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Asian Parliamentarians Meet in Lao PDR to Discuss Population and Climate Change

VIENTIANE, Lao PDR About 130 leading parliamentarians, experts and representatives of international, regional and national organizations from Central Asian, Asian and Pacific countries, will gather on 25-26 April for the 26th *Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development*, focused on Population and Adaptation to Climate Change. The forum is an annual meeting of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), chaired by the former Prime Minister of Japan, Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, MP.

"The projected doubling of global urban population within a generation, mostly in the developing world and much of it in Asia, if unmanaged can be a bigger source of greenhouse gas emissions" says Najib Assifi, Deputy Director of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. "Investments in education, health, sexual and reproductive health and youth can result in lower fertility, slower population growth and women's empowerment, all of which can contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation."

Parliamentarians will share information and exchange experience from their respective countries on the way their populations have been affected by global climate change and discuss the way forward. Session topics include "Climate Change and Women", "Population Issues with Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change", "Adaptation to Climate Change for Smallholder Farmers" and "Concrete Measures to Combat Climate Change".

The meeting is expected to adopt a Statement on Population Issues and Adaptation to Climate Change at its conclusion. It will bring together the voices of parliamentarians from the regions providing facts to support and pressure governments on their commitment to population issues locally and globally. After adoption, the statement will be submitted to the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada.

The event will be organized by the APDA and hosted by the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development with the support of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNFPA, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

APDA, established in 1982, has been addressing population and development issues and working to build a sustainable society where every person can live with dignity. APDA, as secretariat to the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population, has been developing its activities in close cooperation with UNFPA, parliamentary organizations throughout the world, international and local NGOs and other related organizations.

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