

### **Introduction to Kato Shizue Award:**

Kato Shizue Award was initiated by Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in early 1996 to inspire and foster women in commemoration of the life long meritorious deeds of Ms Shizue Kato, a pioneer in family planning and women's liberation movement.

She is a President of FPFJ (Family Planning Federation of Japan) and President of JOICFP (Japanese Organization for International Corporation in Family Planning), and the Kato Award is administered by these two organizations. The financial support has fully provided by IPPF; the organization which was established by **Margaret Sangar** in 1952, and has approximately one-hundred sixty (160) affiliated family planning associations worldwide. IPPF promotes the movement for the sexual and reproductive health/rights and empowerment of women. JOICFP was founded by chojiro Kunii in 1968 in response to growing requests from other countries to share Japan's postwar successes in family planning and maternal and child health. IPPF and UNPF( United Nations Population Fund) have become particularly close collaborative partners as well as other UN agencies.

Ms. Kato, as one of the founders of IPPF, has been playing an important role at the international stage. Her contribution has been highly valued and she was awarded the United Nations Population Award for the first time as a Japanese in 1988.

The Shizue Kato Award targets women's group, women's organization and/or individual women who are active in the movement toward improvement of sexual and reproductive health/rights of women as well as empowerment of women (ie; social, economic, political and legal empowerment) in developing countries and/or in Japan.

ECPAT/STOP-Japan was selected for the award by a unanimous vote of the committee members among 20 prominent applicants for; (1) its advanced foresight and courage of prompt undertake with the worldly significant issue of child sexual exploitation, (2) its dedication and enormous contribution as a forerunner for a passing the Anti-Child Prostitution and Pornography Law in Japan and its legislative process.