

# ZAMPEN INFOBLAST



**Pop Beat**  
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Population Officers and Health Service Providers received the Plaques of Recognition for the remarkable contribution of their respective Local Government Units and Agencies to the full implementation of the Philippine Population Management Program in the region, during the 2018 Regional Population Management Congress.

## 2018 Regional Population Management Congress

Family planning is perhaps one of the most important human rights of the 21st century - not only because it saves lives, it also is a significant public health development and the cheapest poverty reduction measure ever realized in many years. Defined as an individual's or a couple's ability to decide when or if to have more children, family planning is made accessible to young and older women and men thru counseling, education, contraception, and referrals. The positive effects of family planning are evident in the reduction in the nation's total fertility rate from 6 in the 70s to 2.7 in 2017 NDHS and even in maternal and newborn deaths and unintended pregnancies. Children of women or couples who are empowered to make decisions about contraception, have been repeatedly found to be healthier, better nourished and educated and their survivability assured. A consistent access to family planning also has implications on a national scale in the attainment of demographic dividend and maintaining an optimum level of 'happiness' among our people.

Many countries have improved their economy by expanding access to contraception and reducing fertility rate. This attests to the glaring fact that family planning is a key factor in eradicating poverty. On a sad note, while major gains have been achieved in voluntary family

planning in recent years, barriers to its full implementation still remain. The barriers for women such as lack of access to services, personal opposition or opposition from husbands and community gatekeepers on religious, cultural and tradition grounds, and lack of knowledge about natural family planning methods persist to this day. To date, our country has no comprehensive law in place to prevent adolescent pregnancy. The implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education or CSE in accordance with global standards still hangs in the balance as efforts are still underway to integrate it with only six (6) K-12 Basic Education Curriculum courses. Gender-based violence, gender inequality, HIV-AIDS infection spread present clear and present danger. These challenges shall continue to hinder inclusive growth and progress for as long as policymakers and stakeholders fail to keep their collaboration intact, when the unity of purpose is wobbly, when political will is shady and when the desire to serve remains lip service. #

### SYNTHESIS MESSAGE

*delivered by Regional Director Reynaldo O. Wong  
during the 2018 Regional Population Management Congress Closing Program  
Grand Astoria Hotel in Zamboanga City on 29 August 2018*

**INTER-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH  
AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION:  
Emerging Population and Development Issues  
Influencing the 2030 Agenda**

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation” (SSTC) or “South-South Cooperation” (SSC) or “Inter-country collaboration” in population and development has become an increasingly critical means to strengthen partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Engaging in mutual learning and solution sharing for addressing emerging population and development issues will enable countries to apply an accelerator and multiplier cooperation to achieving their own national sustainable development, based on the experiences of other partners. South-South Cooperation has evolved over the past several decades, embodying innovation within dynamic socio-cultural, political and economic contemporary circumstances. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires careful consideration of population dynamics and trends for planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDG targets.

From a historical perspective, the concept of SSC was initiated in 1955, when the Government of Indonesia, together with four other countries, hosted the Asia Africa Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, aimed at promoting African-Asian economic and cultural cooperation. It was attended by 29 countries, representing more than half of the world’s population. Since then, many conferences have been held on SSC, including the 2009 High-Level United Nations Conference on SSC, organized by the Government of Kenya, which reaffirmed SSC as a common endeavor of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experience, common objectives and solidarity; essentially a partnership among equals. Countries were encouraged to develop country-led systems and to evaluate the quality and impact of SSTC programmes. As nearly all countries are involved in SSC in some way, SSC should be seen as complementary to North-South Cooperation. Many governments, including the Government of Indonesia, have been extremely active in the SSTC in population and development. Since 1980s, the Government of Indonesia has shared its experiences in population and family planning with other developing countries. To date, around 5,100 officials from 104 countries have learned through exchanges and capacity building. Several collaboration programmes have provided positive impact on national development among state members.

In view of the large number of past and ongoing SSTC initiatives in population and development and family planning, documenting and sharing best practices would facilitate a more coordinated and efficient systems approach to achieving the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, among countries sharing similar issues. In anticipation of the ICPD@25 and the upcoming SSC High Level United Nations Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2019 (BAPA+40), a meeting of policy makers and population and development experts would ensure an in-depth discussion on facilitating social and economic development, while taking into consideration key population patterns, trends and issues and innovative solutions. An Inter-Ministerial Conference on SSTC in Population and Family Planning is planned for September 18-20 in Bali, Indonesia to discuss emerging

population and development issues influencing the 2030 Agenda and to share selected best practices to enable the establishment of a more shared, coordinated and informed platform for greater results, impacts and reach, while also providing another forum for consensus building in the lead up to BAPA+40.

**The conference objectives are to:**

1. Discuss emerging issues in population and development; such as ageing and low fertility; demographic dividend; youth, peace and security; and 2020 population censuses and big data that would benefit from an SSTC partnership approach;
2. Share lessons learned and good practices among southern developing countries on these issues leading towards finding for better solutions;
3. Discuss the modality, implementation, and impact assessment of SSTC for strengthened coordinated systems;
4. Identify strategic priorities of SSTC among countries and foster partnerships; and
5. Produce an official statement to feed into the Second High-Level UN Conference on SSC scheduled for March 2019 that marks the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40).

**There are six technical sessions that were organized during Conference:**

1. SSTC on Low Fertility and Ageing. This technical session discussed and share experiences of countries experiencing ageing and low fertility including lessons learned, substantive issues for policy consideration, opportunities for SSTC, possible modalities to implement SSTC including platforms and methods of collaboration.
2. SSTC on Youth: including Demographic Dividend and Youth, Peace and Security. These two related technical sessions discussed and shared the SSTC on the demographic dividend and the progress and impact of its integration into policies and programming at the national and subnational levels, and its monitoring and evaluation. The second part of the series explored initiatives and opportunities for SSTC among relevant countries on Youth, Peace and Security, based on selected countries’ experiences, in terms of initiation of UN Resolution 2250, bridging the development, humanitarian and peace nexus, and applying lessons learned using various modalities, platforms and methods of collaboration;
3. SSTC on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights including Family Planning. This technical session discussed and shared the current and past SSTC on SRH and RR including rights based Family Planning: its modalities, platforms and methods of collaboration, impact assessment systems, and its lessons learned for future SSTC initiatives.
4. SSTC in Humanitarian Programming. This session focused on looking at lessons learned, emerging issues and opportunities for SSTC on humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction and related issues.

5. SSTC on Population Data. This session focused on population data, surveys and censuses. Given the upcoming census 2020 round, SSTC has been ongoing for preparation, methodology and utilization of modern technology, registry based systems and remote sensing. Such sharing of good practices would enable countries to identify potential partners based on current successes.

6. Impact Assessment of SSTC in Population and Family Planning. This session focused on impact assessment, reporting and documentation for the SSTC in population and family planning and the establishment of a systems approach for tracking good practices for sharing including impact, investment returns and efficiency gains.

The signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) between Indonesia and the Philippines in furthering bilateral cooperation in the areas of family planning, reproductive health, adolescent health and development, and population and development was one of the highlights towards the Closing Ceremony.

The LOI between Indonesia and the Philippines focused on furthering bilateral cooperation between the countries. These areas very specifically are in the following themes – a) Bridging Leadership – Filipino experts will train Indonesian counterparts in the health leadership thru bridging leadership approach; b) Youth Leadership – Indonesians will train Filipino youth leaders on adolescent health; c) Bi-national meeting – participated in by BKKBN and POPCOM officials, this meeting will zero in on furthering MRLs role in RPRH

The Letter of Intent as a new legal instrument demanded by the Indonesian Government is new to both countries. The MoU should still be pushed through as an attachment or annex of the LOI because the Terms of Reference are explicitly written in the MoU as guide for both nations. Further, since the LOI is just an extension of the MoU in reality, the Philippines should still pursue the signing of the MoU as being more legally binding.

## SKs as Force Multipliers

POPCOM Region IX conducted Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and Gender Responsive Population Strategies (GRPoPS) Orientations to SK Federation Officers of Dapitan and Dipolog Cities, and Zamboanga del Norte Province last September 11-14, 2018. The activity is part of the Adolescent Health Development Program Component of the Commission. POPCOM Region IX has scheduled a series of activities with the Sangguniang Kabataan Federations in the region and one of which is the orientation on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Gender Responsive Population Strategies. It is also in consonance to Pres. Rodrigo R Duterte's Executive Order No. 12 (EO 12) issued on 9 January 2017 that specifically mandates the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 (RPRH Law aka RA 10354. Four out of five Key Result Areas (KRA) of the RPRH Law implementation directly impact the adolescents and youth of this region.

Also, Republic Act 8044 (Youth in Nation-Building Act) outlines the pivotal role of the youth in nation-building, and that the government shall "establish adequate, effective, responsive and enabling mechanisms and support systems that shall empower the youth and ensure their meaningful participation in local governance and in nation-building. The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Reform Act of 2015 (Republic Act No. 10742) affirms the role of the Filipino youth in nation-building. This Act strengthens support for the creation of mechanisms and opportunities to realize SK's meaningful and active participation in governance

The SK Operations Manual also mandates that the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Plan (ABYIP) shall give priority to programs, projects and activities (PPAs) that will promote and ensure the following:

1. Equitable access to quality education
2. Environmental protection
3. Climate change adaptation
4. Disaster risk reduction and resiliency
5. Youth employment and livelihood
6. Health, including health services and adolescent sexual and reproductive health
7. Anti-drug abuse
8. Gender sensitivity
9. Sports development and
10. Capability building which emphasizes leadership training

ASRH orientation that POPCOM IX will be instilling to the SK will address all the above PPAs. ASRH aims to discuss with the SK Officials the risky sexual and non-sexual behaviors among the youth; obstacles encountered by young people in realizing their reproductive health and rights; adolescent health and development program of POPCOM IX among others. GRPoPS will help them in formulating their CBYDP and ABYIP with gender lens, and as a preparatory activity in finalizing their 2019 budget.

As a result of the orientations, the participants, SK Federation Presidents/Councilors in their respective areas will undergo a Training of Facilitators (TOF) on U4U to be conducted on October 6 and 7, 2018 for Dapitan City Federation, and on October 20-21 for Dipolog SK Federation. First day will be for the TOF and 2nd day for the Teen Trail which will be participated by 100 SK Kagawads and will be facilitated by the trained SK Chairpersons and President. Also, during the Teen Trail, the SK Federations will plan for the roll-out of the U4U in the different municipalities and barangays in Dapitan, Dipolog and Zamboanga del Norte. This will be facilitated by the SK Presidents/Chairpersons and their SK Kagawads. SK Chairpersons & Presidents will also help POPCOM Region IX in pushing for the establishments of Teen Centers in their localities.

The SKs are a potent force, they are the respected leaders of young people in their areas. Since majority of the adolescents, according to the Young Adult Fertility Study 4, lack knowledge, skills and information on Sexuality and Sexuality management, the national government, thru POPCOM Region IX will capacitate and empower these young leaders/SK Officials and use them as our Force Multipliers in our campaign against teen pregnancies and early sexual engagements.

## POPCOM IX Joins CHR in RPRH Law Implementation Monitoring

POPCOM Region IX, together with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was deputized to monitor the country's compliance to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other stat treaty obligations. Included in their inquiry was also to document experiences of women, communities, service providers, LGUs, CSOs and other stakeholders of the RPRH Law. The National Inquiry on Reproductive Health and Rights that the Commission on Human Rights conducted was done in 2016 where Zamboanga City was chosen to be one of the respondent areas. Findings and recommendations focusing on the operations of LGUs, line government agencies to include DOH, DepEd, DSWD, POPCOM and other agencies involved in the implementation of the RP-RH Law published by CHR was used as the basis for the said monitoring activity.

The CHR conducted an FGD to document the experiences and how the recommendations of the national inquiry

conducted in 2016 was applied, the activity was more of a workshop activity where participants were divided into 4 groups namely: Government Agencies, LGU Health and community service workers, Hospitals, and service institutions like the BJMP and were asked to answer 6 sets of questions (around a total of 22 questions) to be presented during a plenary.

Issues on program monitoring and evaluation, donations required for access to contraceptives and RH services, commodities stock outs, and cultural and religious beliefs as hindrance to program implementation were still among the prominent issues raised and discussed during the activity.

POPCOM Region IX, together with DOH and DepEd representatives, participated in the workshop and provided relevant inputs for its presentation during the plenary. It was agreed during the activity that outputs are to be consolidated as CHR will publish its findings and recommendations. Such an activity, accordingly, will be conducted yearly.

## Natural Family Planning Training of Trainers

To ensure equal access to both Natural and Artificial methods of contraception, the Commission on Population is in the process of developing a service provider's manual on Modern Natural Family Planning methods. The said manual, which contains updated information and teaching procedures is now being pre-tested and when finalized, will be distributed in the field for utilization by trained NFP service providers and teachers.

The material was pre-tested last June 27-28, 2018 in Zamboanga City among LGU Population Program personnel and public health nurses from ten barangays in Zamboanga City. The pre-testing was conducted by no less than Ms. Mitos Rivera, the POPCOM NFP consultant who was tapped to develop and formulate the said new materials.

## Kalalaking Tapat sa Responsibilidad at Obligasyon sa Pamilya

POPCOM Region IX, in coordination and cooperation with ZNFAPA conducted the Kalalaking Tapat sa Responsibilidad at Obligasyon sa Pamilya (KATROPA) in the different areas in Zamboanga del Norte like Sindangan, Roxas and Dipolog City from September 17-21, 2018. A total of 101 males and 69 females attended the event.

KATROPA is being implemented to address gender inequalities. This is an effective strategy in the integration of roles and responsibilities of men in relation of gender equality in other programs of the government. These programs; are integrated in the promotion of reproductive health concerns and lastly make men responsive to gender equality.

The session utilized the Experiential Learning Health Obligation of Men and Role in Women Empowerment, the following topics were discussed in the three (3) roll-out areas:

1. Ang mga palatandaan ng tunay na lalaki,
2. Pagkilala sa sarili,
3. Pagkilala ng aking KATROPA sa Akin
4. Family Visioning
5. Sexuality
6. Healthy Lifestyle
7. Marital relationship
8. Health of mother and child
9. Family Planning and methods and
10. Violence Against Women and Children

During the exit conference with Mark Yaba, Manager of ZNFAPA, after the conduct of the activities, the following were agreed upon:

1. ZNFAPA will submit a proposal for training of trainers for the officers of KATROPA per area
2. ZNFAPA will co-share the cost of the TOT, and
3. Roll-outs on KATROPA will be conducted in the three areas in coordination with the Municipal/City Population Office.



Region IX  
**POPCOM**  
Empowering Filipino Families

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