



IAPPD Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter of Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the Inter-linkage between Population Issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Part III

September 13-15, 2017, New Delhi, India

A three-day Conference-cum-Study Tour on 'Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the Inter-linkage between Population Issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Part III' was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and hosted by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) during September 13-15, 2017 in New Delhi. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and The Japan Trust Fund (JTF) supported the programme.

A group of around 100 participants attended the Conference. Attendees were selected on the basis of their needs for capacity enhancement and priority policy interventions where knowledge-sharing can be most effective. Members of Parliament from African, Asian including India and European countries; UNFPA and IPPF Office Representatives; officers of the government, parliament, JICA, APDA and other development partners and experts attended the Conference.

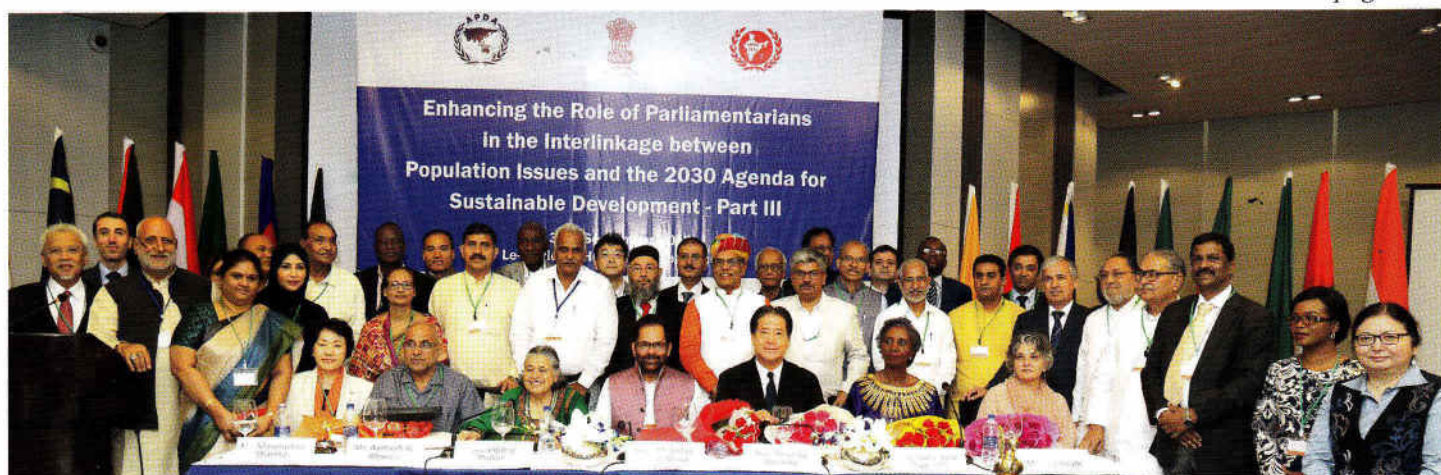
Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP and Vice-Chair, IAPPD, welcomed the participants to the Conference. She said that New Delhi's meeting is the latest of a series of dedicated Parliamentary Conferences focusing on the inter-linkages between population issues and the 2030 Agenda, examining ways in

which both developed and developing countries as equal partners serve to be the driving force to address population issues and achieve sustainable development.

On this occasion a message of Hon. Yasuo Fukuda (Former Prime Minister of Japan), Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPFP was read by Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, MP, Japan, Vice-Chair of JPFP, Member of APDA Board of Directors. In his message, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda said that addressing population issues must not be achieved in a forced manner; it should be achieved with people's well informed choice. It is the Parliamentarians who can play an active role, because it is they who are in a position to listen to the views and wishes of their nations' citizens. He thanked IAPPD for hosting the event and hoped that the keen debate at this conference would serve as a major step to building hope for the future for humanity, by advancing greater efforts to tackle population issues and providing a catalyst for the achievement of the SDGs.

In his Message, the Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi while appreciating APDA and IAPPD for organizing the Conference in New Delhi, said that Global Community has endorsed the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' to shape a sustainable common future for

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Participants of the Conference with the dignitaries.

From the Desk of the Editor



Addressing population issues stands out as one of the most fundamental imperatives in achieving sustainable development. There is adequate recognition of the fact that most countries, especially in Asia and Africa, did not achieve the targets envisaged by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the predecessor of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, SDGs should also provide mainstream responses to these issues.

Admittedly, the emerging impact of globalization has led to profound deepening and expansion in the interdependence of nations. Therefore, in order to advance sustainable development and build economically viable societies, both developed and developing nations, acting as equal partners, should be the driving force, by harnessing their diverse mutual characteristics based on global partnership.

Advocacy with parliamentarians and policy makers is one of the key pillars of IAPPD's efforts to enhance the knowledge of key influencers and decision makers on family planning in India. This is in order to highlight the urgency of improving the quality and access to family planning services in India through higher allocation of resources and an expanded basket of contraceptive choices.

The fundamental underlying concept is that addressing population issues is imperative to attain universal health coverage (UHC), turning the youth bulge into a demographic dividend, achieving food security, promoting regional stability, and building economically viable societies where no one is left behind.

As we know, India is the world's largest democracy and home to 1.3 billion people, which is bigger than the whole African population. Being a highly diverse country with a multitude of cultures, languages and ethnicities, India now enjoys one of the fastest economic growth rates. The country's serious investment in young people is the driving force

behind such growth. Indian economy also has a great influence on the African continent, especially East Africa, due to long-standing historical, cultural and commercial connections between them.

In this context, a three-day Conference-cum-Study Tour on 'Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the Inter-linkage between Population Issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Part III' was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and hosted by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) during September 13-15, 2017 in New Delhi. Members of Parliament from African, Asian including India and European countries along with UNFPA and IPPF Office Representatives; officers of the government, parliament, JICA, APDA and other development partners and experts attended the Conference.

This Conference was the latest of a series of dedicated Parliamentary conferences focusing on the inter-linkages between population issues and the 2030 Agenda, examining ways in which both developed and developing countries as equal partners serve to be the driving force to address population issues and achieve sustainable development.

Manmohan Sharma
Executive Secretary, IAPPD

A bill on the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens (Amendment Bill 2016) has been submitted in the Parliament for its amendment/improvement by Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, MP, in Parliament. He is an active member of IAPPD.



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mankind considering multiple dimensions. A sustainable global population is equally important in achieving this broad aim. He also appreciated IAPPD for partnering with international associations in formulating global level policies in ensuring a sustainable future for humanity. He hoped that the conference will host productive interactions and discourses on this important theme.

Ms. Marie Rose Nguini Effa, MP from Cameroon and President of the Africa Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, emphasized the Forum's readiness to work with APDA to promote investment in youth, "which is critical to Africa's development and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development."

Ms. Ena Singh, the India Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said that her country, India, has registered a rapid decline in fertility rate since its Independence and that currently the average fertility rate is 2.2 children, with the challenge now to bring down the total fertility rate to 2.1.

In his inaugural address, Hon'ble Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, said that growing populations across the world are the biggest hurdle in the path of equitable development, and in order to achieve the SDGs, it is of "utmost importance" for all the countries to take care of their populations. He stressed that there is a need for large-scale awareness on population issues, and that increasing population has created problems around the entire world regarding sustainable development, employment opportunities and health services.

Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, Ex.MP, Vice-Chair, IAPPD & Vice-President, Indian Red Cross Society, presented the vote of thanks.

Following sessions were held during the Conference and eminent experts in the respective field addressed the participants:

Session 1: Implications of Population Issues for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The inaugural session of the Conference.

Session 2: Investing in Youth and Population Dividend
Session 3: UHC and Productive Health: the National Development with Focus on Youth
Session 4: Global Compact and Sustainable Development
Session 5: Role of Parliamentarians on Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance (TAGG)
Session 6: Role of legislation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Valedictory Session



The Valedictory Session was Chaired by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Prof. P. J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Chairman, IAPPD and Vice-Chairman, AFPPD. The Valedictory Session was also addressed by Hon. Marie Rose Nguini Effa, MP, Cameroon and President, Africa Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development; Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, MP and Former Minister, Japan; and Mr. Varun Kumar Anand, Acting Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Bangkok.

Hon. Ms. Naguni Effa stressed the need to extend cooperation among the developing countries particularly



Participants during the Conference.



Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, with the participants.

African countries. She said that such workshop helps in focusing the attention of the policy makers on most pressing needs of the mankind as enlisted in the SDGs. It also helps immensely in the capacity-building of the Parliamentarians.



Dr. (Ms.) Toshiko Abe highlighted the importance of legislation and budgetary provisions for making the SDGs successful. She said that the Conference has rightly acknowledged the role of Parliamentarians for achieving the SDGs. She stressed that Parliamentarians work must be something that can contribute to achieving the SDGs and sustainable development as a whole, and that can contribute to the future of human beings.

Mr. Varun Kumar Anand spoke at length on the role of IPPF in supporting such endeavours which have contributed in bringing out positive advocacy changes in different parts of the world. He further stressed on three important roles of the Parliamentarians in regard to the SDGs – legislation, budget and monitoring and evaluation.

Chief Guest Hon. Prof. P. J. Kurien thanked APDA for organizing the Conference in India. He touched upon the various themes of the Conference particularly youth, education, women health especially reproductive health, environmental sustainability of the population growth, transparency, accountability and good governance. He also highlighted the status of India on different sustainable parameters. Finally, he emphasized on the role of legislation and budgetary provisions for these endeavours without which the achievement will remain unfulfilled.



Dr. Osamu Kusumoto Secretary General/ Executive Director, APDA, addressing the participants.

The Conference concluded with the New Delhi Declaration, adopted by the participating Parliamentarians. Among various action points, the Declaration urged the Parliamentarians for formulating concrete policies based on scientific

knowledge and necessary evidence. The Delhi Declaration stressed that respective governments should collaborate with research institutions to examine possibilities objectively. In addition, the governments should support the Associations of Parliamentarians at national, regional and global levels to involve the Parliamentarians to play their expected role by adequate sensitization and by building necessary sustained motivation.

Field Visit

With the objective of understanding the major activities of a government hospital and a college of nursing, a field visit to the Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi, was organized on 15.9.2017. Then the Delegation moved to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi. The delegation was showcased some of the recent technologies devised by the IIT Delhi for the blind people. The delegation was impressed to see the IIT, New Delhi working directly for the welfare of the people.

Finally, the delegation visited the Parliament House. Before calling on Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the delegation visited Rajya Sabha. Prof. P. J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Chairman, IAPPD welcomed the delegation. Thereafter the delegation assembled at Rajya Sabha Committee Room to call upon Hon'ble Vice-President of India. After the introduction, Hon. Vice-President addressed the delegation. Hon'ble Vice-President emphasized on inclusive sustainable development in which poverty alleviation, population control, inclusive growth and education are the key factors. He stressed for a concerted effort. The speech delivered by him got good coverage by the media. Prof. P.J. Kurien also addressed the delegation.



Participants during their field visit to IIT, Delhi (above) and Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi (below).

Social exclusion is not appropriate due to T.B.

Avinash Rai Khanna, Ex- MP and Vice President, Indian Red Cross Society

Due to increasing industrial activities in the world, the atmosphere is constantly getting polluted. This pollution is causing many small-big respiratory diseases such as asthma, TB, different types of heart diseases, lung cancer, pneumonia and cough, cold, etc. Among them are T.B. is a disease in which infection of certain types of germs in the lungs becomes infected. In fact, it is an impaired form of prolonged cough.

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in a special meeting organized by a Working Group of present and former MPs in Delhi whose main agenda was 'T.B. Free India'. I was thinking in my mind that such freedom campaigns can be run on one disease. But after spending few hours in this meeting, the fact was clear that in reality not only for India, it is for the whole world to get rid of transmissible disease like T.B. and for that the government and politicians, as well as for all non-governmental organizations, should take it on priority.

According to the 2015 data, there were about 28 lakh TB patients in India, out of which 5 lakh patients became victims of death. In the case of number of T.B. patients, India is at the peak in the whole world. Not only this, India has 25 percent of total number of TB patients of the world. In India, a little more than 10 percent of the patients are children.



A great campaign has been televised against the disease at world level. Initially, this campaign was started from different groups of Africa, America, Asia and Europe. In Asia, this group was established on the initiative of countries like India, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia. But today 31 countries have joined the TB-free category. Similarly, in Africa, the United States and Europe, this campaign is increasingly taking hold. In India, for this TB-free campaign now the current and former MPs of all political parties have expressed their commitment to the liberation campaign. Being the deputy-head of this organization who campaigned on population and development issues, I had the obligation to make the Government of India aware of the disease on the basis of the data collected by the experts.

The T.B. disease reaches very quickly from one person to another. Due to which women and children have to spend a tortured life even after the disease begins. Children do not go to school. Women are isolated by depriving the group of people in the family. Many a times, the incidents of removal

of women from the house were also exposed.

Due to T.B., the possibility of severe chronic diseases like diabetes (sugar), HIV and AIDS also prevail. Therefore, the need for serious efforts at the government level is being made to eradicate this disease.



Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

On the next day of this meeting, I submitted a petition to the Rajya Sabha Petition Committee, in which the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been asked to make some concrete plans for eradication of TB. For the eradication of this disease, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should make adequate budget and, in all parts of the country, concerted efforts should be made to alert the public about this disease and to provide treatment facilities. For any treatment against this disease MPs and MLAs should be allowed to spend the amount from the regional development fund allocated to them.

It is often believed that the complete treatment of the TB disease is not possible, whereas it is only a superstition. Medical science is able to give a completely healthy future to TB patients. But, the superstition is that TB cannot be treated completely. The government should also pay special attention to the treatment of this disease, because this disease affects not only a person but the whole family system. Family and social exclusion of the T.B. patient is in no way appropriate.

T.B. disease is due to the infection of certain germs in our lungs, so for those also there are some precautions which are still needed by TB patients who did not get sick. By regular *pranayama*, we can increase the supply of oxygen in our body through the lungs. Consumption of minimum three liters of water per day also helps increase the supply of oxygen, on the other hand, the function of stool removal from the body also works smoothly. However, in today's industrial age, covering the mouth and nose while going out of the house will be a special caution, especially when we are on an open vehicle in a polluted environment.

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One-Day Sensitization Workshop on Involvement of Elected Representatives on Population and Development Issues with Special Emphasis on Family Planning, Reproductive and Sexual Health and Child Health, and Women Empowerment

April 1, 2017, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

The one-day Workshop of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) members was organized by the IAPPD jointly with the Government of Rajasthan with the objective to sensitize the PRIs on population stabilization and health related issues with special emphasis on Family Planning, Women Empowerment, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and Child Health and Women Empowerment.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Member of Parliament, Udaipur, Rajasthan. More than 225 PRIs from Zila Parshad, Block Samiti, Gram Panchayat and health related workers attended the meeting.

Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD welcomed the Chief Guest, other dignitaries and the participants. In his initial remarks, he said that the purpose of the workshop was to flag population and development issues among the PRI members and draw their attention to look after these issues in their respective constituencies.

Two technical presentations, by Dr. Abhay Kumar, Member, Technical Advisory Committee, IAPPD and Dr. Sanjeev Tank, CMHO, Udaipur, were made in the workshop. While Dr. Abhay Kumar raised variety of demographic and RCH issues that haunt Udaipur district; Dr. Tank informed about the various programmes and initiatives taken by the state and central government in order to improve the situation of the district.

Dr. Kumar said that Udaipur is predominantly a tribal district. It lags behind in almost all the optimum indicators of demography and reproductive and child health in comparison to the national average. He said that all elected representatives must focus on



Shri Arjun Lal Meena, MP, addressing the participants.



Participants during the Workshop.

these issues in their respective constituencies.

Dr. Tank highlighted several programmes and services available at health centres in detail and suggested ways and means to avail these services for making the lives of the people healthy.

In his keynote address, Chief Guest, Shri Arjunlal Meena, thanked IAPPD for choosing Udaipur as one of the district for sensitization workshop. He said that being a tribal district, Udaipur lags behind in scores of indicators as highlighted by Dr. Abhay Kumar. There is a need to expand the health care services in far flung areas of the district which are hilly and tribal-dominated. He said that efforts are being made and was confident that the next rounds of data will definitely show improvements in wide range of maternal and child care services.

Other dignitaries on the dais also addressed the workshop.



Dignitaries on the Dais.

After the presentations, all the participants were asked to express their opinion, concerns, comments or queries. Many of the participants thanked IAPPD for highlighting such issues at district level. They felt that such workshops should also be held at block and tehsil levels to generate wider awareness among the PRIs.

The Workshop ended with a vote of thanks and certificate and memento were distributed to all the participants by the Chief Guest.



Participants during the Workshop.

National Meeting on Quality, Equity and Dignity for Maternal Health On National Safe Motherhood Day

April 10, 2017, New Delhi



Hon'ble Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, addressing the participants.

To Commemorate the National Safe Motherhood Day on April 11, 2017, a meeting with Parliamentarians was jointly organized by IAPPD and the White Ribbon Alliance (WRAI) on April 10, 2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The purpose of the meeting was sharing of collective voice for Quality, Equity and Dignity of one lakh women under "Hamara Swasthaya, Hamari Awaz" the campaign initiated by White Ribbon Alliance (WRAI) for Safe Motherhood India. The Campaign reached out to women directly to understand what they would need for quality maternal health care in India and engaged women directly to put forward their one task to improve reproductive and maternal health in the country. The meeting highlighted various issues and challenges, focussed on women's needs for the best possible health outcome; raised on women's voices to understand what they

wanted for quality reproductive and maternal care, with a view to present their concerns to the highest possible political leadership with the expected outcome that there would be a better understanding of what women value and ask for in terms of quality of care. The participants discussed maternal health issues through several programmes (like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)) launched by the Government of India.

The meeting was addressed by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Dr. Aparajita Gogoi, National Coordinator for Safe Motherhood India (WRAI) and Shri Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, welcomed the participants. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Viplove Thakur, MP and Vice Chair, IAPPD. Around 200 participants including Members of Parliament and members of civil society attended the meeting.

On this occasion, the report entitled 'Content Analysis of the Parliament Questions on Population and Health with Special Emphasis on Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) (2014-2016)' was well-received by the Health Minister. This study was carried out by IAPPD and partly funded by AFPPD's Small Grant Programme.



Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, releasing the publications with other dignitaries on the Dais.

TB Free India Summit and One-day friendly India vs TB Cricket Tournament

April 8, 2017, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

The TB Free India Summit was organized by The Union as a part of the Call to Action for a TB-Free India campaign supported by Challenge TB (the flagship TB control programme of USAID; implemented by The Union in India), The Global Fund and WHO, in association with the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association.

The Summit drew together top government officials and Members of Parliament (MPs) along with Indian celebrities to bring increased awareness and momentum to the fight against TB. Addressing the summit, The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Shri J.P. Nadda, said: "The government is committed for ending TB by 2025. Today, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) treats over 10 million TB patients. But meeting the 2025 goal requires us to be aggressive in our approach and have a fresh way of thinking. We must tackle TB head-on, in the public and private sector, and a Summit like this gives us the opportunity to look for new ways to do this."

The event brought a national focus to the issue of TB and galvanized support and commitment from key stakeholders, including government, politicians, corporate partners and donors to pool resources to end TB in India.

"It is gladdening to see stakeholders from all walks of life converge...to deliberate on a vision for a TB Free India."

– Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in his message.

Speaking at the Summit, Mr. José Luis Castro, Executive Director of The Union said: "If we want to address TB stigma in India and improve diagnosis, we need to engage all stakeholders to increase awareness and knowledge about the disease."

Speakers and participants included the Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Shri J.P. Nadda; Union Minister of State Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy; and Members of Parliament Shri Anurag Thakur, Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, Mohd. Azharuddin (Former Captain of Indian Cricket Team) and others. Famous names joining the celebrity cricket side included Shri Bobby Deol, Shri Sonu Sood, Shri Sohail Khan, Shri Aftab Shivdasani, Shri Sunil Shetty and others.

Representatives from civil society, Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, The Union, the World Health Organization, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IAPPD and The Global Fund were all in attendance.



Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the teams taking pledge for a TB Free India before the match.

Sensitization Workshop for Panchayati Raj Institutions on TB Jointly organised by IAPPD, The Union and Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

June 10, 2017, Barot, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

With the objectives to familiarize the Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on the issue of Tuberculosis in Himachal Pradesh and to discuss on the role of PRI members in eliminating TB in their area, a Sensitization Meeting for PRIs was jointly organized by IAPPD, The Union and Govt. of Himachal Pradesh on June 10, 2017, at Barot, Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma welcomed Hon'ble Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur; Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Kishori Lal; Shri Inderdev Ji, Secretary, District Congress Committee; State TB officer Dr. Baria; WHO Consultant Dr. Ravinder; The Union experts Mr. Shiva Shrestha and Mr. Manish Kumar; and PRI members from Barot and Baijnath Tehsil, Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh.

In his presentation, Dr. R.K. Baria, State TB Officer, discussed about the TB situation in Himachal Pradesh with special reference to TB in the Chohar Ghati/Barot region of Mandi District. He also highlighted about the sign and symptom of TB, emphasized on the importance of early diagnosis and treatment for the control of TB.

Dr Ravinder Thakur, WHO Consultant, Himachal Pradesh, highlighted the TB problem in Chohar Ghati/Barot and also the overall situation in Himachal Pradesh. He mentioned that in 2015, there were 14,000 TB patients detected in the state whereas around 530 TB

patients died. The deaths occurred due to laxity in the treatment and drop-out from drug consumption by around 500 TB patients and every year we identify 25-30 new TB patients from Barot valley alone.

Mr. Manish Kumar, The Union made a presentation on the

role of PRI Members in making Himachal Pradesh a TB Free State. He said that PRI institutions can discuss the issue of TB in their Gram Sabha meetings, Health Mela, World T.B. Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, Nutrition Day, etc. PRI members should take lead and discuss the issue of TB with ANMs, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers for creating awareness on TB and further encourage them to spread the messages of prevention and control of TB among general population and affected community.

Thakur Indersingh, Member, Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, appealed to all PRI members to spread the message of TB prevention to all common people of the area especially the affected community.

He pledged support for TB Free Himachal Pradesh and showed his interest to work with PRI members in his constituency towards the sensitization of general population on TB.

Mr. Prem Singh, Pradhan, highlighted the urgency to act against the spread of TB disease in Barot valley including the entire district of Mandi. He expressed his desire to work on TB eradication with his prior experience of supporting campaigns on Leprosy eradication, Polio eradication, Sex Ratio stabilization, Beti Bachao, and Meri Ladli programme. He mentioned



The inaugural session of the Workshop.



Dignitaries on the Dais during the Workshop.

that people of Barot valley should be educated on sign and symptoms of TB and its prevention, control and treatment provisions. As a PRI member, the responsibility increases to sensitize the common people, particularly on sign and symptom of TB so that rapid spread of TB could be controlled on priority basis. He emphasized that people are ignorant about the importance of complete drug doses and also less informed about free of cost and quality treatment at the government facility centre.



In his key note address, Hon'ble Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur highlighted about the deaths due to TB in the world and in India. He said that 4.5 lakh people died because of TB in India. Similarly, there are many TB deaths in Himachal

too. He said that "if TB is not treated on time it may convert into MDR case and the survival rate of MDR patients is only 50%. Therefore, it is necessary for us to know about the signs, symptoms, timely treatment and adherence of the disease. These are the pillars of success to fight against the menace of TB. Government is working hard to fight against the TB but without the support of PRIs, government can't alone achieve the goal of TB free Himachal Pradesh. The major challenges of TB are the lack of awareness, timely treatment and adherence, lack of nutrition, smoking, chewing of pan masala and unhealthy living conditions. Government of Himachal Pradesh has banned the use of cigarette in public places and sale of single cigarette. Similarly, nutrition needs to be taken care of for the masses specially of the TB patients.

Although the health indicators of Himachal Pradesh are fair better than other states of India, yet lot of measures need to be taken up for better improvement in the health indicators of the people of Himachal Pradesh. If the overall health standards of people of

the state improve, the incidence of TB is likely to go down. He appealed the PRI members to help/support the government of Himachal Pradesh and the people of their respective panchayats to make them aware about the problem and solutions of TB. PRI institutions are the fourth pillar of democracy deeply rooted with Gram Sabha. Central government gives money directly to the Panchayats for the implementation of local self-programmes, therefore Pradhan, Panchayat Samittee Members, and Zila Parishad Members should also focus on investing their funds on TB awareness programme.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Shri Kishori Lal, MLA, Baijnath, said "TB Mukht Bharat is the wisdom of government of India so is the wisdom of state government for TB Mukht Himachal Pradesh and as a politician I commit myself towards TB Free Himachal. Earlier in the Barot Valley Goitre (*Gale par Ganth*) was enormously prevalent disease but we fought against the disease and now our valley is free of Goitre. Similarly, we will defeat TB within a dedicated timeframe. Government of Himachal Pradesh is working hard for health system strengthening by filling all medical, paramedical staffs and installation of infrastructures with modern diagnostic facilities. Above all, our Health Minister Shri Kaul Singh Thakur ji is very proactive in addressing the issues and challenges of public health on priority. I request all Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha members to discuss the issues of TB in their respective meetings and sensitize each and every person of their area on the sign, symptoms, prevention, treatment and cure of TB."

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, presented the vote of thanks to all dignitaries and PRI members for being part of the programme and appealed to all the participants to make best use of the learning at the seminar and play their positive role to make Himachal a TB Free State.



Participants during the Workshop.

Asia and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development; From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Towards Regional Development and Achievement of SDGs

July 18-20, 2017, Amman (Jordan)

In addition to international experts, analysts and organizations, Parliamentarians as direct, elected representatives of people, met in Amman, Jordan, under the theme "From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs" during July 18-20, 2017.

The meeting was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Secretariat of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP). The meeting was hosted by the Jordanian Senate, the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), with the support of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Mr. Husain Dalwai, MP, India, and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, attended the meeting.

The meeting highlighted and called for attention of Parliamentarians to population perspectives in the 2030 agenda, their important order and tasks in addressing population issues aligned with the new goals and targets, as well as related policies and programmes



Mr. Husain Dalwai, MP, India (centre) during the meeting.

that advance social inclusion and population stability in the Region. The discussion on the need to share good practices signifies that the time for cooperation has come to deal with emergency situations and the Parliamentarians need to tackle the issues together by sharing knowledge among them. Parliamentarian's knowledge-sharing can increase the effectiveness of the related policies in their respective countries as well as regions, the experts emphasized.

The meeting discussed and adopted a draft outcome document with focus on obstacles that Parliamentarians face and concrete measures to develop and introduce legislation to improve population and development.



Group Photo of the Participants.

MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM: Investing in Healthy and Active Aging for Sustainable Growth: A Regional Approach to Promoting Innovative Long-Term Care

August 15-17, 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

A Multi-stakeholder Forum entitled 'Investing in Healthy and Active Ageing for Sustainable Growth, A Regional Approach to Promoting Innovative Long-Term Care' was held on the sidelines of the 3rd APEC Senior Officials Meeting and related meetings on August 15, 2017, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The forum was co-organized by the Government of Japan, the Government of Vietnam, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), HelpAge International, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETO).

More than 260 participants from 27 Asia-Pacific economies were in attendance, including Parliamentarians, government officials, academicians, service providers, journalists, experts from international organizations and civil society organizations. The Forum was convened to respond to the challenges and opportunities of rapid population aging in the region. With the number of persons aged 60 years and over in the Asia-Pacific region expected to grow to nearly 1.3 billion by 2050—about one in four people—there is an urgent need for effective policy responses to adapt to the challenges posed by these changing demographics. Today, the Asia Pacific region accounts for about 40.5 percent of the world's population, but its elderly population represents more than half of world's seniors (over 65 years of age) and by 2050, that number will increase to 70 percent.

Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Chairman, IAPPD; Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav, MP; Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, represented the country in the Forum.

In his key note address, Mr. Keizo Takemi, Member, House of Councillors, Japan; Chairperson, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



The Indian delegation (from left) Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav, MP; Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Chairman, IAPPD; and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, IAPPD during the meeting.

(AFPPD), said that an ageing society is not only an economic challenge but also a health and human security issue. It will have a significant impact on the achievement of universal health coverage, which is essential to ensure healthy and active lives for all throughout the life course as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG-3, which calls on governments to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Besides raising awareness of the urgent need to address the implications of rapid population ageing, the forum provided an excellent opportunity to share experiences, explore ways to harness the benefits of ageing populations and discuss the challenge of preparing for the upcoming wave of population aging in the region. Representatives from widely diverse economies and cultures came together to discuss possible ways in which they might work collaboratively to ensure that no one is left behind.

Participants recognized that guaranteeing the supply of skilled caregivers is an urgent problem that requires a regional approach. It was agreed that cooperation is needed among economies in the region to promote professional training and career development and to facilitate cross-border movements and circulation of care workers.

Meeting with Mr. Jose Luis Castro, International Executive Director (Paris), The Union

April 11, 2017, New Delhi

A meeting with Mr. Jose Luis Castro, Executive Director, International Union Against TB and Lung Disease was organized with the Members of Parliament who are co-chairs and members of the India TB Caucus. India TB Caucus is a unique network of Parliamentarians committed to end TB in India. With the objective to discuss the 'way forward for TB Control Programme in India – Advocacy with Elected Representatives', the meeting was arranged by IAPPD on April 11, 2017, in New Delhi.

Hon'ble Members of Parliament namely Mrs. Viplove Thakur, Dr. Majeed Memon, Dr. Kirit Solanki, Dr. B.N. Goud, and Mr. A.B. Rapolu were present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Prabodh Bhambal, Deputy Executive Director, The Union; Dr. Jamie Tonsing, Regional Director, The Union South East Asia office, Ms. Kavita Ayyagari, and Mr. Shiva Shrestha. Dr. Reuben Swamicken and Dr. Amar Shah from USAID India and Shri Manmohan Sharma, IAPPD also participated in the meeting.

Mr. Jose Luis Castro expressed his gratitude to the MPs for taking the lead in establishing India TB Caucus and defining the key advocacy objectives. During the meeting, various issues were discussed including establishment of contracts with State/Centre Governments, and issues like how to improve policy, increase budget, implement the programmes, etc. The Union and IAPPD also planned a long-run strategy for TB eradication from India.

TB Elimination through Effective Partnerships: Centre-State Summit

28-29 July, 2017 at Nagpur, Maharashtra

Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and International Union against Tuberculosis Lung Diseases (The Union) jointly organized a Legislators Meet to sensitize and discuss the TB situation in India in general and in Maharashtra in particular. The meet was organized under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India on July 28-29, 2017 in Nagpur, Maharashtra under the leadership of Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister for State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Four members of Parliament namely, Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole, Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane, Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete and Dr. Vikas Mahatme and two Legislators namely, Shri Sudhkar Vitthalrao Kohale and Dr. Milind Mane attended the meet.



MPs and Legislators during the Meet.

Family Planning and Population Stabilization in India: Discussion Forum IAPPD, June 7, 2017, New Delhi

Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Chairman of the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) and Vice-Chairperson of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), chaired an in-house meeting with IAPPD Technical Advisory Committee Members and the officials of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The meeting was conducted to discuss issues related to family planning and population stabilization in India.



Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population & Development towards the 2017 G7 Summit

4-6 May, 2017, Rome (Italy)

The Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development towards the 2017 G7 Summit was organized during May 4-6, 2017 in Rome, Italy.

The Conference followed the tradition of International Parliamentarians Conferences, which have been held on the subject of development and population in the countries holding the G7/8 Presidency.



Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Chairman, IAPPD and Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD, and Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, IAPPD, attended the Conference.

Prof. P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha during the Conference.

The main focus of the Conference was on migration through a human right perspective – in particular a women's right to health and a gender approach. It was agreed that there was not adequate attention on the issues of global south that holds the largest migrant population. It was suggested that future available funding be utilized for more activities relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.

This Conference revealed that the problems faced by

the EFP region and AFPPD region are quite different, though root causes are the same i.e. population and development issues. The visibility gained by AFPPD during this Conference could serve to be useful in the future.

The Conference concluded with the Rome Parliamentarians' Appeal, adopted by the participating Parliamentarians from 45 countries. Among various action points, the Appeal urged world leaders to provide comprehensive sexuality education and establish a health system focusing on universal access to full sexual and reproductive health services, adopt policies that embrace migrants' contributions, and promote, protect and fulfill the human rights and fundamental freedom of all migrants, especially those of women and children.



Noble Peace Prize winner Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, the External Affairs Minister of Myanmar, addressing the Participants.



Group Photo of AFPPD Executive Members.

Meeting of Co-Chairs of India TB Caucus with UN special envoy on Tuberculosis Dr. Eric P. Goosby

August 11, 2017, New Delhi

A meeting of the Co-Chairs of India TB Caucus with the UN Special Envoy Dr. Eric P. Goosby was held on August 11, 2017 in New Delhi. During the meeting, Chairman of the India TB Caucus, Prof. P. J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Co-Chairs Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP; Mr. Majeed Memon, MP; Dr. Kirit Solanki, MP; along with other senior officials of the Union and Technical Advisory Group members of the IAPPD were present.



Group Photo of the Participants.

Dr. Eric P. Goosby in his introductory speech while thanking the MPs for convening the meeting, said that it is an honour to meet the MPs and to be able to discuss about the problem of TB in India, I look forward to a robust discussion but I want to echo the anticipation and hope for the Indian people and through your leadership we hope to be able to support that, and allow the world to appreciate the priorities you have set and the contribution you are making to your country and also to the world.

Dr. Kirit Solanki, MP and Co-chair of India TB Caucus, said that despite the best efforts by all our previous and present governments, we admit that we have not been able to successfully eradicate or even control the spread of TB. The current government, led by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda, have developed a new National Health Policy also and in that policy, much stress is being focused on TB.

Mr. Majeed Memon, MP and Co-chair of India TB Caucus, said that our efforts to fight TB have two aspects. The first being, provision of medicines and treatment to those who are suffering from TB to prevent them from dying. Second, TB can be prevented by proper education; this must include aspects like what are the dos and don'ts for common people. We as Caucus members should support awareness about TB in the country to ensure that people can understand the issues, and thereby can prevent themselves from TB.

Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, MP and Member, India TB Caucus, said that before we talk about TB eradication we

must first talk about no TB deaths and no TB suffering. He said "I am not worried about prevention at the moment, but I am more worried about MDR-TB. Within our programme, we need to ensure access to free and quality drugs in both public and private sector then only the basic human consideration will start for the well-being of the affected people."

Shri. Laxmi Narayan Yadav, MP and Member, India TB Caucus, said "Government is working on TB control, but certainly some non-government organizations need to come forward. I had TB at the age of 25 but in those days we had never heard about MDR-TB. We simply had basic medicines of streptomycin. The real problem in the community is the lack of knowledge about TB. Its treatment and awareness can be increased through NGOs."

Md. Nadimul Haque, MP and Member, India TB Caucus, said "I agree that the momentum is required to sustain the political will to fight TB. Mr. Rapolu, MP, and I do this constantly. India has an important role to play in Moscow meeting and the UN general assembly. Our state West Bengal is deeply affected by TB especially in the core mining areas and if we can definitely develop vaccines that will be really helpful."



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