

Symposium on Maternal Health in Developing Countries

- What should be done to meet the Millennium Development Goals? -

11 & 12 June 2003

JICA Institute for International Cooperation

2F Conference Hall

Organized by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs & UNICEF

In cooperation with: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Supported by: UNFPA, International Medical Center of Japan (IMCJ), Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP)

Background:

The estimated number of maternal deaths in 1995 was 515,000. Of these deaths, almost 99 per cent occurred in the developing and least developing countries. Maternal deaths alone do not reveal the full scale of the tragedy. For every woman who dies from complications related to childbirth, approximately 30 more suffer injuries, infections, and disabilities which are usually untreated and unspoken on. An estimated 300 million women today – or a quarter of the women in the developing world – have sustained problems in pregnancy and childbirth that have profoundly affected their lives.

Improvement of maternal health is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) around which governments, international agencies and NGOs set their programme priorities. The MDG target is to reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR). MMRs, since the Safe Motherhood Initiative was launched in 1987, however, have remained stagnant in most countries. Why this has been the case and what can be done to prevent maternal deaths and disabilities are the topics, which will be explored during this symposium.

As Japan is fully committed to the fulfillment of this MDG and specifically, the prevention of maternal deaths and disabilities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and UNICEF have agreed to review the efficiency and effects of its past programs and projects and to seek new strategies. The objectives of this symposium are:

- To review the global context of maternal deaths, highlighting the magnitude as well as the lessons learned in the last decade;
- To assess the impact of the programmes and projects on safe motherhood which have been supported and implemented by Japan and international organizations such as UNICEF;
- To examine human resource development, systems of enforcement and monitoring and evaluation which are essential for the success of programmes and projects; and

To produce the results of this symposium as a basis for the preparation of Japan's new strategy to prevent maternal deaths and disabilities.

Programme: Wednesday, 11 June

- Facilitators:* Osamu Kunii, Assistant Director, Research & Programming Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Yasushi Katsuma, Programme Coordinator, UNICEF Office for Japan
- 09:30-09:35 **Opening remarks**
Samuel Koo, Director, UNICEF Office for Japan
- 09:35-10:00 **Statements by the Organizers**
Kazuo Kodama, Deputy Director-General, Economic Cooperation Bureau cum Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Sadig Rasheed, Regional Director, Office for South Asia, UNICEF
- 10:00-10:15 **Backgrounds and Objectives**
Osamu Kunii, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- 10:15-11:15 **Keynote address**
Kiyomichi Fujisaki, Managing Director, Medical Cooperation Department, JICA
"Maternal and Child Health Policy in Japan: Mainly focusing on MMR reduction "
Deborah Maine, Professor, Director, Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
"Reducing Maternal Mortality: Progress at Last!"
- 11:15-12:00 **Q&A**
- 12:00-13:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:00-14:00 **Keynote address**
Chizuru Misago, Chief, Division of Applied Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology National Institute of Public Health
"Organizing Care for Safe Motherhood: What Works for Creating Safety?"
Marilen Danguilan, Senior Advisor, Maternal Health, UNICEF
"Ensuring Women's Access to Emergency Obstetric Care: the UNICEF Experience"
- 14:00-14:45 **Q&A**
- 14:45-15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 15:00-15:50 **Case Studies: Emergency Obstetric Care**
Yasmin Haque, Project Officer, Health, UNICEF Bangladesh
"Accelerating Efforts to Reduce Maternal Death and Disability in Bangladesh: The Power of Partnership"
Takako Yamada, formerly Bureau of International Cooperation, IMCJ
"Human Resource Development in Emergency Obstetric Care: Experiences in Bangladesh"
- 15:50-16:50 **Discussion: Emergency Obstetric Care**
Moderator: Chizuru Misago, National Institute of Public Health
- 16:50-17:05 **Recap of Day One**

Programme: Thursday, 12 June *Facilitators: Osamu Kunii / Yasushi Katsuma*

- 09:30-09:45 **Review of the Day One**
- 09:45-11:25 **Case Studies: System and Capacity Building**
Yasuhide Nakamura, Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences,
Osaka University
"Maternal Mortality in Japan: From Socio-Medical Perspective"
Marilen Danguilan, UNICEF
"Uganda Case Study"
Sumie Ishii, Executive Director, JOICFP
"Human Resource Development in Viet Nam: Towards Expanded Access and Improvement of Services of the Local Governments"
Yasuyo Osanai, Expert Service Division, Bureau of International Cooperation, IMCJ
"Capacity Building of the National MCH Center as a Focal Point for Implementation of the Safe Motherhood Initiative: Experience in Cambodia"
- 11:25-12:25 **Discussion: System and Capacity Building**
Moderator: Hitoshi Murakami, Bureau of International Cooperation, IMCJ
- 12:25-13:25 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:25-15:05 **Case Studies: Monitoring and Evaluation**
Leila Bisharat, Director, Center for Reproductive Health, John Snow Inc.,
"UNICEF Experience in Building Partnerships to Reduce Maternal Mortality: The Egypt Case"
Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Tokyo
"Introduction of UNFPA's Experience"
Yoichi Horikoshi, Surgeon, Expert Service Division, Bureau of International Cooperation, IMCJ
"Approach to Self Controllable Women's Health Under Various Social Limitations: Experience in Pakistan"
Chizuru Misago, National Institute of Public Health
"From 'Culture of Dehumanization of Childbirth' to 'Childbirth as a Transformative Experience': Changes in Municipalities in North-east Brazil"
- 15:05-15:20 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 15:20-16:20 **Discussion: Monitoring and Evaluation**
Moderator: Deborah Maine, Columbia University
- 16:20-16:35 **Recap of the Symposium**
- 16:35-16:50 **Closing Remarks**
Samuel Koo, UNICEF

Osamu Kunii, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan