Asia-Pacific Population Information Network

A profile of the secretariat and members



United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP fosters development

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) implements a wide range of development programmes and projects aimed at stimulating growth and improving the lives of more than half of mankind.

With multidisciplinary capabilities in a variety of sectors, the ESCAP secretariat helps Asian and Pacific countries and areas to bridge knowledge gaps, solve problems and remove technical obstacles to development. Currently, this assistance takes the form of many projects at the regional, subregional, national and grassroots levels, emphasizing aid to the poorest countries and deprived sectors of society.

The diversified activities of ESCAP focus chiefly on technical assistance, direct advisory services, training and the pooling of experience and sharing of information through meetings, publications and intercountry networks, such as the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network, as well as research and analysis. It is also an organizer of and catalyst for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).

ESCAP is one of five regional commissions in the United Nations system, the others being in Africa, Europe, Latin America and West Asia. Their broad mandates are to help speed economic and social progress and strengthen the economic relations among countries within and outside their respective regions. Following a decision of the General Assembly to decentralize, ESCAP, like its sister commissions, operates fully as an executing agency and is designated as the main general economic and social development arm within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.

Institutions and individuals interested in obtaining more information about the population information, technical assistance and training activities of the ESCAP secretariat that are described in this profile, or wishing to make use of its services or publications should contact:

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Contents

ESCAP and the age of information 2

Population information development 4

Population information in the Asia-Pacific region 5

Profiles of members

Afghanistan 11

Bangladesh 12

China 14

India 16

Indonesia 18

Islamic Republic of Iran 20

Malaysia 22

Maldives 24

Myanmar 26

Nepal 28

Pacific POPIN 30

Pakistan 32

Philippines 34

Republic of Korea 36

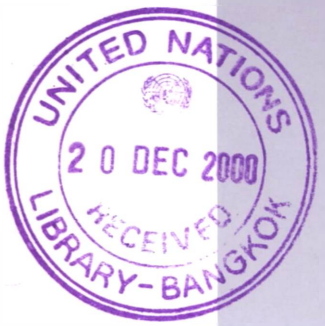
Sri Lanka 38

Thailand 40

Viet Nam 42

Constitution of Asia-Pacific POPIN 44

Organization of Asia-Pacific POPIN 47



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This publication has been issued without formal editing.

ESCAP and the age of information



The new century, the first one of the third millennium, is witnessing a revolution in information and communications technology that is transforming the way we live, the way we work and the way we pursue the goals of national development.

The rapid changes that are taking place can often be unsettling. In the developing world, these changes are perceived as just one more factor contributing to the growing divide between the rich and the poor, widening the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries. Poor countries and those less well endowed with human and financial resources to build information infrastructure and systems feel that they are being left behind in this technology-driven "Age of Information", thus making worse what has been termed the "digital divide".

ESCAP is dedicated to finding ways to narrow this divide and thereby accelerate the development process for more than half the world's population living in the ESCAP region. In the years since its establishment, the secretariat has taken a leading role in information development, especially in the field of population.

Since 1969, its population information development strategy has had a two-fold direction. First, an emphasis was placed on developing information products and services (including the organization of various meetings and conferences for this purpose) that would form a knowledge base and means for sharing population data and information among countries of the region. Based on the information

contained in the knowledge base and the positions it advocated, ESCAP members and associate members have adopted the population goals reflected most recently at the regional level in the Bali Declaration on Population and Development. This is a convincing testimony to the beneficial impact that the secretariat's information dissemination and advocacy work has had on changing attitudes about population issues and supporting decisive actions to slow population growth while accelerating the process of national development.

Second, ESCAP has worked to build capacity in the developing countries of the region to create and manage their own knowledge bases and population information systems. The secretariat has done so mainly through the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network, which is popularly called Asia-Pacific POPIN.

Capacity- and institution-building includes training ranging from basic computer literacy to more advanced skills such as Web-browsing and searching, Web-page creation, e-mail and listservs, Web-based database management, networking, data and information selection, repackaging, desktop publishing, and the establishment and management of information centres. The secretariat also produces an electronic newsletter three times a year to keep members of the network informed of new developments in the field thereby helping them to stay abreast of the information technology they need to serve their clients efficiently and effectively. Further, the secretariat provides technical assistance when necessary, especially for countries at the start up stage.

ESCAP, with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), plans to continue raising a sense of urgency about population and poverty alleviation issues while helping the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific region to become ever more self-reliant in dealing with those issues.

The challenge facing us now is to build on past accomplishments so that we can fully harness the power of information and communications technologies and ensure that the poor people of this region are among the beneficiaries of the information revolution — not the victims of a widening digital divide.

Thus, I recognize the great developmental potential of Asia-Pacific POPIN and support the information initiatives and activities described in this profile.

Kim Hak-Su
Executive Secretary

Population information development

When countries around the world began to recognize the threat to their social and economic development posed by the rapid population growth rates occurring following the end of the Second World War, the need for reliable population data and information became acute.

Several regional population conferences, expert groups and working groups, organized during the 1960s by ESCAP (then called the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, or ECAFE), reiterated the need for an organized system for the exchange of population data and information among the countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region.

The first step in fulfilling this need was the establishment, with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), of the Clearing-house and Information Section within the Population Division of the secretariat in 1969.

Meanwhile, a number of international information networks were being formed elsewhere in the world in response to the growing perception of the global nature of information needs and resources, and to exploit the increasing sophistication of information-processing and communications technologies then becoming available.

It was in this setting that the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1979/33 in 1979, requesting the Secretary-General "to facilitate, in collaboration with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, the establishment of a Population Information Network (POPIN) as a decentralized network for the coordination of regional, national and non-governmental population information activities, and to endeavour to obtain extrabudgetary resources for the functioning of an advisory group and a coordinating unit".

To carry out this mandate, the POPIN Coordinating Unit was established in January 1981 within the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, with UNFPA providing financial support for its activities. The establishment of Asia-Pacific POPIN followed not long thereafter in the mid-1980s, building on the work that had already been undertaken by the ESCAP Clearing-house.

The secretariat's work in this field has had a significant impact on regional population information activities and has served as a stimulus for the strengthening of existing population information activities within the United Nations, and developed and developing countries alike.

This profile shows the scope of that work and the secretariat's activities in support of countries in the Asian and Pacific region. It also shows that ESCAP has taken the lead in establishing a presence on the Internet through which it provides documents, journals, newsletters, bibliographic and demographic databanks, statistical tables and other valuable population resources such as profiles of individual network members. The Web site may be accessed at: **http://www.unescap.org/pop/popin/index.htm**

Population information in the Asia-Pacific region

The work of the ESCAP secretariat in the field of population information dates back to the late 1960s when a number of population information centres and networks were established in countries of the region with technical assistance from the secretariat and financial support provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

From the beginning of the secretariat's involvement in population activities, primacy has been given to information development because information is one of the pillars of socio-economic development. In recognition of the importance of information in the national development process, ESCAP made information development one of the major components of its Asia-Pacific Regional Population Programme when it began to work in this field in 1969.

The ESCAP secretariat, through its Regional Population Information Centre, helped to develop and currently supports national population information centres with information materials, technical assistance, advisory services and training for their staff. The aim is to enable countries to become increasingly self-reliant in their information gathering, analysing, processing and disseminating capabilities.

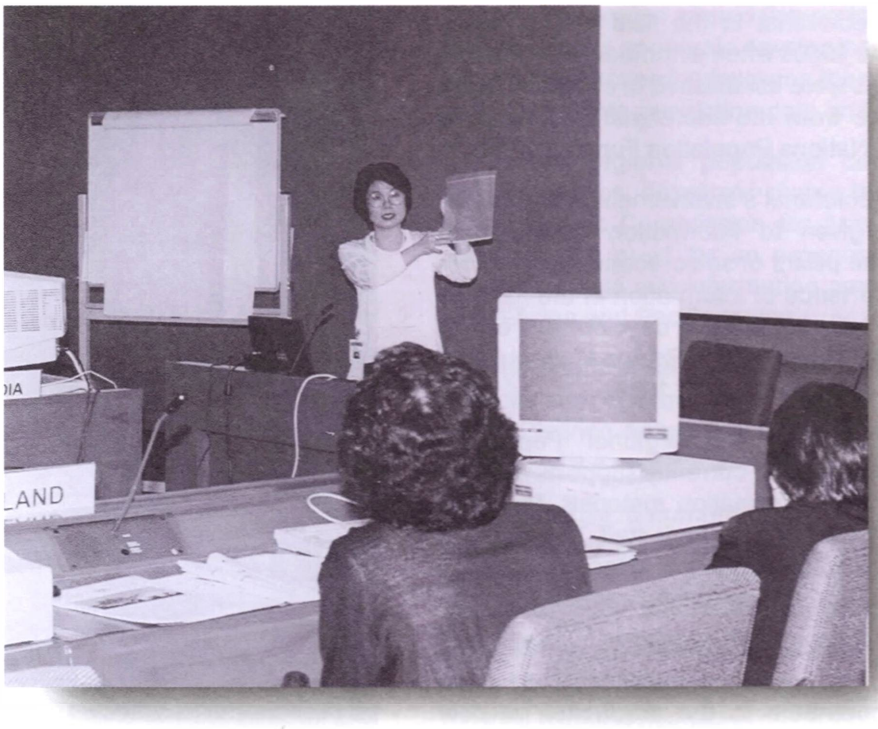
Fully functioning national population information centres can bridge the gap between those who produce new knowledge and those who need it; they can also contribute to the production of new knowledge. The ultimate goal is to improve the utilization of population data and information for population policy and programme purposes at the national and local levels.

One of the major means that ESCAP employs for achieving this goal is networking. Its regional network comprises a number of national population information centres and subregional networks whose networking activities are coordinated by ESCAP. The secretariat encourages the establishment of subregional networks as an effective way to promote the sharing of information and experiences among information professionals in neighbouring countries with similar cultural characteristics and population issues. Network members are grouped into the following subregional groups, namely, East and South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.

Human resources development

The ESCAP secretariat provides technical assistance and specialized training for the members of its network to upgrade the management and technical skills of their staff. Information centre staff must understand the use of modern information technologies for a variety of information-processing applications and must know how to plan, manage and deliver information services and products in a timely way using internationally accepted standards and guidelines. Such staff must also have the capability to present population data and scientific and technical information with effective visual impact and ease of understanding for a wide range of users.

The use of new technologies for information-handling has played an important role in the successful implementation of the more advanced population information centres and networks in the Asian and Pacific region. The application of computers for data analysis, knowledge-based management, word processing, desk-top publishing, image processing and Web publishing has greatly enhanced the ability of national population information centres to carry out their mandates more effectively. During the last few years, many training courses have been arranged covering topics such as searching the Internet, conducting demographic research through the Internet, Web-page creation, software for image processing/enhancement, and repackaging of population information, to name a few.



Training is one of the ways that ESCAP builds the capacity of members of Asia-Pacific POPIN.

In addition to organizing courses, the ESCAP secretariat also provides opportunities for information specialists from Asian and Pacific countries to deepen their knowledge and gain experience. It also conducts in-service or "on-the-job" training and organizes study tours of more advanced population information centres.

Database development and services

The ESCAP secretariat maintains population-related bibliographic information in its computerized database, such as EBIS/POPFILE and the POPLINE CD-ROM database, which was developed and is maintained by the Population Information Program of Johns Hopkins University. EBIS/POPFILE contains bibliographic citations of population-related topics mainly covering the region collected by the ESCAP secretariat. On request, ESCAP conducts searches and supplies users throughout the Asian and Pacific region with relevant printouts. If copies of the cited documents are not available in the user's own country, they can be supplied by ESCAP and/or POPLINE (with due regard for international copyright law).

The POPLINE database contains over 250,000 citations and abstracts of a variety of materials that are global in scope including journal articles, monographs, technical reports and unpublished literature on population and family planning including reproductive health, contraceptive methods, community-based services, programme evaluation, demography, censuses and vital statistics, as well as legal, policy and women's issues. The file is updated every six months, adding approximately 12,000 records annually.

Through its network activities, the secretariat has produced population directory series databases (Directory of Population Institutions, Directory of Population Experts, Directory of Population Research), updating them on a regular basis. These databases are available on the Internet at:

http://unescap.org/pop/database/index.htm

In the new century, the secretariat will place more emphasis on the development of databases on reproductive health indicators and population/family planning laws and regulations.

Publications

To keep population information experts informed about topics of current interest, the ESCAP secretariat coordinates the production of the thrice-yearly *Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin*, which is the electronic newsletter of its regional network. The ESCAP secretariat also publishes the quarterly professional journal entitled *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* and a bi-monthly newsletter entitled *Population Headliners*, which contains general information on population. Annually, it publishes the ESCAP Population Data Sheet both in printed and electronic formats, the latter being available on the Web at **http://www.unescap.org/pop/data_sheet/data00.htm**

The full text of the *Journal*, with search capability, is available on the Internet at **http://www.unescap.org/pop/journal/index.htm** and the full-text of the *Bulletin* is available at **http://www.unescap.org/pop/popin/bulletin.htm**

In addition to these and occasional publications such as brochures and catalogues, the ESCAP secretariat fosters the production of computer-generated directories on topics such as key personnel in the field of population, current population research projects, and information resources in the Asian and Pacific region. The directories are distributed in electronic form and updated periodically. The data are also available for online computer searching.

Grants

As a means of encouraging the production of information materials and promoting information activities, the ESCAP secretariat provides small grants to countries to carry out activities related to population information development such as translation of population materials, database development, and organizing meetings to advocate the importance of population information. Example includes grants for directories to encourage the countries to produce national databases and directories on topics such as key personnel in the field of population, current population research projects, and population institutions as well as databases on reproductive health indicators, and population policies and laws.

Armed with appropriate information, even the poorest and least developed countries can more effectively plan ahead to address population issues, guide population research and formulate effective national policies.

Meetings

Sharing information and experiences among population information professionals is the aim of the ESCAP secretariat in organizing consultative meetings and workshops. At such meetings, staff of national population information centres and networks have the opportunity to discuss population information issues in depth with peers, exchange information about solutions to common problems, develop guidelines for cooperative efforts, such as directory and database development, and consider the usefulness of new technologies for information work within the regional context.

The secretariat has encouraged and facilitated a TCDC (technical cooperation among developing countries) approach to a number of such exchanges, with the result that the participating countries mutually benefit.

In order to promote the effective exchange of information among population-related networks, the ESCAP secretariat maintains linkages with other regional information networks such as the WHO/HELLIS (the Health Literature and Library Information System) of the World Health Organization and WINAP (the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific).

In all its population information activities, the ESCAP secretariat attempts to assist member and associate member governments in their efforts to devise effective solutions to their population and development problems. In other words, its goal is to help them to develop their human resources and their national information resources so that they may attain self-reliance in the management of their population information systems. The ultimate aim is to improve the utilization of population data and information in order to make their national population programmes more effective.

Looking to the future

Because of the development of computers and communications technology, it is feasible to link information resources making access to population information more effective and beneficial. For example, the major portion of published technical population literature can be identified currently through computer searches of various databases.

Services that were once available only through the ESCAP secretariat are now being made available through population information centres in some of the developing countries of the region through various IT options including CD-ROM (compact disc–read only memory), technology for the storage and retrieval of vast amounts of data, information, graphics and sounds on population issues. The Internet, moreover, provides an even greater amount of such data and information in all these forms.

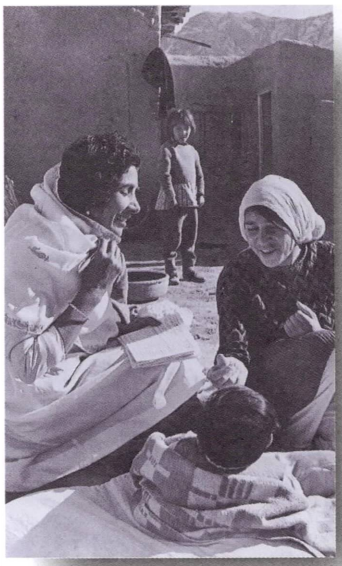
The applications of computer technology are growing as rapidly as the technology itself. Thus, computerization of population information has been essential for the effective generation, processing and dissemination of population information and the creation of new knowledge. In this regard, the ESCAP secretariat plays a continuing role in terms of training, providing technical assistance and disseminating information as well as fostering information awareness in the developing countries of the region.

Recognizing the importance of the role played by civil society, the ESCAP secretariat is promoting partnerships, where possible with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in its population information development activities, a function which is called for by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Information Age of the twenty-first century will be characterized by the proliferation of electronic-based information. ESCAP intends to do all that is possible to help its members and associate members to get the utmost benefit from knowledge-based products and services in the field of population.

Profiles of members of Asia-Pacific POPIN

Afghanistan Population Documentation and Information Centre



Population survey data provide Afghanistan with information for policy and programme purposes. (United Nations photograph by K. Muldoon/Ara)

The Afghanistan Population Documentation and Information Centre was established in 1985, mainly with financial support from UNFPA and technical assistance from ESCAP. Although civil disturbances have made it impossible to provide up-to-date information about the status of the Centre and current population information activities, the following profile gives a brief idea of the work the Centre has been carrying out.

Established under the Ministry of Central Statistics, the Centre has had as its major objectives the creation of a systematic information system for the dissemination of demographic data and other population information.

It was also charged with the responsibility of creating awareness of population issues through the dissemination of population information.

The Centre has published journals, newsletters, books, occasional papers, leaflets, pamphlets and calendars, among others. Among the major monographs are the results of the country's first population census, which was published in 1986, and the results of various surveys, economic and social indicators, estimates of population and an atlas on mothers and children.

The target audience for such publications have been planners, policy makers, programme implementors and population professionals.

In addition to its regular publications, the Centre also produced translations of various United Nations publications.

Afghanistan Population Documentation and Information Centre

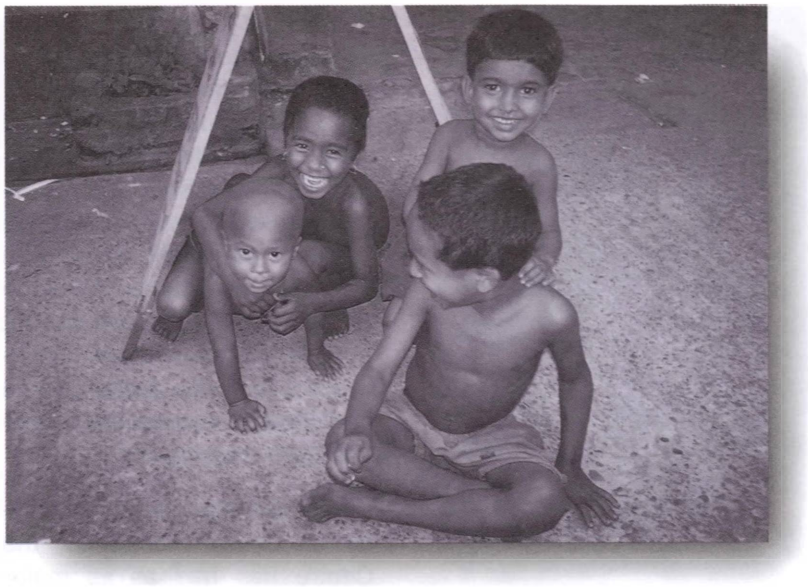
Purpose of organization:	Providing information to organizations involved in population at the national and international level.
Personnel:	1 manager, 1 researcher/ demographer, 1 writer/editor, 1 translator
Information-handling equipment:	Standard office equipment, offset printing equipment, slide projector/screen, video equipment
Products and services	
Publications and services:	Translation, technical journal, enquiry/ reference, translation services
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners and decision makers, programme administrators and project managers, researchers, students
Other:	Exchanges population information with Afghan Family Guidance Association, Kabul University and governmental organizations

Ministry of Central Statistics
Block No. 4
Mikrorayan
P.O. Box 2002
Kabul
Afghanistan

Tel: (93) 62521

Access to the Internet: No

Bangladesh Behaviour Change Communication Unit



Social norms in Bangladesh have resulted in a strong preference for boys. The country's population programme uses information techniques to bring about a more balanced view of the composition of families. (Photograph courtesy of Richard M. Henshaw)

The Bangladesh Behaviour Change Communication Unit plays a role in the success of lowering the country's fertility and achieving some of its other population, health and development goals.

The continued processing and dissemination of relevant population information has proven essential not only for sustaining gains made under the National Family Planning Programme in slowing the population growth rate but also for making possible further advances towards achieving replacement level fertility by the year 2005 while significantly lowering maternal and child mortality rates, all of which are called for by the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The development of population information in Bangladesh began with the launching in July 1980 of a project entitled "The Population Information Service"; technical assistance for the project was provided by ESCAP and financial support by UNFPA. This project, which was part of a larger one called "Strengthening of the IEM (Information, Education and Motivation) Unit of the Directorate of Family Planning", was responsible for planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the communication interventions for the National Family Planning Programme.

Under this project, a documentation centre was established to provide the country with an institutional framework for population information activities. The Population Information Service/Centre comprised three sections: a reference and documentation section for the identification, collection, documentation, storage and retrieval of information; an information research section for conducting research, monitoring, evaluating and developing programmes; and an information dissemination section for the production and dissemination of information and the organization of the information network.

It was in 1985 that the Centre was integrated with the larger Unit, which serves as the national focal point for Bangladesh in Asia-Pacific POPIN. The Centre coordinates population information services and activities nationally. It is the focal point also of the in-country POPIN.

The Centre functions under the Director of the BCC Unit; it has a collection of more than 6,000 books and journals, which are available to an array of users, including personnel from the Directorate of Family Planning.

Directorate of Family Planning
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Azimpur
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Fax: (880-2) 86-83-41

E-mail: popinbcc@bangla.net

Access to the Internet: Yes



Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world; hence, population issues are of primary importance in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes. (Photograph courtesy of Richard M. Henshaw)

Among the outreach services of the Centre is the publication of *Porikroma*, a bi-monthly Bengali-language newsletter, which provides coverage of national population and family planning activities and international events. It has a circulation of 12,000 copies per issue; the main target audiences include programme managers, policy makers, service providers, religious leaders, population professionals, journalists, NGOs and various government ministries. Another of its publications is the *Population Bulletin*, an English-language quarterly covering national population and family planning news and maternal and child health activities. It is sent to other members of the Asia-Pacific POPIN network, embassies and donor agencies, and development partners. In addition, six leading national newspapers are scanned and pertinent news articles are clipped for the information of national programme managers and other users. The Centre also produces guides for family planning field workers, flip charts, booklets and folders for service providers.

BCC activities include the holding of workshops for population correspondents as well as journalists and editors of leading national newspapers. Briefing journalists about population and related issues enables the government to enlist their support in more widely disseminating population messages through the mass media.

The Centre also plans to create a computerized database with information collected from population and family planning related literature. This will make the work of the Centre more efficient with regard to analysing, processing and disseminating population data and information to target audiences.

Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Unit

Purpose of organization:	Documentation centre which collects, preserves and retrieves population information and disseminates such information to users
Major functions:	Coordination, implementation and monitoring of national population, family planning development, planning activities and the collection, processing and dissemination of population-related information to policy makers, planners, programme implementors, teachers, students, researchers, and the general public.
Personnel:	20 at the professional level plus support staff
Resource base	
Size of collection:	4,500 book titles, and numerous journals and periodicals
Classification system used:	POPIN Multilingual Thesaurus
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computer and standard office equipment
Products and services	
Publications:	Quarterly *Population Bulletin* (English-language newsletter) and a bi-monthly Bengali-language newsletter in addition to various IEC materials, reports, books, folders, pamphlets, flip charts and posters
Services:	Enquiry, reference, document distribution/re-distribution, briefings and user education
Types of users served:	Academicians, students, researchers, IEC professionals, media material developers, policy makers, programme managers and implementors as well as field workers

China Population Information and Research Centre

The China Population Information and Research Centre traces its origins back to the 1980s, when the government realized the importance of population information work and made it an important component in the country's population and family planning programmes. That work has been to collect, process, analyse, study and disseminate information on population and family planning, which is of great significance towards helping China to achieve its strategic population goals. To initiate this work, the government, with financial assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), established the China Population Information Centre (CPIC) in May 1980, attached to the State Family Planning Commission. It was renamed the China Population Information and Research Centre (CPIRC) in 1989.

As the need for population information is constantly increasing in the implementation of the country's population and family planning programmes, regional population information centres were set up in the period 1984-1985 in six regions of the country to carry out local population information work based on the local conditions of each area. The regional centres are located in Tianjin, Shanghai, Liaoning, Guangdong, Sichuan and Shaanxi. Corresponding organizations were also set up at this time: the family planning commissions of Jiangsu Province and Harbin City set up population information research institutes. Also, the Library of the Nanjing College for Population Management and the Jilin Population Information Station became members.

In September 1986, the China Population Information Network (China POPIN) was formed in response to the need for contacting related population information organizations within China. The aforementioned organizations comprise the network's core members. China POPIN is currently networking with dozens of members, including population institutes in various universities, social science academies and schools.

The main reasons for forming China POPIN were to strengthen the national effort to implement the family planning programme, to assist leaders in policy-making, to strengthen the population sciences and to avoid wasteful duplication of investment and effort. Through the network, extensive population information is collected and classified quickly and accurately, thus making full use of population information resources and sharing the findings of scientific research.



The library at CPIRC provides a solid knowledge base from which professionals can draw data and information for improving China's population policies and programme.

China Population Information and Research Centre
No. 12, Dahuisi Road
Haidian District
Beijing 100081
China

Tel: (86-10) 62179124 and 62173516

Fax: (86-10) 62172101 and 62179124

E-mail: yqli@www.cpirc.org.cn

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.cpirc.org.cn/eindex.htm

To further develop China POPIN, the China POPIN Steering Committee was set up in April 1989. Its aims are to reinforce academic cooperation and coordination among the member organizations, and to develop some commonly needed basic information so as to fully utilize the overall research results and conserve both financial and human resources involved in this effort. Areas of concentration include a counseling service for policy-making, research, editing, translation, material collection and data processing, among others.

As a member of global POPIN and Asia-Pacific POPIN, China POPIN has also played an active role in the activities of various international and regional population information networks. Each member of China POPIN is independent, having the authority and ability to conduct population information work on its own without reference to Beijing. China POPIN helps to organize, promote co-operation and build contacts among the members in an effort to enable them to be more effective.

CPIRC, which since 1997 serves as the secretariat for East and South-East Asia POPIN, is preparing itself for the challenges of the future by further improving its information and research services. Having already gained experience from TCDC training programmes conducted for other Asia-Pacific POPIN network members for the past several years, CPIRC is able to train professionals in various aspects of information management and modern information and communication technologies.

Also, through telecommunication links, it is already expanding its access to and dissemination of population data and information regionally and internationally. The Centre is also developing its capability in other areas such as the production of multi-media, a powerful tool for improved communication of specialized information messages. CPIRC has established a local area network. Further, CPIRC is extending its reach through the Internet, having its own Web site with various Web pages and databases available for access nationally and internationally.

China Population Information and Research Centre

Purpose of organization:	CPIRC is a public-service institution affiliated with the State Family Planning Commission of China. It collects, studies and disseminates data and information on China's population and family planning programmes; it also conducts demographic research in addition to providing population information services and counseling for policy-making on population development and family planning. CPIRC also repackages and publishes information materials and publications, provides information through networks and conducts international cooperation activities in the field of population and reproductive health and family planning, and undertakes the tasks connected with being Secretariat of China POPIN and of East and South-East Asia POPIN
Personnel:	80 staff members, of whom 45 are professionals with degrees ranging from the bachelor's level to Ph.D.
Resource base	
Size of collection:	13,000 book titles, 120 periodical titles, 100 statistical book titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Dewey Decimal Classification/Revised edition of AACR2
Thesaurus used:	Chinese-English Population Thesaurus
External databases:	POPLINE
Information-handling equipment:	Standard office equipment, personal computers, magnetic tapes, laser printers, scanners etc.
Products and services	
Databases:	Data series of population censuses and surveys (available on CPIRC's Web site), China Population and Family Planning Literature Database and bibliographic database (in Chinese)
Publications and services:	China Population Today (in English), *China Family Planning Yearbook*, *Population and Family Planning*, *Population Abstracts*, translations, books/monographs
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners and decision makers, programme administrators and project managers, medical and social welfare professionals, scientists, researchers, academicians/teachers, students, information agencies and channelers

International Institute for Population Sciences, India



Drawing attention to the logo adopted by India to promote the small family norm, this classical dancer makes a point about the future – India's population will exceed that of China unless the population growth rate is slowed.

The International Institute for Population Sciences at Mumbai (Bombay), which is the focal point for India in Asia-Pacific POPIN, is a "deemed university" and an autonomous organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Institute also serves as the secretariat for the South Asia POPIN subregional network.

The Institute has a team of over 35 highly qualified faculty members and administrative and support staff who run seven departments, namely: Department of Mathematical Demography and Statistics, Department of Fertility Studies, Department of Public Health and Mortality Studies, Department of Migration and Urban Studies, Department of Population Policies and Programmes, Department of Development Studies, and Department of Extra Mural Studies and Distance Education.

The Institute's Population Data Centre was set up with the objective of maintaining the data sets procured from various local and national demographic sample surveys conducted throughout the country. The Centre obtains data from the National Family Health Survey of India (NFHS) as well as the Demographic Health Surveys (DHS) of countries where such data are collected.

To store and disseminate information, the Centre uses CD-ROMs. The use of CD-ROM technology enables the Centre to provide detailed documentation of IIPS research work in an easy-to-use form. Plans are under way to copy and store reproductive and child health (RCH) project data, which provide information on health for all sample districts in India.

The Institute's homepage on the Internet is made available off-line through CD-ROM media created by the Data Centre. It may thus be seen that the Institute has taken advantage of the benefits of the information age. Networking advances on campus enable the faculty and students to access Internet facilities. Also, all census and population-related data can be accessed through data storage facilities at the Centre. Further, the Institute uses e-mail to facilitate the transmission of data and information both nationally and internationally.

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India

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Telegram: DEMOGRAPHY, CHEMBUR, MUMBAI

Fax: (91 22) 556-3257

E-mail: iips@bom3.vsnl.net.in

Data Centre: prakasam@bom2.vsnl.net.in

Library: randeria@bom2.vsnl.net.in

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://education.vsnl.com/iips



The Library of the International Institute for Population Sciences is well equipped to serve the needs of the scholars and other users involved in India's population programme.

Following the ICPD conference, held at Cairo in 1994, India adopted a new policy approach called Reproductive and Child Health, which is a significant change from the earlier Maternal and Child Health approach. Under the new approach, contraceptive behaviour is placed in a much wider context where the quality of care component needs special attention.

The Reproductive and Child Health interventions that are being implemented by the Government of India are expected to provide better quality services than previously and achieve multiple objectives. The government is attempting to not only re-orient the programme and service providers' attitude at the grassroots level, but also strengthen the services at outreach levels. The new approach requires decentralization of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the services.

International Institute for Population Sciences

Purpose of organization:	Deemed university, conducts training, research and surveys, maintains population data and information centre
Resource base	
Size of collection:	Approximately 64,500 books and monographs, 300 journals/serials, 10,382 bound periodicals and almost 14,000 reprints
Classification/cataloguing systems:	DDC/AACR2
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers (on LAN) and laser printers, photocopy machines, Internet and e-mail facilities and bar-code technology for reprints, standard office and library equipment including card catalogue cabinets, display shelving, printing and binding equipment, photographic equipment, audio-visual equipment etc.
Products and services	
Databases:	Local, national and international demographic and health survey data sets
Publications and services:	Newsletter, research monographs, textbooks, seminar proceedings as well as data analysis and computer applications such as e-mail and telecommunication linkages, preparation of texts for publication, storage and retrieval of abstracts/bibliographic information, cataloguing, CD-ROM, mailing list maintenance, circulation etc.
Types of users served:	Students and researchers through literature searches, reference, library loans, SDI, photocopy services etc.
Other:	Member of Asia-Pacific POPIN and VSNL

Indonesia's Directorate for Information Technology and Documentation Network

National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN)
Jl. Permata No. 1
Halim Perdanakusuma
Jakarta Timur 13650
Indonesia

Tel: (62-21) 8009069, 8009045, 8009029, 8098018, 8009117 Ext. 740, 741,744, 747, 748

Fax: (62-21) 8097387, 8097389, 8008554

E-mail: azizw@siduga.bkkbn.go.id
ardini@siduga.bkkbn.go.id
winarti@siduga.bkkbn.go.id

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.bkkbn.go.id



The library of one of the members of Indonesia POPIN has an active programme of making young people aware of various population issues such as population growth and urbanization.

The Directorate for Information Technology and Documentation Network under Indonesia's National Family Planning Coordinating Board ("BKKBN", as it is widely known) is the focal point for that country in Asia-Pacific POPIN.

BKKBN is the government agency responsible for managing the national family planning programme. It has 26 provincial offices and 342 district offices, which are supported by 54,000 staff and field-workers. In managing the family planning programme, BKKBN is involved with ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations or institutions.

To support the programme's strategies and policies, the Directorate collects, processes, analyses, repackages and disseminates family planning and population information as well as information on programme activities to programme workers, managers, researchers, librarians and other users.

Further, it produces audio-visuals in Indonesian and English on family planning, population and family development themes for programme managers and workers, for training courses and workshop participants, as well as for observers, or visitors from other countries.

The central BKKBN office coordinates the national information network, including network activities and information exchange among network members, namely the National Library, libraries of various government ministries, research institutions or centres, universities and NGOs.

At the provincial level, BKKBN offices also have centres of the same nature but on a smaller scale. These offices coordinate the same type of activities. Members of the information network include provincial-level libraries.

The Directorate's computerized reference collection uses the CDS/ISIS program. An output of the database is the *Directory of Population Research, Population Institutions and Population Researchers in Indonesia*. Other publications produced by the Directorate are prepared using a desktop-publishing program.

The information needs and information-seeking behaviour of users are assessed regularly and research is conducted on the use of the publications published by the Directorate in order to develop future

policies regarding the management and dissemination of publications for family planning workers and managers from the national to the field levels.

To improve information exchange and knowledge transfer, a monthly meeting is conducted by the Directorate with 25 other in-country network members. This meeting includes representatives of the National Library, libraries of government ministries, NGOs, research institutions/centres, and universities.

The economic and monetary crisis that occurred in July 1997 has had an impact on not only governmental organization performance but also public participation/NGO involvement in development programmes. Leadership of BKKBN has become the responsibility of the Minister of Women Empowerment.

BKKBN's vision and mission also changed, with a focus on improving the quality of communities and promoting the acceptance of small families.

At the beginning of May 2000, the Bureau of Information and Documentation Network was merged with the Bureau of Data Processing and System into the Directorate for Information Technology and Documentation Network. The tasks and functions of the newly constituted Directorate are to collect, process and disseminate data and information, provide publication and library services as well as to increase information and documentation network cooperation through information technology.

The Centre for Executive Information Services has been set up under the Directorate. It provides new library collection services, an online library, and Internet and e-mail facilities to all provinces/regions. It promotes and disseminates information using modern information technology.

The total collection of books is around 14,500 titles; periodicals, 54 titles; and ephemera, 3,000 titles. It employs 109 librarians at the central, provincial and district levels.

It processes, reformats and repackages selected information into readable, usable and attractive formats. It distributes information materials to various target audiences from the executive to the grassroots levels as well as to researchers and information network members. The development of the BKKBN homepage has been strengthened with the addition of new computer facilities.

Among the many ways for disseminating information, the organization also uses seminars and meetings, exhibitions and audio-visual presentations.

Directorate for Information Technology and Documentation Network

Personnel:	43
Resource base	
Size of collection:	14,500 books
Classification/cataloguing systems:	DDC/AACR2
Information-handling equipment:	Computers, facsimile, telephones etc.
Products and services	
Services provided:	Enquiry/reference, abstracting/indexing, referral, repackaging of information/ production of publications, routing of periodicals, borrowing privileges, inter-library loans, photocopy services, literature searches, document distribution/ redistribution service, user education/training/briefings, organization of meetings/training courses, briefing programmes, translation services
Publications:	Abstracts, acquisition lists of books/periodicals, topical bibliographies, directories, policy briefs, research reports, brochures, flyers, posters, audio-visual materials, translations, technical journal, books/monographs, bulletins, data sheet
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners and decision makers, programme administrators and project managers, researchers

Statistical Centre of Iran

The Statistical Centre of Iran is the focal point for the Islamic Republic of Iran in Asia-Pacific POPIN. Appointed by the government as such in 1995, the Centre has broadened the nature of its work to include the dissemination of population information in addition to statistical data.

The establishment of the Centre as the country's national population information centre reflects the seriousness with which the government is implementing its population and family planning programme. Although the existence of the programme can be traced back to 1967, it only started to be vigorously implemented since 1989 when it became apparent that the population growth rate was among the highest in the world at an estimated 3.8 per cent annually. The population reached 55 million in 1990; the 1996 census registered a population of 60 million.

Owing to the strong political, ideological and economic support for the population programme, contraceptive use is increasing steadily throughout the country. Some internationally well-known figures in the field of population have called the programme one of the world's most successful — a model for other countries to follow. In 1999, a prominent Iranian figure won the United Nations Population Award for his role in the national success story.

Information also played a major role in this success story, since it is on the basis of informed awareness that people take action. It was reliable data and information supplied by the Centre that first generated concern among various members of the government; the population was shown to have increased from 33.7 million in 1976 to 49.4 million in 1986. Based on those reliable data, officials did not have any difficulty forecasting the likely negative impact of unabated population growth on the country. Yet, the most important aspect of the programme's success has been the interest, support and guidance of religious leaders. Once it was demonstrated that there was no conflict between the programme and Islamic values, religious leaders gave their support.

All disciplines face the challenge of "translating" what has been learned from data collection and research into a form usable by persons who apply knowledge to problem-solving. The challenge is particularly demanding in the economic and social fields, especially in the field of population, because of the sensitivities involved in attempting to effect changes in attitudes and behaviour with regard to marriage, reproduction and family life.



The Statistical Centre of Iran has excellent resources in terms of computer hardware and software to collect and analyse population data. With the addition of expertise in the area of bibliographic information as a member of Asia-Pacific POPIN, the Centre is well placed to maximize the benefits for the country of investments made in this sector.

Dr. Fatemi Ave.
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Islamic Republic of Iran

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Access to the Internet: Yes

Thus, research studies such as those based on KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) surveys will continue to provide the Centre and, in turn, its audiences with valuable data and information about the situation in each area of the country, thereby enabling improved policy formulation and programme implementation over time.

The country's information requirements cover a wide spectrum of users, and it is for this reason that the government has designated the Centre as the country's primary source of population data and information.



The Statistical Centre of Iran is the primary source in the Islamic Republic of Iran for reliable population data and information.

Such an empirical basis is considered a necessary element in planning future policies affecting the development of the country. The Second Social, Economic and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1995-1999) reflects this integrated approach. Not only does it reinforce the strong official support to be given to the population programme, but it also places emphasis on the provision of a wide array of nationwide health care services, including family planning, as part of efforts to improve the quality of life of the people.

As part of the Plan, the Statistical Centre produces demographic data at one-year intervals in addition to conducting decennial censuses as well as a variety of intercensal surveys. As the national population information centre and focal point for the country in Asia-Pacific POPIN, the Centre will also branch out into the supply of other types of information in support of the population programme and overall socio-economic development.

The Centre's publication programme will be expanded to fulfil the broader mandate. Its publications up to the time the Centre was established as the POPIN focal point include such major works as statistical yearbooks and monographs on the results of its various surveys.

Future works will be aimed at filling the gaps between the results of research and official statistics, information which is needed by government organizations. In addition, the government's promotional and motivational work through IEC (information, education and communication) needs appropriate technical and scientific information that is produced by the Centre.

Statistical Centre of Iran

Purpose of organization:	Under the Plan & Budget Organization, the Centre is responsible for the development and production of statistics, conduct of national censuses and surveys in the economic and social fields, rendering of technical advice to statistical units of ministeries and government agencies
Personnel:	533
Resource base	
Size of collection:	About 21,000 volumes
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Dewey Decimal Classification/Library of Congress Subject Heading
Information-handling equipment:	Main frame: IBM 4341, 4381 with 42 terminals; plus 256 personal computers and a wide range of peripheral equipment
Products and services	
Publications:	Statistical yearbook, census and survey results
Services:	Library services, information system centre
Types of users served:	Government, academicians, students
Other:	Organization of statistical conferences and professional meetings on statistics in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Malaysia's National Population and Family Development Board Resource Centre



In addition to information services such as its library, the Information, Education and Communication Unit of Malaysia's National Population and Family Development Board carries out numerous outreach functions aimed at implementing the government's programme.

Malaysia has a multi-racial population characterized by diverse cultures and religions. The people are mainly of Malay, Chinese and Indian origin with a diverse group of indigenous people. Bahasa Malaysia is the national language, although English is widely spoken. Islam is the official religion while Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and other religions are practised freely. National unity, tolerance and living in a society that is democratic, liberal, caring and infused with strong moral and ethical values are national aspirations which have been ingrained in the country's socio-economic development plans and Vision 2020.

The population of 22.8 million is young; the size of the population is projected to increase 2.0 per cent annually to 33.4 million by 2020.

Malaysia's National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB), originally the National Family Planning Board, was established in 1966 primarily to organize and implement a nation-wide family planning programme. The Resource Centre was then known as the Library and it provided an important service in disseminating information, education and communication (IEC) materials which enhanced the acceptance of family planning for birth spacing and family health.

In 1984, the government issued a policy statement which emphasized the qualitative aspects of the population through human resources development. Under this policy, the goal of reducing fertility is maintained over the long term but at a gradual rate rather than rapidly. Family planning services were broadened beyond a clinic-centred approach to a development approach.

Malaysia has initiated, among other things, changes in policies, programmes, and the institutional and organizational framework to support the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Existing population programmes have been revised along themetic areas of concern and priorities, which are reproductive health, population and family development.

Although policies for balanced, equitable and sustainable development were already implemented before ICPD, the Cairo meeting and the Fourth World Conference on Women held at Beijing in 1995 provided the opportunity to pursue specific and more complex issues. The Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000) paved the way for what is called the Social Agenda to be considered as the national priority. This was realized through the formation of the Cabinet Committee on Social Issues and implemented through the Social Action Plan and a special budgetary allocation.

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Malaysia

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Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.lppkn.gov.my

Recognizing the family institution as the backbone of development, the government is very concerned with the emerging issues affecting social structures and the family institution as families strive to cope with the fast tempo of development. Various family-oriented programmes have been developed since 1990 with the objective of developing a "quality population" through the strengthening of the family institution and preparing families to cope with and adjust to changes in the social and economic environment of the new millennium.

NPFDB as the focal point for family development in Malaysia has developed various educational modules which include family health, parenting, development of human potential and population dynamics.

Malaysia recognizes that the government alone cannot manage the effective implementation of the ICPD goals. Regular dialogue, consultation and information-sharing with advocacy groups, the private sector and community-based organizations are held for the design, formulation and implementation of programmes for the family, children, youth, older persons and the disabled.

The basic communication links among libraries in Malaysia are provided by telephone services under the Telecommunications Department. The NPFDB Library uses telephone and telecommunication lines for reference, referral and information services. A number of libraries in Malaysia have access to major databases in the United States, e.g. the DIALOG information service, through the MAYPAC system, one of the reference services provided by the National Library of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Videotext system, TELITA, is an online information retrieval service which is applicable for office, library and home use. MALMARC (Malaysia Machine Readable Catalogue) and JARING (Joint Advanced Research Integrating Networking), a national networking project, provide the infrastructure for research and development purposes as well as information services provided by MIMOS (Malaysia Institute of Microelectronics System), which focuses on the enhancement of systems for information collection, storage, processing, dissemination and use.

The NPFDB Resource Centre and its branches serve as the main information centre of the country's population information networking project. Its members include libraries of academic and research institutions, ministries, departments and organizations. It serves as the national focal point for East and South-East Asia POPIN and is in the process of participating in other systems. It uses the Virginia Tech Library System (VTLS) to provide information services to network members and clients.

Resource Centre

Purpose of organization:	To plan, implement and coordinate programmes and activities which contribute towards the creation of a quality population through the strengthening and improvement of family well-being
Resource base	
Size of collection:	Monographs: 20,154 titles; journals: 27 titles; slides: 27 subject areas and videotapes: 236 titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	NLM,DDC,IPPF/Modified version of AACR 2 is used.
External databases:	POPLINE
Information-handling equipment:	Standard office and library equipment, mainframe computers, mini-computers, printers and scanner
Products and services	
Publications and services:	Bulletins, brochures, flyers, posters and audio-visual materials. Enquiry/reference services, referral, inter-library loans, photocopy services, exhibitions and clearing house activities.
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners and decision makers, researchers, academicians, doctors and students
Other:	Exchanges information with universities and specialized libraries

Maldives Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment

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Ameer Ahmed Magu
Malé 2005
Maldives

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(960) 31-3038

Fax: (960) 32-7351

Access to the Internet: No

The Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment is the Asia-Pacific POPIN focal point for the Republic of Maldives. This country has the smallest population of the members of the network in absolute numbers, i.e. approximately 286,000, according to the 2000 ESCAP Population Data Sheet. But the population growth rate is among the highest in the region at 2.7 per cent per year, which although high is a much lower rate than those revealed in past censuses.

Of the 1,190 coral islands that comprise Maldives, only 202 are inhabited. The country's total land mass is only about 18 square km, but it is scattered over an area of 60,000 square miles in the Indian Ocean.

The effects of a high population growth rate and high population density are most visible in Malé, the capital. Houses are jammed closely together for the length and breadth of that island which measures only 1 sq km. And children are everywhere in evidence; almost half the population is under 15 years of age.

But some of the population problems faced by Maldives are unique in the ESCAP region. For example, the links between population and the environment, population and resources, and economic and ecological factors are becoming painfully apparent.

Besides the projected threat of a rise in the sea level, caused by global warming, and the consequent effect it would have on the land surface of Maldives — barely a metre and a half above sea level at its higher points — there are problems related directly to population pressures such as the mining of coral and excavation of sand for construction and land reclamation as well as the depletion of the islands' fresh water supply and the pollution of that water with human and biological waste, petroleum products and pesticides.

There are several other population problems faced by this small country. Early marriage, i.e. before the age of 16, is not uncommon outside of Malé. Although there is a positive trend in the mean age at marriage, wide disparities exist between Malé and the other islands.

Since many couples are not aware of child-spacing methods and contraceptives are not always easily available, the first pregnancy occurs often within the first year of marriage, and is followed by closely spaced pregnancies. Morbidity and mortality are related problems.

In response to such serious population issues, Maldives has launched an energetic population programme, which since 1995 includes membership in Asia-Pacific POPIN among its activities.

Although a national population information centre has not yet been formally established, some information services are being provided through a small library located within the Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment. The library maintains a collection of books and periodicals on a range of developmental subjects, and work is in progress towards creating a collection on demographic topics.



The pressure on the marine environment in Maldives is great as the population growth rate remains one of the highest in the Asian and Pacific region.



Children are everywhere in evidence in Maldives.

The government hopes to expand the work of the library so that it will be able to function as a true national population information centre, responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and information to user audiences, and representing the country in Asia-Pacific POPIN.

The government has been quite positive in its efforts to increase social sector spending, and political commitment to improve the health of the people remains strong. It is looking forward to its involvement in Asia-Pacific POPIN as a means of further increasing its efforts to become more self-reliant in dealing with complex population and development issues.

Over the past few decades the dissemination of developmental information has played a vital role in transforming what had been a closed and conservative society into one that is adept at accepting and using new ideas for social and economic development — all the while being guided by traditional cultural norms and religious values.

Because the development of a national knowledge base, the analysis and synthesis of the data and information contained therein and the timely dissemination of the relevant results in appropriate formats and media to policy makers, religious leaders and health personnel are necessary tasks if Maldives is to be successful in addressing the problems posed by a rapidly growing population, the expansion of the country's population information activities is almost a foregone conclusion.

Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment

Purpose of organization:	Planning and monitoring of development programmes and related activities; programme coordination; policy formulation; population and economic data collection, processing and dissemination; social, economic and environmental research. Currently, the Statistics Section is the main point for the collection, processing and dissemination of population information in the country.
Personnel:	The Statistics Section employs a permanent staff of about 15, all of whom, besides their specific sectoral responsibilities, are active in the collection and compilation of data. However, there are only five persons involved directly in population information and statistics
Resource base	
Size of collection:	More than 2,000 titles in the areas of economics, sociology, statistics, environment and others, including population. The number of books and periodicals in the field of population amounts to fewer than 100
Classification/cataloguing systems:	The system used is adopted from the system used by the Marga Institute Library in Sri Lanka
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computer for use in the Library. The Statistics Section has three personal computers for data processing, tabulation and analysis
Products and services	
Publications and services:	*Statistical Yearbook of Maldives*, in printed form and on diskette, reports from the national population censuses, and other special data and information booklets and pamphlets. Ready-made data in the form of tables, charts and graphs, specially prepared tables to meet individual requests from organizations
Types of users served:	Policy makers, planners, students, governmental and non-governmental research organizations and private-sector establishments

Myanmar Population Information Network

The Myanmar Population Information Network (Myanmar POPIN) was established in 1995 in recognition of the importance of population issues in this country of about 49 million, which is increasing by 800,000 persons annually.

The actual origin of the Network can be traced back to the 1994 Seminar on Feasibility of Establishing a National Population Information Centre in Myanmar, which was organized jointly by ESCAP and the Population Department of the Ministry of Immigration and Population (IPD).

That Seminar recommended that a national population information centre be established as part of the national Network, with the participation of all relevant organizations within Myanmar. Its objectives would be to improve the collection, sharing and dissemination of population information and to create a better forum for coordinating and harmonizing the dissemination of population data and information between various institutions in the country.

The Seminar also recommended the setting up of a Coordinating Committee at the ministerial level led by the Ministry of Immigration and Population and that an Executive Committee be authorized to form task forces to carry out the various tasks involved in conducting Asia-Pacific POPIN activities in Myanmar. The Population Department serves as the focal point for these purposes.

Because the Government of Myanmar recognizes the great importance of collecting and disseminating population data and information in the development process, it reorganized the IPD, which had formerly been under the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs, to be under the newly formed Ministry of Immigration and Population.

From that time ESCAP, with financial support from UNFPA, began to assist IPD in terms of providing technical support in the development of a resource base consisting of bibliographic and numerical data; improving the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of information and data; and training of staff to enable them to perform more effectively the new functions.

The major aims are to enhance and strengthen the government's management capabilities and techniques in the systematic collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of population information and data in order to meet the needs of policy makers, programme planners, academicians, researchers etc., in formulating and implementing population policies, programmes and activities.



The need for population information is growing along with the size of the country's population, approximately 800,000 per year. (Photograph by Malica)

Population Department
Ministry of Immigration and Population
416 Mahabandoola Street
Yangon
Myanmar

Tel: (95-1) 285979

Access to the Internet: No



The population policies being implemented today will mean a brighter tomorrow for the new generation.

Myanmar POPIN is organized under three main technical units: the Resource Base Unit, the Research Unit and the Publications and Dissemination Unit; staff are drawn from IPD.

Since Myanmar POPIN has begun to function only relatively recently, it plans to develop its in-country population information network system by developing and strengthening the information and technical resources at the national, state, division and district levels through awareness-creation seminars and workshops.

Myanmar POPIN also plans to produce and distribute a quarterly periodical entitled *Population News Bulletin* in the Myanmar language and in English (for distribution outside the country, especially to international agencies). The project will also produce a quarterly acquisitions list of books and journals received by the information centre.

In addition, Myanmar POPIN has participated in the ESCAP Translation Grants Programme, under which useful publications are translated from English into the Myanmar language or vice versa, and the Directory Grants Programme to produce and publish directories and databases on population personnel, institutions and research in Myanmar.

Myanmar POPIN is preparing to develop a resource base (containing numerical and bibliographic data and information) and to provide reference, referral and information repackaging services for government officials, researchers, students, academicians and programme managers.

Myanmar Population Information Network

Purpose of organization:	To enhance government's ability to collect, process and disseminate population data and information for policy and programme purposes
Personnel:	26 personnel
Resource base	
Size of collection:	Small reference collection, which will be augmented once the project gets under way
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers and standard office and library equipment. Personal computers are used for data processing and analysis, and telecommunications
Products and services	
Publications and services:	Census and survey results are published by the Department. As for services, it compiles population data and information, referral, production of statistical publications
Types of users served:	Government officials, students and academics, researchers, United Nations officials and NGOs both within and outside the country

Nepal Information, Publication and Training Section

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Kathmandu
Nepal

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E-mail: mercure@svrl-ktm.unep.net

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://svrl-ktm.unep.net

Note: At the time of publication a new site was under development: http://www.mope.gov.np



Educating people in remote parts of Nepal about population issues is one of the many tasks of the Ministry of Population and Environment.

The Information, Publication and Training Section houses the Nepal Population Information Centre as part of the Ministry of Population and Environment.

Population is an important issue in Nepal. The country's population increased by an average annual rate of 2.08 per cent during the period of the last two censuses taken in 1981 and 1991. The Nepal Family Health Survey conducted in 1996 found the total fertility rate (TFR) to be 4.6 children per woman. These data indicate that the level of fertility is still high in Nepal, even though it has been declining over the years.

The Government of Nepal is implementing the National Population Programme with a view to properly manage the growing population of the country and improve the quality of life of the people. The Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002) envisages the TFR declining to 4.2 by the end of the Plan period and further to the replacement level of about 2.1 by 2016. Nepal's Population IEC Programme has been geared to help achieve these long-term demographic goals.

The Section maintains a Library, which was conceived as a national clearing-house for information on population and the environment, as well as a documentation centre. The Library provides information for a wide range of users, including those involved in formulating and implementing population policies and programmes. As a national centre for information on population and the environment, it facilitates the exchange of information among various agencies within and outside the country. For this purpose, it has established close links with many organizations, including the Asia-Pacific POPIN Network which is coordinated by ESCAP.

The activities of the Nepal Population Information Centre include the publication of informative materials ranging from pictorial booklets to scholarly journals. Often population information is repackaged to meet the special needs of different users. Thus, while front-line development workers may choose to read an introductory "Population and Natural Resources" booklet, students doing a course in demography may find the annual report on the country's state of population to be a valuable source of information for their analysis. As part of its advocacy efforts, the Information, Publication and Training Section of the Ministry has also taken the initiative in developing population information kits for Parliamentarians and journalists.

Nepal's Population Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programme is being guided by some strategic approaches as

laid down in the National Population Information, Education and Communication Strategy (1997-2001).

These approaches have emphasized advocacy, participation, decentralization, collaboration, integration, demand creation, partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations, multimedia, high quality IEC products, audience segmentation, quality of life and sustainable development, and the need for research and capacity building. It has also identified priority audiences as follows: (a) currently married women aged 15-29, (b) currently married women aged 30-44, (c) older women in their roles as mothers, mothers-in-law and grandmothers, (d) husbands or males, (e) community influentials, (f) service-providers, (g) adolescents, (h) Parliamentarians and local leaders, and (i) other governmental and non-governmental agencies. As the umbrella strategy of the government, the Programme is designed to provide a framework for other sectoral population-related IEC strategies as well.

A number of agencies are involved in population and reproductive health IEC activities in Nepal. They include sectoral Ministries, Departments and Training Institutes of the Government, and non-governmental organizations. At the national level, the effort is co-ordinated by the Information, Publication and Training Section of the Ministry of Population and Environment. Broadly speaking, the Ministry has pursued the policy of assisting sectoral agencies and non-governmental organizations in running their IEC programmes, supplementing their efforts, as deemed necessary, and exploring new avenues for reaching policy makers as well as the rural people.

The Ministry has also formed a national-level Steering Committee so that uniformity in messages could be ensured and duplication of efforts avoided. The Committee also provides a forum for facilitating coordination and exchanging professional experiences.

Notwithstanding these efforts, the challenges are many. First, there is the question of how to reach more widely the rural people, the majority of whom are illiterate and do not have access to the electronic media. Second, there is a need for integrating population IEC activities into the programmes of a wider network of sectoral agencies, local bodies and people's organizations. Third, lasting partnership has yet to be forged with the mass media. Fourth, there are also difficulties arising out of the country's many different languages, ethnic diversity among the intended beneficiaries, as well as cultural and psychological barriers.

Finally, the country's IEC professionals need to be developed, enabling them to "inform" their clientele after having been "informed" themselves.

Ministry of Population and Environment
Information, Publication and Training Section

Purpose of organization:	Collecting, processing, repackaging, documenting and disseminating of population- and environment-related information, creating public awareness about population and environmental issues, and coordination, monitoring and evaluation
Personnel:	10
Resource base	
Size of collection:	Around 2,000 titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	DDC
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers, using CDS/ISIS, standard office and library equipment, video equipment
Products and services	
Publication and services:	Population newsletter, journals, reports, occasional booklets, and other informative materials; library and information services
Types of user served:	Policy makers, planners, teachers, students, academics and the general public
Other:	Exchanges information with Asia-Pacific POPIN centres; East-West Center, ministries and libraries

Pacific POPIN

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Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.usp.ac.fj



Staff members of the University of the South Pacific Library make preparations for a training workshop that will involve other members of Asia-Pacific POPIN.

Pacific POPIN, the first population network of its kind in the South Pacific, was established in 1991 through the Library of the University of the South Pacific (USP). Pacific governments meeting at the High-level Ministrial Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development in Port Vila, Vanuatu in 1993 formally recognized it as a subregional network in Asia-Pacific POPIN.

Pacific POPIN comprises Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, with participating institutions being the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific. The subregional centre is based in the Pacific Information Centre of the USP Library, which serves as the secretariat responsible for coordinating the activities of the Pacific POPIN subregional network.

The national centres in this subregional network are based mainly in the statistical offices of the respective national governments. In two countries, they are based in the government's planning department.

The long-term and immediate objectives of Pacific POPIN are as follows: (a) to raise awareness of the importance of population information directed mainly at decision- and policy-makers, politicians and planners; and (b) to provide access to timely and accurate population information for a broad cross-section of the community, including the media, health workers, teachers, researchers, students, academics and consultants.

The immediate objectives of the subregional POPIN centre are: (a) to coordinate among the national POPIN centres in each country; (b) to encourage and promote the use of population information for the integration of population variables and issues into national development planning; (c) to identify gaps in population information and find ways and means to close these gaps; and (d) to coordinate and collaborate with Asia-Pacific POPIN, global POPIN, NGOs as well as regional and international organizations.

The functions of the Centre are to: (a) identify, collect, organize and disseminate a core body of population information and data from

national POPIN centres and other regional information producers; (b) liaise with and act as a central link with population information users and producers on the collection and dissemination of population information; (c) improve the production, repackaging and dissemination of population information products and services to targeted groups of users; (d) provide national POPIN centres with support in training and advisory services; monitor and review activities at the national level; establish standards; carry out TCDC (technical co-operation among developing countries) activities; undertake cooperative activities in acquisitions, inter-library loans, document delivery etc.; improve communication skills such as report writing and presentation skills, library and information skills and the repackaging of information; (e) liaise with other population development information personnel, experts etc., within the region; (f) seek financial and human resources for the establishment and maintenance of the national and regional POPIN centres; (g) improve the flow of population information through the production of publications such as directories, bibliographies and current awareness services from a centralized facility; and (h) liaise with other regional organizations involved in population information activities.

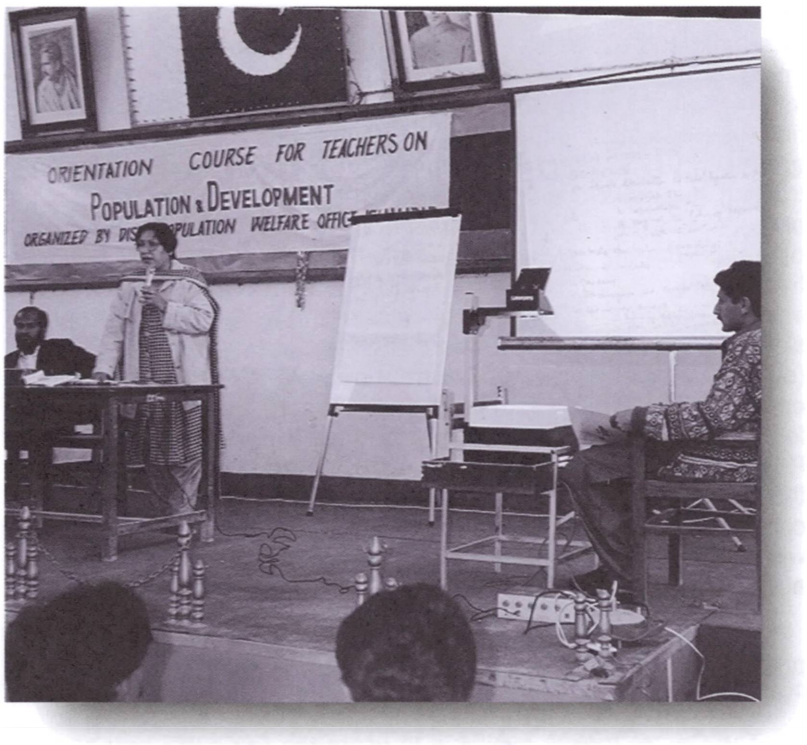
As a result of previous training, Pacific POPIN has a core of personnel trained in CDS/ISIS, which is the standard software for Pacific POPIN work, primarily in the production of various directories.

The Centre makes available to users the POPLINE database on CD-ROM, and PASIFIKA, the online database of the Library of the University of the South Pacific. Requests for searches from these two databases are accepted by fax, airmail and satellite through USPNET, the University's satellite network. E-mail communication is available within the USP Network and is therefore a facility available to Pacific POPIN members. Five of the national coordinating units have Internet access (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu) and two institutional members, USP and the Pacific Community.

Pacific POPIN

Purpose of organization:	Educational and training are the major functions of the University
Resource base	
Size of collection:	1,000 book titles, 15 periodical titles on population (USPL collection is 750,000 volumes)
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Library of Congress (LC)/AACR 2
External databases:	Commercial databases
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers used for acquisitions, bibliographic information storage and retrieval, book catalogue, selective dissemination of information, production of publications, letters and correspondence, desk-top publishing
Products and services	
Publications and services:	Acquisition lists of books/periodicals, current awareness/current contents, topical bibliographies, directories, newsletters, brochures, flyers, posters, audio-visual materials as well as services such as enquiry/reference, referral, repackaging of information/production of publications, routing of periodicals, borrowing privileges, inter-library loans, photocopy services, micro-filming and/or copying of microforms, SDI, literature searches, document distribution/redistribution service, user education/training/briefings, organization of meetings/training courses, briefing programmes
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners and decision makers, tertiary students, researchers, academicians/teachers, regional and international information centres
Other:	
Information exchange:	University of the South Pacific Centres based in 12 countries of the South Pacific Region; Pacific Community; IPPF (South Pacific Office)
Area of expertise that can be shared with other centres:	Information networking, library automation, library resource management, collection development
Training courses that can be provided to other centres:	Basic library skills, integrating information skills in school curriculum, information technology, Certificate and Diploma courses in Library and Information Studies

Pakistan Population Information Centre (PPIC) Service Unit



Teachers in schools are given orientation about the national population planning programme by members of PPIC.

The Pakistan Population Information Centre (PPIC) was established in 1984 as one of several population information centres in the ESCAP region. A part of the Ministry of Population Welfare, it has expanded its network to Provincial Departments of Population, the District Population Welfare Offices and grassroots field outlets.

In addition to the provincial and district levels, included in its network are: family welfare centres (FWCs); reproductive health centres (RHCs); training institutes for clinical and non-clinical training; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the National Trust for Population Welfare; target group institutes (TGIs); the provincial line departments (PLDs) and front line workers; and education institutions, especially universities and their population studies centres.

The Reference Library, the Documentation Unit and the Research Unit of PPIC are the main reference sources for meeting the population data and information needs of policy makers, programme workers and the general public. The Centre's Library has collected information related to population and family planning both from within and outside the country.

The Library's collection comprises books and periodicals, journals, research reports, magazines, newsletters and conference/ seminar proceedings at the national and international levels.

Identification, evaluation and dissemination of population information to suit the requirements of users are essential activities of PPIC. Population information is selected, analysed, processed and disseminated to relevant target groups in the national network.

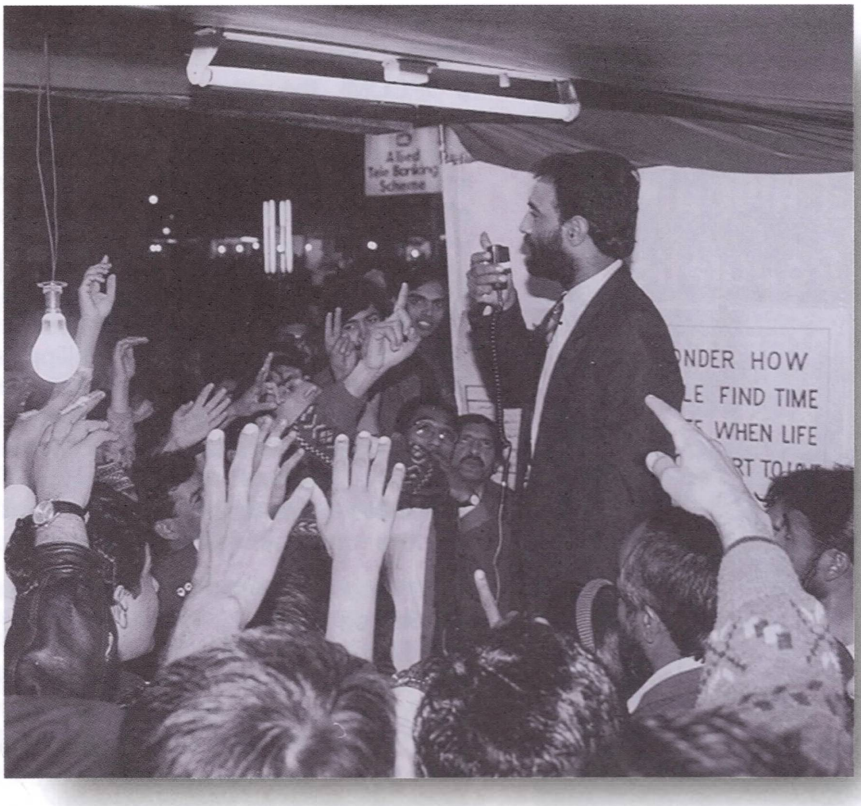
The Publication and Distribution Unit of PPIC has proposed the publication of an in-house quarterly newsletter in Urdu. The newsletter will cover primarily the activities of the Population Welfare Programme and contain additional information on research findings and basic population data. In addition, the arrangement of lectures on population topics is a part of the Centre's efforts to inform and educate its clients and potential clients on issues pertaining to family planning, reproductive health and family development.

Pakistan Population Information Centre
Ministry of Population Welfare
Haroon Chambers
Ramna-6
Islamabad
Pakistan

Tel: (92-51) 9202065

Fax: (92-51) 9204879

Access to the Internet: No



A quiz competition quickly creates awareness of population issues among the people. This is a part of the IEC activities carried out in Pakistan by PPIC.

Under the Accelerated Population Welfare Programme in the Ninth Five-Year Plan (1998-2003), information, education and communication (IEC) activities comprise the main thrust of the Population Welfare Programme for demand-creation along with service delivery.

The role of PPIC in producing and disseminating population information is expected to expand significantly. Modernization of its facilities, through the addition of computers, Internet and e-mail availability, will be essential for its efficient functioning to meet expected needs.

The Monitoring and Statistics Wing and the National Institute of Population Studies will closely collaborate in order to strengthen the Centre's training, research and evaluation activities.

Pakistan Population Information Centre (PPIC) Service Unit

Purpose of organization:	Collecting, storing and disseminating population-related data and information to relevant target groups in order to help the Population Welfare Programme in popularizing the idea of the small family norm in society at all levels
Personnel:	1 deputy director, 1 editor, 1 librarian, 1 assistant librarian; others: 1 UDC, 1 stenotypist (English), 1 stenotypist (Urdu) and 1 helper
Resource base	
Size of collection:	8,500 book titles, 40 periodical titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	DDC/AACR2
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computer using CDS/ISIS-based locally developed software, called LAMP. Computerization of data is in progress.
Products and services	
Publications:	Acquisition lists of books/periodicals, current awareness/current contents services, newsletters, policy briefs, brochures, flyers, posters, translations, books/monographs, popular reports/news releases
Services:	Enquiry/reference, abstracting/indexing, repackaging of information/production of publications, borrowing privileges, inter-library loans, photocopy services, document distribution/redistribution service, organization of meetings/training courses, briefing programmes
Other:	Member of Asia-Pacific POPIN; many PICs; RTIs; FWCs; PWTIs; NRIFC; NIPs
	Information exchange with libraries of all universities and colleges of Federal areas; health units; relevant Ministries and institutions

Philippine Population Information Network

The Philippine Population Information Network (Philippine POPIN) is managed and funded by the Commission on Population (POPCOM), the chief coordinating, monitoring and policy-making body for population activities in the Philippines. Under POPCOM, Philippine POPIN has continued to pursue its original objective of improving the flow and use of population and related information for effective policy formulation and programme implementation.

The current government is committed to reduce the rapid growth rate of the country's population in line with the Administration's objective of improving the Philippine economy and the quality of life of the people. Thus, the Philippine Population Management Programme (PPMP) has been accorded priority and an expanded role. The population programme is implemented within the framework of the government's emphasis on poverty alleviation, environmental protection and sustainable economic growth. For this reason, population information assumes a more crucial role than previously in effective programme implementation and policy formulation.

Philippine POPIN is composed of the Philippine Population Information Center (PPIC) as the national focal point, regional population information centres (RPICs) as the regional nodes, and associated/satellite centres from government and private agencies both at the national and the local levels as well as local government units. An advisory committee, which serves as the policy-making body for Philippine POPIN, is composed of the POPCOM Executive Director and representatives from major participating agencies. An interagency technical committee is responsible for determining standards on database management, thesaurus maintenance, the design or re-design of POPIN services and products, and training programmes for network personnel. Staff of the focal point and RPICs serve as members of the POPIN secretariat.

Of all the components of Philippine POPIN, its databases are relatively the most developed. Philippine POPIN is a bonafide member



Feedback from the villages on the many islands that comprise the Philippines is important to the government for monitoring programme implementation.

Commission on Population
Welfareville Compound
1551 Mandaluyong City
Philippines

Tel: (632) 531-65-02, 531-69-78

Fax: (632) 531-69-07, 531-68-97

E-mail: popcom@pacific.net.ph

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.pacific.net.ph/~popcom

of the CDS/ISIS users' group in the Philippines. In addition, since 1993 Philippine POPIN has had access to the POPLINE database on CD-ROM.

PPIC has intensified its collection of information materials. In addition to books and periodicals, it maintains a collection of area files, reprints, conference materials, annual reports, pamphlets, news-clippings, brochures and other documents. The 14 RPICs continue to enrich their collections through the purchase of publications and the donation of such items from others. However, owing to financial constraints, the RPICs are heavily dependent on materials provided by PPIC.

PPIC continues to serve the information needs of its intended users, namely policy makers, programme administrators, researchers, POPCOM personnel, academicians, programme professionals, students and the general public. Likewise the 14 RPICs and their associated/satellite centres continue to provide population and related information to their users.

Philippine POPIN maintains linkages with other local networks, namely: Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) and PhilHRDPN. Such linkages have promoted information sharing and have given Philippine POPIN personnel the opportunity to avail themselves of relevant training courses. The sharing of resources with these networks has greatly enhanced the dissemination and utilization of population and related information.

The Center focuses on the continued strengthening of the network to make it more responsive to the demands and needs of its intended users. In this regard, population concerns now include not only the achievement of fertility goals within the context of responsible parenthood but also family formation, status of women issues, maternal and child health and survival, reproductive health, adolescent health and development, population processes and their effect on population size, structure and development, gender equity and other issues related to reproductive health such as STDs and AIDS. With the current expansion of its concerns, the programme also considers the role of human resource development (the formation of knowledge, skills, and better health and nutrition).

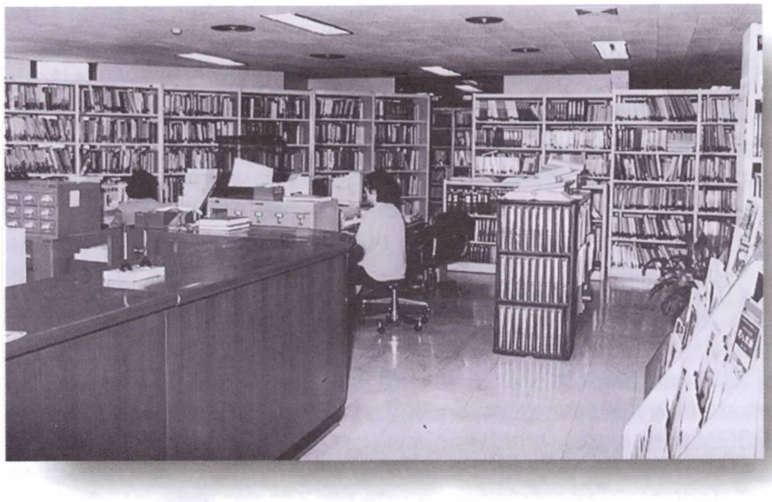
The development of population communication and information materials is a continuing process. It includes the production of population data sheets, socio-economic and demographic maps, posters, video briefing materials, annual reports, information kits, publications and population directories.

Efforts are being exerted currently to improve and expand the existing products and services of Philippine POPIN by utilizing advanced information technology.

Philippine Population Information Network

Purpose of organization:	Provision of technical services, advocacy information dissemination
Resource base	
Size of collection:	7,000 book titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Library of Congress/POPIN Multilingual Thesaurus
External databases:	POPLINE
Information-handling equipment:	Computer, fax machine, audio-video equipment, magnabyte/LCD/projector
Products and services	
Databases:	Resource collection, directories, demographic and socio-economic data
Publications and services:	Newsletter, directories, policy briefs, research reports, brochures, flyers, posters, audio-visual materials, popular reports, news releases, briefing materials/kits
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners, decision makers, programme administrators, field workers, extension officers, academicians/teachers, students

Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs



The Republic of Korea has implemented one of the most successful family planning programmes in the world. Backing up the national programme is a comprehensive knowledge base maintained by KIHASA.

The Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA), under the Office of the Prime Minister, is the largest population, health and welfare research institute in the Republic of Korea.

Among its functions, it performs various activities pertaining to the collection, exchange and dissemination of information to users at home and abroad, as well as the analysis of statistical data on population, health and social welfare.

KIHASA is the sponsor of various seminars and the source of research data and information about population, health and social welfare in the Republic of Korea.

Among its many products and services, KIHASA produces Korean-language translations of English-language publications that are printed and distributed to persons and institutions nationwide. It also produces directories with funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and technical assistance from ESCAP: for example, a directory of population experts, a directory of current population research and a directory of population institutions. The primary aim of these directories is to draw attention to experts, current research and institutions in the field of population and to prevent duplication of effort by preventing redundant research while providing researchers with new ideas and helping them to identify available resources.

KIHASA publishes various types of research reports, journals and other materials. Major publications are *KIHASA Newsletter*, *Health and Welfare Policy Forum* (monthly), KIHASA Brochure, Research Monographs, Policy Monographs, Working Papers, *Health and Social Welfare Review* (semi-annually) and an acquisitions list (semi-monthly).

KIHASA has collected national bibliographic data and developed a bibliographic information retrieval system. From 1999, KIHASA began utilizing a computerized Web-based bibliographic information retrieval system, KIHASALINE. Thereafter, it ceased publishing the *Bibliography on Population, Health and Social Affairs*. Its bibliographic database, which has been installed in the main computer system, contains citations of books, journal articles, conference papers and statistical materials collected by the KIHASA Library. Through these means, it provides information necessary to conduct research in order to develop government policies.

KIHASA maintains a large collection; several thousand bibliographic citations are added to its database every year. Using computer terminals in KIHASA, users can rapidly obtain the required information from the computerized bibliographic database.

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San 42-14, Pulgwang-dong
Eunpyung-ku
Seoul 122-705
Republic of Korea

Tel: (822) 355-8003-7

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E-mail: kihasa@soback.kornet.nm.kr

Web address: www.kihasa.re.kr/eng/index.html



Crunching numbers is something that computers do very well and analysing population data is a task that KIHASA has accomplished with great success.

KIHASA conducts several periodic nationwide sample surveys, such as the National Fertility and Family Health Survey (every three years), National Health and Nutrition Survey, Minimum Living Expenditure Survey, Survey on Living Profile and Welfare Needs of the Elderly (every five years), and Survey on Welfare Needs of the Disabled (every five years) in addition to ad hoc surveys on various subjects. The data are analysed and used efficiently for making population projections and short- and long-term population policies.

KIHASA uses the Internet and the Korea Statistical Information System (KOSIS) service, which offers statistical information through the National Statistical Office.

The health centre information system is an important part of the national health information system, which in turn is a part of the National Administration Network. The health centre information system is expected to improve the quality of the activities and services that health centres offer by reducing their manual workload and minimizing duplication of data. In addition, the health centre information system, as a part of the regional health information system, is designed to contribute to the planning and evaluation of the public health system.

Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs

Resource base	
Size of collection:	37,000 publications plus over 500 periodicals
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Library of Congress, Korean cataloging rules. Glossary of Health and Social Welfare used as thesaurus
Information-handling equipment:	MV 15000/8 and personal computers used for mailing lists, bibliographic information storage and retrieval, production of publications, other database applications
Products and services	
Publications and services:	Acquisition lists of books/periodicals, topical bibliographies, technical journal. Inquiry/reference, abstracting/indexing, repackaging of information/production of publications, routing of periodicals, borrowing privileges, inter-library loans, photocopy services, literature searches, document distribution/redistribution service
Type of users served:	Programme administrators and project managers, researchers, academicians/teachers, students
Other:	Exchanges information with Seoul National University, Population and Development Studies Centre; Institute of Population Problems; Seoul National University, School of Public Health

Sri Lanka Population Information Centre

Population Division
Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine
231 De Saram Place
Colombo 10
Sri Lanka

Tel: (94-1) 699149

Fax: (94-1) 686976

E-mail: dirpop@slt.lk

Access to the Internet: Yes

The Sri Lanka Population Information Centre, as a result of the growing demand for population information, continues to play a dynamic and leading role in the population information, education and communication programme of the government by providing support for the formulation of policies, plans and programmes. It also provides policy makers, parliamentarians, planners, administrators and programme managers, researchers, students and the general public with information needed to realize the objectives of policies and programmes. In doing all this, the Centre has been able to build its information resource base and expand its data collection, processing, repackaging and dissemination activities to reach a wide array of clients.

The Sri Lanka Population Information Centre (SLPIC), which was established in 1979, has played a leading role in this regard. This has been achieved through the repackaging and distribution of pamphlets, data sheets and posters, and through outreach programmes such as seminars, films and slide shows. The Centre's work also includes other areas such as research, computerized database creation and the conducting of seminars for high school students and elected members of local bodies.

In 1990, the government brought under the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine population policy planning and population information activities, which had earlier been under the Ministry of Policy Planning. This enabled population policy planning, IEC strategy development, and the implementation of family planning service delivery to be brought under the purview of a single Ministry.

The work of SLPIC ranges from the conduct of field research studies to assess the impact of IEC activities to the undertaking of studies to assess information needs in various parts of the country. The Population Division also creates computer-based population-development models for population information dissemination activities.

Another of the Centre's activities is the translation of various English-language publications on Sri Lanka into the Sinhala language, which are then distributed to relevant target audiences. It also translates suitable material from Sinhala into the Tamil language.

The Sri Lanka Population Information Centre continues to publish its bi-annual *Population Bulletin* which has gained popularity among students at all levels. The content and format have been redesigned in recognition of the emerging needs of this target population. In addition,



The Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine, the Honorable Siripala de Silva (left), reviews some prize-winning posters with Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon, Director of the Ministry's Population Division. The Minister was the chief guest at the prize-awarding ceremony of the 1998 UNFPA poster contest. The first prize in the subsequent international contest was won by a Sri Lankan participant in the age category 6-8.



Sri Lanka is famous for tea and for development indicators that reflect the relatively high status of women in the economy. Whether women work on the tea plantations or in professional positions in the capital, they are likely to be literate, well nourished and enjoying the other benefits of development.

the *Annual Population Data Sheet* has proved to be a valuable source of information to planners, administrators and researchers. Library accession lists are compiled and distributed to relevant audiences bi-annually. This has helped to expand the inter-library network and provide up-to-date information to users.

Other publications include directories, bibliographies and various monographs, such as one entitled "Emerging Population Issues in Sri Lanka", which was prepared for the Sri Lanka Group of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

Recently, a major publication was produced entitled "Action Plan to Implement Sri Lanka's Population and Reproductive Health Policy during the Period 2000-2010".

SLPIC has established an in-country POPIN network, which has 102 institutions as members. In this context, the Centre has initiated a series of publications in collaboration with the District POPIN network; the District Population Profiles provide important demographic, economic and health statistics.

Sri Lanka Population Information Centre

Resource base	
Size of collection:	12,000 book titles, 25 periodical titles, 50 audio-visual materials
Classification/cataloguing systems:	IPPS (will switch to UDC)/AACR2
Information-handling equipment:	Standard office and library equipment, personal computers, photocopy and photographic equipment, audio-visual equipment etc., all of which items are used for applications such as data manipulation and analysis, storage and retrieval of abstracts/bibliographic information, cataloguing, mailing list maintenance, correspondence, budgeting etc.
Products and services	
Publications:	Annotated bibliographies, acquisition lists of books/periodicals, directories, policy briefs, research reports, case studies, translations, brochures, flyers, posters, data sheets, newsletter
Services:	Enquiry/reference, abstracting/indexing, referral, repackaging of information through publications, inter-library loans, literature searches, organization of meetings/training courses, briefing programmes for politicians and students, translation services
Types of users served:	Policy makers, politicians, programme planners and decision makers, programme administrators and project managers, researchers, university and high school students
Other:	Member of Asia-Pacific POPIN, HELLIS and DEVINSA

Thai Population Information Centre

The Thai Population Information Centre (TPIC) was established in 1978 as the national focal point for bibliographic and statistical population and reproductive health information. In line with the National Information System Policy, TPIC's aim is to integrate demographic factors as an effective strategy in development planning. Such factors include the population growth rate, fertility, mortality and the like, the effect of population structure on children, youth and the elderly, population distribution, migration and the growth of large cities, the role and status of women, and reproductive health as it concerns family planning, maternal and child health, AIDS, reproductive tract infections and malignancies, sex education, abortion and its related complications, adolescent reproductive health, infertility, and post-reproductive age and old age care.

It currently collects, organizes, analyses and disseminates up-to-date scientific and technical information on these issues in original and repackaged formats. The target audiences comprise policy makers, administrators, decision makers, researchers, programme personnel, including staff of population and communication units.

The aim of TPIC's work is to facilitate the formulation of population policies and implementation of programmes. To meet information requirements for the first decade of the next century, TPIC has introduced a multidisciplinary approach to the provision of the information needed for these purposes.

TPIC has four main functions: namely, resource base, information research and analysis, information service, and production and dissemination. Its objectives are to (a) collect and organize population and health related data systematically and provide the capability for easy access and analysis; (b) serve as the national focal point for bibliographic and statistical population and reproductive health data and information; and (c) promote an inter-country and intra-country flow of materials and information by serving as a centre for the collection and redistribution of population and reproductive health information. It also provides a link between Thai POPIN, East and South-East Asia POPIN and Asia-Pacific POPIN.

TPIC provides the following services:

Enquiry Services. The Centre answers written and verbal requests for information and materials, and makes referrals to its networks.

Information Services. TPIC conducts literature searches through its computerized databases; prepares bibliographies, abstracts and review materials on requested topics; supplies, duplicates and photocopies materials; and produces and disseminates publications.

Current Awareness Service. The Centre issues a quarterly list of new arrivals, a semi-annual accessions list and a semi-annual abstract-bibliography service.

Department of Health
Ministry of Public Health
Tiwanon Road
Nonthaburi 11000
Thailand

Tel: (662) 590-4279

Fax: (662) 590-4163

E-mail: tpic@health.moph.go.th

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.anamai.moph.go.th/fp/ins21.htm



Thailand is another of Asia's success stories in terms of its family planning programme. Its effective policies and programmes have had a solid basis in the data and information provided by the Thai Population Information Centre.

Selective Dissemination of Information Service (SDI). The Centre analyses, transforms and distributes information materials in original and repackaged formats to various audiences highly interested in selected topics.

Technical and Advisory Services. TPIC assists in developing population and reproductive health collections/ information units or libraries with supporting manuals and kits if required.

Training and Internship Programme. The Centre provides training for members of Thai POPIN in basic technical library skills, information services, SDI, production and dissemination of materials, evaluation, networking, and information automation. In-service training courses are held for Thai POPIN network members at least once a year. More than 300 staff working for network outlets centrally and provincially have received training in these courses.

Computerization. Information technology enables TPIC to extend its reach in providing users with access to TPIC databases and POPLINE (CD-ROM) as well as the Internet, and e-mail and facsimile services.

Dissemination. As part of its efforts to increase awareness of information resources and to utilize its resources to the utmost, the Centre widely disseminates data and information relating to population and reproductive health programmes. The following are various types of TPIC publications: acquisition lists, bibliographies, directories, inventories, reproductive health information, indexes, newspaper clippings, newsletters, surveys, study/research reports, reports on seminars, meetings, workshops and training courses, and translated publications. These publications are designed primarily to serve the needs of population and reproductive health personnel at the senior, middle and grassroots levels.

Besides its 38 network members, TPIC includes among its information users staff at high and middle levels of the Thai Population Programme, provincial health offices, provincial hospitals, district hospitals, selected governmental units in other ministries, municipal health centres, private hospitals, private agencies with population and reproductive health activities and units attached to academic or research institutes, libraries and departments in various medical schools and hospitals. It also works cooperatively with personnel in various international organizations in Thailand, professionals and experts in the population and reproductive health fields in other countries.

Thai Population Information Centre

Purpose of organization:	To serve as national focal point for population and reproductive health information, maintain resource base, conduct information research and analysis, provide information services, and produce and disseminate population data and information
Personnel:	4
Resource base	
Size of collection:	21,395 book titles, 695 periodical titles, 8,956 area files, 5,800 microfiches and 670 audio-visual materials
Classification/cataloguing systems:	POPIN Multilingual Thesaurus/AACR 2
External databases:	POPLINE
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers and related equipment
Products and services	
Databases:	Thai POPIN
Publications:	TPIC acquisition lists, bibliography compilation, directory, reproductive health information, inventory, index, newspaper clippings, newsletter, survey, study/research, report on seminar/meeting/workshop/training, and translated publications
Services:	Enquiry services, information services, current awareness services, selective dissemination of information services (SDI), technical and advisory services, and Training and Internship Programme for Thai POPIN members
Types of users served:	Policy makers, programme planners, decision makers, programme administrators and project managers, field workers and extension officers, researchers, academicians/teachers and the general public

Viet Nam Centre for Population Studies and Information



Researchers in Viet Nam have access to a rich source of population data and information at the Library of the Centre for Population Studies and Information (CPSI) of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning.

The Centre for Population Studies and Information (CPSI) of Viet Nam is that country's focal point in Asia-Pacific POPIN. The Centre is in charge of collecting, processing, storing and disseminating population information for the benefit of policy makers and programme managers. The Centre also conducts studies in the field of population and family planning as well as monitors studies in that field with funding from the National Committee for Population and Family Planning (NCPFP). Further, it monitors population programmes throughout the country through its MIS (management information system) project.

Previously, similar tasks had been assigned to the General Statistical Office (GSO) of Viet Nam through the Population Documentation and Information Centre (PDIC). CPSI carries out its duties in support of the country's family planning programme by publishing various kinds of population materials, actively disseminating population information, and conducting population information users' surveys to improve its services. CPSI also implements a United Nations Population Fund project.

The Centre's Library has an extensive collection of books, periodicals and statistical materials on population and family planning. The collection provides many essential materials for researchers, lecturers and people in charge of education and communication concerning population and family planning.

The Centre is equipped with microcomputers, which are used for information management, data processing and storage, and bibliographic and database purposes. The retrieval of information is also computerized.

Besides producing a number of periodicals and publications, the Centre translates into Vietnamese various publications published originally in English.

It also produces directories in Vietnamese as reference tools for population researchers and research institutions. Directories and databases can help to prevent duplication of effort by preventing redundant research in the field of population and help users to share experiences and to co-operate in research.

Besides the office in Hanoi, the country's capital, there are sub-centres located in Da Nang Province and Ho Chi Minh City. The

12 Ngo Tat To Street
Dong Da District
Hanoi
Viet Nam

Tel: (84-4) 843-7960, 823-7699, 823-7698, 843-8024

Fax: (84-4) 733-1246

E-mail: ncpfp@hn.vn.vn

Access to the Internet: Yes

Web address: http://www.ncpfp.netnam.vn



An expert speaks on critical issues during a national Workshop on Viet Nam's Population and Family Planning Investments and Savings (1979-2010) project. The Workshop was organized by the Centre for Population Studies and Information with technical assistance from the Futures Group International and financial support from the United Nations Population Fund.

sub-centres conduct information activities in the provinces they cover; they maintain their own premises with small libraries attached. In 1995, three staff members of the Centre, one from each location, underwent training in advanced information processing and library technologies at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok. In the future, CPSI activities will be improved in order to serve effectively demographic research and the implementation of population and family planning programmes.

Centre for Population Studies and Information

Purpose of organization:	Conducting scientific research in population/family planning and related issues; collecting, processing and disseminating population information; serving as a counseling body for the Minister-Chairperson of NCPFP in organizing, monitoring and coordinating research and information activities in the population and family planning areas
Personnel:	25
Resource base	
Size of collection:	2,100 books and references, and 40 periodical titles
Classification/cataloguing systems:	Dewey Decimal Classification/AACR
Thesaurus used:	PMT
External databases:	MIS
Information-handling equipment:	Personal computers, CD-ROM drivers and related equipment, projector, router and datashow, which are used for such applications as research (projections, analysis), data processing, computer programming, library management, information retrieval, word processing, desktop-publishing
Products and services	
Databases:	Library (CPSI), Population Directories (PER, INS, RES), IEC materials (IEC)
Publications:	*Population Bulletin* (bi-monthly); *Vietnam Population News* (quarterly); *Current Awareness* (quarterly); *The Population Program of Viet Nam: Achievements and Challenges* (factsheet); *The 1999 United Nations Population Award for Viet Nam* (booklet); *Adolescent Reproductive Health: KAP Survey and Assessment of Adolescents in Hai Phong City about Related Reproductive Health Issues*; *Population and Reproductive Health Profile of Vietnam*; *Population projections by target-setting for 61 provinces by 2020*; *Costs and benefits of Viet Nam's national investment in population and family planning from 1979 to 2020*; *Viet Nam: Directories of population experts, current population research and population institutions*; *Improving quality of care in the population and reproductive health programmes*; *Population projections by seven regions*; *Management information system and recording system of population/family planning statistics: questions and answers*; *Improving women's status through population/family planning and social development*; *Viet Nam: population, environment and development*
Services:	Enquiry/reference, abstracting/indexing, referral, repackaging, routing of periodicals, borrowing privileges, inter-library loans, selective dissemination of information (SDI), current awareness service, document exchange, document distribution/redistribution, information searching, CD-ROM, organization of meetings/training courses and translation
Types of users served:	Policy and decision makers, planners, programme/project administrators/implementors, researchers, lecturers/teachers, students, medical workers, media workers, information agencies and channelers, regional and international information centres

Constitution of Asia-Pacific POPIN

PREAMBLE

Population information is one of the cornerstones on which sustainable national development is built. The provision of accurate information at the right time in the correct format to policy makers, planners and programme managers requires a continuing national commitment to developing and maintaining effective population information services. Experience in the Asian and Pacific region demonstrates that those services can best be implemented through national and subregional population information centres and networks which acquire, manage and produce population information appropriate to their national development needs.

Article 1. Formation and name

1.0 In order to strengthen coordination and cooperation among existing national population information centres and networks in the region, each year, beginning in 1984, the ESCAP secretariat has organized activities for managers and technical staff of national POPIN centres. Beginning in 1996, ESCAP initiated stages aimed at decentralizing regional activities into subregional activities through the formation of subregional secretariats in East and South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. The purpose of those activities has been to facilitate the development of infrastructure and population information sharing within and among countries of the region. The national POPIN centres, together with the ESCAP secretariat, form the core of Asia-Pacific POPIN.

1.1 Asia-Pacific POPIN is a cooperative, decentralized network for the exchange of population and development-related data and information, knowledge and experience, with the voluntary participation of national POPIN centres in the Asian and Pacific region. Asia-Pacific POPIN, which is the regional focal point for global POPIN, was established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/33.*

Article 2. Purposes

2.0 The purposes of Asia-Pacific POPIN are to promote awareness of emerging issues of population and sustainable development with emphasis on priority areas identified at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), depending on available resources and the environment, and to promote and encourage the utilization of population data and information in the formulation and implementation of national population and development policies, plans and programmes through the dissemination of population data and information and sharing of knowledge and experience.

Article 3. Membership

3.0 Any population information centre designated by its government as the national focal point, intergovernmental organization, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other related organizations, including those involved in providing information on reproductive health, in the Asian and Pacific region may become a member of Asia-Pacific POPIN by applying for membership to the relevant subregional secretariat and accepting the articles set

* Following the recommendations of the Population Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1979/33 of 9 May 1979, in which it requested the Secretary-General to facilitate, in collaboration with the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, the establishment of a Population Information Network (POPIN) as a decentralized network for the coordination of regional, national and non-governmental population information activities, and to endeavour to obtain extrabudgetary resources for the functioning of an advisory group and a coordinating unit.

forth in this constitution. Other centres wishing to become members of Asia-Pacific POPIN should apply for membership to the relevant national focal point. The national focal points will continue to expand membership at the national level by linking up with other institutional networks within the country concerned. When a national POPIN centre has established a national network, those national network members will have a reciprocal membership in Asia- Pacific POPIN. Membership in Asia-Pacific POPIN conveys membership in global POPIN as well.

Article 4. Asia-Pacific POPIN Secretariat

4.0 The Asia-Pacific POPIN secretariat will be composed of the ESCAP Population and Rural and Urban Development Division and the three subregional secretariats. The Asia-Pacific POPIN secretariat is located at the ESCAP secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand. The three subregional secretariats of Asia-Pacific POPIN will be located in the three subregions, namely, East and South-East Asia, South Asia including the Central Asian Republics, and the Pacific, including the South Pacific and small island countries.

Article 5. Asia-Pacific Executive Committee

5.0 The Asia-Pacific POPIN Executive Committee will be composed of five members, i.e. one member from each of the three subregional secretariats and two additional members coming one each from the two subregional secretariats of East and South-East Asia and South Asia.

Article 6. Responsibilities of Asia-Pacific POPIN Secretariat

6.0 The ESCAP Population and Rural and Urban Development Division in its role as the Asia-Pacific POPIN secretariat will undertake the following functions:

6.1 coordinating activities with global POPIN and subregional POPINs in the Asia-Pacific region, and serve as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Executive Committee;

6.2 encouraging the introduction of more efficient means of information exchange and networking with other development-related networks, such as, inter alia, HELLIS (Health Literature, Library and Information Systems) and WINAP (Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific);

6.3 encouraging cooperation in population information related activities among United Nations agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, at the regional, subregional and national levels;

6.4 coordinating with subregional networks in seeking funds for subregional activities;

6.5 ESCAP Population and Rural and Urban Development Division as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific POPIN will designate one staff member to liaise and coordinate POPIN activities with the subregional networks, and arrange TCDC programmes, and the distribution of special grants to subregional secretariats and national POPIN systems.

Article 7. Responsibilities of the POPIN Subregional Secretariats

7.0 The subregional secretariats will undertake the following functions:

7.1 convening consultative workshops regularly to review and plan activities at the subregional level;

7.2 providing guidelines and standards for cooperative activities;

7.3 convening ad-hoc steering committee meetings to address specific issues/projects/activities;

7.4 promoting the subregion-wide exchange of information on population information networking through publication of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin and other cooperative publications in collaboration with other subregional POPIN members;

7.5 supporting the efforts of national population information centres within the relevant subregion in order to strengthen population information networking and infrastructure development within the countries concerned through technical assistance, training, TCDC arrangements, grant programmes and workshops;

7.6 promoting the effective utilization of modern information-handling techniques, including telecommunications networking, where appropriate, to improve the exchange of information within and among countries of the relevant subregions;

7.7 promoting expansion of membership in Asia-Pacific POPIN in collaboration with national centres, national governments, non-governmental organizations and UNFPA Country Representatives as well as the UNFPA Country Technical Services Teams (CSTs) within the relevant subregions;

7.8 providing information services at the subregional level.

Article 8. Responsibilities of POPIN member organizations

8.0 All member units of Asia-Pacific POPIN shall, within the resources available to them, accept the following responsibilities:

8.1 participate in activities of the Network including consultative workshops, steering committee meetings, collaborative research and the production of publications;

8.2 report to the Network on their information research and national networking activities through regular submission of articles and news items for publication in the *Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin*, which is the official publication of the Network, and, as appropriate, through presentation of papers at workshops and meetings;

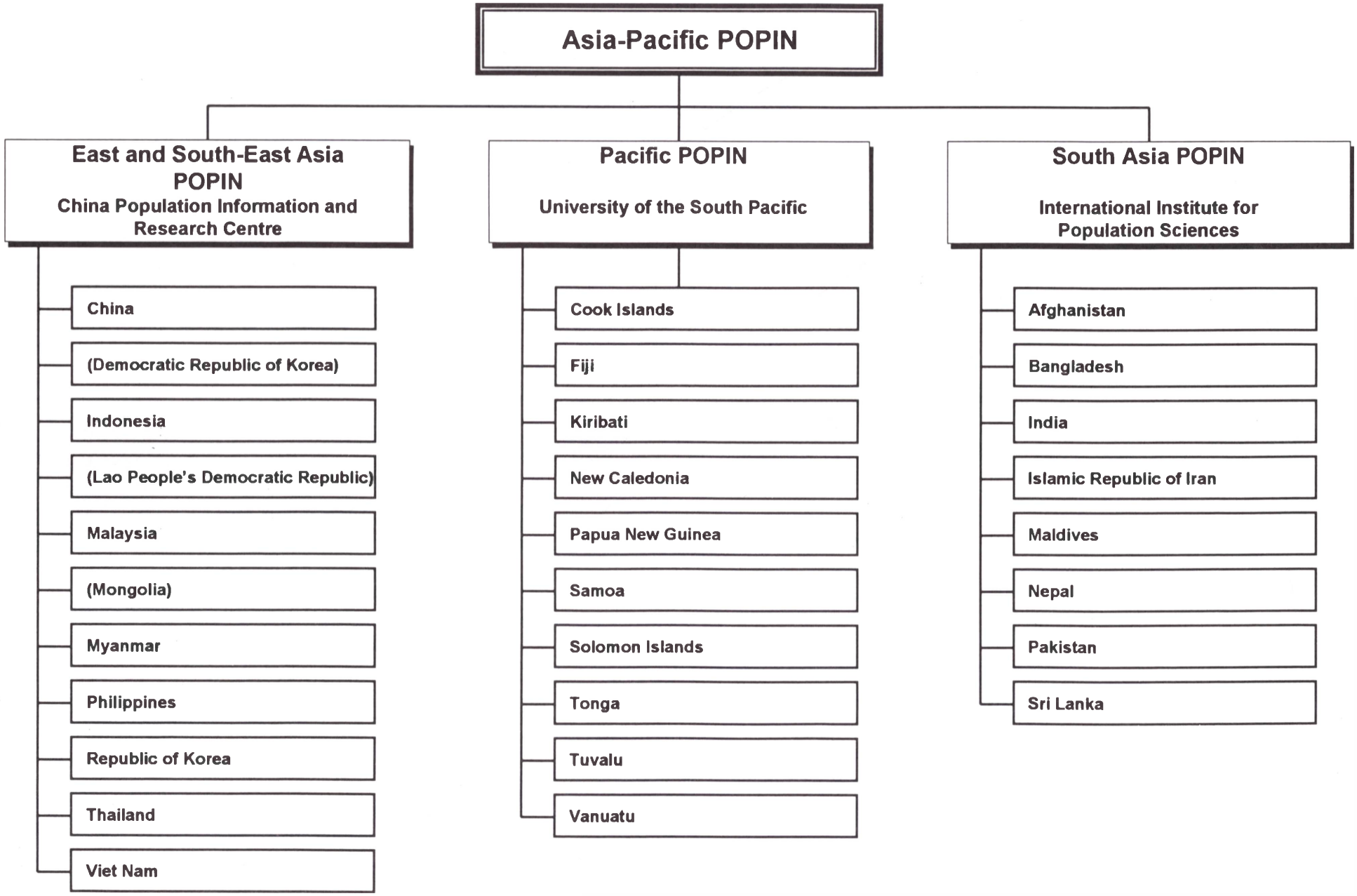
8.3 seek financial support from their governments and donor agencies, as necessary and appropriate, for their information centre and networking activities;

8.4 collaborate in, and promote, TCDC (technical cooperation among developing countries) activities;

8.5 send complimentary copies of their own English-language publications to other POPIN members and to the regional headquarters;

8.6 share experiences in the development of their national centre and network, or subregional network, through formal and informal channels of communication (e.g. newsletters and correspondence) utilizing current information technology (e.g., facsimile and electronic networking) to the extent possible, in order to improve communication among network members;

8.7 maximize the benefits of Asia-Pacific POPIN membership (i.e., enhanced exchange of information, knowledge and experience) in order to better serve the information needs of population and development policy makers, planners and programme managers in their respective countries and subregions.



Note: Countries in parentheses are either in the process of becoming members or are potential members of Asia-Pacific POPIN.