

# Celebrating South-South Day and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Partners in Population and Development

19 December, 2009



পresident  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



Message

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It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is going to celebrate the 'World South-South Day' in Bangladesh on December 19, 2009.

I have been informed that PPD, a permanent observer at the United Nations, is an alliance of 25 developing countries that representing 57% of the world population. I am happy to know that PPD is promoting South-South Cooperation, collaboration and solidarity among developing countries in the fields of population and development. I believe, PPD, under the auspices of the United Nations would be able to foster common interest of the developing nations through collective and coordinated efforts.

I wish the endeavour of the PPD a great success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*Ziaur Rahman*  
Md. Ziaur Rahman

## Partners in Population and Development (PPD) A South-South Initiative

### About PPD

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) is an Inter-governmental Alliance, headquartered in Bangladesh, with membership of 25 developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East covering more than 57% of the world population, which was launched during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. The Alliance has a Permanent Observer Status at the United Nations and Diplomatic Status in Bangladesh. The main objective for creation of the organization was to expand and strengthen South-South Cooperation in the field of reproductive health, population and development. The Alliance embraced the concept of South-South Cooperation to enable its members and other developing countries to improve the quality of life of their people and ensure sustainable development through sharing and exchange of information, knowledge, experiences, expertise and best practices in reproductive health, population and development. The concept received stimulus in the Program of Action adopted by 179 Governments at the ICPD in Cairo in 1994. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the World Summit in 2000 provided added momentum to the implementation of its programs.

**Governance:** PPD is governed by its Board constituted with Ministers of Health, Population and Social Development. PPD has an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The organization is headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Board.

**Organizational Structure:** PPD has its Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a Regional Office for Africa in Kampala, Uganda, a Programme Office in Taicang, China and a Liaison Office to the United Nations in New York. PPD has a network of 18 premier training and research institutions known as Partner Institutions (PIs) for strengthening capacity at individual, institutional and systems levels in the member states. PPD created National Support Structure in each member state for coordinated implementation of South-South activities at national level.

**Organizational Priorities:** The major organizational priorities of PPD are: (a) Integration of ICPD Goals and MDGs, (b) Promotion of Reproductive Health and Rights, (c) Improvement of Gender Equity and Equality, (d) Integration of Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, (e) Improvement of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, (g) Improvement of Reproductive Health Commodity Security and Supplies.

**Key Interventions:** The key interventions of PPD are: (i) Promoting the Understanding of South-South Cooperation at the National levels, (ii) Need based Capacity Building and Leadership Development, (iii) Focused and Targeted Advocacy for Promoting Reproductive Health, Population and Development, (iv) Networking, Partnership and Coalition Building, (v) Sharing, Exchange and Transfer of Information, Knowledge, Experience, Best Practices Technologies and Reproductive Health Commodities.



25  
Member  
Countries  
of  
PPD

Bangladesh, Benin, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.



Chair, PPD  
Honorable Minister  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India  
Message

Celebrating the 15th anniversary of both ICPD and PPD is no coincidence; both germinated in Cairo with the same breath and soul and are intrinsically linked. The ICPD stressed the need for increased financial assistance to direct South South Cooperation and suggested that "more attention should be given to South-South Cooperation as well as to new ways of mobilizing private contributions, particularly in partnership with nongovernmental organizations" and urged international communities and donor agencies to give higher priority to supporting direct South-South collaborative arrangements. The mandate of PPD indeed is to provide direct support to South-South Cooperation for the promotion of Reproductive Health, Population and Development.

Both ICPD and PPD need to be applauded. ICPD has reshaped the ways we looked at Family Planning program and created a new paradigm to address the broader concept of reproductive health for the attainment of development imperatives. PPD has created a new synergy among the most vulnerable and ushered a new dynamism among the poorest of the poor to enable them to participate and get involved meaningfully to address their most pressing concerns. The spirit of ICPD and the prowess of PPD together with the enthusiasm of their development partners made the difference and that is what we are celebrating at this 15th anniversary.

We are happy to note that the conceptual framework of Reproductive Health proposed by ICPD has been accepted by all member states of PPD and other developing countries. Impressive achievements have been obtained; total fertility rate, together with maternal and infant mortality rate have declined. More girls are now attending schools and the status of women have generally improved around the world.

On the other hand we note the sad reality that the number of women dying as a result of pregnancy related complications has remained constant for the past five years. Access to Family Planning information and services is still not available and accessible to many couples and individuals, particularly in the least developed countries. Beside the scourge of HIV/AIDS, there are new diseases that are emerging and which put into peril the life of many in the developing world.

It is more than opportune for all of us to reaffirm our intention to strengthen further South-South Cooperation. There is no doubt that South-South cooperation has made an important contribution in accelerating the pace of development in developing countries in the past 15 years. It has diversified and expanded their development options, provided them with better opportunities, partnerships and strengthened them individually and collectively.

I am indeed honored to be the chair of PPD and to celebrate its 15th year anniversary and to commemorate South-South Day. We are building on our past experiences to move forward towards 2015 with added vigor. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who since 1994 have contributed enormously in making what PPD is today. I would like to pay tribute to the pioneers of the movement, whose foresightedness and conviction in South-South Cooperation have been the driving force. I would like to thank all my colleagues Ministers from PPD Member States, Board Members and Partner Country Coordinators (PCCs) for their support and assistance to PPD and myself. My thanks also go to the Executive Director, staff of PPD in Dhaka, Kampala, New York and Taicang for their hard work. I would like to place on records the valuable contributions and assistance PPD received from funders for which we are very grateful.

With such a solid foundation, PPD will achieve greater heights. Instead of lamenting on shortfalls, our strength consists in grasping all emerging opportunities to promote South-South Cooperation.

*Ghulam Nabi Azad*  
Ghulam Nabi Azad

cannot afford to move by trial and error. The concept of South-South Cooperation should be understood as a mechanism that promotes sharing of experiences, information, expertise, technologies and know-how among developing countries. We acknowledge that all developing countries have common problems, challenges and priorities and that common solutions can be sought to address them, while respecting the specificity of each country, and acknowledging the comparative advantage of each. The concept of SSC as an important element of international cooperation for development and sustained economic growth was first discussed 30 years ago in Argentina at the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries following which the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adopted. Since then increasing dynamism and energy have been injected to SSC but however the focus has essentially been on economic cooperation until 1994 when PPD was launched at ICPD in Cairo, Egypt. The birth of PPD refocused SSC and redirected effort towards acceptance of the intrinsic linkage between population and development. We argue that no development initiative would be met unless we address population dynamics. The MDGs would not be achieved unless we address the issues related to the quantity and quality of population. We contend that we have got the solutions to our own problems, and if we synergize our efforts, we would be able to change our life for the better. We believe in promoting South-South Cooperation for the attainment of both ICPD goals and the MDGs. South-South Cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, partnership in respect of national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. It is within these principles that PPD is operating in 25 developing countries. It is our earnest wish that the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the century of developing countries and will be remembered as having been the turning point for the improvement of the plight of downtrodden. We have reached the tipping point on poverty toleration and the South needs to raise its voice louder. PPD commits to reinforce its programme to promote partnership, networking, capacity building, research and exchange of expertise, experiences and technologies for the attainment of ICPD and MDGs with added zeal and vigor, and remain a forerunner in promoting South-South Cooperation. PPD wishes to leave impressive imprint in shaping the ways developing countries partner with each other to achieve both the ICPD goals and the MDGs. While we cherish multilateral, bilateral and multi-sectoral cooperation between countries, we stress the importance of the strategy of "Triangulation" which is contained in the UN Secretary-General's October Report. Triangulation calls for binding South-South Cooperation with North-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation are complementary to each other. On this auspicious occasion of celebration of UN South South Cooperation Day, and also the 15th anniversary of PPD, it is our wish that countries of the south take full advantage of their comparative advantage and ensure that the quality of life of the most disadvantaged is improved and the future of the young generation is not compromised.

### PPD Executive Committee Members

#### Chair, PPD Board

**H.E. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad**  
Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

#### Vice-Chair, PPD Board

**H.E. Dr. Li Bin**  
Honorable Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), Government of the People's Republic of China

#### Secretary, PPD Board

**Dr. Boniface O. K'Oyugi, MBS**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development (NCAPD), Government of Kenya

#### Treasurer, PPD Board

**Prof. Dr. Nabiha Gueddana**  
President/Director General  
National Office of Family and Population (ONFP)  
Government of Tunisia

#### Member, PPD Board

**H.E. Prof. AFM Ruhul Haque, MP**  
Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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