"Shaping a Resilient Future: Parliamentary Leadership for People, Planet and Generations"

Report of the AFPPD Annual Conference 2026

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 3–4 September 2026

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) Annual Conference 2026 was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3–4 September 2026, under the theme **"Parliamentary Leadership for the Future: An All-of-Society Approach to the Care Economy and Demographic Resilience."** Hosted by the Parliament of Malaysia and AFPPD, the Conference brought together over 100 delegates from 23 countries including parliamentarians, ministers, representatives of international organizations, including UNFPA, and other partners from Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Arab world.

India was represented at the Conference by **Mr. Deepender Hooda, Member of Parliament and Vice-Chair of AFPPD Global**, and **Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)**.

The Conference aimed to build on AFPPD's strategic priorities and examine policies and approaches to address evolving demographic trends, strengthen resilience and promote inclusive and sustainable development. Particular emphasis was placed on AFPPD's four strategic pillars—**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Investing in Youth, Climate Change, and Active Ageing**—with discussions focusing on strengthening the policy environment, mobilizing financial resources and translating commitments into concrete parliamentary action. The Conference also provided an important platform for dialogue on advancing the objectives of the **ICPD Programme of Action** and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.



Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP, Japan, and Chair of AFPPD, in her opening remarks, emphasized that demographic changes transcend national boundaries and require strong, coordinated legal frameworks and greater parliamentary solidarity across countries. Referring to the new AFPPD Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, she stressed that its success should ultimately be measured by concrete legislative outcomes, stronger regional institutions and policies that safeguard the dignity, security and well-being of people across all generations.



Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi, Minister of Works, Malaysia, and President of AFPPD Malaysia, described the establishment of the new Secretariat as a significant milestone in Malaysia's growing leadership and contribution to regional population and development issues. The Secretariat is expected to serve as a regional hub for strengthening legislation, building resilient institutions, expanding opportunities for young people and promoting greater dignity and support for ageing populations.





Tan Sri Dr Johari Abdul, Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat of Malaysia, emphasized Malaysia's strong commitment to AFPPD and noted that the presence of the Secretariat in the country demonstrated the importance attached to its role in addressing shared socio-economic and demographic challenges. He underlined the need for Parliament to respond to demographic changes, including population ageing and declining family sizes, through effective legislation, adequate budgets and appropriate public policies.



In his keynote address, **Senator Dato' Awang Bemee Bin Awang Ali Basah, President of the Senate of Malaysia**, emphasized that demographic change should be treated as a major governance challenge, with long-term demographic considerations integrated into national policymaking. He highlighted the far-reaching implications of ageing populations, changing family structures, declining fertility, migration and rapid urbanization for healthcare systems, labour markets, pension systems, public finances and overall quality of life. He also stressed the growing importance of the **care economy**, noting that smaller family sizes, increased life expectancy and changing living arrangements are placing increasing pressure on traditional family-based caregiving systems and require coordinated policies, adequate resources and responsive legislation.

The Conference featured substantive sessions on "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Pathways"; "Strengthening the Care Economy for Sustainable Development"; "Climate Change and Vulnerable Groups: From Risk to Resilience"; "Digitalization and Innovation for Population Dynamics"; "Presentation of Country Reports"; and "Dialogue with Partners on Poverty Eradication." These sessions provided opportunities for parliamentarians and partners to exchange experiences, identify emerging challenges and discuss policy and legislative responses.

Mr. Hooda chaired a session on country reports from East and South-East Asian and South Asian States, including **Japan, Korea, Maldives and Sri Lanka**. The session provided an opportunity for participating countries to present their respective initiatives and progress in advancing AFPPD's four strategic pillars of gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change and active ageing.





Prof. Takemi Keizo, Chair of APDA, shared Japan's experience in addressing the challenges of population ageing, with particular emphasis on the implications of a rapidly evolving hyper-ageing society. He highlighted the need for comprehensive and sustainable approaches to elderly care, social protection and active ageing. His presentation underscored the importance of drawing lessons from Japan's experience to strengthen policy responses to demographic change in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Deepender Hooda, highlighted South Asia's large youth population as both a demographic opportunity and a policy challenge. He noted that more than 30% of the world's adolescents live in South Asia and drew attention to growing youth aspirations, concerns relating to education, employment, economic inequalities and governance, as well as the large number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).



Emphasizing "Investing in Youth" as a key AFPPD pillar, Mr. Hooda called for a shift from policies made 'for' youth to policies developed 'with and by' youth. He urged

parliamentarians and institutions to better incorporate young people's aspirations and ideas into policymaking and parliamentary processes to help realize the region's demographic potential.



In his closing address, Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, Secretary General of AFPPD-Global, highlighted the organization's continued commitment to strengthening its presence and engagement across the Asia-Pacific region, while simultaneously laying the groundwork for a broader global outreach and presence.



The Conference was marked by the **official opening of the new AFPPD Global Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur**, relocated from Tokyo, Japan. The establishment of the Secretariat in Malaysia was highlighted as an important milestone in strengthening parliamentary cooperation and regional action on population and development issues.





IAPPD appreciated the warm welcome extended by **Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Executive Director, AFPPD**, to the participating delegates and his emphasis on parliamentary leadership, regional cooperation and collective action in advancing the Conference theme. IAPPD also acknowledged with appreciation the dedicated efforts of Dr. Farrukh and the AFPPD-Global team in successfully organizing the Conference, with excellent coordination and arrangements that provided a valuable platform for dialogue, experience-sharing and strengthening parliamentary cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region.

Overall, the **AFPPD Annual Conference 2026** provided an important platform for parliamentarians and partners to reflect on the demographic, social, economic and environmental transformations confronting the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Conference underscored the central role of parliamentary leadership in developing inclusive policies, strengthening the care economy, empowering youth and women, preparing societies for population ageing, addressing climate change and harnessing technological innovation. The opening of the AFPPD Global Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur further strengthened the institutional foundation for sustained regional parliamentary cooperation and collective action towards a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.



