

As written

--

An Address made by the Head of Myanmar Delegation at the Hague Forum,
8-12 February 1999

Mr. President Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me a great pleasure to be able to deliver an address at this forum.

Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of Myanmar delegation, allow me to congratulate you for being elected to preside over this forum.

Mr. Chairman.

This forum is very important for the world as well as for various regions. The world population will become over 6 billion by the year 2000. As a consequence of the growth in world population, the demand for such basic human needs as food, clothing, shelter, health care and education is bound to create problems. If solutions to these problems faced by the world today were not solved, then these problems could multiply and would become more complex. As a result, social unrest would occur.

Mr. Chairman.

For the survival of humanity food security is of utmost importance. We should be prepared today to feed over 6 billion people anticipated in the year 2000. We are gathered here today with the objective of discussing the means for ensuring that the whole of mankind in this world will be well fed and could live in peace. This forum can therefore be called Humanitarian Forum. I presume that my views regarding

Myanmar can, to a certain extent

help increase the world food production. We have vast stretches of land suitable for cultivation. Our country has the potential to produce food crops as much as 5 times the

However, Myanmar, like other developing countries, is facing three problems: scarcity of capital, low level of technology, and less efficient systems of management. Because of political barriers, we find it difficult to help developing countries that are experiencing food shortages. Let me say that our country is in a position to help solve the world food problem to some extent, if we can get rid of these barriers.

Mr. Chairman.

The discussions made by delegates are also correct. I fully support views. Regarding family planning programmes, I would like to stress the point that Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign is the most important activity. The level of literacy of individuals happens to be the basic element in all IEC programmes. If there were more illiterates in the world, how intensive the IEC activities may be, advocacy campaigns would not be successful.

Today, in carrying out such programmes as STDs, HIV/AIDS, Birth Control, Birth Spacing, and people need to be conscientious of the rises of contracting these diseases. Hence, it is imperative that literacy programmes should be accorded high priority.

Mr. Chairman.

As a member of the family of nations, Myanmar honours UN resolutions, and fulfills its obligations to the international community. Myanmar follows the Programme of Action and all 15 Principles adopted at ICPD held in Cairo, in 1994. In 1993, a National Population Committee was formed to hold population-related workshops, and to draft a National Report. In 1994 and 1995, efforts were made to form a Myanmar-POPIN. In 1997, a Training Workshop on Information Management and Documentation was organized as a programme of the ESCAP matching grant. Moreover, the 1997 Fertility and Reproductive Health Survey (FRHS) collected information on contraceptive use, maternal and childcare, breast feeding, and maternal mortality. In 1996, Myanmar National Committees for Women Affairs were found to safe guard the rights of women. In our country, females are not discriminated by culture, religious belief, of customs; women enjoy the same rights as men.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Myanmar is aware of all population concerns. It aware like to see a peaceful and a prosperous world in which people will be well fed, and will be able to lead a happy life. We, in good faith, would like to cooperate and work with all in achieving these objectives.

Thank you.