session
- #04 Photograph of the meeting
- #05 Hon. Jetn Sirathranont handing Ukiyo-e painting to Hon. Odiljon Iminov

Meeting at Uzbekistan Senate

Hon. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand and AFPPD Secretary General, and Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Interim Executive Director of AFPPD visited Uzbekistan Senate on 29 November. The AFPPD delegates were warmly welcomed by Hon. Odiljon Iminov, Chair of Senate Committee who expressed his gratitude to leadership of AFPPD for delegating members to attend the conference and extended partnership. He shared that committee of senate is interested in AFPPD's agenda, especially on child and maternal health, gender issue and youth. Hon. Jetn Sirathranont invited the Senate Committee to become AFPPD members and to have opportunity to engage in addressing these issues with their colleagues in Asia-Pacific.



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PICK UP: Shining Moment from AFPPD Members Around the World

African and Asian Parliamentarians Unite for ICPD30 and AADP10 in Kigali organized by APDA

KIGALI, RWANDA - 26 OCTOBER 2023 - The African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), in partnership with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) secretariat for JPPF, hosted a meeting of African and Asian parliamentarians in the lead up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)30 and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD)10. Held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 24 to 26 October, the event aimed to strengthen commitments to the ICPD agenda and advance the integration of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) into national laws and policies. This transformative meeting, hosted by the Parliament of Rwanda, was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). Parliamentarians from both Africa and Asia came together to review and renew aspirations for the ICPD agenda. The meeting emphasized the need to promote the incorporation of the ICPD Programme of Action into national laws and policies, and to foster a shared commitment to people-

centered development, peace, equal rights and choices for populations. laws and policies, and to foster a shared commitment to people entered development, peace, equal rights and choices for populations.

AUSTRALIA - 15 NOVEMBER 2023 - The Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD) and member of AFPPD, hosted a key event at Parliament House in partnership with Plan International and ActionAid, underlining its commitment to global issues. This proactive engagement within the AFPPD exemplifies the commitment of Australian parliamentarians to advancing sustainable development and gender equality on a global scale.



#01 Picture of participants during the session of conference in Kigali
 #02 Participants of conference held in Australia. Photo provided by APGPD
 #03 During the conference. Photo provided by member parliament of Bangladesh

BANGLADESH - 15 JUNE 2023 - The Secretariat of the Parliament of Bangladesh, in collaboration with UNFPA, organized a high-level policy dialogue on accelerating the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action to harness the gender dividend. UNFPA representative presented a framework and policy options for reducing gender disparities in health, education and income. The Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, and co-chair of AFPPD standby committee of gender equality and women empowerment, H.E. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, emphasized the importance of a budgeted action plan for women, and advocated for work flexibility, maternity leave and sanitation in schools.



At the dialogue, it was highlighted the potential for economic growth by reducing gender gaps in line with local and global agendas. The dialogue highlighted the inequalities faced by poor girls and women, focusing on key ICPD and SDG indicators. Commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls was highlighted, with continued collaboration to



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address challenges and create more inclusive societies. The policy dialogue was chaired by Hon. Meher Afroze Chumki, MP, and involved various stakeholders, signalling a commitment to unlocking opportunities for young girls and women.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA - SEPTEMBER 2023 - The AFPPD, in collaboration with the BKKBN, provincial governments (Central Java, West Java and Banten) and with the support of UNFPA Indonesia, organized three discussion series highlighting the need for local laws to combat child marriage. Suggested measures include advocacy, coordination, strengthening the capacity of religious judges, enhancing the role of Islamic officials, and implementing legal sanctions. A working group of local officials and parliamentarians will oversee these measures. Despite a decline in the prevalence of child marriage in Indonesia from 11.21% in 2018 to 8.06% in 2022, geographical disparities remain, with rates reaching 19.43% in West Sulawesi and 2.07% in Jakarta. On average, one in 12 Indonesian women still marries before the age of 18, with Java provinces contributing significantly to child marriage.



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KATHMANDU, NEPAL - 1 and 2 SEPTEMBER 2023 - AFPPD Nepal, in collaboration with UNFPA Nepal and the National Concern and Coordination Committee of the National Assembly, organized a workshop on ICPD30 in Kathmandu on 1 and 2 September. The sessions covered the role of parliamentarians in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, addressing gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of ICPD30, and exploring population trends with a focus on Nepal's policy priorities using the 2021 Census and 2022 DHS data. The workshop was attended by 44 parliamentarians and 20 parliamentary staff, reinforcing a collective commitment to advancing population and development goals in Nepal.

#01 Group Photo from the conference in Nepal

#02 Group Photo from the conference in Indonesia

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