

Proceedings of the

**International Workshop for Senior Officials
on South-South Cooperation in
Population and Development**

**Taicang, China
22 - 27 April 2006**

China Training Center (CTC)

in collaboration with

**The National Population & Family
Planning Commission of China**

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SECTION I

A. Introduction

China Training Center (CTC) jointly with the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFPC) organized an International workshop for Senior Officials on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development in Traicang, China from 22-27 April 2006. (**Annex 1: Workshop Agenda**).

The workshop was held in conjunction with the formal opening of the China Program Office of PPD (23 April), the Executive Committee (EXCO) Meeting of PPD (25 April) and the BOAO Forum for Asia (26 April).

The objectives of the workshop was to:

- i) strengthen South-South cooperation by sharing experience, knowledge and solutions of success;
- ii) address challenges in achieving MDGs and pay particular attention to fight against AIDS and Malaria;
- iii) establish global partnerships in commodity exchange;

Around one hundred participants from PPD the member countries, other developing countries, international agencies, development partners, NGOs and UN participated in the workshop. (**Annex 2: List of Participants**).

The workshop comprised of a series of Keynote presentations and discussions on selected themes. Speakers comprised of policy makers, senior programme managers from governments, international agencies, NGOs and professionals in the field. (**Annex 3-7: Keynote Presentations**).

B. Workshop Themes

The deliberations of the workshop centred around the following themes:

- i. China's strategies for Population and Development
- ii. Partners in Population and Development: The Way Forward
- iii. MDGs and China's harmonious development of Population, Society and Economy
- iv. MDGs and South-South Cooperation
- v. China's Reform, Opening-up and Economic Development
- vi. Scientific View of Development and China's Practices

C. Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Zhao Baige, Vice Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC). Five distinguished guests delivered Opening Statements. They were, H.E. Mr. Zhang Weiqing, Chair, Board of Partners in Population and Development (PPD), and Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFPC); Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Mr. Sultan A. Aziz, Director, Asian and Pacific Division, UNFPA; Ms. Gao Yuanyuan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Foreign Aid, Ministry of Commerce (MOC); Mr. He Quan, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, China.

Mr. Zhang Weiqing welcomed all participants of the workshop. He stated that China had established a long-standing friendship with the developing countries in terms of the South-South cooperation. He emphasized that the South-South cooperation is a vital way for developing countries to seek common development and prosperity. He assured that China will fulfil its responsibilities through strengthening South-South cooperation, establishing global partnerships, sharing experiences, solutions, successes contributing to MDGs' achievement. He also pointed out that the recent visit of President Hu Jintao to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya indicated that China attached great importance to the relationship with developing countries and especially the Sino-Africa relationship. According to Mr. Zhang Weiqing, the South-South cooperation between China and developing countries shall not be only limited to the economic cooperation but also that in the field of social development including population, reproductive health, family planning. The objective of organizing such workshop is to provide a platform for the senior officials from developing countries to share experience and ideas. Finally, he wished the workshop a complete success.

Mr. Sangeet Harry Jooseery, Executive Director of PPD began by thanking the Government of the Republic of China and His Excellency Mr. Weiqing Zhang, Minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China and Chair of the PPD Board for hosting this workshop. He paid tribute to H.E. Mr Weiqing's vision and foresightedness in guiding not only the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, but also PPD for what it is today. He further praised the Vice Minister, Dr Baige Zhao for her dynamism, enthusiasm and vigour in all her initiatives.

Mr Jooseery expressed his appreciation and gratefulness to the Government of the Republic of China for hosting the first PPD programme office in Taicang City and is confident that it will play a leading role in the South-South collaboration and the promotion and Reproductive Health, Population and Development issues among PPD member countries.

He stated that Globalisation and new economic order has made the world more competitive, created human deprivation, widespread poverty and under development in the South. He highlighted the necessity, importance and the commitment of the donor countries to contribute 0.7% of their GDP to ODA for eradicating poverty as promised. However ODA should not be the main source of funds, large assets of the Southern countries also need to be explored.

Mr Jooseery further added that many countries in the South are economically sound with new emerging generation of entrepreneurship that can be effectively utilized for sexual and reproductive health and poverty alleviation. He stressed on establishing effective partnership to increase Reproductive Health Commodity Supply and Security and enhanced capacity building, sharing of experiences and expertise among developing countries. He ended his speech by wishing the South-South voice to be heard and hoping that quality partnership is established for its promotion.

Mr. Sultan A. Aziz firstly expressed his appreciation to the workshop organizers as well as the participants. He addressed the importance of ICPD PoA and MDGs, and stated that the establishment of China Training Center of Reproductive Health and Family Care (CTC) is a very important step for Chinese Government in achieving MDGs, as it also a platform for exchanging experience and best practice in the field of both economic and social

development. He further added that, in order to achieve the MDGs, there is a need to focus investments in key areas such as reproductive health, which empowers the human kind to fight against HIV/AIDS. He also emphasized the important role of women in these areas. On behalf of Ministry of Commerce, China (MOC), Ms. Gao Yuanyuan firstly expressed her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the participants. She reviewed China's significant progress since the reform and opening-up programme, and highlighted that population and development has become issues of global concern and attention all over the world. He added that, China has always been an active advocator and promoter of South-South cooperation. The objective of this workshop was to provide a base for experience sharing, human resource development and product/technology exchange. She further said that, China firmly adhered to the announcement by President Hu Jintao at the High-Level Meeting on Financing for Development at the United Nations Summit in September 2005, and made joint efforts with other countries and international organizations for global prosperity. Finally, she wished all the guests and participants a pleasant stay in China and a successful workshop.

On behalf of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, Mr. He Quan began his opening remark with warm congratulations for the inauguration of Partners in Population and Development China Programme Office (PPD-CPO) in Taicang, Jiangsu Province. He delivered a brief introduction to Jiangsu with its history, economic development, foreign trade and social construction. He highlighted some important aspects of the population and family planning programs in Jiangsu, including the successful family planning policies adopted by Jiangsu province. He believed that the workshop was of great significance to the population and development issues in the developing countries, and hoped that its outcomes will provide instructive reference for the development of family planning and reproductive health programmes in Jiangsu.

The opening ceremony was followed by a Group Photo.

SECTION II

This section is a summary of discussion on the six thematic keynote presentations.

A. Session 1: China's strategies for Population and Development

The keynote paper was presented by H.E. Mr. Weqing Zhang, Chair, Board of PPD and Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China while the session was chaired by Ms. Zeinab Mint Youba Maiga, Vice Chair, Board of PPD and Minister of Health Mali.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper

H.E. Mr. Weqing Zhang, Chair, Board of PPD and Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China presented some very critical issues that contributes to a country's Development. It is essential to take account of strategic opportunities and identify priorities in designing their new strategic plan. In the new plan, China paid special attention in five balancing factors, such as between urban and rural population, in regional development, between economic and social development, between human and nature and finally between domestic development and open market.

The Chair further continued his paper focusing on PPD. He highlighted the main goal of the alliance such as eradicating poverty, eliminating sexual discrimination, caring for the adolescents, focusing on FP/RH and prevention of HIV/AIDS. He added the common concerns of the member countries of the alliance such as high population growth, low economic growth, inter-country inequalities, insufficient services, resources and brain drain of human resources and mentioned of the new strategic plan of PPD to address some of these concerns. The Chair made a few suggestions for PPD. They are as follows: promote bilateral and multilateral dialogue among high level officials from other developing countries utilizing their experiences and lessons learnt, promote effective collaboration between GO-NGO and shape efficient global partnership in population and development bringing benefits to the people of the member countries, member countries should increase its international financial support on a self sustained basis, building an efficient and clean image among donors and member countries. H.E. requested all the member country governments to integrate South-South collaboration into their national population and development framework.

Discussions

Uganda: China's successful effort in promoting economic growth is very impressive for many African countries specially, in Sub-Saharan Africa. These countries want to take advantage of the regional strength, request donors to complement their effort and learn from China.

Senegal: Chinese experience and approach is very relevant and important to Senegal. It wants to replicate the miracles of its economic growth through in-depth research on the designing process of its successful 11th 5-year plan.

Gambia: Gambia is interested to learn more about the female education and employment schemes in China and how these two have contributed to their success. Has any other factor contributed to the reduction of MMR? What strategies has China adopted to improve the conditions of its ageing population?

Yemen: Learning from the Chinese experience and strategy is of great benefit for Yemen. Yemen wants to design its own economic program as per Chinese model.

China: The opening of the China Program Office of PPD is a milestone in the promotion of South-South cooperation. The Chinese Government is a strong supporter and believer of South-South cooperation and wishes that PPD uses this platform to benefit all its member countries.

The main concern for the developing countries is to find ways to enhance the productivity of their ageing population which is the key to the Chinese economic growth.

B. Session 2: Partners in Population and Development: The Way Forward

With Dr. Fouad Hamadi, General Secretary, Ministry of Health, Morocco as the Chair, the session on PPD was marked by a keynote presentation by Mr. Sangeet Harry Jooseery, Executive Director of PPD.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper

Mr. Jooseery's paper consisted of a brief description of PPD, its program and activities and its future directions. The main intervention areas of PPD are capacity development,

leadership development, commodity supply and security, Advocacy and exchange of expertise and knowledge. Many of PPD project are seen to form collaboration among government agencies, private sector as well as a mix of government and private. Promotion of the integration of ICPD goals with MDGs, reinforcing the linkages between RH and HIV/AIDS and promoting RH commodity exchange are identified as few common areas of interest among PPD member countries to formulate collaborative initiatives. As a way forward, Mr. Jooseery mentioned that it is important that PPD prioritizes their reproductive health needs, catalyzes effective and sustainable long-term partnerships, continues to document the lessons learnt and expands and establishes new strategic alliances particularly in the areas of research and policy.

Discussion

Indonesia: PPD should optimize the role of private sector to improve its programmes. It should explore the role of multilateral donors and is advised to attend international conferences to make the voice of the South heard.

Kenya: PPD's existence and role must be widely known. It should add value by identifying and minimizing the gaps among its member countries and creating meaningful linkages and partnerships among them. PPD needs to focus on youth friendly services which are a priority area in many African countries as well as lobby for promoting RH in the MDGs in International Conferences.

Gambia: PPD can attract more funds by increasing positive visibility and advocacy activities and reinforcing financial commitment from its member countries.

Mali: The big challenge for PPD is to involve all the member countries into multiple new programs and translate strategies into practice.

PPD: Through the opening of the China Program Office, PPD will take the lead to share Chinese success stories with all its member countries according to their specific needs. PPD's key role is to facilitate information, technology, commodity supply, expertise among its members and other developing countries, it must not be seen as an implementer of national programs.

C. Session 3: MDGs and China's Harmonious Development of Population, Society and Economy

Chaired by Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Treasurer, Board of PPD and Director of Population Secretariat, Uganda, the session had the keynote presentation by H.E. Dr. Baige Zhao, Vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), China.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper:

Dr. Baige Zhao defined sustainable development as a combined effort of social, environmental and economical growth. The six capitals involved in sustainable development are human, natural, social, intellectual, financial, manufacturers'. Human development and quality of life is the basis of any sustainable development. The Human resource development strategy of China focuses on improving the quality, address disparities and promote gender equality in education. It also ensures education for the migrated and minority children and matches education with skill needs. As social policies, Chinese government creates jobs, employment capability, protect the poor and

vulnerable, increase investment in health and education, develop social security system and forge environmentally friendly development strategy.

As for South-South collaboration, China once again expressed its full support and willingness to share its experiences and lessons with other member countries of PPD. China has successfully incorporated the South-South training programs related to population and development into its government framework of overseas assistance.

Discussion

Tunisia: Urged each PPD member countries to follow the Chinese model for a successful economic growth.

Mali: Is interested to formulate tangible collaborations between the Chinese and African governments in the area of MDGs.

China: Democracy and RH brought big changes in China i.e. ensured information-based choice system. For ‘Sustainable Development’ China needed integration of internal and external resources, diversity in designing different models for different groups followed by actual action. Good governance is also a key to sustainable development which aligns programmes with needs.

D. Session 4: MDGs and South-South Cooperation

The keynote presentation on “MDGs and South-South Cooperation” was made by Mr. Sultan A Aziz, Director, Asian and Pacific Division, UNFPA. H.E. Mr. Ch. Shabaz Hussain, Minister, Ministry of Population Welfare, Pakistan chaired the session.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper:

In his keynote paper, Mr Aziz emphasized the importance of reflecting the issues and priorities of developing countries. He insisted that the developing must ensure that their voices are heard at the UN conferences, policy discussions and other global forums and platforms. The operational challenges to meet the MDG targets for developing countries as identified by Mr Aziz are mainly in setting priorities, choosing interventions, monitoring and evaluating interventions and checking final impact.

Discussion

Kenya: Interested in identifying a solid mechanism for South-South collaboration in order to share common regional concerns and attract new funds.

Gambia: Expressed the interest to know the challenges China faced in the holistic approach to spend its financial resources.

E. Session 5: China’s Reform, Opening-up and Economic Development

Mr. Gouqing Zhang, Deputy Director General, Policy Research Department, Ministry of Commerce, China presented the keynote paper. H.E. Mr. Fan Jiang, Vice Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) China, chaired the session.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper:

Mr. Fan Jiang's presentation highlighted the structure, size, evolutions, achievements, experience and challenges of Chinese economy. During the last 28 years, the Chinese economy expanded to be the fourth largest in the world and its major industrial and agricultural products ranked among the world top. Since 1998, the demand never exceeded the supply for Chinese products at home and abroad. China's success depended on its high quality and low cost human resources, political and social stability, strong industrial base, well established infrastructure, improved legislation environment and open mind setting.

Discussion

Mali: Interested to know about China's position in monitoring the price of cotton, edible oil and sugar in the world market and the steps China has taken to reduce the gaps between its eastern and western regions. Mali appealed to China to play a balancing role in assisting other member countries of PPD by transferring this experience and model into theirs.

Kenya: Requested the meaning of the term 'socialist market oriented'? Does China provide free education and health services and subsidies to its farmers?

Uganda: Interested to know about the process and method China used to eradicate poverty.

China: China is a huge importer of cotton largely for exporting textile. China is self sufficient in sugar and edible oil production for domestic use. China provides nine years of free primary education in the urban areas.

F. Session 6: Scientific View of Development and China's Practices

The session was Chaired by H.E. Mr. Weqing Zhang, Chair, Board of PPD and Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China. H.E. Mr. Jianzhu Meng, Secretary of Jiangxi Provincial Committee of CPC delivered the keynote address.

Highlights of the Keynote Paper:

The concept of development in China is based on scientific outlook involving individual and societal development resulting in social and economical development. Between 1976–2004, China had a rapid economic growth by the implementation of the opening up policy supplemented by a very fast decline in fertility by the implementation of family planning as national policy. During this time, the GDP was increased by five times, the per capita income was increased by 28 times and the fertility rate decreased from 5.8 to 1.8 followed by a decrease in infant and maternal mortality rates. This high economic growth and low level of fertility rate has created the 'Golden Development Period' for China. China emphasizes the promotion of people's overall comprehensive development by maintaining low fertility rate, improving quality of the population, structuring the population better and distributing the population rationally.

Discussion

Zimbabwe: Interested to know how China handled the re-settlement of people from the hilly areas to fertile areas and are they organised in community group or individually?

Kenya: Questioned about the process of integration of Chinese traditional and regular medicines.

UNFPA: Developing countries should learn lessons from China and formulate South-South cooperation to overcome their specific constraints to attain similar results.

China: China has successfully moved 1.33m people from hilly to fertile areas and provided them with subsidy of USD 500 each for agricultural purposes. Farmers were also encouraged to take micro loan of USD 1,000 for crop production. China emphasises on growth and the quality of life over the number of people.

G. Special Session on China's Family Planning / Reproductive Health

This session was conducted by Dr Zhao Baige where she shared some important data and facts on China's overall program on Family Planning and contraceptive use. She mentioned that, presently, in China there are: 83% CPR, 50% IUD, 20% others (condoms, pills), 20% sterilization. China has five levels of thinking, they are: i) methods, ii) quality of care and quality assurance, iii) Intellectual Property Rights, iv) marketing and v) manufacturers (must be localized).

Discussion

Morocco: Interested to know the amount of fund China spends on research and development of a single product.

Mali: Merging of HIV/AIDS and RH is an issue of concern for many developing countries specially, with limited funds. In Mali, female are less aware of the RH services therefore do not know how to use the services. It is in PPDs interest to put together the voice of the South which is critical to attract international aid for some of the very specific needs of the developing countries.

Tunisia: South-South cooperation must be formed among countries with similar cultural and social background. Political commitment and attention to RH is critical to contribute to the attainment of MDGs. Tunisia have formed triangular partnerships i.e. South-South-North.

Senegal: In Africa, Female Genital Mutilation is a big issue of concern and it is not addressed in the MDGs.

China: China believes in transferring technology and medicines. New drugs usually need around 11 years of research, for generic drugs, the research time is 5-6 years. All products in China must be approved by the Shanghai Drug Administration (SDA) before marketing.

UNFPA: South-South collaboration is fundamentally different and it demands sharing of expertise and resources of the South. Developing countries that are in a position of being donors should not impose the same conditions as the North. South-South is a great forum, which needs to be put into action. There is no substitute for working closely with communities and educating girls among developing countries. Speaking in UN meetings and investing in building the awareness of RH with the force of one voice is essential. Coalition building and priority setting is critical too.

H. Round-table Meeting: South-South Dialogue, Making Joint Efforts for Common Health and Prosperity. This session was chaired by Dr Zhao Baige. It

was attended by the Partner Country Coordinators and the Executive Director of PPD.

Discussion

1. Africa is in need of assistance for developing their industries for production of essential drugs and not merely limiting to donations of ARVs.
 2. Kenya needs assistance in ensuring the quality of the drugs available locally.
 3. The most important element for South-South collaboration is to provide opportunity to each other and exchange expertise.
 4. PPD is requested to upload a list the RH products produced by China, India, Indonesia and from other member countries in its website.
 5. China is going to organise meetings with African Ambassadors, Donors and pharmaceutical companies in the member counties to promote South-South collaboration in October 2006 in China.
- I.** On 27th April 2006, a Seminar on 'Healthier City, Better Life' was held in Shanghai. This was organised by 2010 World Expo Shanghai. Mr Hanmin Zhou, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination shared the details of the preparatory arrangements for the grand event.

SECTION III

Closing Ceremony

The closing session was conducted by Dr Zhao Baige on 27th April. Dr Baige summarized the key points for the workshop and recommendations for future action.

Dr. Zhao Baige identified possible areas of collaboration between PPD and CTC as follows:

1. CTC is interested in organising and providing training to other member countries of PPD in STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and care.
2. Urged member countries to mobilize funds from in-country donors for projects in South-South Collaboration.
3. Requested member countries to develop and expand their network and initiate activities with private sector.
4. Member countries should exchange RH commodities such as - condoms implants, IUDs among themselves. The producing countries should find ways to export their commodities with countries in need.

She further requested the member countries and PPD to arrange funding and try to attend the following four meetings:

1. International conference on HIV/AIDS, Toronto, Canada August, 2006
2. The meeting for the Health Ministers in Africa, Maputo, Mozambique, September 2006.
3. Conference on International Migration, New York, USA, September 2006.
4. United Nations General Assembly meeting, New York, USA, September 2006.

Gambia: requested PPD to meet donors in each of the member countries and negotiate funding and ensure establishing budget lines for South-South collaboration at national level.

Yemen: PPD member countries need specific POA indicating specific funding source. Yemen is interested in participating RH training programs organised by CTC.

UNFPA: PPD is advised to consult its member countries before submitting any new proposal to UNFPA.

Mali: Donors must see concrete and tangible results in order to continue their support to PPD.

Kenya: PPD need to design a framework to ensure that member countries pay their membership dues on time. The payment status of member countries should be regularly reported to the Board.

PPD should upload in the website a list of training institutions in each of the member country. Registering drugs separately in each of the member country is a very expensive process, therefore, drugs must be collectively registered.

Indonesia: PPD's New York office is important and should continue to make statements at the UN. PPD should prepare a quarterly newsletter and disseminate it to all its member countries for regular information flow.

Morocco: Good proposals in member countries need to be strongly advocated by PPD to international donors to attract new funds.

India: Interested to see all member counties involved in contraceptive supply.

PPD: PPD is working on three axis: integration of ICPDs and MDG, integration of RH and HIV/AIDS and Commodity supply security. PPDs main role is to facilitate member countries in implementing their national programmes.

Mali: PPD need to design an Action Plan for its member countries to realise their goals in line with the new Strategic Plan.

Dr. Zhao Baige summarized the discussions as follows:

- PPD must conduct advocacy activities in a systematic manner, clearly defining to all member countries its objective, who are involved, what exactly to be done, how and when.
- For better clarity purposes, the utilization of the member country contributions must be regularly shared with all the member countries.
- PPD needs to explore collaborations from the multilateral agencies.
- Member countries need to identify their own RH need and compile information on their respective country web pages in the PPD website. This information is important for all to learn about each other's strength and weaknesses.
- All member countries are urged to use PPD as a sharing platform and formulate long term, technical partnerships among them.
- PPD need to post the details of all the training institutions in its member countries who can provide specific training to other member countries.
- Recommended that member countries pay their membership dues on time to show their commitment to international donors.

On 28th April 2006, all participants were taken to a field visit to 'No 1 Hospital for Maternity and Child Health'

SECTION IV

Conclusion

The participants noted that the broad concept of RH has been understood and translated by a number of countries in the form of concrete initiatives such as policies and programmes. Many countries have incorporated population concerns in their development and poverty-reduction strategies; established policies to protect women's and girls' rights; begun to integrate RH services into primary health care and improved and expanded facilities and access to services.

There was call for renewed commitment from the member countries to support each other through South-South collaboration to address the resource mobilization gap. PPD Secretariat in Dhaka is going to work together with the newly opened PPD China Program Office for forming new partnership with donors, training institutes, networking, private sector, commodity supply and policy level advocacy. PPDs dynamic new website is increasingly becoming an important and effective tool for sharing information among the member countries on to form future collaborations.