

Report on:

Consultation on Capacity Building

**18-19 June 2007
Dhaka, Bangladesh**



**Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
A South-South Initiative
Website: <http://www.partners-popdev.org>**

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Abbreviation and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
CDC	Cairo Demographic Centre
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IMR	Infant Mortality rate
INAS	National Institute of Health Administration
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
PCC	Partner Country Coordinator
PPD	Partners in population and Development
PIs	Partner Institutions
RH	Reproductive Health
TOT	Training Of Trainers
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Introduction

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) organized a Consultation Meeting on Capacity Building in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 18-19 June 2007 in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The meeting brought together eminent international experts in the field of Reproductive Health Population and Development from Uganda, Senegal, USA, a senior representative from UNFPA-New York and senior capacity development experts from Partners Institutions of PPD Member States such as Egypt, Morocco, Thailand, China and Indonesia.

2. Opening Ceremony

In addition to the international experts and consultants, the Opening Ceremony was attended by the Honourable Adviser, Secretary, Joint Secretary and high officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, representatives from international development agencies in Dhaka including the United Nations agencies, civil society members, training and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and print and electronic media persons.

In his address Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director of Partners in Population Development expressed his pleasure in welcoming all participants and guests in Bangladesh. He thanked the Honorable Advisor of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of Bangladesh for his kind presence despite his very busy schedule. Mr. Jooseery acknowledged the support and assistance that the honorable Advisor has extended to PPD. He appreciated the Advisor's unrelenting commitment to address the burning issues of reproductive health, population and development in the region through South-South Cooperation. Mr. Jooseery pointed out that the Government of Bangladesh is hosting PPD Secretariat since 1996 by providing office space and other facilities and accorded a diplomatic status to PPD.

Mr. Jooseery observed that Bangladesh is one of the rare countries in the region, which has made impressive achievements in the fields of population and family planning. The involvement of the civil society and the private sector has been also very impressive. Community participation under the impulse of religious leaders has created a new dynamism in Bangladesh.

Mr. Jooseery deplored that some unprecedented occurrences at the global level are questioning the dream that the international community had 13 years back in Cairo. Over the past decade, focus on population has been lost, and as a result, in 2005 the global population increased by 76 million. Of these, 99% are taking place in developing countries and more than 90% in the poorest developing countries. Almost a third of the world's total population lives in places where they earn less than two US Dollar per day. Half a billion live on less than \$1 per day. About 200 million people in the developing countries have unmet family planning needs. Mr. Jooseery mentioned that it is unfortunate that investment by developed countries in global family planning has fallen by 13 percent of the target set by the ICPD. As a result, some countries are experiencing explosive and unsustainable population growth.

Mr. Jooseery underscored that PPD is well positioned as an intergovernmental organization to advocate and undertake policy dialogue on population and development issues that are likely to affect the developing world, and by extension, the whole world. PPD's Board Members are Ministers of Health and population of 21 countries, which constitutes in itself a very important benefit and strength. Besides, PPD has a permanent observer status and a

place at the United Nations, which is one of the most effective platforms to make PPD's voice heard. PPD would like to move forward strategically in promoting the South-South Cooperation initiatives as a key route to address reproductive health and population issues in developing countries.

He expressed his conviction that the expertise and experience of participants, gathered at the Meeting would contribute meaningfully to reshape the future directions of capacity building and position PPD as a forerunner on South-South Cooperation within the context of ICPD and MDGs. He added that PPD needs to partner with parliamentarians, policy makers, governments, NGOs, civil society and other stakeholders to be able to change the course of events towards positive directions. Mr. Jooseery cited Robert Kennedy saying: "Each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in total, of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

He thanked the training module developers and the experts for their hard work for the Consultation Meeting. He thanked the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan for his support and assistance. He expressed his gratitude to UNFPA, its Executive Director Dr. Thoraya Obaid and Dr. Rogelio Fernandez-Castilla, Director of Technical Support Division for having been constantly beside PPD and thanked Mr. Rabbi Royan, Senior Technical Advisor, UNFPA for his engagement with PPD from Kampala to Taicang and to Dhaka. He also extended his thanks to the Standard Chartered Bank and all well-wishers for their support.

The Opening ceremony proceeded on with a speech delivered by Mr. A. K. M. Zafar Ullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh. Mr. Khan expressed his satisfaction to be present at this important event. He congratulated Mr. Harry Jooseery and the PPD Secretariat for their endless efforts to improve sexual reproductive health and rights in PPD Member States as well as in other developing countries. He thanked PPD for bringing together these prominent international experts to this Consultative Meeting and wished that the outcome of the meeting would be very fruitful for sustained capacity development of PPD Member States. He underscored that the Government of Bangladesh has been a cherished partner of PPD for the past twelve years and is proud to be the host country of such an intergovernmental alliance.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Mr. Rabbi Royan, representative from the TSD-UNFPA, New York, thanked PPD and in particular, Mr. Harry Jooseery and his team for the leadership and efforts to organize the Meeting on Capacity Building in the context of South-South Cooperation. He hoped that that the Consultation Meeting will address the issue of capacity development of Partner Institutions which is essential for sustained improvement of Reproductive Health and Rights through South-South Collaboration among the PPD Member States and for attainment of the ICPD Goals and MDGs. Mr. Royan underlined that the Meeting would review and fine-tune the draft modules that were identified in Taicang Meeting and prepared subsequently by PPD Consultants on Population, ICPD Goals and the MDGs; Reproductive Health; Population and Poverty and Gender and Policy and Advocacy.

In his statement, H.E. Major General (Rtd) Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, the honorable Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh and Board Member of PPD stated that he was proud to be associated with PPD. Dr. Rahman warmly welcomed all the guests, consultants and participants to Bangladesh. He congratulated PPD for the work

that it has been doing in PPD Member States to address the burning sexual and reproductive issues. The Advisor referred to his discussion with Mr. Jooseery and wished him success for endeavour in formulating new strategies to address reproductive health and population and development issues among its member countries.

Dr. Rahman expressed that the Government of Bangladesh was happy to offer support to PPD not only in housing the Secretariat in Dhaka with necessary facilities, but also leading the initiative towards obtaining the Observer Status at the UN. He appreciated the role of PPD in promoting reproductive health, population and development issues through South-South Cooperation. Dr. Rahman underscored that the countries in the South have lots of successful experiences, expertise and know-how which need to be identified, scaled-up, shared and exchanged through capacity building to meet the emerging needs of the countries.

He mentioned that Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and family planning during the last two decades. The MMR and IMR have fallen from 7 to 3.2 and from 160 to 32 respectively.

To conclude, the honorable Advisor noted that the Government of Bangladesh and in particular, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is committed to provide all assistance and support for the promotion of PPD and South- South Cooperation. He expressed his deep appreciation regarding PPD's forward-looking vision and strategies and wished the PPD team success in their future endeavour. He wished all participants a pleasant stay in Bangladesh and fruitful delegations during the Consultation Meeting.

3. Session-One: Presentation of Modules on Population and Poverty, and Reproductive Health

Mr. Jyoti Singh, Chairperson, invited Dr. SLN Rao to present an introductory remark on the topic of Capacity Building Policy: From Taicang to Dhaka. In the beginning of his presentation, Dr. Rao pointed out that one of the major objectives of the Meeting is to discuss the training modules and to finalize them by incorporating the suggestions made by the participants. The session continued with presentations of modules on Population and Poverty, developed by Prof. Limanonda Bhassorn and module on Reproductive Health, developed by Dr. Maaroufi.

Prof. Bhassorn presented the objectives of the module i.e. demographic dynamics, inter-linkages between population and poverty alleviation as part of development program, framework of analytical tools, monitoring and evaluation, etc. She explained the methodological part and the target group of the course module.

The module on reproductive health, presented by Dr. Maaroufi identified policy planners and managers of RH programs and services as the intended target groups. Dr. Maaroufi explained the structure and major thematic areas of the module i.e. theoretical framework, economic and socio-cultural aspects, planning, management and evaluation of RH program and services, safe motherhood program, etc.

The presentation of modules was followed by discussions. Mr. Jyoti Singh, the Chairperson, appreciated Prof. Limanonda and Dr. Maaroufi for their hard work for producing excellent modules in such a short period of time. Prof. Abdelghany suggested to avoid repetition or overlapping among the training modules. Mr. Jyoti Singh advised to develop a methodology for dealing with cross-cutting thematic issue such as; gender and poverty to overcome the problem of overlapping.

Dr. Maaroufi suggested that the modules should be developed taking into consideration the users, character of training institutions and the target groups; and emphasized on a standard structure for all modules. He also emphasized that the contents of the modules should focus on strategic intervention and programmatic applications.

Dr. Rao mentioned that the modules have been developed following a guideline which contained the target groups. However, more guidelines could be followed to bring a balance between the analytical and interventional aspects of training modules. Dr. K.S. Seetharam suggested that the issues of migration, poverty and gender could be incorporated in the module on population and poverty.

Mr. Rabbi Royan termed both the modules as excellent pieces of documents. However, he noted that population dynamics are present in the module on population and poverty while the points of intervention ought to be more perceptible. He mentioned that it would be better to address the issue of intervention at the micro-level already at this stage of the module development process. He also emphasized on the subject of the future role of PPD to take initiatives for formalizing or institutionalizing the modules.

4. Session-Two: Presentations of Modules on Gender, Policy Advocacy, and Population, ICPD Goals and MDGs

Chairperson of the session Dr. Wilopo invited Ms. Joy Mukaire and Prof. Abdelghany to present their modules. Ms. Mukaire mentioned that her module incorporated the discussions of Taicang Meeting and integrated the gender issues. In the introduction, Ms. Mukaire highlighted the necessity of the module, the methodology and target groups. She presented her module into three sub modules. The first sub-module reflected on Gender and Development, second Sub-Module highlighted Gender and Poverty and third Sub-Module focused on Gender and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS.

Prof. Abdelghany presented a module that form part of a course curriculum imparted at Cairo Demographic Center. Dr. Wilopo advised Prof. Abdelghany to integrate his module into the module of Ms. Mukaire to address the gender concerns. Dr. SLN Rao stated that both the modules could supplement each other for mutual enrichment. Mr. Singh said that since Prof. Abdelghany's module is already in use at CDC, it should remain intact and advised Ms. Mukaire to incorporate some elements of the Prof. Abdelghay's module into her module for future use in Partner Institutions.

In the second part of the session, Dr. Wilopo invited Mr. Dioum present his module on Policy and Advocacy. Mr. Dioum reminded that there was no elaborate discussion on this subject in Taicang. However, it was quite evident from the discussions during the group work in Taicang that policy advocacy should be transversal in all areas training and research. Mr. Dioum presented his module in sections and units to discuss the whole subject. Dr. Maaroufi mentioned that the module is good but the duration of the course should be reduced to less than three weeks. Ms. Mukaire mentioned that although all elements of training are available in the module, it needs to be restructured. Mr. Jyoti Singh opined that this module should be used by PPD in its own activities not by the Partner Institutions as a training module.

Dr. Wilopo, Chairperson invited Dr. SLN Rao to present his module on Historical and Institutional Perspective on Population, ICPD Goals and MDGs. Dr. Rao said that there was no particular working group on his subject in Taicang although the issue had been discussed

in details. In his presentation, Dr. Rao highlighted some of the specific focus areas of the module i.e. the historical perspective on population in relation to demography, the ICPD perspective on population, gender and reproductive health, institutional perspectives, policy linkages and programmatic implications of ICPD Goals and MDGs, and costing and financing of the population and reproductive health agenda.

Mr. Singh said that there is a need to have some understanding about the ICPD Goals and why it needs to be integrated with the MGD's. Mr. Jooseery said that the course module outline was very much relevant and comprehensive. He also requested Dr. Rao to document the process how ICPD and MGD's evolved, e.g. the Beijing Declaration, the Maputo Declaration etc. Mr. Rabbi Royan said whether the module could include specific indicators and information about the whole notion of population dynamics within the context of ICPD and MDGs. Prof. Abdelghany pointed out that the MDG's provide us with quantitative targets while the ICPD Goals stressed on qualitative aspects.

Dr. Rao thanked all participants for their valuable suggestions and agreed to incorporate them into his module including linkages between the ICPD and MGD's. The Chairperson requested all module developers to revise their modules and make them available in the morning session next day.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Harry Jooseery thanked all module developers for their sincere and hard work during last few weeks. He said that PPD sincerely acknowledges the valuable contribution and cooperation extended to PPD by the experts and consultants. He appreciated all participants for their valuable comments and views on the presented modules.

Mr. Jooseery discussed about the way forward by stating that PPD would proceed further to add more institutions in the capacity development process apart from the 17 Partner Institutions (PIs) to make the process more comprehensive. He added that PPD would establish a network of the partner institutions so that they can exchange training courses, scholarships, fellowships, course modules. He proposed that the modules developed would first be translated from English to French and gradually to Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese languages.

5. Session- Three: Presentation of Revised Modules

Mr. Rabbi Royan, Chairperson, resumed the session and said that the objective of the session is to review all modules revised according to the comments and suggestions made by the participants in the previous day. While reviewing the revised modules, the participants once again came up with a set of suggestions and recommendations. A summary of the points made is as follows:

- The modules shall be standardized and shall include both theoretical framework as well as the programmatic aspects of training implications.
- The Reproductive health module shall focus more on contraceptive methods and quality management of family planning programs.
- The issue of commodity security (both accessibility and affordability), financial cost analysis of family planning need to be incorporated into the RH module.
- Adequate integration of HIV/AIDS into the mainstream reproductive health system is to be addressed by the RH module.

- The module on population and poverty needs to be more empirical in character, and shall focus more on the programmatic interventions in relation to poverty alleviation, population and development.
- Field study is to be incorporated as a new session in the population and poverty module.
- Availability of data, tools for data analysis and professional use of database have become essential part for institutional capacity building process. PPD and its partner organizations shall critically consider this subject.
- The module on gender shall cover basic knowledge about legal framework for gender equality as well as indicators for measurement of gender mainstreaming process.
- The module on policy advocacy is an important one that can be dealt with in the near future and can be used by PPD partner institutions and government officials of its member states. Duration of such a course could be one and a half day.

Dr. Rao highlighted the subject of strengthening institutional collaboration and partnership with regard to research and training programs. He thanked all participants for their valuable inputs and fruitful work for developing the modules. At the end of the session, Mr. Royan requested the experts to finalize the modules and submit to the PPD Secretariat. He emphasized that it is the time for PPD and its partner organizations to exert all efforts for institutionalizing the training modules. He also mentioned that the products (modules) have to be competitive and updated according to the present demands. He pointed out that we shall thus identify how to advocate for these modules, and how can we make best use of them in the context of capacity building and strengthening partnership among the PPD member states.

6. Session –Four: Institutionalization of Modules

In the last session of the Meeting, Dr. Seetharam, the Chairperson, stated that the progress of this two-day Meeting had been very impressive. He invited Mr. Jooseery to make his comments. Mr. Jooseery thanked all experts for their valuable contribution. He said that the Meeting was fruitful in producing final versions of the modules and anticipated that representation of a number of institutions and member states will ensure ownership of the modules by the institutions. Mr. Jooseery said that at this stage PPD and its partners need to address some specific issues such as:

- i. What would be PPD’s way forward with the training modules? He requested Dr. Rao to shade some light on this.
- ii. What would be the role of PPD for institutionalizing the modules? Which mechanism shall be followed?
- iii. How networking and partnership will be strengthened?
- iv. How can partner institutions play a better role in the process of capacity building?
- v. How the modules can be promoted and owned by our partners’ institutions?

Mr. Jooseery requested Mr. Singh’s advice on the future steps regarding these issues. Mr. Singh said that the need for an integrated perspective in training courses on population and poverty, reproductive health, gender, ICPD Goals and MDGs is apparent in capacity building initiatives of PPD member countries. Hence, it is a critical moment for us to identify what are the steps that we need to take in order to operationalize the process. He highlighted the issues below:

- i. The modules are to be revised and should be formally shared with all 17 partner institutions (PIs) with a cover letter from the Executive Director of PPD.
- ii. More institutions should be included in the existing list of partner institutions whereas focus will be given on the African region. The list needs to be finalized soon.
- iii. PPD should spearhead the creation of an institutional network of research and training institutions engaged in population and reproductive health.
- iv. PPD should make a list of tasks according to their nature, such as, networking among the partner institutions, sharing the modules and other information, collaboration with potential donors and other stakeholders, improving web-based communication and networking, setting up information database for partner institutions and other stakeholders, etc.
- v. PPD should explore and facilitate potential scopes for collaboration through fellowship program, exchange of expertise, exchange of course modules, internship, etc. among the partner institutions more extensively.
- vi. PPD should appoint an IT expert who would be knowledgeable of the whole exercise of population and development and must be interested on the content of the web-based networking and communication.
- vii. The Executive Director of PPD can prepare a work plan with clear deadlines and assign relevant officers accordingly.
- viii. PPD should develop long-term collaboration with UN agencies including UNFPA for strengthening capacity building initiatives with emphasis on research and training needs of the PPD member countries.
- ix. PPD should operationalize the process of Training of Trainers (TOT).

7. The Way Forward

The Consultation Meeting on Capacity Building ended with the following recommendations on the way forward in capacity building of Partner Institutions.

- a) Finalizing the training modules,
- b) Advocate for or institutionalizing the modules,
- c) Strengthening partnership through capacity building of partner institutions,
- d) Initiate expanded programs in order to bridge the gaps between the needs and capacities of partner institutions of member countries,
- e) Advocate for resource allocation, and
- f) Initiate facilitation to complement partner institutions through their own existing potentials and resources.

Mr. Jooseery summarized the discussions saying that PPD considers all recommendations and suggestion made during the Meeting as very important. He also informed that PPD will soon resume its actions for institutionalization of the modules. He requested the consultants to deliver the revised modules to Ms. Sadhona Mahal as the focal person at the Secretariat for networking and communication among the PIs and other stakeholders.

He requested the contribution of Dr. Rao and Mr. Singh in the revision of list of partner institutions by adding up more research and training institutions from Philippines, Pakistan, Latin America and Africa. PPD will expand its fellowship program to include all Partner Institutions. Mr. Zayedul Hoque at the PPD Secretariat is the contact person for fellowship program. He also informed that PPD will soon establish a web-based database and network

system and Mr. Humayun Kabir Shishir will contact the Partner Institutions for necessary information.

He said that Dr. Rao will assist PPD in developing a new proposal on capacity building through South-South Cooperation with wider coverage. PPD looks forward to increasing involvement of PIs and continued support and assistance of UNFPA to sustain the capacity building process.

Mr. Jooseery announced closure of the meeting by extending his heartfelt gratitude to all participants.

8. Annex A-I:

**Welcome Address
Opening Ceremony of the
Consultation on Capacity Building and Strategic Policy Development
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 18 June 2007**

**Mr. Harry Jooseery
Executive Director, Partners in Population Development**

Your Excellency Major General Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Mr. Rabbi Royan, Senior Technical Advisor, Population and Development, UNFPA, New York

Mr. Jafar Ullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Members of Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of National and International organizations based in Bangladesh

Representatives of Print and Electronic Media

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of this Consultation on Capacity Building and Strategic Policy Development being organized by PPD in Dhaka.

I would like in the first instance to thank the Honorable Advisor of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and PPD Board Member for his presence among us this morning despite his very busy schedule. When Dr. Matiur Rahman assumed office, he graciously welcomed me at his office and we discussed issues of common interest to Bangladesh, the region and PPD. Dr. Rahman has been very attentive to us and extended his full support and assistance to PPD for which I am very appreciative.

We acknowledge his unrelenting commitment to address burning Reproductive Health, Population and Development issues both in Bangladesh and in the region through the South-South Cooperation. Honorable Advisor, thank you once again.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Bangladesh is one of the rare countries of the region which has made impressive achievements on the demographic front.

The involvement of the civil society and the private sector has been also very impressive. Community participation under the impulse of religious leaders has created in Bangladesh a new dynamism which is rare in other parts of the developing world with similar socio-cultural background. However, complacency is unwarranted. A few unfavorable Reproductive Health indicators are persisting. For example, the risk of a child dying before the age of one year or during delivery is still high. Quality of care service and gender based

program need to be reinforced. I am however confident that the situation will improve under the leadership of Dr. Matiur Rahman, who I understand is also very much concerned with these and is taking bold decisions to address them. As you are aware, Bangladesh is hosting PPD Secretariat since 1996, provides office space and facilities and also diplomatic status to PPD.

We are the only intergovernmental organization in Bangladesh with such privilege from the Government, and we are proud to be thus. PPD is committed to contribute to the national effort to redress the Health Sector and would like to give assurance of our unrelenting support to the Government of Bangladesh. I am happy to inform you that PPD will award Fellowships for a One-Year Diploma Course on Demography starting January 2008 to Bangladeshi professionals to be held in Cairo Demographic Centre. Following a Memorandum of Understanding signed between PPD and China,

\$ 700,000 will be donated to Bangladesh for equipment, training and consultancy. 2 Participants from Bangladesh participated in a workshop on Maternal and Child Health Care Service between 28 May and 11 June, organized jointly by PPD and China. In July 2007, Bangladesh has been invited to participate in an International Workshop on “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights” to be held in Beijing, China. In September 2007, Bangladesh will be invited to attend another International Workshop on “Facilities and Equipment Management in Family Planning and Reproductive Health Service Delivery” in China. In addition we are networking with the Institute of Maternal and Child Health of Bangladesh, for the promotion of Capacity Building in Reproductive Health, Population and Development in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on the global level some unprecedented occurrences are questioning the dream that the international community had 13 years back in Cairo. Over the past decade, the focus on population has been lost, and as a result in 2005 the global population increased by 76 million more births than deaths. Of these, 99% are taking place in developing countries and more than 90% in the poorest countries. Almost a third of the world’s people live in places where they earn less than \$2 per day. Half a billion live on less than \$1 per day. 125 to 200 million people in the developing world have unmet Family Planning needs. We contend that people in developing countries have large families not by choice but by their inability to exercise their right to manage their family size.

It is unfortunate that investment by developed countries in international family planning has fallen by 13% of the target set by ICPD. As a result some countries are experiencing explosive and unsustainable population growth. Niger with 15

million populations today will hit 80 million in 2050, Afghanistan will move from 30 million to 82. Pakistan is in another alarming situation. In 1970, there were 5 million more people in Bangladesh than Pakistan. While, as I said before, Bangladesh adopted a very pragmatic culturally based Family Planning programme, Pakistan did not. As a result by 2050, Pakistan will have 62 million more people than Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we need to act now and complacency is unwarranted. If we want the dream of ICPD to become true, if we want the MDGs to change the life and destiny of the poor especially the most destitutes, we need to reposition Family Planning into the development agenda. If we do not act now, we would jeopardize the life of the future generation, the future of mankind and the very survival of human species on planet earth.

PPD wants to alert the whole world and particularly the developing countries on the need to adopt a concerted effort to address Reproductive issues. Through our member states, we reach more than 52% of world population and we wish that each of our member states takes bold step of investing additionally on Reproductive Health. I am happy to inform you that PPD will organize an International Forum on “Universal Access to Reproductive Health” in Islamabad, Pakistan between 6 – 7 November 2007 to alert government, the international community and the donor agencies on the need to reposition Family Planning Programme as urgency.

Bangladesh will also be invited to participate in the International Conference in Islamabad. We are planning to organize a Policy Dialogue among African leaders by the end of this year to re-galvanize efforts at the continental level using the Maputo Plan of Action as a framework. We are well positioned as an

intergovernmental organization to advocate and undertake policy dialogue on Population and Development issues that are likely to affect the developing world and by extension the whole world. Our Board Members are Ministers of Health and Population of 21 countries, which constitutes in itself a very important asset and strength. Besides, we have a permanent observer status and seat at the United Nations and this provides one of the most effective platforms to make our voice heard. We would like however to move strategically in promoting the South-South Cooperation initiative as a key route to address Reproductive Health issues. It is in this context that we have gathered experts from different countries today to discuss the Reproductive Health gaps in developing countries, the most pressing needs and make concrete proposals. We have a 10-year Strategic Plan, but given the urgency of the present global demographic and environmental pressures, we want to develop a 4-year Strategic Business Plan for more targeted and focused programme intervention. We mean Business and Business with a difference. We cannot afford to do business as usual.

I am convinced that with the expertise and experience of all our colleagues gathered here for the 6 days, we will come up with concrete and meaningful proposals that will reshape our future directions and position PPD as a forerunner on South-South Cooperation within the context of ICPD and MDGs. PPD cannot pretend to be able to change the course of events by itself. We need to partner with parliamentarians, policy makers, Governments, NGOs, civil society and all stakeholders and well-wishers. As stated by Robert Kennedy, *“each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in total of all those acts, will be written the history of this generation”*.

Ladies and gentlemen, to conclude I would like to thank the experts for their very hard work prior to this consultation, the number of papers on strategic issues that have been prepared and circulated by our consultants and also for the daily electronic discussions and feedback from each of them. I would like to thank the Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh Mr. Jafar Ullah Khan for his support and assistance to us.

Thank you also to Standard Chartered Bank and all our well-wishers for their support, UNFPA, its Executive Director Dr. Thoraya Obaid and Dr. Rogelio Fernandez-Castilla, the Technical Support Division Director of UNFPA Headquarters for having been constantly behind us and for their valuable advice and suggestions.

Unfortunately, neither of them could be with us this morning due to other pressing commitment and I would like to request Mr. Rabbi Royan to convey our warmest greetings to them. Of course I have also to thank you personally Mr. Royan for your engagement with

PPD from Kampala to Taicang and now to Dhaka. Thank you once again Dr. Matiur Rahman for your support to me personally and to PPD.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

Annex A-II.

Address by the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Opening Ceremony of
Consultation on capacity Building and Strategic Policy Development
18 June 2007, at 9 am**

Dr. Major General (Rtd.) ASM Matiur Rahman, the Honorable Advisor, MoHFW, MoWR, and MoRA, the Government of Bangladesh

Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development

Mr. Rabbi Royan, Senior Technical Advisor, UNFPA Headquarter, NY

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my honor to be present at this Consultation on Capacity Development and Strategic Policy Development meeting, organized by Partners in Population and Development (PPD) with support from UNFPA. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate PPD for organizing such an important event and for inviting me to address you.

May I mention that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh has been a cherished partner of PPD for the past twelve years. We have passed a long way together, and have been successful in partnership to advance the agenda of reproductive health, family planning, population and development in the context of achieving the ICPD program of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. The Government of Bangladesh is very proud to be the host of the PPD Secretariat at Dhaka since PPD has started its journey.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director of PPD and the PPD Secretariat for their endless efforts for improved reproductive and sexual health services and rights, population and development in 21 member countries all over the world. I would also like to thank PPD for bringing all of us together this morning, under one roof. I acknowledge the enormous professional expertise and experiences of all the experts gathered this morning, and I am convinced that the outcome of the meeting would be very fruitful.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to learn that PPD is giving priority to the issue of capacity development of its partner countries and partner institutions for enabling them reaching the ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Sustainable improvements in capacity building are essential for the PPD member countries in which 54 percent of the total world population is living. These people need our professional expertise and commitments the most. I am pleased to see that PPD is taking the lead in this area and moving strategically for long-term benefits.

Bangladesh has had internationally recognized family planning programs and has been successful in organizing various development programs focusing on family planning, maternal and child health. Our family planning programs succeeded in bringing a demographic transition in the country with high infant mortality and low adult illiteracy, particularly among women. In Bangladesh, the contraceptive prevalence rate has sharply increased during the last two decades and the total fertility rate has fallen down from 6.3 births per women during 1971-75 to 3.0 during 1994-2004.

This is a remarkable progress, which no other countries in the region has achieved. However, our journey is still going on and there is a long way yet to be crossed, and a number of challenges to face before we reach our destiny. We are happy to be the host country of an alliance like PPD, which is mandated to improve reproductive health services and rights for millions of poor and marginalized people living in developing countries using South-South cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I had an opportunity to attend one of the Board Meetings of PPD held in China, in 2006. The Government of Bangladesh is thankful for the efforts taken by PPD for providing us with supports in terms of expertise, reproductive health technology and contraceptive supply from partner countries like China.

On behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, I would like to reaffirm our commitment of working together with PPD and its partners in the future. We sincerely look forward to strengthen our partnership and expand our united efforts to achieve tangible and sustainable development in the field of reproductive health services and rights, family planning and population in developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention.

Annex A-III.

**Statement Made at
PPD Consultation on Capacity Development and Strategic Policy
Development Dhaka, 18-23 June 2007**

**Mr. Rabbi Royan
OIC- Population and Development Branch
Technical Support Division, UNFPA**

The Honorable Dr Major General (Rtd) Matiur Rahman, Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PPD Board Member.

Mr. A.K.M. Zafar Ullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director, PPD

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends

Good morning to all of you. On behalf of UNFPA I would like to thank PPD and in particular Mr. Harry Jooseery and his team for the leadership and efforts to organize this set of two back-to-back meetings, one on capacity building, and the other on strategic plan development. Both topics are different and yet are inextricably linked and together will determine to a large extent the choices that PPD will have to make over the next few years.

Thanks also to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the continuing support to PPD. The fact that the PPD secretariat is located here in Dhaka is evidence of this unreserved confidence of the Government of Bangladesh in PPD. The presence of The Honorable Dr. Major General Matiur Rahman and Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan at the opening ceremony of this Consultation meeting is further testimony to the faith that the Government has in PPD's vision and mandate. I sincerely hope that our discussions over the next 5 days will do justice to your expectations of us.

A warm welcome to all participants, who have shown by their coming here, their commitment to this continuing struggle of building capacity on ICPD issues and to building a stronger PPD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The consultation on capacity development over the next two days is an important one. It follows through the discussions we had in Taicang, China where we as a group (a) identified the training/research needs in many Partner countries; and (b) analysed the capabilities of selected training institutions in South countries to deliver training on ICPD-related subjects. In the process of that exercise, we saw some gaps which needed to be filled. Based on these gaps, there was a perceived need to develop curriculum outlines that better reflected these needs, ... NOT as final products but as templates which could be adopted and/or adapted by training institutions to deliver courses that are consistent with market demand and which also meet regional and country specificities. THIS will be our job, and I look forward to rolling

up my sleeves alongside yours to review and fine-tune the draft templates that have been prepared.

I am pleased to note that five modules have been initially identified, and these are (i) Population, ICPD Goals and the MDGs; (ii) Reproductive Health; (iii) Population and Poverty; (iv) gender; and (v) policy and advocacy. These are really relevant areas with tremendous potential for demand. We will also have to, during this meeting; think how these module outlines developed here can get institutional buy-in by regional and national training institutions. The essential message of capacity development efforts is how we can support national counterparts to develop their capacities to own, lead, manage, and achieve their own national development priorities including their population and development objectives.

The second consultation on strategic plan development is no less important. Although still work-in-progress, the whole idea of the strategic planning exercise is to look at the medium and long term role which PPD as an inter-governmental body can play in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals through the approach of South-South cooperation and partnerships. Elements that will of course go into the development of the Strategic Business Plan include an assessment of the needs among PPD countries (who are the stakeholders) in the area of population and development, a review of the extent to which these needs have been met through existing partnerships and cooperation, a human resource audit, and a clear resource mobilization plan to ensure long-term sustainability. I am pleased that the agenda has provided for all these discussions. UNFPA is looking forward to receiving the final version of the strategic business plan of PPD.

All that remains for me to say is to thank the secretariat once again for a splendid job at arranging the meeting; and to remind ourselves that the following five and a half days ahead of us will be challenging days as we work together on module development as well as on shaping a draft Strategic Plan for PPD.

Thank you very much.

Annex B:



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Consultation on Capacity Building
June 18-19, 2007, Dhaka

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl.	Name & Address	Sl.	Name & Address
1	Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter Director General Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) 2 Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 9354213, 9354238	2	Prof. A M Abdelghany Director Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC) 78 (St. No. 4) El-Hadhaba – Elolya, Mokattam (11571), Cairo, Egypt Tel: (20-2) 508-0735, 508-0745, 508-0950, Fax: (20-2) 508-2797, cdc@frcu.eun.eg
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33	Mr. Rabbi P. Royan Senior Technical Advisor Population and Development UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	34	Dr. Major General (Rtd) Dr. A S M Matiur Rahman The Honorable Advisor Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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Annex C:



**Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Consultation on Capacity Building and Strategic Policy Development
Dhaka, 18-23 June 2007
Program**

Time	MONDAY, 18 June 2007	Responsibility
08:30-09:00	Registration	Ms. Stina Mureal
09:00-09:45	<p>Opening Ceremony Welcome address: Mr. Harry Jooseery Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)</p> <p>Address: Mr. A.K.M. Zafar Ullah Khan Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p> <p>Mr. Rabbi Royan Senior Technical Advisor, Population and Development UNFPA Headquarter, New York</p> <p>Opening Address: H.E. Dr. Major General (Rtd) Matiur Rahman Honorable Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Religious Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Honorable Board Member, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)</p>	Master of Ceremony: Dr. Riffat Hossain Lucy Rapporteur: Dr. Shariful Islam
09:45-10:00	TEA BREAK	

	Logistics Announcement	Ms. Mahal Sadhona
	Session-One: Presentation of Modules	Chair: Mr. Jyoti Singh Rapporteur: Ms. M. Sadhona
10:00-10:30	Capacity Building Policy: From Taicang to Dhaka: An introductory remark	Dr. S.L.N. Rao Prof. Bhassorn Limanonda Prof. A. Maaroufi
10:30-11:00	Presentation of Module on Population and Poverty	
11:00-11:30	Discussion and Conclusion	
11:30-12:00	Presentation of Module on Reproductive Health	
12:00-12:30	Discussion and Conclusion	
12.30-13.30	Lunch Break	Chair: Dr. S. A. Wilopo Rapporteur: Dr. Shariful Islam
	Session-Two: Presentation of Modules (Continued)	
13:30-14:15	Presentation of Module(s) on Gender	Ms. Joy Mukaire and Prof. Abdelghany
14:15-14:45	Discussion and Conclusion	
14:45-15:00	TEA BREAK	
15:00-15:30	Presentation of Module on Policy and Advocacy	Mr. E. H. Dioum Dr. S.L.N.Rao
15:30-16:00	Discussion and Conclusion	
16:00-16:30	Presentation of Module on Population, ICPD Goals, and MDGs: A Historical and Institutional Perspective	
16:30-17:00	Discussion and Conclusion	
17:00-17:15	Wrap-Up	Mr. Harry Jooseery

Time	TUESDAY, 19 June 2007	Responsibility
	Session-Three: Presentation of Revised Modules	Chair: Mr. Rabbi Royan Rapporteur: Ms. M. Sadhona
09:30-10:30	Population, ICPD Goals and MDGs Reproductive Health Module Population and Poverty Module Gender Module Policy and Advocacy	Dr. S.L.N.Rao Prof. A. Maaroufi Prof. Bhassorn Limanonda Ms. Joy and Prof. Abdelghany Mr. E. H. Dioum
10:30-10:45	TEA BREAK	
	Session-Four: Institutionalization of Modules	Chair: Dr. K. S. Seetharam Rapporteur: Ms. M. Sadhona
10:45-13:00	Discussion and Recommendations	Mr. Jyoti S. Singh
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00-15:15	Open for Individual assignments and drafting	All Experts
15:15-15:30	TEA BREAK	
16:30-17:00	Wrap Up of the Meeting on Module Development	Mr. Harry Jooseery