

Asian Population Exceeding Entire World Seen for Year 2000

By CHARLES R. SMITH
United Press International
Tokyo — (UPI) — The biggest problem of Asia is people. There are too many of them in too little space and not enough food.

As British economist Thomas Lathus said in his classic 1798 essay on population, people seem to increase faster than their food supply. If the present birthrate continues, Asia's population in the year 2000 will be greater than the population of the entire world today.

According to Indonesian President Sukarno, the Indonesians, and some of the other Asians, are breeding like marmosets.

"It has been said that Indonesians are like marmosets, breeding every three months," Sukarno said in a speech this month. "Our population increases two million every year."

Sukarno noted that Indonesia is among the six most populous nations in the world. (China, India, Russia, the United States and Japan are the other five.)

At its present population growth, Sukarno said, with more humor than concern, Indonesia may become the fourth, third or even second most populous nation in the world — "but never the biggest because the Chinese also breed like marmosets."

Chinese Aware
Communist China has almost one-fourth of the world's population, and the Red Chinese know they have a problem. They are trying to do something about it.

The Peking regime launched one birth control campaign in the mid-1950s, but it was drowned out by all the chest-thumping over the inauguration of the people's communes and the "great leap forward."

When the great leap slowed to a stumble and China was hit by widespread food shortages, the Peking regime launched a new birth control program.

It is a massive, but subtle, campaign that advises young people to forget love, delay marriage and spend their time working for the party.

Nobody seems to be certain today about just how many people there are in China. Official Red Chinese publications constantly refer to "the entire 650 million people of China." The latest United Nations population survey puts the present population at about 700 million, and some estimates go as high as 716 million.

No matter what it is today, consider that after a comprehensive census the Peking regime announced that as of June 30, 1953 — just 10 years ago — the population of China was 582,603,417. Consider what it might be by 1970, or the year 2000.

Try Birth Control
Like China, the other countries have initiated birth control programs — India, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, Malaya, Singapore.

Except for Japan, where tremendous progress has been made, the going is slow. Why? Ignorance, illiteracy and poverty, some say. Others think it might be the relatively high cost.

Some say the lack of education and lack of concern are the main reasons for the continuing population explosion. They point to Japan as an example of what these factors can help accomplish.

Japan is the most literate nation in Asia, if not the world. It is one of the most developed, but during the first post-war decade, Japan cut its birth rate in half. Today it is 16.9 per thousand, seventh lowest in the world as result of a dramatic program, including birth control information and devices, and making abortions and sterilization allowable for economic as well as health reasons.

But, elsewhere in Asia, there are many people who do not look upon abortion with such nonchalance as the Japanese, where more than one million such operations are performed each year.

In such nations as the Philippines and South Viet Nam, where Roman Catholicism is strong, there is not only resistance to abortion but to conventional birth control measures as well.

Increase Cited
According to a United Nations population survey, 56 per cent of the world's people live in Asia, which has only 20 per cent of the world's land area. Asia's population is increasing at more than 33 million persons each year, twice the rate of Europe.

The world population growth rate was 1.6 per cent in the 1960-61 census year, according to the United Nations survey.

But it was 3.87 per cent in Brunei, 3.46 in North Borneo, 3.18 in the Philippines, 2.99 in Thailand, 2.5 in Sarawak, 2.17 in Pakistan, 2.0 in India and higher than most of these in South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaya and Taiwan.

In the same year, world food production increased

only about one per cent. And hardly a country in Asia had a production rate that was as high as its population growth rate.

May Asian leaders are beginning to realize that no amount of aid can bring the economic progress they desire for their nations unless the population problem is controlled.

Roman Catholic bishops raised sharp protests and President Eisenhower publicly rejected the recommendation.

Perhaps nothing illustrates Asia's problem of overpopulation better than a painting which was unveiled this month in Tokyo, the world's largest city, by American painter Walter Keane.

Titled simply "Tomorrow — Forever," the painting shows an endless stream of children of all races, as he says, "coming from nowhere and going nowhere."

Problem Painted
The San Francisco artist, famed as the portrayer of big-eyed sad-faced children — "the lost children of the

world," he says — worked for five years on the huge (four feet by eight feet) painting because he wanted to show "the seemingly insoluble problem of today, tomorrow and forever."

Here is a country-by-country survey of population problems and what is being done about them:

Indonesia. It would seem that a country like Indonesia, which has about the same number of people as Japan and six times the space to put them, would have no serious population problem.

But it does because more than 55 million of the nation's 95,000,000 people (according to the last census) are jammed together on Java island, one of the most crowded areas on earth. Java is about the size of New York state, which has about 17 million persons.

Indonesia, a Moslem nation, is not going in much for birth control. But the government has promoted transmigration programs to less crowded islands, such as Borneo and

Sumatra. These programs have been hampered by lack of enthusiasm and lack of money.

Size of Kentucky
—South Korea. South Korea is slightly smaller than the state of Kentucky. Kentucky has a population of about 3.2 million. South Korea has more people unemployed than that. Its population is 26 million.

The government has launched an ambitious 10-year family planning and birth control program. The program, costing about \$700,000 a year, is aimed at lowering the population growth rate to 0.8 per cent by 1971.

The government has permitted import of contraceptives and birth control devices previously banned and is giving some of them free to poor families. It also established family planning counseling programs.

The only public opposition has come from the Roman Catholic church.

—North Korea. This Communist country has no popu-

lation problem to speak of because of Korean war battlefield losses and millions of refugees who fled to the south.

Hong Kong. This crowded British crown colony has a doubly serious problem of a high birth rate and a steady influx of refugees. Birth control is not encouraged officially but medical facilities are provided by authorities at family planning association clinics. The association is an independent organization, the

only one of its kind in the colony.

—Taiwan. This Nationalist Chinese-held island is not over-crowded but soon will be if the present population growth rate continues. The government does not sanction any form of birth control but it is giving some behind-the-scenes encouragement to the private family planning association.

Lack Food
—The Philippines. The population growth rate in the

Philippines is much too high, authorities say. There is plenty of room in the island nation but the fear is that food production won't keep up with population increase.

—South Viet Nam. There is no serious problem at present. Birth control is taboo because of the large number of Catholics.

—North Viet Nam. Apparently no official program, although the Communists are having trouble keeping production ahead of population.

—Cambodia and Laos. Space is no problem but food is. Little official concern about controls, however.

—Tailand. The population growth is too rapid for comfort but it has not posed any serious problem thus far in this relatively well-fed country. Birth control is seldom mentioned.

—Malaya and the British Borneo territories. Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. The population growth rate in these areas is among the highest in the world. But it has not posed any serious problems yet because there is plenty of space and food production is high. There are private family planning organizations which are active, especially in Malaya, where 120 clinics have been set up.

—Singapore. Over-crowded already, this small island state has one of the world's highest birth rates. The government sponsors a family planning association which operates 28 clinics.

—India. The world's second most populous nation has taken major steps to solve the population problem. The third five-year development plan provides for expenditures of about \$20 million for expanding a "voluntary sterilization program" and setting up new family planning centers. Sterilization is provided free at all government hospitals and in some states volunteers are given a compensatory allowance. Consent of both husband and wife is necessary.

India's population is 440,000,000 (the 1961 census figure). A Ford foundation agricultural production survey team warned that by 1985 the gap between population and production will be of a "crisis" magnitude.

—Pakistan. President Ayub Khan, father of seven children, has strongly urged birth control. Government officials say the economic growth rate is not keeping up with the population growth and this is wiping out much of the good that large-scale foreign aid is doing.

Ascent Was Success

Elevator Operator Briefed on Lifting Astronaut To Second Floor

By DICK WEST

Washington — (UPI) — In addition to having the astronauts to cheer about, we also can be proud of the dedicated young men who operate the elevators in the U.S. Capitol.



West
David runs an elevator to help pay his expenses at Georgetown University here. He has only been in training since last August, but it is generally agreed that he is one of the most skilled and reliable operators at the Capitol.

"I wanted to take him up," Muchow told me in an exclusive interview, so Gene let me substitute for him."

Eugene Buccelli, who normally runs the elevator at that hour, handed over the controls to Muchow and assumed the role of back-up operator.

At about 7:10 p.m., a Secret Service man told Muchow to "freeze" the elevator on the street level and cut off the buzzer and signal lights. When

the lift-up finally came, Muchow was ready.

"It was a real smooth ride," he said. "There wasn't a hitch at all."

"Were you nervous?" I asked. "Not really," he said. "The Secret Service had thoroughly briefed me on the procedure. I never had any doubts that the mission would be a success."

Muchow, I might add, ran the elevator on the manual control system. Had he become flustered and pushed the handle to the right instead of the left, the elevator would have gone down instead of up.

But when the pressure was on and the chips were down, Muchow came through.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN
Your Daily Activity Guide
According to the Stars
To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	1 Talk	31 You	61 Personal
APRIL	2 Today	32 May	62 Satisfaction
23-24-56-67	3 Don't	33 Your	63 Turn
74-75-79-82	4 Reveal	34 Patient	64 For
Taurus	5 Your	35 Should	65 Happiness
MAY	6 Someone	36 Cheerful	66 Happiness
8-9-13-15	7 Something	37 Company	67 Fall
24-27-30	8 Don't	38 Worry	68 Better
Gemini	9 Beg	39 News	69 In
MAY 22	10 Things	40 G-Its	70 Public
JUNE 22	11 Has	41 Energy	71 Debt
4-5-46-48	12 Distant	42 Weddings	72 Matters
62-70-80-90	13 Borrow	43 To	73 Soon
Cancer	14 Is	44 Home	74 Into
JUNE 23	15 Loan	45 And	75 Your
16 Plan	16 Excellent	46 Excellent	76 A
JULY 23	17 Broad	47 Financial	77 Belief
18 New	18 New	48 Leadership	78 Change
19 Information	19 Information	49 Adjust	79 New
20 And	20 And	50 In	80 Spirit
21 Over	21 Over	51 Money	81 Turn
22 And	22 And	52 Pattern	82 Pattern
23 Be	23 Be	53 Text	83 Increase
24 Or	24 Or	54 And	84 Year
25 Working	25 Working	55 You	85 Should
26 Pleasant	26 Pleasant	56 Things	86 Near
27 Invest	27 Invest	57 Work	87 Income
28 Rest	28 Rest	58 Etc.	88 Indicated
29 And	29 And	59 Affairs	89 Kind
30 Revitalize	30 Revitalize	60 Promises	90 Affairs
AUG. 24	31 Good	61 Adverse	91 Neutral
29-31-33-34	32 Good	62 Adverse	92 Neutral
71-72-73	33 Good	63 Adverse	93 Neutral



BIG PROBLEM—The biggest problem of Asia seems to be people. There are too many of them in too little space and not enough food. This montage shows faces of different nationalities of the world. (UPI)

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