

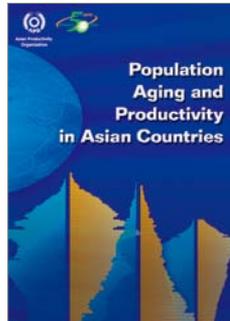


New APO publication

Population Aging and Productivity in Asian Countries

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The Research on Aging Society project was initiated by the APO in September 2009 to investigate demographic trends in aging societies within its membership. The team of researchers from the Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the USA evaluated how increasing life expectancy combined with historically low fertility replacement rates affected the productivity of participating countries. The focus was on labor supply and demand factors, improved access for and to older workers, retirement policies, gender differences, and types of work performed by older and younger generations. The research culminated in the publication of *Population Aging and Productivity in Asian Countries*, now available in both print and e-book editions.

As reflected by the countries selected for participation in the Research on Aging Society, this phenomenon is most evident in the developed countries of

East Asia and the West. Societal aging will have far-reaching effects on future labor markets, social security, welfare, and education, in addition to overall productivity. However, there are major variations in the speed and pattern of the aging process among countries which necessitate different coping mechanisms and policy measures to sustain or improve productivity gains. In addition, developing economies are experiencing sectoral population aging, with agriculture the primary example, as educated younger workers increasingly migrate from rural to urban areas and from blue-collar to white-collar jobs.

This volume contains an introduction, chapters analyzing different aspects of population aging in the five participating countries supplemented with figures and tables, and a conclusion integrating the research results. The concluding chapter also specifies policy measures and initiatives needed to support the potential for sustained economic growth in an aging society: reforming wage and compensation systems; reforming retirement policies; subsidizing the wages of older workers; increasing the labor force participation rate of women; and improving skills and productivity.

Population Aging and Productivity in Asian Countries will be of interest to government policymakers; those involved in planning for future human resources, healthcare, and skill requirements; researchers in various socio-economic fields; and groups or individuals working to enhance human and economic capital.