

AFPPD-GLOBAL SERVES AS A FORUM WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL HUMANS



The AFPPD-Global Annual Conference

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 3-4 September 2026

Over 100 delegates from 23 countries participated in AFPPD-Global's Annual Conference, including the Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia, Presidents of the Malaysian and Australian Senates, ministers, champion parliamentarians, academics, civil society representatives, experts and development partners.

In her opening remarks, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD-Global, emphasized the importance of taking a broad & forward-looking approach to demographic change. She stated: "Demographic change demands a broader vision. Resilient societies are those that recognize every stage of life as an opportunity for investment: from early childhood and education, to productive employment, healthy ageing, and dignified long-term care. Building demographic resilience is therefore responding to population trends and about creating conditions in which every person can contribute, thrive, and age with security and dignity."



She stressed that addressing these complex challenges requires an all-of-society approach. Governments alone cannot respond effectively to the interconnected issues arising from demographic change. Sustainable solutions depend on strong partnerships among parliaments, local authorities, civil society organizations, employers, workers, researchers, development partners, communities, and citizens themselves.



H.E. Dato Awang Bemee Awang Ali Basah, President of the Senate of Malaysia, officially opened the conference and congratulated AFPPD-Global on the inauguration of its new Secretariat office in Kuala Lumpur. He highlighted the growing role of AFPPD-Global in the region, describing it as one of the key platforms for parliamentary diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

The conference featured seven sessions covering a range of issues including ageing, the demographic dividend and investment in youth, climate change, digitalization, gender equality, and preparations for the upcoming United Nations Commission on Population & Development (CPD60). The sessions provided parliamentarians with opportunities to exchange experiences and engage directly with fellow parliamentarians, experts and stakeholders.

Labour migration was also among the issues discussed. Representative Krisel Lahmann, MP of the Philippines, presented policy recommendations and highlighted challenges faced by member states with labour mobility flows, particularly in relation to care workers, and the need to address paid and unpaid care work through meaningful policy dialogue.



Prof. Takemi Keizo, Chair of APDA, presented Japan's experience in addressing ageing, with particular attention to the challenges associated with a hyper-ageing society. Country experiences and reports addressing key AFPPD-Global pillars were also shared by Hon. Dr. Anara Naeem of Maldives, Hon. Sri Wulan Sutomo of Indonesia, Hon. Le Van Kham of Viet Nam, and Hon. Hector Appuhamy of Sri Lanka. Designated sessions were chaired by Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP of India; Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP of Kyrgyzstan; and Hon. Kolakanh Phommvong of Laos.

Parliamentarians from different countries, including Egypt, Ghana, Türkiye, contributed to the discussions by sharing experiences and perspectives from their respective regions. This broader participation reinforced the importance of cross-regional parliamentary cooperation in addressing common population and development challenges.



In his closing address, Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, Secretary General of AFPPD-Global, noted the organization has demonstrated its commitment to deepening its roots in the Asia-Pacific while laying the foundations for a more globalized presence.

AFPPD-Global will continue to strengthen its role in the region and beyond by engaging policymakers and partners through its platform for dialogue and cooperation on population and development issues. The Conference reaffirmed fostering parliamentary diplomacy, strengthening partnerships, and advancing collective action to respond to demographic and development challenges.

At the end of the Conference, in the wake of the recent flood in Nepal, delegates issued a call to action linking the care economy to climate resilience. The statement urges parliamentarians to step up climate action, including equitable financing and enforcing stronger accountability mechanisms to protect vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



New chapter, new partnerships

On 4 September, AFFPD-Global signed MoUs with the International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South East Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF ESEAOR), the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD), and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA).

These partnerships mark an important milestone in strengthening collaboration among the organizations. The MoUs establish a framework for working jointly to address common challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, promoting greater cooperation, knowledge exchange, and collective action on population and development issues.



MOU signing between AFFPD-Global and FAPPD, represented by the Hon. Abdelhady al-Qasbey.



MOU signing between AFFPD-Global and APFPD, represented by the Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo.



MOU signing between AFFPD-Global and APDA, represented by Prof. Takemi Keizo.



MOU signing between AFFPD-Global and IPPF ESEAOR, represented by Ms. Fukuda Tomoko.

Inauguration of AFPPD-Global's new office in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 4 September 2026

The official inauguration of the AFPPD-Global Secretariat's new office was held in the presence of the Speaker of Parliament, the President of the Senate, and the Minister of Works of Malaysia.

AFPPD-Global Chair Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, together with Executive Committee members, members, and partners, led the delegation. In her remarks, she expressed her appreciation to the Malaysian side, former Chairs Hon. Fukuda Yasuo and Prof. Takemi Keizo, the Government of Japan, along with all those who contributed to making the transition possible. She noted that the transition had taken nine years and represented a significant collective effort.

The new office marks a renewed and continued commitment to strengthening cooperation among parliamentarians, building partnerships, and advancing the work of AFPPD-Global. It provides an opportunity for the Secretariat to communicate widely, collaborate more closely, welcome members and partners with more confidence, and foster an environment that encourages new ideas & dialogue.

In his inauguration speech, Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, Secretary-General of AFPPD-Global, stated that the occasion marked the completion of the transition and beginning of a new phase in which existing work will continue, while new initiatives are launched. He called on the new Secretariat and this rejuvenation of AFPPD-Global to motivate national committees that may need revitalization, encouraging them to get back on track and contribute to the shared mission.



The new AFPPD-Global offices in Kuala Lumpur is located on Jalan Ledang, off Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim.



The 102nd Executive Committee meeting

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 3 September 2026

AFPPD-Global held its 102nd Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting, during which members reviewed programmes and activities, discussed the plan of activities for the year ahead, and approved policies and documents aimed at strengthening the organizational mechanisms of the Forum. As the new Secretariat office has been relocated to Malaysia and registered as AFPPD-Global, the ExCom discussed introducing a new brand identity.

The ExCom members welcomed the newly signed Implementing Partner Agreements with UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO). They supported for close cooperation with UNFPA country offices, to strengthen efforts in addressing population and development priorities in AFPPD-Global members.

The ExCom supported AFPPD-Global's intention to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with partner organizations, during the MoU signing ceremony during the Annual Conference.



AFPPD-Global meetings with international partners

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 4 September 2026

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of AFPPD-Global, held a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Annual Conference, reaffirming the Forum's commitment to strengthening cooperation and partnerships with parliamentarians, governments, and development partners.

She met with H.E. Johari Abdul, Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia; Mr. Pio Smith, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA; Hon. Alexander Nanta Linggi, Minister of Works of Malaysia; H.E. Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia; and members of the Executive Committee of the Malaysia National Committee.

During these meetings, the Chair expressed her appreciation for their continued cooperation and partnership with AFPPD-Global. The Chair also held meetings with delegates from other regions, including:

- The delegation of the Parliamentary Committee of Türkiye, led by Hon. Çiğdem Erdoğan;
- Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo of Ghana, President of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development; and
- Hon. Abdelhady Qasbey of Egypt, Member of the Executive Committee of the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

In these discussions, the AFPPD-Global Chair emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation among parliamentary networks. She noted that, over the years, AFPPD-Global has established itself as a reliable partner for parliamentarians and parliaments across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. She underscored that closer collaboration among parliamentary networks will further strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and advance shared priorities on population and development.



Youth Empowerment for Inclusive Growth

Vientiane, Lao PDR - 4-5 June 2026

The AFPPD Sub Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on "Youth Empowerment for Inclusive Growth" was convened by the AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth. The meeting was co-hosted by AFPPD and Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (LAPPD), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

More than 60 participants came from parliaments, government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, youth organizations and academia, involving 10 countries Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Lao PDR, the host country, to discuss good practices in policies, legislation and programs on the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on investing in youth. During the meeting, participants engaged in four thematic sessions: (1) Demographic Trends & Youth Investment; (2) Education, Skills Development & School to Work Transition; (3) Youth Employment, Migration and Inclusive Economic Growth; and (4) Health, Rights and Well-being of Youth.

The Opening Session featured addresses by H.E. Amphaivone Lombounpheng (Chairperson of the Cultural Social and Ethnic Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Lao PDR), Dr. Usmonov Farrukh (Exec. Director of AFPPD), H.E. Koizumi Tsutomu (Japanese Ambassador to Lao PDR), Dr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov (Lao PDR Representative for UNFPA), and H.E. Monexay Laomoaxong (Vice Pres. of National Assembly of Lao PDR).



The meeting adopted a joint Statement containing 10 key commitments, including: reaffirming youth as vital forces for national development; pledging to champion young parliamentarians; committing to enact policies and allocate adequate resources for youth empowerment; supporting legislative reform for investing in youth; and recognizing AFPPD's role as a key regional partner. The participants expressed gratitude to the JTF and UNFPA for their continued support.

On Day 2, delegates visited the Lao Youth Union headquarters and the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, observing institutional frameworks for youth empowerment and practical measures.

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Hon. Yogesh Gauchan Thakali, MP Nepal &

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