

**Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)**

**REPORT OF 9<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AFPPD**  
**13-14 December 2008     Hanoi, Vietnam**

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY: LINKING  
POPULATION AS A FACTOR**

**Hosted by**

National Assembly of Vietnam

**Organised by**

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

**In cooperation with**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
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## **FOREWORD**

As the Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), I am proud to see AFPPD forging new relationships and enhancing existing partnerships as it enters its 28<sup>th</sup> year of work. The strong relationship between APFFP and UNFPA, as well as active participation of national parliamentary committees, remains the cornerstone of our important work with parliamentarians in population and development areas.

The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AFPPD discusses a topic that affects humanity in so many different ways. The Specter of global warming and its consequences on human welfare and development, including on food security and health, can no longer be ignored or denied. Humanity has no time to lose and the time to act is now. In 1997, delegates from more than 160 countries gathered in Kyoto, Japan and adopted the Kyoto Protocol. I am confident that the conference will build on the progress made in the decade since, enhance our understanding of the challenges that remain, and generate and renewed spirit of commitment to take concrete actions to address climate change and its consequences, especially the impact of population dynamics on climate change.

The distinguished presence of a large number of parliamentarians creates a tremendous pool of knowledge and insight into the topics. AFPPD trusts this General Assembly will further the progress and development of parliamentary movement on many fronts and will be a mutually enriching opportunity for all of us to learn from each other's valuable experience.

**Hon. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP**  
**Former Prime Minister of Japan**  
**Chair of AFPPD, JPFP and APDA**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) is a coordinating body of National Committees of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. It works to generate support and perpetuate cooperation among Asian Parliamentarians in the area of population and development and related fields. The Asian Forum is committed to informing, educating and motivating parliamentarians on the linkages between population dynamics and issues such as reproductive health, family planning, food security, water resources, sustainable development, environment, ageing, urbanization, migration, HIV/AIDS and gender equality.

In October 1981, parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific gathered in Beijing under the sponsorship of UNFPA and the National People's Congress of China and passed a resolution that a "Forum of Parliamentarians dedicated to population and development issues be formed to systematically organize the education, motivation and involvement of parliamentarians from the UN defined Asia-Pacific region". Since its founding 27 years ago, AFPPD has emerged as a major organization with 24 national parliamentary committees on population and development, out of which 15 have offices with full time staff support.

Held every three years, the General Assembly reviews and evaluates the work of AFPPD, provides future directions and elects new office-bearers for the next three-year term. The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly marks the successful conclusion of AFPPD's 27<sup>th</sup> year of work. AFPPD appreciates the National Assembly of Vietnam for hosting this conference and to UNFPA and the Government of Japan for their generous support. In the coming years and beyond, AFPPD aims to enhance its profile and programme of work, deepen its partnerships with national parliamentary committees and UNFPA country offices and develop new relationships in Asia-Pacific and Central Asia.

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## **OPENING CEREMONY**

### **Welcome remarks by Hon. Dr. Nguyen Van Tien, MP, Vice Chairperson of Vietnam Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs**

#### **Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to welcome all the International delegation to Hanoi to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. We warmly welcome Mme Tong Thi Phong, Vice President of the National Assembly, Honorable Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Japanese Prime Minister and Chairperson of AFPPD and all Parliamentarians and Resource persons from 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Vietnam Association of Parliamentarians on Population and (VAPPD) welcome at this time the distinguished guests from our sister and brother parliaments from Asia as well as the world. VAPPD includes more than 40 members of the parliament who are working in different fields but strongly support for better social, economic policies in Vietnam especially on Population and Development and Public Health. We are working very closely with Laos Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Cambodia Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and also with Chinese Parliamentarians and Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. In this General Assembly VAPPD do hope that you have a chance to see more of Vietnam and understand more about Vietnam and we will be strengthening our relationship between the countries and between the members of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

Wish you All Good Health and Prosperity and Happy New Year and Happy Christmas!

**Address by Hon. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chair of AFPPD, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)**

*“The most urgent population challenge today is to protect the world’s most vulnerable people who are also the first to be the victims of the consequences of climate change. Given the accelerating impact of climate change and environmental issues it is urgent and incumbent on us to simultaneously achieve development and population stability”.*

Honorable delegates, Representatives of International Organizations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you most cordially for coming together for the 9th AFPPD Assembly. It is of great significance to have this AFPPD Assembly here in the beautiful city of Hanoi. Vietnam is a model for being successful within the realm of population and development. It is widely known as having a remarkable realization and ideal outcome on these crucial issues. Its total fertility rate (TFR) has dropped significantly from 4.0 in 1990 to 2.1 in 2006, while at the same time rapidly decreasing the poverty rate.

It was in February 1992 that Vietnamese parliamentarians came to Japan by invitation of APDA, the Tokyo Office for AFPPD. Following their visit, they established the Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (VAPPD) and successfully enacted legislations related to population and development with their social committee playing a central role. Since 1993, it has been playing a central role in our activities as an executive member of AFPPD. If AFPPD has been able to contribute in a small way to the Vietnamese success, we are very proud.

The theme this time is ***Population and Climate Change***. AFPPD, with APDA, have continued to deliberate these two critical issues which were presented at TICAD IV and the G8 Summit that took place in Japan. Our efforts have been reflected with important global implications at both TICAD IV and the G8 Summit, which I chaired. I would like to once again thank you for your cooperation at TICAD and the G8 Summit. In the TICAD and G8 processes the principle of ***“participation by all”*** was confirmed in addressing global issues such as climate change. This principle makes it clear that the resolution of climate change requires cooperation by industrialized as well as developing countries.

Needless to say, industrialized countries have the largest responsibilities seeing as they are the largest contributors to and cause of climate change; green house gas emissions. Having said this, if the emerging economies continue to develop their economies at the present speed without putting in place measures to curb emissions, it is projected that by 2050 they will emit twice as much carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Our earth is unlikely to have the capacity to absorb twice as much CO<sub>2</sub> the level of which is, even today, in excess. For this reason, industrialized

countries must dramatically reduce the emissions by improving energy efficiency while the developing countries must continue their efforts to see to it that development efforts will not increase the environmental load.

Also, as we know the priority of international aid is to reduce absolute poverty. Millennium Development Goals emphasize the need to reduce by 2015 half the number of people who live with less than one dollar a day. Liberation from absolute poverty is a sine qua non for decent living. It is also a fact that economic growth is required for reducing poverty and undue environmental burden. This is to say that we must together overcome the two mega challenges of poverty reduction and environmental load control.

Most fundamental to our success in meeting these challenges is population stability. Since the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo 1994, the population issue has become a human rights issue as witnessed by focusing on the need to improve reproductive health services and empowering women - in other words to better the lives of poor women.

Extreme poverty violates human rights. Without access to reproductive health services, poor women in developing countries will not be able to protect their own lives - let alone their children. The most urgent population challenge today is to protect the world's most vulnerable people who are also the first to be the victims of the consequences of climate change. Given the accelerating impact of climate change and environmental issues it is urgent and incumbent on us to simultaneously achieve development and population stability. From various researches conducted, the roadmap to population stability has become as clear as it can be. There is also certain clarity about what efforts must be made to resolve environmental issues.

At no point in human history has there been a time when we have clear ideas as to what must be done to address these global issues. What remains for us is whether we will act on them. All religions liken wisdom to light and we have in our hands the light that illuminates the way forward. At present AFPPD is strengthening our partnership with African and Arab regions. We must actively and boldly continue to address remaining issues in Asia while at the same time share our experiences with our colleagues in Africa so that together we can look to a hopeful future for humankind.

Lastly, I wish to express my most sincere gratitude to the parliament of Vietnam, VAPPD and the Government of Vietnam as well as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and all concerned for your admirable efforts in organizing this assembly. We look forward to many activities as we mark ICPD+15 next year. Parliamentarians will be organizing an IPCI in October in Cairo, Egypt. I am convinced that our deliberations here at this AFPPD Assembly will show concrete steps towards the resolution of population issues and sustainable development.

Thank you!

**Address by Mr. Garimella Giridhar, Special Adviser, UNFPA-APRO and  
Representative in Thailand**

*“The challenge lies in the growing aspirations of large numbers of people in the developing world to live an unsustainable life style like in the west. Affluence, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, not just the numbers of people, has the greatest impact on the environment”*

On behalf of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, I wish to extend our warm greetings to the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in Hanoi. I would also like to extend sincere appreciation of the Under-Secretary General and our Executive Director Dr. Thoraya Obaid to the government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam for hosting this important conference to explore how population factors are linked to climate change and food security. Dr. Obaid addressed the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Indonesia but regrets her inability to be present here this morning. UNFPA also appreciates the efforts of AFPPD for bringing all of us together for their 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly here in Hanoi.

The subject of this conference is of particular interest to UNFPA as a development agency and I am sure the same is true for many partners in the UN and civil society. As many of you know, Agenda 21 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 focused on promoting environmentally sustainable development. It was a blue print for economic development without environmental destruction and recognized that meeting the basic human needs of growing population is dependent on a healthy environment. At the same time, even environmentally friendly development will not be socially sustainable if it does not pay adequate attention to equity, which if not addressed can often trigger many ethnic and economic conflicts. A better common present is therefore considered necessary for a better common future.

Two years after the Rio Summit, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 further built on the above Agenda and noted that demographic factors, combined with poverty and lack of access to resources in some areas and excessive consumption and wasteful production patterns in others, cause or exacerbate environmental degradation, resource depletion and food insecurity and thereby inhibit sustainable development. Pressure on the environment may also result from rapid population growth and distribution, as much of the future population growth will take place in urban agglomerations. Urbanisation, if not accompanied by efforts for rural development, will create environmental problems in both locations. Specifically, the ICPD Programme of Action adopted the following two objectives:



- (i) To integrate population, environment and poverty eradication factors in sustainable development policies, plans and programmes; and
- (ii) To reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns as well as negative impacts of demographic factors on environment in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

About six years after the ICPD, the Millennium Summit held in the year 2000 further highlighted the above concerns arising out of Rio and Cairo conferences. The Millennium Development Goal -7 in particular on environmental sustainability adopted four specific targets, including halving by 2015 of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. MDG-7 aims at specific reduction of (a) carbon dioxide emissions, (b) consumption of ozone-depleting substances and (c) proportion of urban population living in slums. As we all know, the development community now looks up to the MDGs as basic bench marks around which all development efforts must rally around.

During just this year in Asia, natural disasters have been increasing both in frequency and scale, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and the fact that mega cities and emerging urban centers are becoming increasingly vulnerable to disasters and disease outbreaks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts increasing problems resulting from climate change that will pose serious economic and health consequences in many developing countries. Although it will affect all countries, the poor tend to suffer the most from climate change. The impact of climate change in the Asia-Pacific region is likely to be particularly severe on water and agricultural sectors. While natural drivers such as solar activity have played their part in changing the climate, it is the human behavior that has made climate change more radical. The focus of this conference therefore is extremely important and urgent.

Despite the current problems and future projections, we cannot ignore the impressive advancements made in agricultural technologies, economic growth and increasing incomes and better standards of living in Asia. As a result, demand for and consumption of meat, fish and dairy products has increased, which coupled with growing population, will pose a further challenge to the commodity markets. This could contribute to food shortages in general and increasing inequities in particular between the haves and have-nots. We all look up to the parliamentarians for taking the initiatives to meet challenges arising out of the close connections between population, food security and climate change.

In all these efforts, we cannot ignore the numbers. The fact that world's population has reached 6.7 billion and continues to grow by some 78 million additional people a year is unquestionably relevant. Projections show that the world population could reach a high of 10.8 billion or remain as low as 7.8 billion in 2050. The 3 billion difference between these two limits is certainly meaningful for food security and the climate change debate. Further, much of this future population growth will be in towns and cities, where population, economic activity and environmental issues are concentrated.

Parliamentarians have a key role in influencing public policy for both in the use of efficient production and distribution technologies and in behavioral change in energy use. Incorporating pro-poor strategies into macro-economic policies is a major challenge in the Asia-Pacific region. Adaptation to this emerging situation would include ensuring social protection, good governance and sustainability and promotion of carbon neutral life style. The challenge lies in the growing aspirations of large numbers of people in the developing world to live an unsustainable life style like in the west. Affluence, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, not just the numbers of people has the greatest impact on the environment.

UNFPA believes that, slowing and stabilizing the rate of population growth may give countries time to take measures to meet people's needs, while protecting the environment through various means. Towards this end, UNFPA works towards helping individuals exercise their human right to voluntary family planning and promoting access to universal health, including reproduction health, universal education, women's empowerment, and gender equality. These initiatives enable choice, and experiences shows that choice invariably leads to lower fertility, smaller families and slower population growth. Supporting policy dialogue, capacity development and evidence-based advocacy through data collection and research are some of the key approaches adopted by UNFPA.

We must develop a balanced view that recognizes the need to modify the unsustainable production and consumption patterns of the West on the one hand and advocating for increased use of reproductive health care services, including family planning in the South on the other. I wish to thank you for this opportunity to make a few remarks on behalf of UNFPA in this important General Assembly meeting of AFPPD. We look forward to working with you on some of these crucial concerns facing our region.

Many thanks for your kind attention!

## Speech by Dr Raj Karim, Regional Director, IPPF-ESEAOR

*“Environmental degradation and climate change results in profound impact on the lives of individuals and families especially in the poorest regions of countries. It not only drives migration but increases poverty, gender inequality and ill health”.*

It gives me great pleasure to address you today on behalf of Dr Gillian Greer, the Director General of IPPF. She extends her warm greetings to all of you and apologises for not being able to address you in person. It is an honour for me to be here for the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and to participate in your discussions on this critical issue of **Addressing Climate Change and Food Security: Linking Population as a Factor**”.

In a recent letter to IPPF, a Japanese Official said “There is no doubt that climate change is one of the most challenging issues for mankind because of its character being linked to so many other issues such as energy, development, security, health, food, the economy and so on, with so many stakeholders involved. We can definitely say that a more multilateral approach is needed in order to reach a resolution”.

This statement is so true, yet complex to comprehend and even more diffuse and challenging to plan and implement strategies that will harmonize climate and environmental changes with population or mitigate effects of climate change with population variations and diversity.

IPPF is pleased to be part of this ongoing debate as a large community based NGO like IPPF can represent voices of the people which must be taken into account before decisions are taken or made by governments. IPPF’s clients are the people who are often the most vulnerable to and those most affected by the negative effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Yet these are also the people least at fault and with the least control over Global Warming or the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of industrialized nations. Most of our clients live in countries that are experiencing rapid population growth which itself impacts on critical resources such as food, water, health and employment and poses as significant challenges to sustainable development. We know that environmental degradation and climate change results in profound impact on the lives of individuals and families especially in the poorest regions of countries. It not only drives migration but increases poverty, gender inequality and ill health.

Bearing this in mind, IPPF vision and mission is to provide access to information, education and services for sexual and reproductive health and rights for the poorest segments of communities, for the marginalized and for key population groups or those most at risk. We strive to expand access to comprehensive SRH services for difficult to reach groups like mountainous populations of DPRK; island populations of the Pacific; Cross border populations

of China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Myanmar; migrant populations as well as groups facing stigma and discrimination such as sex workers, transsexuals, MSM, etc.

Recognising the immense opportunity that exists and the benefits arising from investing in the world's 1 billion young people, both boys and girls between 10 and 24 years, IPPF has one of its 5 priority areas designated to empowering young people and to provide them with information, education and services to enable them to protect their own sexual and reproductive health so that their future is not being compromised by unsafe abortion, early pregnancy, early motherhood or infected by HIV.

Young people are our hope for the future - population and sexual and reproductive health programmes can and should address measures which can be taken by young people in addressing climate change and food security. Every small step goes a long way – and in the end it is action that every person takes at home, at school, in the workplace or in the community that will make a difference.

Today 95% of the population growth is occurring in developing countries. The most vulnerable people already live in countries where health services are under pressure to prevent and control ill health and where there are huge unmet needs for family planning. As much as we are concerned with the food security situation, contraceptive security is another challenging concern that needs to be addressed if couples and individuals are to exercise their rights to choose the number, timing and spacing of their children.

In this regard, IPPF is re-energizing its efforts to expand access to family planning for the health and wellbeing of families and for the planning and better management of scarce resources of countries.

We look forward to deliberations of the discussions today and IPPF commits itself to continue its advocacy and services for quality sexual and reproductive health and rights as an integral part of health care, of personal well being, of human development, and for the empowerment of communities to make intelligent and right choices on actions they can take to ensure food security and mitigate negative effects of climate change and environmental degradation. When these information and services reach the doorsteps of the poorest of our communities and those most difficult to reach and when affirmative actions are taken by them, then can we say we have contributed in a small way in this global phenomenon.

I am sure we will carry forward these discussions next year in our reflections of 15 years since ICPD and how we can move forward towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

I thank you and wish the meeting every success!

## Address by Mr. Ian Howie, UNFPA Representative in Vietnam

*“The challenges taken together pose unprecedented threats and will require strong leadership, advocacy and regional cooperation; will need to gather and share reliable data and quality analysis, will need bold and far-sighted policy decisions and programmes; and will need close cooperation both among governments and among all partners working on these issues”.*

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Vietnam I would like to thank the AFPPD leadership for the invitation to participate in this important event. As your partner the UN very much values the work of regional organizations such as AFPPD who bring together policy makers and other stakeholders to discuss, learn and take action on issues of importance to countries around our region. It is clear that the interconnected challenges that are related to climate change, food security and population are central to the future stability and prosperity of the countries in the region and the well being of millions of people.

Let me first say a few words about population and development with the focus on Vietnam, the country I know best. Great economic and social progress has been made in Vietnam over the past 15 years. At the same time there continues to be sharp differences among income groups in most human development indicators. Even though population growth rates are now below replacement levels the overall population size will continue to grow placing great demands on social services such as education, health care and safe water supply particularly in remote and mountainous areas. Climate change will further challenge the capacity of those services and the infrastructure which supports them. Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and in recent years we have seen an increase in typhoons, floods and droughts; potential rise in sea levels could devastate coastal regions. Climate change also brings a high risk of diseases like malaria and dengue fever; poor women and children are likely to be disproportionately impacted. While virtually no gender disaggregated data related to climate change is available in the country, the burden many poor women face particularly those in the rural sector, in the informal sector and in small scale agriculture are likely to become worse due to the nature of their work. It is a high priority for us that the world reaches a comprehensive deal on global climate change at the conference to be held in Copenhagen later in 12 months time. In this context we greatly appreciate the active role that the Asian governments are playing in the negotiations.

What can be said about food security? In addressing climate change threats, it is also important that the linkages to food production and food security are understood and taken into consideration. Here in this country food security has been an issue high on the public agenda and the UN recently studied this issue. While Vietnam is not facing food shortage, the UN analysis shows that high inflation has resulted in less money available to many Vietnamese households, especially poorer ones and there is a real risk that some families could fall back below the poverty line while those already there need additional help. These concerns have

recurred in other countries around the region and the policy responses recommended by the UN here in Vietnam may have a wider application.

Another emerging issue that puts the achievements of the MDG's in this region at risk is HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Parliaments can provide appropriate policy advice to the government on the level of funding that would be required to enable each country to achieve MDG 6 as well as universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. In essence parliaments in the region have central roles in ensuring that HIV targeted programmes receives funding from the national exchequer, including using their political will and leverage in stepping up domestic resource mobilization for key HIV priorities in each country in the region. This will inevitably reduce overdependence on external funding and make HIV programmes more sustainable to achieve MDG 6.

It is clear that these challenges taken together pose unprecedented threats and will require strong leadership, advocacy and regional cooperation, will need to gather and share reliable data and quality analysis, will need bold and far-sighted policy decisions and programmes and will need close cooperation both among governments and among all partners working on these issues. Fortunately good work is already being undertaken, I know that AFPPD has been active for many years in reviewing legislation, monitoring programme implementation and advocating for action on these and related issues. Your experience will no doubt prove useful going forward, the UN is also actively working on these issues including UNDP and UNFPA funded projects here in Vietnam on climate change, HIV, STDs, reproductive tract infections and population policies. I very much hope that our discussion today will contribute to more effective and more urgent, regional and national efforts to deal with climate change, food security, HIV and other factors affecting the quality of life of the people particularly of poor rural women throughout the region.

I wish you a very constructive forum this weekend!

Thank you very much. Zikomo!!

## **Opening Address by Hon. Mme Tong Thi Phong, Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of Vietnam**

*“Since joining AFPPD in 1992, Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has gained significant experience to make contributions to the work of the Vietnamese National Assembly in social affairs, especially on the issues of population and development”.*

**Hon. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of the AFPPD,**

**Distinguished Parliamentarians,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly, I am honoured to warmly welcome Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of AFPPD, all distinguished MPs and delegates to the 9th General Assembly of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in Hanoi, Vietnam. It is our great pleasure to host this year's Assembly. As you may be aware, this meeting will deliberate such global challenges as climate change and food security, in which population is an important factor. We will also exchange views on other global issues like gender and HIV/AIDS. The meeting will make decision on important issues concerning the organisation and operation of AFPPD for the next 3 years.

Despite the great efforts and progress made by countries in meeting various MDGs on poverty reduction, universalisation of education, mother and child healthcare, gender equality and counter-HIV/AIDS, there remains many challenges ahead. Those are mentioned at different forums of AFPPD. The theme this time is on Climate change, an issue of global interest. Viet Nam lies in the tropical and monsoon zone with a long coastline of over 3000 km. Therefore, we understand the impacts of climate change on the socio-economic development of countries. We ourselves experienced harsh impacts of climate change illustrated by the unusual cold spell in late 2007, the torrential rain that recently flooded Ha Noi and the high tide in Ho Chi Minh city. Climate change can inflict serious damage, especially to developing and poor countries. It is therefore essential to have further mutual assistance and exchange of experience among countries to tackle climate change. The main cause of climate change is known to be man-made factors: increasing environmental pollution and deforestation in the face of population pressure. I believe that enhancing public awareness on environmental protection and climate change is our common responsibility to better address this challenge.

According to many reports, Viet Nam will be one of the 5 countries worst- hit by climate change and the rise of sea level. Without active steps, the average temperature in Viet Nam will increase by 3 degree Celsius and the sea level may rise by 1m by 2100. By then, about 10

per cent of the Vietnamese population will be directly affected and about 40000 sq. km of the coastal areas will be sub-merged. Being aware of the challenge, Viet Nam has ratified the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. We have also conducted several studies on the impacts of climate change on resources, environment and socio-economic development of the country and concrete responses were introduced. The Vietnamese Government is also developing a National Target Program to respond to Climate Change. The Vietnamese National Assembly has enacted Law on Environmental protection and the Law on Bio-diversity and is working to revise the Criminal Code so that more severe punishment will be given to crimes of polluting the environment. These laws and other regulations will form a legal foundation to encourage community-based programs on forest protection and forestation as well as the family planning activities to mitigate the population pressure on natural resources.

Earlier this month, the entire world demonstrated the interest and efforts to check the spread of HIV/AIDS. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that Vietnamese National Assembly and MPs are strongly supportive of efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. This is illustrated in the Law on HIV/AIDS issued in 2006. Many provisions of the Law were considered progressive and useful in fighting HIV/AIDS. I am confident that the initiatives and practices shared among countries will help enhance the effectiveness of the fight against HIV/AIDS. I hope that the experience we share today will provide insights into the issue and identify the responsibility of the MPs in this regard.

Since joining AFPPD in 1992, Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has gained significant experience to make contributions to the work of the Vietnamese National Assembly in social affairs, especially on the issues of population and development. I would like to reaffirm that your large presence today demonstrate the friendship among parliaments and your interest in enhancing mutual understanding. Viet Nam also wishes to join efforts of Asian community to build a world of peace, cooperation and development!



## **SESSION 1: LINKAGE BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION**

### **CHAIR**

**Hon Dato' Haji Ahmad Husni Mohamed Hanadzlah, Deputy Minister of Finance and Chairman of AFPPD-Malaysia**

### **“POPULATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY”**

**Hon. Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition, Sri Lanka**

Climate change and food security are two of the most significant issues that threaten the lives of people of our countries. And in some instances they could threaten even our very survival as nations. Climate change itself causes adverse effect on national and international economic fronts thereby affecting the day to day delivery of health care as well as straining international cooperation for new health development. The effect of climate change aggravated by us today will make this world unhealthy and unsafe for the generations of tomorrow. Climate change will adversely affect the basic pillars of health, namely healthy food, clean and safe drinking water.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has found that the effect from climate change will impact all countries of South East Asia. Himalayan glaciers are melting faster than in any other part of the world and this will lead to flash floods, landslides and severe droughts. For example this year in my own country 40% of our paddy crops and the rice harvest was destroyed as a result of unprecedented flood and drought which has posed a serious threat to basic food security in the country. More than a billion people are vulnerable to this effect; water crisis will be exaggerated, notably in the drier areas. The rising seas have threatened the very existence of some countries like Maldives. In our region increasing heat waves will lead to premature deaths, increase respiratory and heart diseases affecting the children and elderly and chronically sick people the most. Change in temperature will increase the spread of malaria and dengue; risk of water and food-borne diseases such as diarrhea and cholera will increase; resulting drought will lead to frequent crop failures thus increasing malnutrition which in turn will lead to higher morbidity, mortality and also tension between communities. Loss of property and livelihoods will increase, causing post-traumatic stress. The list could be endless. Yet the knowledge and the concern levels of population in our countries on these global challenges are inadequate.

In most of our countries household food security and a lack of access to basic health services remain critical problems. The most critical issue in the region right now is the increase in food prices and food insecurity. A quick comparison indicates that the rise in Bangladesh has been the sharpest, while being moderate in Nepal and Indonesia with the lowest rise. Most of the South East Asian countries have introduced policy responses which are oriented towards trade, agricultural producers and consumers, but we are not sure how effective these measures have been in stabilising food prices or mitigating the effects of the rising food prices. Consumer

oriented support mechanisms have been mostly subsidies while the trade oriented support mechanisms have been the tightening of the export controls.

When the food prices rise, households spend a larger portion of the household income on food, sacrificing most of their other basic needs. With this change the level of malnutrition increases and households living on the margins will get dragged into poverty. These generalizations are applicable at the population level. But there are wide differences in how consumers respond to changing food prices within countries and between and within groups.

Sri Lanka with the Common Wealth Foundation is organizing a conference on climate change in March 2009 in Colombo and I would like to invite as many of you as possible to this conference so that we can share our experience and develop common strategies. WHO has in fact selected climate change and health as the Global theme for the year 2009 and I can also inform you as a chair of the WHO Executive Board that we have taken up the subject for serious discussion and the next board will propose some important global resolution for consideration and adaptation by the World Health Assembly by next May.

This is the time for parliamentarians and politicians along with the community leaders to display real leadership to firmly commit ourselves to raise these matters to the top of our agenda. We being the legislators and policy makers in our countries it falls on us to provide the leadership to protect the environment and effect necessary legislation for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. We need to directly address the public apathy of this issue with integrity and integrate climate change with all aspects of national planning.

## **“CHINA’S POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE”**

**Hon. Ms. Ma Li, Member of Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the National People’s Congress and Director-General of the Population and Development Research Center of China**

China is a developing country with the largest population in the world. Since carrying on reform and opening up and family planning, China has performed two miracles: rapid economic development and effective control of population. Population is all along an important issue to influence comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development in China., China is a developing country and its main task is to develop economy and improve people’s standard of life. The most parts of China’s GHG emissions are the survival emission to guarantee basic life necessities to people. Because of the transfer of manufacture industry, China bears more and more pressure of international transfer of emission. However, China in the past 20 years has made great efforts to promote reforestation and tree-planting to strengthen ecological and environment protection. Some of the statistics shown below will justify this statement:

- Reduced extent of deteriorated ecological environment: by 20%
- Reduced grain consumption: 228 billion kg
- Reduced occupied cultivated Area: 760 million mu
- Reduced water resources consumption: 249 billion cubic meters
- Reduced occupied ecological space: 760 million hectare

### **Family Planning’s Contribution to Energy Conservation and Emissions Mitigation**

- Over 400 million births have been averted in China
- Accumulated 800 millions tons of coal equivalent was reduced, equivalent to reduce 1.8 billion tons CO<sub>2</sub> emission from 1991 to 2005 in China

### **Current Institutional system for addressing issues related to population and climate change**

- National Population Development Strategy
- China’s National Climate Change Program
- Law on Population and Family Planning
- Energy Law
- Law on Promotion of Recycling Economy
- Evaluation System of Surveillance on population, resource and environment

### **The Government of China considers the following ways for addressing population and climate change**

- Adhere to the basic state policy of population control, resources conservation and environment protection

- Carry on development strategy on human resources investment first
- Promote restructuring economy
- Pay attention to both energy conservation and emissions mitigation
- Build a ecological friendly mode of production, life and consumption
- Bring into full play the substitute effect of human capital on resource environment

#### **Leading the harmonious societal development by improving people's full quality**

- Stabilize low fertility, total population peak value should be controlled around 1.5 billion
- Adhere to the policy on education benefit to all people
- Establish public health and basic medical service system covering all people
- Develop safeguard mechanism for aged people
- Promote fair society, reduce the gap between rich and poor

#### **Strengthening Policy Guidance and Investment**

- Invest in public service sector related people's development
- Establish stable fiscal investment mechanism
- Increase energy tax collection
- VAT. on production instead of VAT. on consumption
- Implement price differentiation between necessary resources consumption and waste resources consumption

#### **Strengthening International Cooperation in the field of population and development**

- Follow the basic spirit contained in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Adhere to the principles of Peace, Cooperation, Development and Mutual Benefit
- Promote South-South cooperation, establish friendly relations for mutual respect and common development

#### **China's basic position encompasses the following:**

- Adhere to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol
- Follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
- The developed countries should fulfill their commitments of taking the lead to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and providing financial assistance and technology transfer to the developing countries
- The developing countries will make their contributions to address climate change by promoting sustainable development

## **“CLIMATE CHANGE, POPULATION, AND HEALTH: TOWARD AN UNDERSTANDING”**

**Mr. Robert Engelman, Vice President for Programs, Worldwatch Institute,  
Washington DC, USA**

Linkages between population, climate change and health are complex and not well established. The crux of the question about population's relation to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change: Are greenhouse gas emissions chiefly a function of numbers of people or levels of consumption? Clearly the answer is some combination of both, but the details remain clouded. In fact, human numbers have everything to do with why we are where we are on climate change. Even if we haven't yet demonstrably “overpopulated” our food supply, we have pretty demonstrably “overpopulated” our atmosphere, at least living the way we live today and using the fossil-fuel based technologies we use. Today's atmosphere reflects the cumulative result of an equation fed by all three of these: population, consumption and technology—but population is arguably the biggest multiplier, when you consider that we numbered in the 10 millions for most of prehistory and in the billions today.

Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have risen slightly in the last few years, not surprisingly given the economic growth in China, India and elsewhere. But overall they have been surprisingly stable since 1959. By contrast, world population has grown, as this audience knows well, fairly consistently at roughly 1-2 percent annually since 1959. This correlates much more closely than does per capita emissions growth with the rise in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, notably including deforestation and land-use changes as well as fossil-fuel emissions.

For the purposes of climate negotiations, however, any of these arguments in relation to population trends faces an immediate and powerful obstacle: the overwhelming cumulative responsibility of industrialized countries—especially the United States—for the current buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. No change in population trends, worldwide or in any specific country, is likely to result in a much faster removal of these accumulated gases from the atmosphere. That leaves little room for additional new emissions from countries in the process of development. And it greatly complicates the case for acting on population—at least in terms of the recently completed negotiations in Poznan, Poland, or those to come in 2009 in Copenhagen. This reminds us that we must be humble and nuanced in asserting that there is a role for taking on population in addressing climate change.

One such approach is to imagine that in the future, in order to keep global warming at a presumably safe level of no more than 1 degree Celsius, overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion will need to effectively end and “go negative” by the middle of this century. Then let us further imagine that climate equity will require that per capita emissions around the world must converge around a single number. As a simple matter of the precautionary

principle, as well as emissions and climate equity, achieving the lower population projection makes good climate sense—especially since it could be achieved, arguably, by satisfying the demands of all women and couples for access to safe and effective family planning information and contraceptives.

Here's another way to envision the role that action on population can play in addressing the challenge of climate change. Robert Socolow and Stephen Pacala of Princeton University have imagined a “stabilization wedge” approach to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Each wedge represents a relatively small change we can make today that will have a huge impact on emissions down the road. New research shows that stabilizing world population at 8 rather than 11 billion may be worth one – or even two -- of those wedges. So addressing population growth is a piece of the “pie” – it is part of what we need to do about climate change and other environmental problems.

While population growth is a complex issue, it too can be addressed with something like a “wedge” approach. One wedge is making sure that people have access to family planning and other reproductive health services. There are still about 120 million couples who want to delay or prevent having another child, but don't have access to family planning. Those numbers will grow dramatically as the largest generation comes of age. Other wedges include educating girls, improving the status of women, supporting human development that reduces inequality and finally, investing in education and opportunity for the largest generation of adolescents in history. Each is vitally important in its own right, as a matter of social justice. Each will help slow population growth, and reduce pressure on natural systems. Sustainability and justice go hand in hand.

New research also suggests that slower population growth can play a critical role in building social, community and even family resilience to the impacts of climate change. Many other efforts must be initiated that may not relate directly to human population trends. But those of us who work to secure access by all people to quality family planning and other reproductive health services can feel assured that we are contributing—significantly—to the long term sustainability of the earth's climate and its enduring hospitableness to human life.

## SESSION 2: FOOD SECURITY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

### CHAIR

**Hon. Mr. Francisco Sardinha, MP, India**

### **FOOD SECURITY**

**Hon. Mr. Chiaki Takahashi, MP and Deputy Secretary-General of JPFP, Japan**

I would like to highlight a few trends that have significant impact on food security and the consequent food price crisis. Firstly, the world population has grown phenomenally from 4 billion in 1961 to 6.7 billion in 2001 and the crop production has also seen a substantive increase from 9 million metric tons to 15 million metric tons while the area under cultivation remains more or less the same. We need to understand then why the world suffers from food insecurity. The real problem is certainly not food production but rather the unequal distribution and consumption of the food commodities produced.

While Asia has the highest river water quantity per annum, it has the lowest per capita river water availability. This is due to the huge population in the region as well as enormous river water run off. Thus Asia region is prone to high risk for water shortage.

#### **What is the reason for the rapid increase in food prices?**

1. Major crop producing countries facing weather related disasters including drought
2. Changes of lifestyle in developing countries according to economic growth – demand for meat and fish increases the demand for crops
3. Increasing consumption of bio-fuels

I would like to stress the need for the countries to be self sufficient and how they produce can be stored and taken care of to maintain the quality and to ensure that the population is contained with the availability and affordability of food commodities. I would also like to highlight the need for conserving water through various water harvesting techniques and to go for high yielding varieties to increase the production.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY

**Prof. Vo Tong Xuan, Professor of Agronomy, Rector Emeritus, Angiang University, Longxuyen City, Angiang, Vietnam**

First of all, I would like define what we really mean by Food Security? It is when all people at all time have **physical** and **economic** access to **sufficient** food to meet their **dietary needs** for a productive and healthy life. The three core elements of food security can be described as below:

**Availability** of sufficient quantity of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports

**Accessibility** to households and individuals to adequate resources to acquire appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.

**Utilization** of foods through adequate diet, water, sanitation, and health care.

But this year we experienced food price crisis. The price of rice saw an increase of 60 per cent in 2008 February. How did it all start?

- rise in crude oil price
- governments change energy policies; finding alternative energy sources such as Biofuels, bio-diesel from fish oil, jatropa oil; ethanol from corn, wheat, rice, sugar, cassava.
- reduced world supply of wheat by Australia due to severe droughts
- Reduced world supply of corn due to US use in ethanol production
- because corn and wheat became more expensive, more people switched to rice (particularly African consumers);
- as income of middle class increases more demand for meat and fishes that require more food grain to feed
- Good rice lands were lost due to industrialization and urbanization
- Natural calamities in 2007:Typhoons and flooding in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Central Vietnam; Prolongued cold weather in China and northern Vietnam; Brown plant hoppers and associated virus diseases (yellow dwarf, ragged stunt)
- Rice price too low: farmers leaving rice farms for non-farm jobs; growing higher value crops
- Speculations by hoarders kicked off rice eaters' psychology (instead of buying normally, they buy many times more, boosting price up)



- price of milled rice in Southeast Asia increased many folds due to speculations

### **Strategy for securing enough rice for the world**

- Make rice-growing an attractive profession to prevent farmers from leaving their fields or converting to higher-value crops and be **profitable** by:
  - 1) Lower production costs:
    - a) Better varieties with higher yields
    - b) More efficient agronomic practices
  - 2) Higher rice price
  - 3) Apply the “Value-chain system”
- Management of national food security and rice marketing system
- Optimising rice production for the future of world food security
  - Stop conversion of prime land for non-rice use.
  - Perfecting irrigation systems and effective water management practice.
  - Perfecting rice varieties: short duration (<100 days), high yielding (>5 MT/ha/crop), brown planthopper resistant.
  - Plant 3-4 crop per year, using GAP technology.
- Expanding to less favorable areas:
  - Rehabilitating prospective areas: hilly, rain-fed; affected by salinity, acidity, submergence
  - Developing rice varieties suitable for those areas, accompanied with appropriate agronomic technology.
- Finding more rice lands in low productive countries to assist their farmers with Vietnamese rice technology
- Expanding to less favorable areas:
  - Rehabilitating prospective areas: hilly, rain-fed; affected by salinity, acidity, submergence
  - Developing rice varieties suitable for those areas, accompanied with appropriate agronomic technology.
- Finding more rice lands in low productive countries to assist their farmers with Vietnamese rice technology
- Expanding to less favorable areas:

- Rehabilitating prospective areas: hilly, rain-fed; affected by salinity, acidity, submergence
- Developing rice varieties suitable for those areas, accompanied with appropriate agronomic technology.
- Finding more rice lands in low productive countries to assist their farmers with Vietnamese rice technology
- Political will to adopt **High yielding, short duration rice** which is the steward contributor of world food security!

**2nd World Water Forum** held in March 2000 in the Hague concluded that water is a “major issue” for food security. **The Global Water Partnership** concluded: *“On the one hand, the fundamental fear of food shortages encourages ever greater use of water resources for agriculture. On the other, there is a need to divert water from irrigated food production to other users and to protect the resource and the ecosystem. Many believe this conflict is one of the most critical problems to be tackled in the early 21st century”* (Global Water Partnership, Framework for Action, 2000, p58). **“We need a Blue Revolution in agriculture that focuses on increasing productivity per unit of water – “more crop per drop”** (Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, Report to the Millennium Conference, October, 2000).

The challenge, then, is to grow more food with less water. This means decreasing water use in agriculture to meet other needs and environmental goals and other human needs, yet growing enough food, and improving livelihoods of the poor. This challenge requires substantial increases in productivity of water in agriculture. At the field or farm scale, we focus on **water productivity** (crop output per unit of water). But at the river basin scale, **water productivity** envisions:

- crop, livestock and fishery yields,
- wider ecosystem services and social impacts such as health

Recommendations for national Governments to improve **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY**

- Share expertise with other countries to review or change their national policies to improve food security.
- Allocate more budget for research and technological development in agriculture and related sectors. Particularly, the water management research, such as rainwater harvesting techniques
- Assuring free trade to equitably benefit the poorer countries.
- Encourage and facilitate implementation of food security-related actions adopted at international conferences or established in agreed conventions.
- Encourage works in multilateral system to improve global approach to food security

### SESSION 3: CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES

#### CHAIR

Senator Claire Moore, Australia

**Hon. Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP and former Minister of Women's Affairs, New Zealand**

We all need to understand why it is so important to take a gender perspective to climate change. Firstly, it is well documented that there are fundamental and powerful differences in the way men and women:

- contribute to climate change
- are impacted by climate change
- their capacities to cope with and adapt to climate change.
- and their access and participation in decision making on climate change.

As many have said, "Climate change is not gender neutral". It is vital that any approach to climate change take such factors into account if it is to be effective. Access and control over resources, education, land and property rights, political participation, health, and personal and food security are all factors where there are stark inequalities between genders throughout the globe. These same lists of factors, and more, are closely related to the way human beings are connected to climate change. Thus, gender and climate change are fundamentally interconnected, which is why taking a gender perspective to climate change is essential.

It is a widely accepted fact that climate change will impact worst on the poorest and most vulnerable. Women comprise 70% of those living below the poverty line. It is also commonly agreed that people who heavily rely on local natural resources for their livelihood are and will be severely impacted by climate change. Again, women disproportionately feature in this group. Women are central actors in the use and management of environmental resources.

It has also been reported that the key decision making institutions related to climate change are male-dominated. A survey conducted at the 7th Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, found that the ratio of male to female professionals who were making decisions on forestry and energy projects was 11 to 1. Natural disasters are increasingly being linked to climate change. In general, the disadvantaged position of women means greater difficulty in coping with disasters. For example, lower levels of education can reduce the ability of women

and girls to access information – including early warning mechanisms. A recent study (Neumayer and Plumper, 2007) <sup>1</sup> found that natural disasters lower the life expectancy of women more than that of men. The worse the disaster, the stronger this effect on the gender gap in life expectancy.

Another key reason why it is important to consider gender perspectives in climate change is because both gender inequalities and climate change are highly pertinent challenges to our own region. There are high rates of violence against women and low levels of female political participation in many areas of our region. However, we must ensure that we do not just view women as victims of climate change. Rather, women can be positive agents of change and we as parliamentarians need to support this. Women need to be at the decision making tables on climate change. One can note the high profile activities by women's groups and supporters at the Climate Change conference in Poznan, Poland, this month as proof of the value of women participating in such negotiations and discussions.

### **Recommendations**

We as parliamentarians can:

- Support and advocate for a gender perspective in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of related policy, projects and activities.
- Support and advocate for the financing of a gender perspective to climate change, as well the adequate allocation of resources to enhance the capacity of women to foster their resilience to climate change and disasters.
- Support and advocate for a larger and more powerful presence of women in climate change policy negotiations and activities.
- Support and advocate for the collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data by your government.
- Support and advocate for the sharing of information, resources, best practices and lessons learned across sectors and countries.
- Work in cooperation with civil society, including women's organisations, and the private sector on gender perspectives to climate change.
- Support, advocate for and promote public awareness campaigns, education and training programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction, targeting all genders.
- AND IMPORTANTLY, forward these recommendations or arrange a meeting when you get home with relevant contacts. For example, government ministries and/or departments responsible for gender equality and women's affairs, environment, climate change, and development.

In conclusion, Governments need to include gender perspectives in mitigation, adaptation, technology, policy, and financing in relation to climate change. To not include gender perspectives means that the goals of development that bring us here together as AFPPD participants will not be met.

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<sup>1</sup> Dankelman, I., et al., 2008, *Gender, Climate Change and Human Security: Lessons from Bangladesh, Ghana and Senegal*, Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) with ABANTU for Development in Ghana, ActionAID Bangladesh and ENDA in Senegal, available at: [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)

## **THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GENDER**

**Hon. Ms. Chieko Nohno, MP and Secretary-General of JPFP, Japan**

In my view, it is the poor people in developing countries least responsible for climate change that suffer the effects. And most regrettably it is a reality that the poor women are the most victimized. The fact that more women rather than men are victimized shows climate change is indeed a gender issue.

Reproductive health is a human right. Its improvement requires two efforts, to improve the human capacities as well as transfer of know-how at the same time. How will the improvement of reproductive health effect global warming and climate change?

As you know international development strategy is based on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Deliberations at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May and G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July were based on the MDGs.

MDGs include health related goals and objectives but none focuses particularly on population. Among the development goals including the MDGs, reduction of absolute poverty is an essential theme. If we truly mean achieving sustainable development one cannot avoid addressing population issues.

To date there has been much debate about who is to be blamed about the global warming. In short the argument is the industrialized countries should be responsible because they were the ones that have emitted greenhouse gases. There is no denying that advanced countries have major responsibilities. But the reality is that blaming the other party does not help us resolve the problem. Population becomes a decisive factor where global warming and climate change are concerned. Stabilization of population is the most basic condition sine qua non.

Population stability requires empowerment of women and availability of reproductive health services. Without an access to these services there will be no likelihood of population stabilizing. It is a chicken and egg relationship, but if we mean what we say, that is if we are

committed to build a society where human dignity is respected then reproductive health services must be given priority. We must not allow to fail in this endeavor even for a moment.

I wish to confirm with all of you here that protecting each life leads to protecting our collective future. Under the leadership of Chairman Fukuda, TICAD adopted a perspective that population stabilization was necessary for development. The G8 Toyako Summit formed a consensus that all must participate in addressing global issues instead of blaming each other.

What is required of us is not to fall into pessimism. We must believe in our future and boldly embrace the challenge to build our future. Let us make sure that AFPPD will be the driving force. And let us confirm once again that the strategy we have is to achieve gender equality and make reproductive health services available to all peoples as both are after all basic human rights.

Let us both men and women respect each other and our differences so that our society will be the beneficiary. As politicians, we are responsible for the future. Let each one of us as elected representatives of our people talk to our constituency and motivate them to act on what we know we should. It is that hope that will give us new strength, filling our planet with brimming hope.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dr. Feng Min Kan, Senior Coordinator, Advocacy and Outreach Coordination, UN  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva**

I would like to focus on advocacy linking disasters with climate change adaptation, but I will touch briefly on gender perspectives. Disaster issue is a global issue; therefore we need collective efforts to address it. Asia is very much disaster prone compared with other continents. In 2007, 30% of the worst disasters occurred in Asia and Pacific, yet the region sustained 90% of all the reported victims and almost half of the global economic damage caused by disasters. Most of these disasters are actually climate change related or weather related disasters.

In reality women are either leading or actively participating in both Disaster Risk Reduction and the Climate Change processes and make contributions to nation's resilience to climate change related disasters, by using their talents and experiences. In order to achieve sustainable development we need to invest in disaster risk reduction with a gender perspective.

How do we link Disaster risk reduction with climate change? It is very easy because disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation share the same goals, they reduce vulnerability, try to increase resilience and achieve sustainable development. Gender, disaster risk reduction and climate change are all cross cutting issues, so they all require multi-stakeholder approach, multi-sectoral cooperation and collaboration and multi-processes – political, scientific, social, developmental and humanitarian. Gender and climate change adaptation is everyone's business. We need to increase our understanding of the subject so that we can take better action. By bringing gender equality into this process it will help us to speed up the process of sustainable development. Make gender sensitive risk reduction an integral part of development policies and programmes.

We are actually in the process of finalizing the guidelines to mainstream gender into disaster risk reduction and are also developing some tools for gender- sensitive risk reduction and early warning systems. In conclusion, I would like to share this quote with you from the now new Secretary General of United Nations Ban ki Moon `Climate change is expected to cause more severe, and more frequent natural hazards as our cities and coast grow more vulnerable, these hazards can lead to disasters that are far worse than those we have seen to date. We have a moral, social and economic obligation to build resilience by 2015 by implementing the Hugel framework of action that will help us to reach the Millennium Development goals`. Finally lets us take action now to protect the future of our children from the growing impact of climate change and its disasters.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Mr. Koos Neefjes, UNDP Vietnam Policy Advisor on Climate Change**

Climate change is a threat to human development because sea level rise threatens life - settlements, agriculture, food security; floods, droughts, and intensified typhoons threaten life - drinking water supply, agriculture, aquaculture, and also industry; there are risks to health from heat waves, vectors for malaria and dengue fever, sanitation; and finally it increases vulnerabilities of the poorer groups, including elderly, women, children, ethnic minorities, ...

The Bali road map outlines the following:

- ▶ Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation (binding commitments of rich countries and 'appropriate' actions of others)
- ▶ Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)
- ▶ Climate Change adaptation, including operationalization of the newly established Adaptation Fund
- ▶ Technology transfer and development, with the establishment of a new mechanism
- ▶ New finance and financing mechanisms

The Secretary General Ban ki Moon, in his opening speech three days ago in Poland made it very clear that the UN would be arguing for a Green new deal in order to tackle both the financial crisis in the world and climate change. Use money that needs to be put through the system in order to develop technologies, to invest in technologies that are beneficial also for resolving both the effects of climate change and the causes.

So what are the critical policy actions?

- ▶ Global agreement on unprecedented targets for both GHG mitigation and CC adaptation
- ▶ Global agreement on new funds, new financial architecture
- ▶ Long-term CC policy formulation, nationally, that supports all MDGs
- ▶ Strengthen national institutions: CC oversight should be above sector Ministry level, and have a strong support structure
- ▶ Major investments in social research and public awareness raising, nationally, globally, on themes/topics such as:
  - ▶ Community based disaster preparedness



- ▶ Infrastructure “climate proofing”
- ▶ Health service strengthening
- ▶ Spatial planning; relocation of settlements
- ▶ Water conservation, forest & land protection
- ▶ R&D on adaptation and GHG mitigation technology
- ▶ Energy consumption / industry standards

Coming to Vietnam, finally, it is amongst the most effected countries whatever source you consult on a global climate change, because it has a long coast line, two big deltas, a large population and so on and so forth. Vietnam is also a growing economy and is extremely hungry for more energy and it has a lot of cheap coal. UN in Vietnam has started to work with national researchers and analysts on the national targeted programme on climate change and other things that are going in Vietnam from a gender perspective. It is clear that gender equality is a guiding principle of this NTP. Analysis shows that potential climate change impacts on the achievement of gender equality related MDGs

## **SESSION 4: HIV/AIDS and Health Resource Management at National Level**

### **CHAIR**

**Hon. Mme. Truong Thi Mai**  
**Chairperson of Vietnam Association of Parliamentarians on**  
**Population and Development (VAPPD)**

## **PAKISTAN'S PARLIAMENTARIANS STAND UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY**

**Hon. Dr. Donya Aziz, MP, Pakistan**

Due to the conservative nature of society, it was important to allow parliamentarians to focus on those advocacy points that they felt most comfortable conveying to their constituents. It was found that Parliamentarians were most comfortable with prevention advocacy relating to unsafe blood transfusions, the reuse of blades (by barbers), syringes, and other medical devices. Parliamentarians are invaluable opinion leaders in their constituencies. In the past, they have avoided HIV/AIDS programs in Pakistan due to the notion that the conservative nature of Pakistani society would not be politically conducive to HIV/AIDS advocacy. Political advocacy has a high impact and cost effective value among a largely illiterate, yet politically astute population. Members of Pakistan's Parliament formed a forum on HIV/AIDS in November 2006. The members were sensitized on HIV/AIDS issues through interactions with PLWHAS and awareness workshops where Parliamentarians from several countries shared experiences on HIV/AIDS. Individualized videos were produced for participating Parliamentarians. The videos were used as a tool to both familiarize Parliamentarians with issues relating to HIV & AIDS and to be shown at grass roots forums in their constituencies.

The videos observed the following standard:

1. Dubbed in the local dialect of the Parliamentarian
2. Described situation of HIV/AIDS in Pakistan
3. Covered aspects of transmission, prevention, and support for PLWHAS
4. Included a message delivered by the Parliamentarian containing information he/she felt comfortable conveying
5. Each participant was given 20 copies of the video for distribution and airing in their constituencies.

The primary focus of the Pakistan Parliamentary Forum on HIV & AIDS is to raise the awareness levels of Parliamentarians on HIV and AIDS related issues. The Forum is run entirely by the Parliamentarians themselves, and employs a method where Parliamentarians learn from each other rather than external experts. The Forum has been especially successful in

devising advocacy campaigns for Parliamentarians that are tremendously informative as well as culturally sensitive.

### **Lessons Learned**

- The Parliamentarian Forum on HIV/AIDS provided an excellent platform for politicians to learn from each other about issues related to HIV/AIDS.
- The personalized videos gave the politicians an opportunity to attach themselves to an important issue that they had shied away from in the past due to the conservative nature of society.
- The videos are expected to raise widespread awareness on HIV/AIDS and reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by PLWHAS

### **Next Steps**

- Parliamentarians' involvement is imperative for successful advocacy campaigns on HIV/AIDS.
- Since the February 2008 elections in Pakistan, the Parliamentary Forum on HIV & AIDS has held two and very successful meetings with the new legislators.
- With time, ongoing engagement with Parliamentarians and other politicians will encourage them to be outspoken and eventually build enough confidence to address issues presently considered taboo in Pakistan's political arena.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HIV AND AIDS IN ASIA: RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE**

**Dr. Bob Verbruggen, UNAIDS Regional Office in Bangkok**

### **“Redefining AIDS in Asia & Crafting an effective response”**

From the title of the report, you will notice that the Asia AIDS Commission has drawn attention to two important matters, one redefining the epidemic and second, crafting an effective response, with the following objectives:

To assess the state of the AIDS epidemic in Asia;

To analyze the socio economic impact of the epidemic;

To analyze the medium and long term implications of the presence of a large HIV infected population

To assess the impact of the epidemic on Government resources and health systems

To provide specific recommendations on the nature of institutional reforms and policies needed

As a part of its mandate the Commission then went on to analyse the impact of AIDS on a number of macro level socio economic indicators which are listed here below:

- Gross Domestic Product
- Poverty
- Life expectancy
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Health Expenditures

#### **Impact**

- Largest cause of disease related deaths among 15-44 year old sub-population
- Additional poverty 5-6 million households (25 to 30 m people) by 2015
- \$2 billion annual economic loss mainly borne by poor households

But the most serious news is that many Asian countries are going to miss the target of MDG 6 ie halting and reversing the epidemic by 2015 if they continue at the current level of response

### **Implications of changes in fast growing economies for HIV epidemic & response**

- Growing income inequality
- Large infrastructural projects fuelling inter- and intra-country migration
- Mobile Men with Money—increases demand for paid sex

There is an added dimension to countries with fast growing economies, economies which are growing at a feverish pitch of 8 to 10 per cent of GDP. These growth rates mask the serious economic inequalities which are getting aggravated because of the time lag between the economic advancement and social sector progress. In some of these countries, health costs have risen enormously putting them out of reach of poor and marginalized populations.

No country is spending enough for effectively shutting off the epidemic and most of the resources spent are external except in one or two countries like Thailand and China. Donor response to the needs of the region is better than what it was 5 years ago, but it still covers only 20% of the resource needs of the region. The Global Fund, now the largest donor whose disbursements have witnessed an impressive scale up since 2003 still meets only 10% of the resource need.

UN system should improve coherence to deliver as one and align with national priorities. High impact should be the main guiding factor for choosing programmes for funding and this will be determined on how effective they are in preventing new infections and improving the quality of life for those living with the virus. Low impact programmes are generally attractive because they are soft and easy to implement, but they have minimal impact in reducing new infections.

### **Benefits from putting the right resources in the right place now**

Early action in focused HIV prevention for 5 per cent of the population can:

- Avert large scale epidemic
- Save money:
  - \$1 in prevention now saves \$8 for treatment later
  - Normative costs for AIDS response:
    - Early phase: \$0.30 per capita
    - Expanding phase: \$1 per capita
    - Maturing phase: \$2.50 per capita
- Free up development resources

The Commission recommends that high impact prevention should receive at least 40 per cent of the funding and an additional 10 per cent should be spent on creation of a supporting environment at local level to ensure uninterrupted access for most at risk populations.

Support for children orphaned by AIDS was estimated by a team in Thailand, based on their understanding and assessment of several countries in this region. The policy recommendation for these children is to provide support to the household who has adopted the child, through cash transfers, and education and other subsidies. This would cost approximately 100 USD per child per year. For the 1 million children in Asia who have lost at least 1 parent due to HIV, then, this program will cost a total of 100 million USD. We tried to cost various components of a priority response, like high impact prevention, treatment, impact mitigation and creation of a supporting environment and the per capita cost ranges from \$0.50 to \$ 1.70 based on the stage of the epidemic. The Commission adopted this as a normative figure for recommending to countries to look for resources and also to judge their performance.

## **Recommendations**

First and foremost, resources need to be scaled up to the tune of \$3 bn for a focused response but for a long term and sustainable response it will be \$ 6.4 bn per year. This distinction has been made to put priority on cost effectiveness of programmes.

### **What Governments should do?**

- Scale-up resources to reverse the epidemic and mitigate its impact (priority: domestic and Global Fund)
- Focus resources where they will have the largest effect (impact) on the epidemic
- Ensure balanced resource allocation between prevention, care and treatment, and impact mitigation
- Improve planning and data collection and analysis including costing and tracking funding and expenditure (e.g. through National AIDS Spending Assessments)
- Monitor and assess epidemic and response regularly (minimum is bi-annual reporting round on UNGASS and Universal Access commitments – continuing into MDG progress reporting after 2010)

### **What donors should do?**

- Scale-up resources to close the funding gap
- Remove conditionalities on funding, which often prohibits effective programming
- Earmark funds and budget for the creation of an enabling environment

## SESSION 5: PARLIAMENTARIAN MOVEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### CHAIR

HON. MR. SHEN YAN

MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, CHINA

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: VIỆT NAM'S EFFORTS**

**Hon. Dr. Nghiem Vu Khai, MP, vice-chair of Parliament Committee of Sciences,  
Technology and Environment, Vietnam**

#### **Response to climate change**

##### **Legal and policy framework**

- 16/11/1994: Việt Nam ratification on UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 25/9/2002: Việt Nam ratified on Kyoto Protocol
- Law on Environment Protection (29/11/2005) (New version)
- Law on forest protection and development (2004) (New version)
- Biodiversity Law (2008)
- Law on Gender equality (2006)
- Electricity Law (2004)
- Law on Effective Energy Utilization (To be promulgated in 2009)
- Decision by Prime Minister (14/4/2006) 79/2006/QĐ-TTg, Approval of *National targeted program on energy efficiency and use for period 2006-2015* aiming at environment protection, reasonable exploitation of energy resources, sustainable development.
- Decision (6/4/2007) 47/2007/QĐ-TTg, approval of *Implementation plan of Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC for period 2007 -2010* aiming at implementation of the socio-economic plan (2007-2010) towards speedy development, sustainability, environment protection, and compliance with UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and CDM.
- Resolution of the Government (28/10/2008) 24/2008/NQ-CP on issuance of the *Government Action Program*:

#### **National Target Program (NTP) in responding to climate change**

##### Detailed objectives: (8 objectives)

1. To identify climate change features of Vietnam due to global climate change; Assess climate change impacts on every field, sector and locality;

2. Identify measures to cope with climate change;
3. To promote scientific and technological activities to establish scientific foundation for climate change responding measures in practice;
4. To enhance and strengthen organisational structure and institutional capacity for implementation of policies on climate change ;
5. To enhance public awareness, responsibility and community participation, and human resource development to respond to climate change;
6. To promote international cooperation for exchanging experience and seeking for help and assistance of international communities in responding to climate change;
7. To integrate climate change issues with strategies and plans of socio-economic, development in national, sectoral and local scale;
8. To set up and implement action plans of Ministries, sectors and provinces to respond to climate change; carry out projects prioritized firstly with pilot ones.

Time scope of the program:

- Phase I (2009-2010): Inception phase;
- Phase II (2011-2015): Implementation phase;
- Phase III (sau 2015): Developing phase.

Program cost (to 2015): 1,965 bil. VND (115.59 mil. USD)

Program organizational structure:

- *National Steering Committee*: Chaired by Prime Minister and sectoral ministers
- *Executive Committee*: MONRE Minister and some ministers
- *Program Office*: MONRE Headquater

**Conclusions and recommendations**

- Vietnam is a low-emission country, but is one of the countries that are most severely affected by CC. Impacts of SLR and other extreme weather phenomena on agriculture, living condition of the population (especially the poor people) are the most critical issues and threaten sustainable development.
- In responding to climate change, *adaptation* activities should be focused.
- Research and policy making should concentrate on measures that the Government and enterprises should implement or facilitate for enhancing adaptation capacity.
- Climate change policy should be framed in the context of sustainable development and all government decisions should be screened, using a “sustainability lens”.
- Viet Nam should carry out active international cooperation in order to share experience and seek the support in responding to CC.



**Hon. Mr. Bekenov Askhat, MP, Kazakhstan**

Global climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. By ratifying the 1995 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and signing the Kyoto Protocol in addition to the Convention, Kazakhstan joined the worldwide movement on preventing global warming, caused by permanent increases of greenhouse gases from the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. We understand our responsibility to participate in this movement, because Kazakhstan is among the leading world's reserves of hydrocarbons and it is actively developing its own deposits. To date, Kazakhstan held an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions sources as well as the calculation of emissions from the direct and indirect greenhouse effect sources and made projections of the main greenhouse gas emissions - carbon dioxide.

Unfortunately, Kazakhstan, the same as some other countries, delayed the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change. Therefore, the parliamentarians initiated and conducted a special parliamentary hearing on the matter. A bill on the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol introduced by the Government to Majilis of the Parliament, and soon it will be adopted. Ratification of it will enable us to immediately engage in implementing post-Kyoto agreement. Recently, members of the Kazakh Parliament took part in the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development in South Korea, where we discussed the issues of climate changes. Participation in that conference as well as our presence here reaffirms our commitment to the parliamentarians' movement on prevention of global warming.

Bundled with the climate change problems are issues of reducing the Earth's ozone layer. According to the data of World Meteorological Organization, over the past 25 years, depletion of the ozone layer was 10 per cent. Monitoring of total ozone's level in the atmosphere of Kazakhstan began in 1973, by five stations. Since then, the thickness of the ozone layer over Kazakhstan decreased by 5-7 per cent. In some days decrease even further, this is increasing ultraviolet radiation to doses of dangerous level to humans. Keeping in mind the great importance of this issue, Kazakhstan has joined the relevant international agreements and is currently working on reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances and seizing them from circulation. New technologies with the use of substances which do not deplete the ozone layer were introduced. Necessary regulations for the licensing of businesses that use ozone-depleting substances and necessary training for specialists were given. All this was done from the country's budget as well as with support from the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Environment Program.

We intend to continue monitoring and do further research of the ozone layer over Kazakhstan and will devise measures to prevent negative impact on its state. Parliamentarians of Kazakhstan were active participants and promoters of global policies to prevent global warming, and will do their utmost to honor their commitment to this issue.

### **Hon. Rep. Edcel Lagman, Philippines**

Climate change with its disastrous complications is a global phenomenon which antedates the current worldwide recession. Both meltdowns – environmental and economic – must be addressed simultaneously, without one being prioritized or sacrificed at the expense of the other. This twin problem must be confronted by parliamentarians and policymakers with steadfast advocacy and unwavering commitment. And it is truly unfortunate that in these global crises, the vulnerable peoples of developing countries suffer the consequences of dire eventualities they have neither principally created nor precipitated. Facing up to the challenges of climate change and global warming is not only an environmental or fiscal concern. It is likewise a dominant political issue that must be in the priority agenda of parliamentarians.

The Philippines is a lower middle-income country with a medium Human Development Index (HDI) according to the UNDP's 2007 Human Development Report. It is committed to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Climate change amidst a fast growing population, however, threatens to hinder the Philippines' hitting its medium term development plan targets on time and attaining the MDGs by 2015. The Philippines struggles to cope with tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea level rise exacerbating inundation, erosion and other coastal hazards that damage crops and infrastructure in island communities.

Having been ravaged by severe climatic events, the Province of Albay convened the first National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation in October 2007. The conference adopted the "Albay Declaration on Climate Change Adaptation". The Declaration urges the government to adopt a national framework for the implementation of climate change programs and policies. It also seeks the mainstreaming of climate change issues and concerns in the national and local planning, accounting and budgeting system.

Several Resolutions were filed in the House of Representatives in the Philippine Congress supporting the Albay Declaration. Three more House bills were filed seeking to establish a Framework Program on Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Communication which is national in coverage and scope and has the following objectives:

- (a) The achievement of a significant increase in renewable energy-based capacity as follows: i) 50% from 2008 to 2013 and ii) 50% from 2014 to 2020;
- (b) The identification of the most vulnerable communities/areas to the extreme impacts of climate change; and
- (c) The conduct of local risk and vulnerability assessment for the purpose of identifying options and selecting appropriate adaptation measures for adoption as joint priority projects of the national and local governments.

On January 12, 2007, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law the Bio-fuels Act (Republic Act No. 9367). The Act mandates the use of bio-fuels as a measure to develop and utilize indigenous renewable and sustainable energy sources, mitigate toxic and greenhouse gas emissions, increase rural employment and income, and ensure the availability of alternative and renewable clean energy.

The proposed "Renewable Energy Act of 2008" is now pending approval of President Arroyo having been transmitted to Malacanang on November 25, 2008. The proposed legislation aims to:

- 1) Accelerate the exploration and development of renewable energy resources such as, but not limited to, biomass, solar, wind, hydro, and ocean energy sources, including hybrid systems to achieve energy self-reliance through the adoption of sustainable energy development strategies to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel;
- 2) Increase the utilization of renewable energy by institutionalizing the development of national and local capabilities in the use of renewable energy system and promoting its efficient and cost-effective commercial application by providing monetary and non-fiscal incentives;
- 3) Encourage the development and utilization of renewable energy sources as tools to effectively prevent or reduce harmful emissions and thereby balance the goals of economic growth and development with the protection of health and the environment; and
- 4) Establish the necessary infrastructure to carry out the mandates specified in this Act and other relevant existing laws.

Based on the Department of Energy projection, if renewable energy sources can supply an additional 2,500 megawatts (MW) of total power supply in the next 10 years, then the country could stand to gain some US\$ 1.2 billion in energy savings over the same period.

The Conservation International-Philippines, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Economic Development Authority had teamed up to conduct a much-needed study on the interrelatedness of rapid population growth and the continuing deterioration of our environment. The study confirms that a rapidly expanding population growth rate is central to the problems of air and water pollution; loss of biodiversity, agricultural land and animal habitat; global warming and many other crucial environmental issues.

The “Mapping Population-Biodiversity Connections in the Philippines” recognizes that uncontrolled population growth greatly strains our finite resources and fragile ecosystems. The authors of the MPBCP emphasize that “policies and interventions that focus on biodiversity conservation alone are insufficient in abating biodiversity losses and destruction of forest resources **unless population and development concerns are adequately addressed.**”

It is in this context that pending enactment in the Philippine Congress is a bill on “Reproductive Health, Responsible Parenthood and Population Development” which is rights-based, health-oriented and geared towards sustainable human development.

**Hon. Ms. Mabel Rebello, MP, India**

The subject of this session is of special interest to all of us, since it deals with our role as parliamentarians and climate change. According to me the climate change will have the following impacts in future:

1. Destroy global food security so painstakingly achieved by our farmers ably assisted by our agro-scientists with technology, innovative seeds, fertilisers, etc. In India, we have buffer stocks of 10 years to feed more than 1 billion population, be there any calamity. India supports almost 16.9 per cent of global population with just 2.4 per cent of the world surface area.
2. Increase sea level: Recent studies on the potential impact of one meter sea level rise along Indian coast indicates 0.4 per cent of Indian land on coastal areas be inundated and almost 7.1 million i.e. 4.6 per cent of coastal population could be directly displaced.
3. Climate change leads to thinning of ozone layer consequently increasing the incidence of skin cancer.
4. The future wars will be fought for water. The scientists have predicted that with the melting of glaciers in North and South Pole our mountains will become naked. Some of our rivers will dry up fully.
5. Our tourism industry in hilly areas will suffer, since people go there to watch snowfall etc.
6. Forest cover will deplete causing hardships to the poor who depend on it for firewood for cooking and to keep their houses warm during winter. A large number of tribal people make a living from minor forest products. Their livelihood will be at stake.
7. Less food production and rise in sea level will lead to migration to urban areas. This will put pressure on urban areas amenities such as housing, drinking water, sanitation, transport, electricity, telephones which will create large slum areas leading to sub standard living, unemployment, crime and further increase their miseries.

Hence parliamentarian need to read the writing on the wall and apply their mind to suggest suitable measures to contain global warming which lead to climate change and its accompanied adverse consequences. Parliamentarians have a definite role in influencing public policy for both in the use of efficient production and distribution of technologies and in behavioural change in energy use. They need to bring desired legislation at the federal and provincial Government level and must oversee that provincial Government implement the laws quickly and in its true spirit. We need to focus on non-conventional technology for our energy needs, which is clean energy, such as solar, bio-mass, wind energy, tidal energy. We need to spend on Research and Technology to make solar, wind, tidal energy technology cheap and affordable at community level. Parliamentarian must focus also on Human Resource development of our youth and children. Quality and nutritious food should be made available to our children at affordable prices. We need to give them quality education; skill development of our youth should be our focus. Only then, developing countries of the Asia -Pacific would be able to emerge as strong countries that can compete in the world and survive

**Hon. Mr. Choi Chul Kook, MP, South Korea**

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to introduce the statement adopted by the participants in 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development which was held in November 1 to 2, 2008 in Seoul, South Korea. All participants resolve that:

- We, as members of our respective nations, can serve as mediators amongst the public, the national government and the experts
- The United Nations General Assembly establishment on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in 2000 as a global strategy to reduce disaster risks should be supported by national governments
- The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to disasters with a goal to substantially reduce risks over that decade (January 2005, Kobe, Japan, agreed by 168 governments) should be further supported by national governments as part of their long-term development strategy. The Hyogo Framework offers a comprehensive set of priority action to reduce climate-related risks and vulnerabilities through early warning, education, public awareness, as well as better urban and land use planning measures
- Disaster risk management should be shifted to a more comprehensive approach linked to development, planning and preparedness and also linked to climate adaptation strategies
- International coordination to facilitate disaster risk management system and early warning systems should be supported and international cooperation on climate research, exchange of climate-related data and analysis among countries should be encouraged and motivated
- There is a need for training targeted at various stakeholders e.g., parliamentarians, disaster risk management staff, media, public etc. and to improve hazard warnings' quality and lead times
- Policies to combat climate change should be people-centric

Keeping in mind the common but differentiated responsibilities under the Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases, advanced

countries should play a leadership role while developing countries engage themselves proactively in reduction efforts. It is also important to raise awareness of adaptation to climate change and concurrently pursue to reduce greenhouse gases and to devise adaptation policies. Korea has been establishing the Comprehensive Action Plan for Climate Change with an aim of using green growth strategy to make a successful transition to a low carbon society. Along with the Korean government, Korean companies are actively engaged in such areas as the construction of photovoltaic power plants to turn the crisis of climate change into a new economic opportunity.

**Luncheon meeting of medical parliamentarians with Mr. Igor Rozov,  
External Relations Officer, Programme on Partnerships and UN Reform,  
Office of the Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO),  
Geneva**

## SESSION 6: 9<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AFPPD

### **SPEECH OF MR. YASUO FUKUDA, AFPPD CHAIRPERSON AT THE AFPPD 9<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Welcome again to you all!*

Approximately 40 years ago, eminent Asian parliamentarians and the then Executive Director of UNFPA, Mr. Rafael Sales, saw a dream of involving parliamentarians in a population and development programme by informing, educating and motivating them about the importance of population as a factor in development.

The dream has now grown into not only a regional, but also a global movement. With the development of democracy, the influence of parliamentarians has grown and so is their involvement in day-to-day policy formulation and implementation. This movement was initiated by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), with the involvement of highly populated countries such as China and India.

In Asia I have seen AFPPD grow under the leadership of Mr. Takashi Sato, Mr. Shin Sakurai, MP, Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, MP and Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn - but most important is the growth which we have witnessed at national level. I understand that nearly 25 parliamentary committees on health, population and development affairs are members of AFPPD, with staff support of up to 100 people. They have amended and delivered several new legislations to suit the new reality, and donor countries continue to increase support to UNFPA, IPPF and population causes and issues in general.

I am especially pleased that the Asian Forum is the most active parliamentary group with widespread networking with UN Agencies, regional- and international civil societies. AFPPD has been able to create and enable a dedicated group of male and female parliamentarians who are active and vocal in their respective countries.

I am proud that AFPPD has been playing a leadership role in keeping the momentum and in strengthening the inter-regional framework and partnership of parliamentarians on population and development. There is a need to revive the global committee of parliamentarians on population and development to further the achievement of parliamentarians' action at national, regional and international levels.

The large presence of you, parliamentarians, is evidence that parliamentarians' interest in population and development issues continues to grow, so is the influence of AFPPD. I value your contribution and the contributions of UNFPA and their country offices and IPPF to whom I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their continued support to the development of AFPPD and other regional forums.

## **ENHANCING THE INVOLVEMENT OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE: AN ASSESSMENT**

*Jyoti Shankar Singh, Permanent Observer for Partners in Population and Development in the United Nations and former Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA*

I intend to focus on the role of elected legislators in policy and governance relating primarily to population and development in Asia and the Pacific. However, I would first like to provide some background information.

The first major international initiative to delineate and define this role was taken by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 1978, when it decided to convene, in cooperation with the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), an International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in 1979. After a series of preparatory meetings in major regions of the world, the Conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1979 and brought together parliamentarians from 59 countries from both developing and developed worlds.

The Colombo Conference was a truly historic event in that for the first time it brought together, from around the world, a large number of parliamentarians interested in policy and programme aspects of population and development issues. The Conference spawned a number of regional networks of parliamentarians on population and development - the first of which was, of course, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), established at the Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Beijing, China in November 1981.

AFPPD has now completed 27 years and has active affiliates comprising members of parliaments in more than 25 countries in Asia and the Pacific. There are similar networks in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa and the Arab World. At the national level, parliamentary committees dealing with health, environment, population, and gender issues regularly examine and hold briefings or hearings on population in its multi-dimensional aspects. Parliamentarians also participate in regional and international events devoted to population and related issues and undertake or support advocacy campaigns.

The Beijing Conference of 1981 addressed a large number of recommendations to the Governments of the Asia-Pacific region on formulation and implementation of population and development related issues. These included the recommendations to establish national coordinating bodies on population, to provide higher allocations for family planning and population programmes, to promote and support the role of non-governmental organizations, to widen the opportunities for women to participate equally in all development activities, and to pay special attention to youth.

Similar recommendations have come up at all subsequent AFPPD Conferences and Assemblies, and members of parliaments in many countries have spoken up in their respective parliaments in favour of such recommendations as applied to their national situations. National coordinating bodies on population have come up in an increasing number of countries, and allocations for family planning and related programmes have gone up over a period of time.



There are many more NGOs dealing with health, population and gender issues and they interact actively with parliamentary groups.

However, options and challenges in many of these areas have begun to shift over the last decade and legislators need to reflect on how these shifts could or should reshape national policies and programmes. As a result of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the broad-based definition of reproductive health (subsuming family planning) was adopted by many Asian countries – a trend encouraged by several international donors; and it appears now that allocations to family planning in national budgets have not risen in response to the rising demand for information and services. At a meeting of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board earlier this year, UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Obaid reported with regret that international support for family planning had fallen from 54 percent of international population assistance in 1995 to 9 percent now. Repositioning of family planning on the development agenda so that adequate resources are allocated to increasing demand for information and services will require strong advocacy and policy level support from parliamentarians.

A related issue is the provision of information and services to adolescents and youth. Social and cultural barriers and taboos in many societies hinder advances in this area. The Jakarta Declaration adopted by the Eighth General Assembly of AFPPD in 2005 urges focusing attention on improving access to and quality of reproductive health services, and in this context addressing the reproductive health needs of young people. This will require a great deal of debate and discussion, and parliamentarians may be in a position to encourage and even lead such debate and discussion.

Since the beginning, promotion of equality for women in all fields of economic and social development has been one of the major goals of the parliamentary movements, including AFPPD and its national committees. To this end, parliamentarians pledged in the Beijing Declaration adopted by the Seventh General Assembly of AFPPD in 2002 “to involve women parliamentarians in our committees and programmes and to give emphasis to gender equality and equity at the national level.” They also pledged “to increase our efforts to remove legal, social and cultural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in society.”

Gender equality is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 and as the Jakarta Declaration of 2005 says it “can only be achieved through strong political commitment of heads of State and government with full support of all stakeholders including parliamentarians, civil society, and the private sector.”

Within the broader framework of gender equality, elimination of violence against women has emerged as an urgent priority. The Beijing Declaration of 2002 calls upon the parliamentarians to “ensure protection of the rights of women; emphasize that sexual abuse and violence against women cause and sustain the psychological and physical impairment of women and emphasize that the elimination of violence against women is fundamental to the achievement of women’s rights and until that issue is addressed, sustainable and equitable national and regional development cannot be achieved.”

I would like to note that several parliamentary committees in Asia and the Pacific have already helped sponsor legislation aimed at eliminating gender-based violence. But legislation itself would not eliminate such violence. Traditional values and norms in male dominated societies require fundamental behavioral changes; and parliamentarians have a major role to play in this regard- both as advocates of change and as leaders of public opinion.

Another issue that needs urgent attention is female foeticide in male dominated societies. While legislation banning sex selection has been adopted in several Asian countries, with the active participation of parliamentarians, the actual practice of sex selection and female foeticide as well as the willful neglect of female infants and children cannot be banished without energetic advocacy as well as further policy measures supported by legislators.

For several decades, parliamentarians have talked about the interrelation between population and development and of the need to alleviate, and eventually eliminate absolute poverty. But the relationship between population and climate change has come to the fore, only in recent years. While developing countries are naturally anxious to achieve rapid rates of growth and development, they need to reconcile these goals with the need to urgently deal with global and country level issues relating to climate change. How this can be done and what policy implications this will have at the national level should become a subject of in-depth discussion leading to consensus among parliamentarians, governmental leaders and civil society organizations.

Full and effective implementation of population and development policies and programmes requires, without doubt, a watchful eye on how these policies and programmes are being implemented and parliamentarians are uniquely suited to the task of ensuring that the policies they have helped to shape are fully implemented, that waste and duplication are avoided and that policy correction is undertaken whenever appropriate.

While considerable progress has been achieved in the field of population and development, much remains to be done. In so many ways, the tasks before the parliamentarians remain as urgent as there were 27 years ago. The AFPPD, its national affiliates and parliamentarians as individuals face the challenge and the responsibility to continue striving towards the achievement of those goals they set for themselves 27 years ago.

**ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGES IN PARLIAMENTARIAN ADVOCACY:  
A REPORT BY DR. PINIT KULLAVANIJAVA, SENATOR AND SECRETARY-  
GENERAL OF AFPPD**

It gives me a great pleasure to present to you the Report of AFPPD 2006, 2007, and 2008. The three years for AFPPD has been quite challenging years. Although I became Secretary General of AFPPD only this year, I had the opportunity to be briefed by the former Secretary General of Dr. Prat Boonyawongvirot, MP, who was the Secretary General for 2007 and 2008.

As you may know AFPPD organised International Parliamentarians' Conference on ICPD in 2006 which was attended by over 300 parliamentarians around the world and the next will be in Cairo in 2009 in which also AFPPD will play a major role. In the last three years, AFPPD organised large numbers of regional events involving over 100 parliamentarians and arranged the participation of parliamentarians' events organised by other UN Agencies such as World Bank, UNDP, IFAD, and also International NGOs such as Asian Harm Reduction Network, and Global Health Fund.

As a result of AFPPD high profile activities with parliamentarians, Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development (PPAPD) and Maldives have taken steps to become member of AFPPD. Timor Leste and Afganistan are making preparation to become members. The only country left, i.e, Bhutan is also considering membership of AFPPD and with this, all of Asia will be members of AFPPD. This, in my opinion, is a big achievement.

The UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, IFAD Rome and UNAIDS have also started supporting AFPPD through collaborating activities. At country level, most of the Parliamentary Committees are quite active with full time staff support. Pakistan and Bangladesh (when new election takes place) need to form new committees and they need to be made active. These Committees in cooperation with UNFPA and other funding agencies conduct follow-up activities.

AFPPD small grant programme has been quite helpful to generate national level follow-up. In 2008 through Small Grant Programme, we are trying to find out what you do, as parliamentarians, when you go back from these meetings and conferences. I also request you to let us know if you have done anything on ICPD related topics in the parliament or if you are involved with any NGOs working on population and development, gender, HIV/AIDS related issues. This is the kind of information funding agencies are asking to justify the programme.

Ms. Steve Chadwick, MP, and former Minister of Women's Affairs of New Zealand, is the chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Women. She organised a special meeting and report of the same is available.

AFPPD's work on educating and informing parliamentarians is becoming more important as we discover that knowledge of elected representatives on MDGs and related issues is rather limited. UNDP is realising this and they are working with AFPPD in this area.

Parliamentary staff is an important link for parliamentary mobilisation. AFPPD organises each year a training course to strengthen their capacity and currently AFPPD National Committees have staff ranging from 2 to 35 persons.

AFPPD Central Asia operation is also gaining ground. We now have three parliaments affiliated and one more may become member soon. Each year a regional event is organised in Central Asia. A women parliamentarians' meeting in Tajikistan was organised. This time we hope to appoint a full time Representative for Central Asia region to develop parliamentarians' work. These efforts are supported by East Europe and Central Asia Division of UNFPA.

AFPPD is developing, and growing and is now the main parliamentarians organisation in Asia, Pacific and Central Asia, thanks to the dedicated work of AFPPD secretariat in Bangkok, staff of National Committees, and UNFPA. We also received very good cooperation from APDA, our Tokyo office and UNFPA Country Offices.

The presence of more than 100 Parliamentarians from nearly all countries of Asia, and Central Asia, including one Former Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Chair and Member of Standing Committees on Health, Population and Development and Social Affairs is indicative of AFPPD's growing importance and its effectiveness. The presence of UNFPA, UNDP, UNAIDS, IPPF, and WHO is also significant of AFPPD networking. We also have several medical parliamentarians and representatives of WHO. Together we will try to revitalise IMPO.

We thank UNFPA Asia-Pacific Division, as well as Central Asia Division, Government of Japan, and IPPF for their cooperation.

## **PROGRAMMES FOR 2009 AND BEYOND**

Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director of AFPPD expressed his greater happiness that a lot of actions are taking place at the national level, thanks to the parliamentary committees and their dedicated staff. He outlined a number of important events and activities planned for the year 2009 and beyond which are reproduced below:

- ❖ Events related to ICPD+15 with support from UNFPA including an Asian Inter-Governmental Conference and IPC in Cairo
- ❖ Enhanced activities in the area of HIV/AIDS, including greater participation in ICAAP, Bali, Indonesia and International Harm Reduction Conference in Bangkok
- ❖ Regional Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Beijing, China
- ❖ Regional Parliamentarians Meeting on poverty, Colombo, Sri Lanka with UNDP support
- ❖ Training Workshop for the staff of national parliaments
- ❖ Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal and in Turkistan

## **STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT FROM DELEGATES**

Following are responses to Mr. Shiv Khare's request to the delegates to write down one commitment individually which they will carry out in their respective countries when they go back from here

- ❖ Disseminate information on climate and food security to parliamentarians.
- ❖ Encourage the Ministries of Health to discuss the formation of committees which will be totally devoted to the issue of climate change.
- ❖ Continue to create awareness of the food security issue and encourage farmers to put more efforts and actively participate in food security programme for food self sufficiency.
- ❖ Continue to publicize information and knowledge on population and development, women and children's health, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, discuss prevention and encourage for more participation in activities related to population and development.
- ❖ Propose to the government to formulate a specific programme for climate change and food security for the next 5 years.
- ❖ Promote all citizens to participate in the food security programme.
- ❖ Monitor government's development for 5 years on population and development and health.
- ❖ Encourage government to incorporate population factor into developmental planning for the next 5 years.
- ❖ Coordinate provincial and district level programmes in the area of land erosion and its connection with population and development.
- ❖ We will develop a project to create awareness about the food security in our own parliament.
- ❖ Initiate and support more legislation related to climate change and food security,
- ❖ Proposed to amend the Home Bill No. 5043 which is very specific on reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population and development.

- ❖ Make a law in relation to climate change and also coordinate with the government in all these efforts.
- ❖ Ensure that gender perspective is included in a specific parliamentary review committee on climate change.
- ❖ Formalize the overseas aid in Asia and Pacific region so that various commitments are honored by the government.
- ❖ Report back about this conference to the parliamentarian group and conduct a programme for 2009-2010.
- ❖ I will coordinate the New Zealand submission on the social select committee on climate change ensuring that a gender prospective is incorporated in the final report of the government.
- ❖ As Afghanistan parliamentarian is attending the conference for the first time we all will establish a national parliamentary committee to work in this field. Then we will start a programme of educating other parliamentarians in our country.
- ❖ Health, population and development are inter-related. Therefore we will try a specific commission to motivate and encourage population control programme in Afghanistan.
- ❖ Arrange ministerial briefing with PGPD and issues on climate change with the parliamentarians.
- ❖ In order to cut down the emissions in bigger cities, work with local authorities, NGOs and others to convert the garbage land into parks, lakes and forest.
- ❖ Save water - everyone, everyday save a litre of water.
- ❖ Work on waste management.
- ❖ Regular check up of the school children with the help of NGOs and civil society and follow up with the children who need for further treatment which will be adopted by every member of parliament of India.
- ❖ Improve education of village people on sex education and sexuality.
- ❖ Reinforce law in Gobi region against desertification process and supply the population with safe food.

## **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS**

- ❖ Financial Statement of AFPPD for 2006-2008 was presented by Hon. Ms. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, MP, Philippines and Treasurer of AFPPD and approved
- ❖ Approval of membership of Maldives and membership of Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development
- ❖ Election of Office Bearers of AFPPD, Chair of Standing Committee on Women & Chair of Standing Committee on Food Security

## **CLOSING SESSION**

### **Closing address by Hon. Mrs. Truong Thi Mai, MP and Chair of VAPPD, Vietnam**

I am pleased to be here once again to deliver the closing speech. I am sure that the conference would have provided a good platform for sharing experiences and lessons of countries and to listen to the views of experts on various issues related to climate change, food security, population and sustainable development. I hope that during the conference, the delegates were able to obtain useful information on Vietnam and its people who are hard working and dynamic and always want to make friends with all peoples in the world on the basis of peace, cooperation, friendship and equality. I hope that the delegates had a comfortable and pleasant stay in Hanoi, Vietnam. I highly appreciate the great efforts and commitments by the Organising Committee of AFPPD which made this important conference in Vietnam a big success. Thank you.

### **Vote of thanks by Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director, AFPPD**

Now I have a very pleasant task which I really enjoy doing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who made this programme happen. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Tien who was instrumental in accepting to host this meeting and also mobilize the resources for this conference. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mme Mai, Chairman of the Social Affairs committee for accepting to hold this meeting and also allowing her whole staff of Social Affairs committee as well as the Parliament to mobilize for this conference. I would like to very sincerely thank Dr. Tien, Madam Mai and also the National Assembly of Vietnam and would like to request you to please give them a big hand.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Fukuda who has very kindly accepted to be the chairman of this organization again. With all his busy schedule and politics of Japan he took time to come over here for the whole three days and we are very grateful to him for that. We also like to thank all the office bearers who were there from 2005 -2008 who provided tremendous support to AFPPD secretariat especially Dr. Malani, Dr. Prat and other office bearers including Mr. Fukuda, who even after becoming the prime minister decided to remain with the AFPPD and we are very grateful to everyone of them.

We are very grateful to Ms. Steve Chadwick. Even though she became the Minister for Women Affairs and has lot of work to do there, she took time to organize the meeting in New Zealand and also to the support group of the New Zealand Family Planning Association and the Population Group which provided excellent support to us and we are very grateful to them. We are also grateful to the Parliamentarian group in Mongolia, parliamentarian group in Tajikistan for organizing two very well organized meetings, so please give them applause. We

also take this opportunity to thank Upda, Mr. Kosomoto, with whom we constantly work together, they are our secretariat in Tokyo and they are our information channel to Mr. Fukuda and other Japanese parliamentarians, and because of their efforts today you can see six parliamentarians from Japan who are present over here, so we are grateful for his efforts also.

We are thankful to all resource persons who took time to come over here from New York, from Geneva and from other places. We are very grateful to Mr. Giridhar, Mr. Jyoti Singh, Mr. Robert and others those who took time to travel such a length and with such short notice. This meeting as you might know was organized with one month notice so we are very grateful to them for accepting to come over here. We would also like to thank UNFPA, UNDP and UNAIDS who also supported this meeting and we are very grateful to them.

We are very grateful to you all people who came in such a large number. Actually when we were thinking of organizing I came over here, discussed with Dr. Tien and said that because this is a short notice most probably only 50-60 parliamentarians will come, so we made a hotel booking for 60 parliamentarians only. Slowly, because of your interest, because of AFPPD connection, the number grew and we had 106 people attending this meeting, apart from 30 Vietnamese parliamentarians, so please clap for yourself. This was possible because we have a very good network of national committee and all these national committees have very dedicated staff. The staff work tirelessly in the countries and I am really very happy that we have been able to develop over a period of time these committees with full time staff who are really dedicated. Without their support I don't think we would have been able to get all of you here in time with all kinds of travel problem and travel arrangements. So please clap for the staff of the national parliaments.

Please also clap for the staff of AFPPD. They have worked very hard for this meeting at very short notice. And we were organizing simultaneously a session in World Bank Parliamentarians' conference which took place only two weeks ago in Paris. We organized a session there and also took 5-6 parliamentarians there to talk about Population and Climate Change. For the first time the World Bank accepted to discuss about Population where Ms. Sonia Aziz and others participated and that is the reason everybody was very busy. At the end again I would like to thank the staff of this hotel, and every staff of the National Assembly who really worked very hard and I would like to thank all of them.

Thank you very much!