

As written

**Speech of Senator Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakom
Secretary General – IMPO and AFPPD
At the International Forum of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review
The Hague, Netherlands, 4 – 6 February 1999**

Hon.. Chairman and dear friends,

It gives me a great pleasure to stand before you to present to you the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) which initiated the organization of not only this, but previous International Forums.

AFPPD has now entered in Prime age of 18. It was born in 1981. Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) has taken initiatives in organizing the International Parliamentarians Forum in Cairo (1994), Copenhagen, Tokyo, and Geneva to provide population input in the UN Conferences such as the Social Summit, Woman Conference, and Food Summit. The Forum currently has 22 national committee as full members and 7 countries have regular projects to involve parliamentarians in population and development issues.

The Asian Forum now conducts parliamentarians' activities each month in one or the other country or sub-region of the continent on population and development, food security, water, sustainable development, economic crisis and population.

AFPPD is working in the following areas:

1. To create suitable political environment on population and development.
2. Resource mobilization for population and development.
3. Policy review & legislative changes.
4. Monitoring of the population programs.
5. Advocacy at constituency level.

Our experience have shown that in order to make our work effective, we need the cooperation of all political groups. Therefore, we advocate all party committee's at the national level and close cooperation with the Ministry-of Health and Family Planning. The most important is also the cooperation of Speakers and Presidents of the Parliaments. Without their cooperation, this movement of parliamentarians will not be a continuous process and so successful.

Overall I must say we in Asian Forum were fortunately to find dedicated parliamentarians such as Mr. Sato, Mr. Fakuda of Japan and now Dr. Taro Nakayama and Mr. Shin Sakurai and others. Japan is now one of the largest contributors to population program.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Parliament of Netherlands for the support to host this meeting.

I am looking forward to make this movement an effective one.

Thank you all.