



PGPD Conference/study tour report

Please send to PGPD secretariat on email secretariat@pgpd.asn.au or fax 02 6282 6577.

Title	Regional Workshop to Review Advocacy Techniques for Working with Parliamentarians
Hosts	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), UNFPA Indonesia and the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
PGPD Participants	Jane Singleton (Secretariat Chair), Alice Ruxton (Parliamentary Officer)
Dates attended	26-28 March 2008
Location	Bali, Indonesia
Purpose of the meeting/conference	
<p>Session topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is advocacy and why is it needed? • Conferences/Workshops/Panel Discussions/Study Tours/Field Trips as techniques for motivating action • Building the advocacy capacity of national committees • Strategies for ensuring follow-up action by parliamentarians • Political advocacy through engaging the media (<i>Ms Singleton presented</i>) • Experience sharing on political advocacy in the region • Presentations on national committees' advocacy techniques • Person to Person Advocacy Project <p>Key outcomes relevant to PGPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established good contacts and relationships with Asian parliamentary groups and parliamentarians. • Opportunity to discuss potential future working partnerships. • Experience sharing between parliamentary groups and parliamentarians in our region. • Increased awareness and knowledge of advocacy techniques for working with parliamentarians e.g. pros and cons, lessons learned, ideas. 	
Feedback to PGPD Secretariat regarding conference/study tour organisation, relevance, and impact	
<p>Highlighted issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to put 'controversial' issues of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights into the broader context of parliamentarians' work. • Importance of reminding parliamentarians' of their commitments and what other countries are doing. • Study tours/conferences etc. give parliamentarians a good opportunity to form allies/work out common interests. • Advocacy strategies need to be flexible and dynamic to adapt to constantly changing circumstances. • Parliamentarians already have capacity – challenge is how to develop/expand. 	



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- Importance of using the media – need to cultivate appreciation and mobilise action on SRH by making information accessible and using ‘real’ stories to generate empathy.
- Opportunities and importance for developing capacity of younger parliamentarians.

Organisation of workshop:

- Informal structure was conducive to useful discussions and developing good relationships with other participants.

Recommendations for PGPD in light of conference e.g. letter to Minister, parliamentary motion etc.

- Maintain contact with key individuals within Asian parliamentary groups and parliaments.
- Continue to share experiences with other parliamentary groups e.g. success stories, lessons learned.
- Explore opportunities for collaborative efforts with other parliamentary groups e.g. exchange of parliamentary group staff, preparation of advocacy resources.