Brick by BRICS

In February, the first meeting of BRICS Ministers on Population Issues and the second BRICS Seminar of Officials and Experts on Population Matters was hosted by Brazil at the Itamaraty Palace, the headquarters of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil. Mr. Umesh Aradhya, FPA India President participated in the BRICS summit.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the relevant population issues among the BRICS countries and to develop a BRICS Population Matters Agenda. The main topics discussed were: maternal mortality; HIV & AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections; rural and urban migration and urbanization; ageing and intergenerational transfers; gender gap in the workplace and women’s role as caretakers of dependent young children and elderly people.

The event was attended by 53 delegates from various government divisions of BRICS countries and 43 observers from different academic and CSO institutes.

During the summit it was emphasized that the dialogue between the BRICS countries is essential to protect and promote human rights for ensuring higher levels of economic and social well-being. At the summit, India played an important role in bringing the focus of the current health policies and need for human rights framework, disaggregated age-wise data, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and gender based violence, family planning and other development agenda.

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, FPA India President (second from left) at the BRICS Summit
An interface meeting was organized in Delhi with Parliamentarians and representatives of Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (IAPPD) and FPA India to discuss and strengthen MDG 5A and 5B in South Asia. The objective of the meeting was to create champions among the elected representatives and garner support for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, in his welcome address appreciated the time taken out by the Parliamentarians in spite of the Parliament sessions. He spoke on the importance of safe motherhood.

Ms. Sujatha Natarajan, immediate past President, FPA India and Chairperson of Regional Executive Council - IPPF-SARO and Honorary Treasurer of IPPF spoke about the role of FPA India.

Ms. Geeta Sethi, Secretary General, gave the vote of thanks.

Mr. Umesh Aradhya, President, Mrs. Sujatha Natarajan, immediate past President share their thoughts.

Sustainable Development Goals and the post 2015 agenda.

The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health was launched in 2010 by the UN Secretary General to provide a roadmap for accelerated progress towards the achievement of women and children's health related MDGs especially MDG 4 and 5. All stakeholders especially Civil Society Organizations have a role to play when one is moving from MDG to the development of the Post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

On February 25, the RMNCH+A Coalition India organized a one day consultation in Delhi with civil society organizations to seek their input into the update of the Global Strategy for Women’s and Child Health which was taking place on February 26-27. The purpose of the meeting was to draw consensus on CSO recommendations on the Global Strategy for Women’s and Child Health. Through group work, the participants helped in identifying priorities for the Global Strategy. Another group work was on civil society perspectives on improving accountability for women, children and adolescents’ health.

MOU with the Tata Group

The Dharwad Branch signed MoU with TATA motors and Tata Powers Limited under corporate social responsibility. The Tata Motors project focus is on maternal, child and adolescents health care in four villages of Belur industrial area, Dharwad District.

Celebrating Women’s Day, Solapur Branch

Keeping track of important events and time 24x7x365 Solapur Branch

Peer Educators Training, Jabalpur

Chennai Branch celebrates women spirit on International Women’s Day
Special Days

The International Women’s Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on March 8 at all the branches of FPA India. The Nilgiris Branch celebrated the day at three different locations under the theme of ‘Make it Happen’. The Madurai Branch celebrated it by inviting 100 adolescents girls for a seminar on SRH. The Hyderabad Branch conducted a program at Jinnuram which focused on women’s need for nutrition, balanced diet, environmental and personal hygiene. The Shimoga Branch celebrated the Day with the theme of “Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity” in collaboration with Spandana Health and Govt First Grade College. The Belgaum Branch observed it in coordination with MNRN, B.Ed. College. 54 B.Ed. trainee students attended the programme. The Ahmedabad Branch arranged a sensitization programme for youth & teachers in L.D. Engineering College. The Pune Branch conducted different programmes. A programme for women Sarpanch and members of Gram Panchayat was an educative effort to build the momentum. At a programme on stress management for 100 Aanganwadi interesting event conducted to commemorate this day . Also, Sarpanch and members of Gram Panchyat conducted different programmes. A programme for women students attended the programme. The Ahmedabad Branch conducted an elocution competition on "Autobiography of Swami Vivekananda & Youth Messages". The Belgaum Branch observed the Day-2015 in coordination with the Sagar B.Ed. College. It also conducted seven programmes in High Schools of Belgaum.

The North Kanara Branch has opened an Adolescents Friendly Clinic at Gov.FG. College, Kumta. It also organized a one day state level workshop of ASRH programme in collaboration with Vidyadhri Raj Polytechnic College, Kamatke 100 students. The Yunnanugur Branch conducted an awareness-cum-health checkup collaboration with Civil Hospital Yunnanagur. It also conducted advocacy meeting with the Yunnanagur MLA Ghanashyam Dass Arora. It also conducted a workshop on “Developing IEC material on Men and SRH” in Panchkula.

The Bengaluru Branch hold a youth mela at the National Annual Conference of India Society of Perinatology and Reproductive Biology. The Dhawal Branch held cervical cancer detection at Honnapur village of Dhawal Taluka in coordination with Gramchetan trust Dhawal. The Rajkot Branch conducted a theme based event on "Safe Mother Safe World".

Aspire - 4 (March, 2013)

Aspire - 5 (March, 2013)
A meeting on preventing maternal deaths and promoting child survival was held in Udupi and was chaired by Ms. Nisha Jagadish, Director of HIV/AIDS. The project on prevention of mother to child HIV transmission is being supported by the Japan Trust Fund for HIV and Reproductive Health (JTF).

**Human Resource Development for SRH Care Services**

The project “Human Resource Development for SRH Care Services” has successfully completed its two years of implementation. Seventy-two individuals representing Civil Society Organizations and academic institutes from Mumbai and outstation participated in the meeting. Four training courses were conducted at the Avabai Wadia Health Center respectively on Basic Counseling Skills, Sex & Sexuality Counseling, Leadership & Management and Family Planning for 62 individuals representing Civil Society Organizations and academic institutes from Mumbai and outstation.

**Advancing Reproductive Health and Rights**

The National Health conference “Moving to the next level: Advancing Reproductive health and rights” was organized in collaboration with Mumbai Obstetrics and Gynecological Society and AMOOG on 22nd March. It was conducted to update the medical officers on SRHR. Well known doctors spoke on issues such as special needs in midlife and male infertility Management.

**Prevention of Unsafe Abortion**

A PECO Initiative for the "Prevention of Unsafe Abortion was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 16th and 20th March. Dr. Monique Kamat, Director Medical and Dr. Kshama Todankar, Medical Officer attended this workshop on behalf of FPA India. This workshop was conducted to strengthen the partnerships with in-country Ob/Gyn societies as well as to showcase the abortion work done by IPPF MAs. The India team prepared action points for the year 2015 to strengthen referral linkages and service delivery for second trimester abortion. FPA India offered write press note on behalf of CSO delinking MTP ACT from FP/ABD ACT.

**Information Management Systems Consultation**

Systems strengthening is one of the two objectives of the Sustainable Networks project of the USAID funded IPPF project. Through this objective, IPPF aims to strengthen the Management Information Systems, Supply Chain Management and Quality of Care systems. IPPF held the IMS Consultation at Pattaya to identify and make recommendations about the essential information needs at the MA level. Map the information system at the MA level and identified effective practices and gaps. The FPA India team represented by Dr. Kshama Apte, Sudhir Tawade, Armin Neogi, and Mukesh Surve made a presentation on the Clinic Management System - manual and electronic. The other participants were from FPA Pakistan, Reproductive Health Uganda and the IPPF Regional Offices of South Asia and Africa.

**CSO symposium**

The eight-country project "Building Momentum for SRH - HIV Integration will be ending in June 2015. IPPF-SABO had organized a CSO symposium to acknowledge and share the success and lessons learned. The symposium was organized from Colombo, Sri Lanka on 19th and 20th March. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla and Dr. C.V. Hedge chaired by Ms. Nisha Jagadish, Director of HIV/AIDS. The purpose was to: (i) understand the achievements of the integration initiative in the past three years; (ii) bring in civil societies on a common platform who have taken innovative steps in promoting integration within their community/province / government etc.; and (iii) review the achievements and ensure a sustainability of the efforts post project period. As part of the symposium, a market place was arranged to display the work of each country separately there was discussion on framework for the 'best' or promising practices.

Apart from the FPA India, representatives of many CSOs participated in the meeting IPPF-SABO prepared a documentary (eight countries) of approx. 30 minutes as part of the project. The film making team visited the CSOs NSS in Patna and DDS in Dindigul in January. They also interviewed Dr Sunil Khaparde then Deputy Director General, Department of AIDS and country team member of the project; Naveen Singh Kang, Additional Secretary & Director General (CGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - Government of India, and Sujatha Natarajan, Immediate Past President, FPA India.

Moderators and panellists including Dr. Usha Krishna, Dr. Asha Dalal, Dr. Kshama Todankar and Dr. Amit Patki guided discussion on newer contraceptives and unique challenges in reproductive health and rights. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla and Dr. C.V. Hedge enlightened the audience on steering issues such as special needs in midlife and male infertility Management.

**STIGMA: The unseen barrier**

IPPF-SABO representative visiting the India country stall

STIGMA: The unseen barrier to SRHR information and services particularly related to safe abortion which is still highly restricted and a taboo for poor and marginalized young women (both married and unmarried). The Project is being implemented by Murhu Project in Khunti district of Jharkhand State. The project has been implemented by Murhu Project in Khunti district of Jharkhand State. A three day on-site training programme was conducted by Ms. Anita Dhanu and Dr. Monique Kamat for 25 Peer Educators, Link Workers and staff to orient them to the Project and also on understanding Comprehensive Sexuality Education, issues focusing on abortion and other SRH services for young persons.