



Monthly Newsletter

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The RD was in Japan with colleagues from the Central Office attending the TICAD preparation meeting. The first part of this meeting was focused on preparations for G-8 and the second part was focused on meeting with other agencies which were in attendance.

One of the most significant achievement at this meeting was to successfully get IPPF and its issues on the agenda of the Cluster Group of Health meeting held during this period. In addition, the RD together with the IPPF key partner UNFPA, had a meeting with the African Diplomatic Corps who were also at this TICAD meeting; the RD also attended a Global Health Summit Experts meeting for Japanese NGOs during this same period.

MEETING WITH JOICFP STAFF

The DRD held meetings with the Domestic Resource Mobilization, Advocacy, Technical and Research Teams of JOICFP.

ARO and UNFPA jointly convened a CSO meeting in Addis Ababa on 25 & 26 February 2008 to identify effective strategies to make sure that the decisions, policies and strategies that African governments have made collectively could be integrated in the outcome document and the declaration of TICAD. The RD, a team of ARO staff and the Regional Chairperson of AR attended this meeting.

THIRD AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS 4TH – 8TH FEBRUARY 2008 ABUJA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE ABUJA, NIGERIA

In response to the ICPD 1994 that affirmed the rights of women to Sexual Health and Rights, the 3rd Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights was convened by Africa Federation for Sexual Health and Rights (AFSHR) with the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) as its patron, under the theme, **Sexuality, Poverty and Accountability**.

IPPFAR was a co- convenor of the conference, with the Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN) sitting in the local planning committee. The conference brought together, in Abuja, Nigeria, over 390 professionals, practitioners, scholars, local and international media practitioners, and activists, from 32 countries in Africa and beyond to share experiences and identify ways in which the thematic factors interlink and impact on Sexual Health and Rights (SHR). Also in attendance were representatives of groups that have been previously marginalized in the area of sexuality, including people living with HIV/AIDS and those with physical disabilities. Sub-themes included: Gender and Rights, Gay and Lesbian Rights in Africa, Human Security and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV/AIDS, and Sexuality Education. There was also the Youth Institute, a

two day comprehensive discussion on issues impacting on the youth in the a two day comprehensive discussion on issues impacting on the youth in the region.

The conference was opened by the Nigeria Minister of Health, Prof. Adenike Grange, who stressed that the Nigerian government is geared towards implementing a holistic approach to health through the strengthening of the healthcare system, advocating for gender equity, implementation of evidence-based approaches to eliminating violence against women and children and integrating all programmes pertaining to maternal, newborn, child, adolescent and youth, health.

IPPFAR Regional Chairperson, Mrs. Hannatu Ibrahim delivered a goodwill message at the opening ceremony and in her message, she expressed her appreciation to the organizers of the conference and the participants for their support and their continued efforts to address sexual health and rights. She stated that IPPFAR strongly supports and is committed to ensuring universal access to SRH information and services. She further explained its strategic focus implemented through the 5 As: Adolescents and Youth, Advocacy, HIV/AIDS, Abortion and Access.

Mrs. Ibrahim also noted that for sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled. She further recognized that this requires continued support from governments and implementing partners and urged stakeholders to honor their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. In closing, she urged all participants not to forget the importance of personal, public and political commitment as they deliberated on the linkages between sexuality, poverty and accountability.

IPPF ARO participated in the scientific review of abstracts and agenda setting as well as supporting a delegation from the regional office and three MAs (Malawi, Ghana, and Nigeria) to attend the conference. In addition, the Regional Chairperson, Mrs. Hannatu Ibrahim and

the Regional Director, Mr. Tewodros Melesse both gave interviews to different media houses including the Voice of Nigeria, Voice Germany, BBC and other Nigerian journalists. The issues discussed ranged from abortion, population and development, SRH in Africa and IPPF activities.

The team from IPPFAR participated in the conference in different capacities. The IPPF Regional Director, Mr. Tewodros Melesse delivered lectures on human security and moving from policy to action. Other activities included presentations on different themes, a side session discussion on the impact of abstinence-only programmes for HIV/AIDS, the Maputo Plan of action, TICAD, and using Gender, Rights and Sexuality Self-Assessments to strengthen SRH Programmes. In addition to hosting an exhibition booth showing IPPF work in the region, IPPFAR Chairperson, Mrs. Ibrahim chaired a session on Culture, Media and Arts while IPPFAR Director of Programmes, Ms. Sanda Ojiambo chaired a session on Sexual Health and Rights.



On-going discussions during the side session, chaired by Mr. Tewodros Melesse and Mrs. Odete Cossa

The conference ended with a Call to Action highlighting among other issues: the fact that sexual rights are human rights, the importance of the Maputo Plan of Action, MDGs 4 and 5 for the attainment of universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services; the need for governments, policies and programmes to respect, acknowledge and provide for the sexual health needs of a diverse number of underserved and marginalized groups such as people living with disabilities,

HIV+ individuals and people of diverse sexual orientations.

IPPFAR committed to organizing and hosting the 4th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights in February 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was very well received by the conference participants. Other organizations that pledged their support towards this were: IPAS, IWHC, Macarthur Foundation, PPFA-I, World Association for Sexual Health, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, Nigerian National Chapter of Positive Women, and Association of Persons Living with Disabilities, Packard Foundation, and Urgent Action Fund. They all stated the need for early planning and coordination.

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A+ News letter Editor: Dr. Josephine Moyo- Director, Organizational Development Effectiveness and Governance-IPPF Africa Region