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Kanagaratnam, Kandiah - Articles and Speeches (1974-1976)

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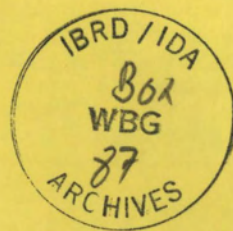
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Kanagaratnam, Kandiah - Articles and Speeches (1974 - 1976) - 1v





K. Kanagaratnam



Kanagaratnam in New York speech

Political will, understanding called family planning keys

The Director of the World Bank's Population and Nutrition Projects Department, speaking to members of the Population Association of America at their annual meeting in New York on April 19, called for an end to "sterile" debates by demographers who "present an either/or choice between family and social change."

Dr. Kandiah Kanagaratnam said that the "whole subject of population growth needs to be set in the context of the 'population-resources-environment - development' problem," and added that "in this setting, family planning becomes one key tool for coping with the problem."

Dr. Kanagaratnam's views, as expressed in the speech were his own, and were not intended to represent the opinions of the Bank.

Modernization of society need not be achieved before family planning programs take hold, Dr. Kanagaratnam said, though he did admit that social modernization is "crucial" to lowered fertility.

"Family planning programs—for all their limited impact—provide the best means we have for breaking through this chicken and egg problem. Broader efforts to promote social and economic development must of course continue," he added.

"But family planning becomes all the more significant in view of the

fact that we still do not know the critical threshold of socio-economic development at which the process of fertility decline begins and which of the different variables are the critical ones. Only if and when we learn these decisive aspects will we have something more effective than family planning as a specific activity governments can undertake if they want to control population growth."

Dr. Kanagaratnam said that a list of the variables believed to correlate closely with fertility would include:

- the level of Gross National Product per capita;
- the pattern of income distribution;
- female participation in the non-agricultural sector labor force;
- the status of women;
- female literacy; and
- the level of infant mortality rates.

Though societies in the developing world are at different levels in terms of these six social variables, Dr. Kanagaratnam said that "when all the specifics are studied, there will . . . be substantial grounds for assuming that family planning programs contribute importantly . . . to the process of social change."

" . . . Family planning programs are not just family planning programs," he went on to say; "they are also agents of social change."

Two factors especially are essential

Cocoa outlook held bright in Bank study

Work on nine Bank Group projects now under consideration for cocoa development in eight different countries will move forward following a Bank study which concluded that the long-term market outlook for the commodity was favorable.

A Bank policy on commodity financing adopted in January 1973, stated that financing new production of primary commodities facing inelastic demand would, in general, be limited to countries with few export alternatives.

That policy provided, however, that financing production of such commodities would not be restricted in countries which lack alternative opportunities and which are poor, as well as in cases where the long-run market outlook for the commodity is significantly favorable, and where an effective international commodity agreement exists.

The Bank paper on the world cocoa market noted that the demand prospects for cocoa are now attractive and that the increased production of the commodity caused by the Bank Group projects in the pipeline would not contribute to an excessive supply which would reduce the price below the minimum price currently set in the International Cocoa Agreement even when adjusted for inflation.

Members of the International Cocoa Agreement have fixed a nine-cent price

Savings Through Bonds

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The Japanese economy, which rushed headlong on the path of high growth from the 1950s to the beginning of the 1970s is now moving gradually but with steady steps on the course of stabilization.

The national characteristic of diligence and the people's savings rate, one of the highest in the world, were the driving forces that rapidly pushed Japan's GNP to become the second in the world. From out of the savings came a huge supply of industrial funds which were used for the promotion of exports and for strengthening the industrial basis. Even now when a period of slower growth has been entered, savings are not decreasing but are, on the contrary, increasing. Nevertheless, it is clear that the situation is changing.

It is certain that a period of change has arrived in the method and substance of savings—from high growth to advanced welfare.

During the past 10 years, the individual savings rate constantly rose by about 10 per cent annually. Last year, which was marked by severe inflation, the savings rate actually went up by 24 per cent, as if to supplement the drop, in real terms, of purchasing power. This was a much higher figure when compared not only with the 5-7 per cent of England and the United States but also with the comparatively higher 15 per cent of West Germany and 17 per cent of Italy.

Why is the rate of savings so high in Japan? According to a public opinion poll on savings, the overwhelming reason is "to be prepared for sickness or unexpected calamity." This was followed by "for the costs of children's education and wedding expenses," "for life in old age" and "to purchase land and house." From this it is evident that one of the major causes is the lag that exists in social security. Another point that must not be forgotten by any means is that although the national income has increased, Japan is still far behind Europe and the United States in respect to assets holdings.

For instance, upon looking at the substance of individual financial assets, deposits and savings account for nearly 70 per cent of the whole in Japan but, in contrast to this, negotiable securities total less than 20 per cent. On the contrary, in England and the

United States, negotiable securities exceed 40 per cent and cash deposits are barely on the 40 per cent level.

The most practical pattern of savings, common throughout the world, is that when assets reach a certain level, it is considered better for the surplus to be converted into negotiable securities which may avoid the risk of certain fluctuations but have greater earning power.

Among negotiable securities, bonds are fixed securities bearing interest in the same way as deposits and savings. Bonds are issued by the national government, prefectural and other public organizations, and business enterprises. Past examples show that in every country of the world, despite some difference of degree, it is usual for the interest on these bonds to be higher than the official discount rate and more advantageous than the interest on deposits and savings (including time deposits).

For this reason, in Europe and the United States, where the level of assets is high, only the limited necessary amount of cash, deposits and savings are kept in current bank accounts and the remainder is invested in negotiable securities which are more advantageous for moneymaking. As a matter of fact, in Japan also, the higher the income and assets stratum, the greater is the percentage of negotiable securities holdings.

It is generally said that investment in negotiable securities increases sharply when accumulated savings become larger than the annual income. Even in Japan, where the level of assets is low, the high economic growth has already enabled the average household to arrive at this situation.

Although the frantic inflation caused by the oil shock has calmed down somewhat, the constant rise of commodity prices is likely to continue for some time. The time has come when, in order to prevent the decrease of savings, in real terms, a restudy and selection should be made in the direction of investments that will bear high interest.

World Bank Bonds Already Issued 6 Times

Among the methods of increasing assets, in addition to



1 Principal and interest are safe and dependable.

The state and local public organizations, and first-class enterprises issue bonds, with public finance, or assets such as factories and equipment as collateral.

2 Can be bought easily at any time.

National bonds can be bought from a minimum ¥10,000, and other bonds from ¥10,000 or ¥100,000.



Assets can be increased with privacy unrevealed to anyone.

6 Unregistered.

the interest, safety and dependability, there should also be fluidity, the ability to be converted into cash at any time.

In the daily life of human beings, sickness or accident might require unexpected expenditures. No matter whether "it bears good interest" or "it is strong against inflation," the meaning of savings is lost if something cannot be converted into cash when needed. Bonds, bearing good interest, are an excellent form of savings because they are issued by the state or first-class enterprises, the principal

and interest are safe and dependable while, at the same time, they have the flexibility of being disposable at any time at a just price. This is why they differ basically from jewels.

In order to cope with investors' demand to be able to convert bonds safely and at a good price, a good and well-circulated market is needed. In this respect, Japan is completely equipped to compare with London and New York, which are the representative markets. The Tokyo market

World Bank's Population Plan

By Dr. Kandiah Kanagaratnam

Director of Population and Nutrition Projects Department, World Bank



Dr. Kandiah Kanagaratnam

The World Bank's concern with population growth is due not only to worry over absolute numbers, but to concern over the development drag of rapid growth. More people do not mean development unless it is possible to give them higher living standards and greater welfare. The Bank entered the population field in 1969, chiefly because it became convinced that the attempt to raise living standards in a great many developing countries was being seriously undermined by population growth. In too many countries, more mouths were eating up the growth in national income.

Fertility and Development

The inter-relationship between population growth and development is not fully understood. But there seems little doubt that there is an inverse relationship between the rate of population growth and the quality of development, as measured by such social indicators as the number of people who are adequately fed, become literate, share equitably in income growth, and are productively employed. On the other hand, when critical variables of social and economic development reach certain levels, they are often associated with declines in fertility. In some countries high fertility may seriously slow down—or may even prevent the attainment of those levels of development at which fertility begins to fall.

The basic pursuit for developing countries aiming to bring about this fertility decline earlier in the development process than it might occur spontaneously is to try to identify the critical development processes that affect fertility and to see whether they can be accelerated by public policy.

We share the modern conviction that social and economic development have a major contribution to make to the lowering of fertility. But the Bank, together with its borrowers, has been struggling to speed up development for over a quarter of a century. We became worried that many

countries were running a losing race. We have therefore concluded that something more than conventional development efforts are needed. We need some unconventional—or at least thus-far neglected—development efforts. And we need family planning. In short, the evolution of recent thinking in the Bank has not been to add a development emphasis to make family planning more effective; our evolution has been to add family planning to development to make development more effective. The evolution of thinking at the 1974 World Population Conference (Bucharest), and in the Bank, were quite different from each other. But they ended up at substantially the same point so far as policy is concerned: "Don't neglect economic and social development—and don't neglect family planning. All are necessary to slowing population growth."

Project Approach

Central to the Bank's population strategy has been the attempt to develop a "sector relationship" with the member government concerned. By this we mean a relationship designed to assist the borrower in developing a sound organization for planning and carrying out as broad a population program as the country's political and administrative realities permit. To date, sector and program analyses have been conducted in some 12 countries, seven of them in the ESCAP region. It is probable that technical assistance, program analysis, and progress-review activities constitute our most valuable contribution to the progress of a particular population program. From a purely financial point of view, all our projects to date have concentrated their financing on the health delivery system and the expansion of facilities and manpower needed for health and family planning services, thus laying the groundwork for the long-term expansion of family planning services.

The projects financed by the Bank in population are

prepared and implemented within the context of country development strategy. We have tried to influence, through moral suasion, the development strategies of our member governments. We have tried to give a higher priority to rural development, to improved income distribution (especially to making the poorest 40 per cent of the population more productive), and to innovative approaches to education. In 1973, the Population Projects Department became the Population and Nutrition Projects Department.

A major theme of the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) approved at Bucharest is to link population programs to a total development context. While the Bank has been intimately concerned with development ever since its founding in 1945, it did not begin lending for population until 1969. Our general approach has been to adapt the Bank's traditional project-lending techniques to this new field.

The essence of our project lending is the working out of a detailed set of development activities ("the project") in advance of the commitment to lend, together with detailed cost estimates and an agreement on the administrative arrangements for project implementation. With our initial involvement in a country, this process begins with a baseline analysis of a country's population problems and program, what we call a "sector review." While the main purpose of a sector review is to provide the government an objective assessment of its

population program, the reviews normally identify possible areas of Bank assistance that might extend and strengthen the program. This process takes time, and explains why it normally takes the Bank longer to identify, prepare, and to process its projects than is true of many other financing agencies. We also employ certain procedures (such as international competitive bidding, disbursement of funds only against approved expenditures already made, and frequent progress-review visits to the field) which are designed to help the borrower get good value for his money and to assist him in solving the many problems that arise during project implementation.

MCH Service

While the project approach provides a flexible vehicle for providing both financial and technical assistance, there are several features that tend to recur. We have a strong bias, for example, that family planning is best carried out within the context of a health system's normal maternal and child health (MCH) care program. Our projects therefore frequently concentrate on extending those resources needed by the health delivery system to extend MCH services—mainly health centers, maternity facilities, training facilities for paramedical personnel, and transport vehicles needed for both services and for supervision. (Incidentally, we will be looking much more closely now at the kind of transport vehicles governments want, to make certain they economize on fuel

costs as much as they reasonably can.)

Sectoral Shifts

Since the World Bank's formation in 1945, loans and credits have been made for projects which increase the productive capacity of its less developed member countries. Attention was focused on building up the economic infrastructure (mostly power and transport) and on the directly-productive sectors (industry and agriculture). However, since the early 1960s and particularly towards the end of the last decade, it became increasingly apparent that this concentration of infrastructure-plus-production was not sufficient to generate a form of development widely shared by all segments of the population. The result has been a deliberate attempt to broaden the Bank's lending program to include projects which would result in a more equitable distribution of real income. The Bank is not reducing its assistance to the more traditional sectors; it is supplementing these activities with new ones. While this broadening of Bank lending was not motivated by population strategy, we believe that the more people who share in the benefits of development, the faster fertility will fall.

During FY1969-73, the most notable shifts in the sectoral composition of Bank lending were the sharp increases in the proportion of operations in agriculture and the relative decline of lending for basic infrastructure operations (power, telecommunications, transportation). This trend is expected to continue at about

the same rate over the period FY1974-78. The number of lending operations in agriculture, which quadrupled in the period FY1969-73, is expected to more than double again in the current five-year period. Above-average increases are also programmed for population and nutrition, tourism and urbanization projects (in each case starting from a low base).

Improving the health-status of a population almost always means a shift in priorities from the treatment of individual illnesses, to the promotion of public health measures that reduce the incidence of illness. What is necessary is a major change in the ecological, cultural and nutritional situation which permits disease to thrive.

Beyond Bucharest

The Bucharest Conference achieved broad consensus on general policy and overall strategies, but failed to reach real international agreement on the urgency of the population growth problem or on specific targets for the reduction of fertility. This may affect the degree to which vacillating governments become committed to positive population policies and programs; but it should not affect the vigor with which governments who already have ongoing programs pursue their population objectives.

In many countries, including many ESCAP countries, external funds have covered a very large share of total program costs. This was not surprising in the early years of program development. We

expect this situation to change, for two main reasons. The first reason is that grant funds for population assistance are not increasing as fast as the requests for assistance are increasing. More and more governments will therefore have to assume greater responsibility for covering more of their own program costs; indeed, this has already begun to happen in many countries. A second reason for this development stems from the strengthening of national commitment to population programs.

Population Assistance

The volume of population assistance to be made available by the World Bank Group will increase from \$123 million during FY1970-75 to around \$450 million for FY1976-80 (in constant prices). This can be increased over the next five years, if there is a demand for it when the review of the Bank's Lending Plan takes place. These funds are likely to be concentrated on the financing of basic service infrastructure and training facilities, but World Bank financing is also available for a wide variety of "software" activities that are unrelated to construction.

About the only type of expenditure the Bank cannot finance is existing operating costs. It can finance new training programs, management studies, overseas fellowships and study tours, experimental or pilot projects (including their running costs), net staff expansions, home visiting programs, the preparation of population education curricula for the schools, the production of population education films, the building up of stocks of contraceptives, program or university research studies, and almost any other relevant population activity. The Bank does not finance such activities in isolation, however, but only as parts of a well-integrated set of program activities that make up a well-defined project. Naturally, if grant funds are available for some or all of these purposes, we would recommend that governments

take advantage of such funds, perhaps combining them with Bank funds in a cooperatively financed project.

In Conclusion

Bucharest and the World Population Year have stimulated not only greater awareness and understanding of population issues but also an inward-looking process of re-assessment and self-criticism. This applies to donors and recipients alike. These concluding paragraphs touch on a few of the familiar questions which policy-makers and technical experts are now re-examining.

Many national policy-makers in the ESCAP region have already provided substantial funding for their population programs. But is it enough? Are their funds being effectively utilized? Is there a need for more resources for the program? If so, will they be available? Is program management effective? What is the degree of political commitment of the government and how is it demonstrated—in Presidential speeches? In good key appointments? In growing budget allocations?

Technical experts have grave responsibilities too. They must re-evaluate their results to date. They must determine the effectiveness of past program strategies, technical modalities, and policies governing which available services provided by which existing classes of personnel, and through which delivery networks? Are there manpower constraints and if so, how can they be overcome? Is the program mix appropriate? What changes are needed in the communications strategy? Can better use be made of non-government agencies and personnel? Performance needs to be monitored on a continuous basis and be subjected to periodic critical assessment.

The Bank looks forward over the years ahead to working cooperatively with governments and with other donors in trying to find better answers to these and other questions pertinent to national population programs.



INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH

For Presentation to: Journalists' Seminar

Manila, Philippines

July 16, 1976

K. Kanagaratnam
Population Projects Department

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH

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SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH

I. Shifting of Focus in Population Concerns to Quality of Life

1. Much of the concern about the current rate of population growth stems from anxiety about its implication for the future size of population in relation to the availability of natural resources -- whether it be total world population or that of a particular country.

The growth of population, however, accounts for only about half of the growing annual drain on the world's resources. The other half arises from the growth of per capita incomes.

2. Thus, except perhaps in the case of food, it is both rising levels of income and expanding populations that create pressures on the use of natural resources. These pressures seem bound to intensify -- even if population growth slows down and despite man's ingenuity in overcoming technological problems with new agricultural methods, new sources of energy, new ways of combating pollution, and new, increasingly dense modes of urban living.

3. By the mid-1950s the population growth around the world and particularly in the developing countries had risen so steeply that the first attempts in the LDCs to moderate population growth began toward the end of that decade. A large number of countries developed long-range social and economic planning and the implications of population growth became apparent. Policies and programs aimed at decreasing birth rates as rapidly or nearly as rapidly as the decline in death rates began to emerge. Such policies are now in effect in those countries which account for more than three-fourths of the population of the developing world. The concerns

which led to the formation of these policies and programs ran counter to the historical traditions which were based on the theory that the more people a nation had, the stronger it was militarily and politically. Since the end of the Second World War, however, many new considerations relevant to population and development have emerged; many of these are now embodied in the World Population Plan of Action approved by over 130 governments at Bucharest in August 1974. These considerations included the need for improved standards of living, the need for more food, the need for more energy, the reduction of mortality and morbidity, and the need for more social benefits. In fact, governments have become concerned not only about absolute numbers, but about the rural/urban distribution within a country, the composition of a population, and in particular, about the improvement in the quality of life.

II. Relationship of Population and Development

4. The inter-relationship between population growth and development is not fully understood. But there seems little doubt that there is an inverse relationship between the rate of population growth and the quality of development, as measured by such social indicators as the number of people who are adequately fed, become literate, share equitably in income growth, and are productively employed. On the other hand, when critical variables of social and economic development reach certain levels, they are often associated with declines in fertility. In many countries, high fertility may seriously slow down -- or may even prevent the attainment of those levels of development at which fertility begins to fall.

5. The basic pursuit for developing countries which aims to bring about this fertility decline earlier in the developmental process than it might occur spontaneously is an attempt to identify the critical developmental processes that affect fertility and to determine whether they can be accelerated by public policy. At present little more can be offered than some general assertions about what the critical variables are, and what might be the causal relationships between such variables and fertility decline. The Bank shares the widespread belief that family planning alone, without social and economic development, will not be enough to bring down fertility as much as is needed. I will return to this later.

III. The Bank's Position in the Post-Bucharest World

6. The Bank shares the modern conviction that social and economic development have a major contribution to make to the lowering of fertility. But the Bank, together with its borrowers, has been struggling to speed up development for over a quarter of a century. We became worried that many countries were running a losing race. We have therefore concluded that something more than conventional development efforts is needed. We need some unconventional -- or at least thus-far neglected -- development efforts. The need for these efforts has been reflected in those development strategies pursued by the Bank in the past few years that have given greater emphasis to enhancement of the condition of the masses and improvement in the quality of life for the poor. To these objectives also, the provision of family planning and the means of family limitation are important, as is the provision of basic health care, improved nutrition, improved income and a higher level

of literacy -- all pursued actively by the Bank. The Bank, which has been involved in development since the end of World War II, added population and other social sectors to its operational and lending portfolio to make development more effective. At the Bucharest World Population Conference we were glad to see this inter-relationship affirmed by over 130 nations. In essence, they said: "Do not neglect economic and social development -- and do not neglect population planning. All are necessary to slow population growth to achieve a better life."

7. In this connection let me emphasize that population planning is not a substitute for national development or external aid, but unless accompanied by slowed population growth, development will move at a slower pace, like a runner with one hand tied behind his back. Unchecked population growth presents a cruel and self-perpetuating dilemma for the government of developing countries. Because of these reasons, the Bank believes that population programs are a necessary and vital component of a comprehensive development strategy. Population planning as we see it involves more than the provision of family planning services. It involves the creation of awareness and motivation, the creation of social and community attitudes toward small family size, and the creation of social, economic and environmental conditions that will enable such attitudes to become part of people's consciousness.

IV. Shift in Bank Lending to More Socially-Oriented Sectors

8. A major factor in creating this consciousness is development itself. One aspect is the shift in the concern of the World Bank in the developmental

process of its member countries which has become increasingly directed, not only at the traditional areas of earlier Bank investments such as power, industry, ports, highways etc., but in the sectors concerned closely with the lives of people -- areas such as agriculture, education, and population; and in programs directed toward improving the living standards, health and welfare of the rural and urban poor. As I mentioned earlier, these investments of the Bank will facilitate rising standards of living, a higher literacy level, and an equitable social climate which will, in turn, affect fertility. The demographic transition already occurring in many countries in Asia reflects this process of social and economic development accelerating fertility decline and is probably the beginning of the 20th Century demographic transition.

V. The Twentieth Century Demographic Transition and Critical Variables

9. On the subject of demographic transition, we now recognize that, while history suggests that in the long run economic development and social "modernization" are crucial to lowered fertility, the past decade has demonstrated that fertility declines can commence and proceed much earlier in the development cycle in this century than the European experience of the 19th century showed. It is therefore not surprising that the major direct intervention currently pursued in this field (to serve as a catalyst and agent of fertility decline) is to facilitate the awareness and access to supply of modern means of fertility control through family planning programs -- something which was not available in the 19th century.

10. These programs become all the more significant in view of the fact that it is currently believed that there is no specific threshold of

socio-economic development at which the process of fertility decline will begin: individual variables will interact differently in various country and cultural settings. It will be a long time before we can learn which interventions will be more effective if undertaken by governments to accelerate the change. As social and economic policies are pursued for broader objectives, we must pursue known interventions while waiting for more definitive answers on variables and modifications to present strategies. A list of the variables now believed to correlate closely with fertility would include:

- (i) the level of GNP per capita;
- (ii) the pattern of income distribution;
- (iii) the status of women;
- (iv) female participation in the non-agricultural sector labor force;
- (v) female literacy; and
- (vi) the level of infant mortality rate.

All of these are pursued by governments in their programs for their inherent value.

11. There is however increasing awareness that many of these factors might well work together synergistically and that the social setting of a program will influence fertility decline substantially. However, among the places where the causal relationships are regarded as close, certain sectors are significant. While no one can assert authoritatively with hard evidence that specific developmental sectors are unquestionably the keys, there is considerable consensus of opinion on the following as leading sectors:

- a. Health and low mortality (especially of children), in order to ensure the survival of a desired minimum number of children and to give adults greater incentive for longer-run planning and investment for their children and themselves. Whatever exceptions there may have been in the historical past, in recent decades substantial mortality declines have preceded substantial fertility declines.
- b. Education, in order to link the individual to ideas and institutions transcending the local and the familial, enabling him or her to learn about and take advantage of new opportunities and to perceive the future as real.
- c. Higher living standards for some significant part of the rural masses, in order to provide at least minimal validation that aspirations for a better life are not illusory.

VI. Selected Country Examples

12. Against this background let me review some highlights in Asia. There is considerable evidence of demographic and social change occurring in several Asian countries (which are at different stages of development) and these countries have made their own contributions to the field of population planning in the past two decades.
13. Japan pioneered declining fertility in Asia after World War II. The first efforts in organized programs took place in India and Pakistan in South Asia, and in Korea and Taiwan in East Asia. India, which has the oldest and largest organized program, announced in April 1976 a Population

Policy that highlights a comprehensive and integrated national population strategy that is both bold and challenging. Chronologically, the next organized programs occurred in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in the mid- and late-sixties. After successful program efforts, Singapore has pioneered with measures of social and legislative change that have included disincentives, abortion law reform and other policy changes in order to achieve rapid acceptance of the two-child norm. Malaysia's was one of the first national programs to use contraceptive pills extensively and one of the first to integrate its program into the Health/MCH network -- now an accepted strategy. The Indonesian program, in seven years, has grown to be a most successful and viable program with a consistently higher annual performance that has depended on firm national commitment and on traditional village societal mechanisms to promote awareness and acceptance. The People's Republic of China has utilized similar societal mechanisms to achieve social programming, not only of family planning but of all basic needs at the village level -- a mechanism being regarded as critical for success in mass programs. The Philippines is expanding program services within the health system and is experimenting with innovative programs of total community participation. Pakistan's family planning program is employing a dual approach in using both the "continuous motivation system" of field-worker teams to encourage contraceptive use, and the "inundation of rural areas with inexpensive contraceptive supplies." Bangladesh integrated its health and family planning program in 1973 and is now exploring social and legislative policies aimed at strengthening the

small family norm. Sri Lanka has in recent years demonstrated remarkable fertility decline, attributed as much to effective programs of education, health and social justice as to family planning services. Iran has an organized program with the unique use of large cadres of national service conscripts through the Health, Literary, Development and Women's Corps, who provide basic health and family planning care. Thailand is currently working to enlarge its family planning program by expanding the service delivery system throughout the country and stepping up training activities. It is moving toward broader use of commercial and private delivery systems.

14. These examples and highlights from Asia are selective and are intended to reflect the varied experiences and approaches used to achieve the goals of population planning. These activities are contributing to the improved social development of the peoples concerned. Here in Asia we see a natural evolution of social development activities and population planning moving towards the ultimate goal of all development — the betterment of the condition of all people.

K. Kanagaratnam
Director, Population Projects Department
July 9, 1976