

**Consultative Meeting of Experts on Capacity Development  
Taicang, Jiangsu, China, 10 – 13 May 2007**

**Closing Statement of Mr. Harry S. Jooseery  
Executive Director, Partners in Population and Development**

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Mr. Hu Hongtao, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) of China

Mr. Jianhua Cai, President, China Training Center (CTC) and Director PPD China Office

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

Experts, Consultants, Ladies and Gentlemen

We have gathered here for 4 days to discuss on Capacity Building, in relation to PPD future involvement, Partner Institutions' involvement, Countries' involvement in the context of achievement of ICPD and MDGs. We have among us 17 major institutions from Partners' Member States which are directly involved in the process together with experts in the field to enable us to come up with concrete proposals for action. We have prior to this meeting conducted an inquiry among Partner Institutions and commissioned 4 Regional Papers that have provided us resourceful information on the existing Capacity Building Program and the gaps that exist. From this stock gathering exercise, we have discussed strategies to fill the gaps through a process of prioritization. We have discussed the

- (1) Regional Implications
- (2) Institutional Implications
- (3) Global Implications

This will help us move strategically, with well defined goals and objectives for the coming 4 years. I am pleased by the high level discussion we have had. We have captured during the discussion the need for

- (1) Capacity Building of the Partner Institutions, the development of mechanism for the integration of new thematic areas within the existing

capacity building program of Partner Institutions and fostering an ownership of the initiative.

- (2) The development of a new Capacity Development Framework, that will address new emerging areas tailored to the specific regional needs in relation to Reproductive Health, Population and Development that could be used both by the Partner Institutions in the process of integration but also by the other emerging institutions like CTC. This will not only help to synergize effort but also pull training institutions along or into the mechanism.
- (3) The need for networking. Lots of efforts are being made by Partner Institutions, but there is an absence of proper linkages among them.

Exchange of expertise and program. We have seen that all institutions are not experts on all issues of Reproductive Health, Population and Development. Hence a mechanism should be in place to link all these institutions.

- (4) Then there is the issue of Capacity Building Program Sustainability. It is true that major players have abandoned especially research. But you will find now an emergence of a new direction at promoting Capacity Building internationally thus creating additional opportunity for sustaining program. There is however need when developing program to define properly the “cut-off point” and we tend to agree spontaneously from the recipient side whenever the resources come, without negotiating with the funders on the “cut-off point”. Resource as stated by Dr. Rao this morning, is a very critical issue, which needs the involvement of all. I appeal to UNFPA to concretely fund PPD to enable us to implement our Capacity Development Plan. We are happy to learn that UNFPA is in the process of developing its Capacity Development Strategy for the coming years. We will shortly make a formal request. I am very appreciative that China is now taking the lead. We will also tap other sources and we have already started knocking at donors. Some are eavesdropping but we will like that the doors be open widely. We do not want that resource come to PPD alone, but to all of you; and if this happens, we succeed.

(5) The Role of PPD.

This meeting is an initiative of PPD, of course without minimizing the tremendous support from UNFPA and China. We mean Business. Business with a difference. Ask yourself what is the added value of PPD. This meeting is indicative of PPD's drive to synergize effort of all actors, conceptualize strategically and come up with concrete actions. We have agreed in concert with all of you the thematic areas, and also assigned responsibilities for the development of related modules. Those involved in the Modules Development together with the consultants will meet in Dhaka between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June to further elaborate, finalize Modules. All of you would be involved through the process of collecting materials between now and 18<sup>th</sup> June.

PPD will continue to be the catalyzer in making things happen and already with impressive input from CTC China. We will be the facilitator, as I said before. I would like to ensure all of you of our commitment to address with meaningful results in achieving the desired outcome in terms of Capacity Building. We will set up a mechanism for coordination and monitoring of Capacity Building program and plan we have discussed, on forming the network, on exchange of experts and set up a special website for information sharing and communication which we wish to be interactive.

To conclude I would like to thank all of you for your valuable input and I am happy that we have come up with concrete proposals. We will be in contact with you and you will be informed of new development. Thank you to all the Consultants who have facilitated this workshop. Thanks to CTC and Mr. Hu Hongtao for all logistic arrangements. Thank you to UNFPA for financial assistance. I wish all of you pleasant and safe journey back home.