



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:21-RC-10-GE-RES-B-PN2100026-001

Date of Issue	29 April 2021
Project Code	21-RC-10-GE-RES-B
Title	Research on an Aging Asia and Pacific: Preparing for the Future
Timing and Duration	April–December 2021 (nine months)
Hosting Country(ies)	Not Applicable
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	Bangladesh, Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Vietnam
Qualifications of National Experts	Institutional researchers or policy analysts with work experience in and knowledge of demographic economics, human capital development, and aging societies with a track record of two years of experience or more in the position described above, and excellent English writing and presentation skills
Qualifications of Chief Expert	Extensive knowledge, research experience, and professional contributions related to labor force reskilling or study on depopulation/graying societies with a track record of experience and publications in English on those topics
Nomination of National Experts	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations of National Experts	31 May 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Analyze the consequences of aging populations for productivity.
- b. Share best practices of those countries with rapid aging experiences.
- c. Propose a set of policy recommendations to deal with aging and its impact on the economy.

2. Background

An important socioeconomic challenge faced by most developing Asian countries is the graying population. Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam are considered to have abundant pools of young workers now. However, according to data from ageingasia.org, Vietnam is one of the fastest-aging countries in Asia. The number of people 60 years and over will more than double from 11.9 million to 29 million, accounting for almost a third of the total population by 2050. Indonesia has the fifth-largest elderly population in the world. Due to dramatically increased life expectancy, from 45 years in 1970 to 69.2 for men and 73.6 years for women as of 2019, while birth rates have decreased, those aged over 60 years are predicted to reach 21.1% of the total Indonesian population. In Bangladesh, it is estimated that the proportion of older people will double to 21.9% by 2050, meaning that one out of every five Bangladeshis will be a senior citizen.

Dr. Prasun Chatterjee of the Department of Geriatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, reported in 2019 that India is aging much faster than previously thought and is expected to have nearly 20% of the world's population aged 60 years and older by 2050, which will be the largest number of older adults worldwide. In 2018, the ROC's Ministry of the Interior found that 14% of its population was over 65. The rate of aging is increasing and is expected to reach 20% or even higher by 2026, meaning that the ROC will become the world's first super-aged society. This indicates that vast amounts of energy and resources will be needed to provide appropriate care for the growing number of the elderly.

The number of senior citizens aged over 65 years totaled 7.75 million in 2019, accounting for 15.5% of the entire population of the ROK. According to the Korea Development Institute in 2019, the country is aging at a faster pace than any other major one, and the negative impact on the economy is expected to be considerable. In 30 years, the old-age dependency ratio is projected to exceed 70% and GDP growth to slow to around the 1% range. The International Monetary Fund warned in 2019 that a rapidly aging population and shrinking labor force are hampering growth in Japan and that aging could decrease its average annual GDP growth by 1 percentage point over the next three decades.

Population aging affects growth through savings, capital accumulation, labor force participation, and total factor productivity. Even though some countries currently have more young workers, population aging is imminent. The economic consequences of demographic change will affect productivity and growth sooner or later. As population aging increases, young laborers must support more senior citizens.

The rapid aging of the population will pose many social challenges, such as a declining workforce, the squeezed middle where the shrinking workforce will be forced to pay higher taxes to support senior citizens' pensions, economic slowdowns, rising healthcare costs, etc. Preparing society for population aging as early as possible in advance with the right public policies is crucial, as it will be too late to become well prepared at the last minute.

This research will examine how the participating countries cope with the challenges of graying societies and identify measures and solutions for better readiness while making recommendations for effective public policies on healthcare, pensions, and increasing birth rates.

3. Scope and Methodology

Scope

- a. Indicators and trends of aging populations in Asia and the Pacific.

- b. Sectoral impacts of aging populations.
- c. Analyses of an anticipated aging Asia and the Pacific and policy recommendations.

Methodology

- a. In-country research: Each national expert will collect and analyze data and write a preliminary report based on the research framework circulated prior to the coordination meeting. The reports will be finalized after the coordination meeting.
- b. Coordination meeting of experts: A coordination meeting to finalize the research methodology and framework will be organized. The preliminary reports detailing country-specific situations will be presented in this meeting for feedback from other experts. The virtual sessions will be around three hours each day. The indicative agenda items are:

Day 1:

- Research overview.
- Research framework.
- Methodology and scope.
- Data availability and sources.
- Preliminary research findings.

Day 2:

- Agreement on the research framework, format of the final report, and timeline.
- Final publication requirements.

4. Tasks of Experts

Chief Expert

- a. Develop the overall framework and guidelines for the research.
- b. Present the research framework, methodology, and report structure during the coordination meeting.
- c. Review the draft and provide feedback to the national experts to ensure the quality of the work.
- d. Provide support and advice to the national experts in conducting the research.
- e. Prepare the final report and submit it to the APO Secretariat by the deadline.

National Experts

- a. Collect data at national level following the methodology and framework provided.
- b. Write country reports on the analyses and findings based on the data collected.
- c. Present preliminary reports during the coordination meeting.
- d. Revise the reports following the agreement during the coordination meeting and reflect the comments of the chief expert and APO Secretariat.
- e. Cooperate with the chief expert to ensure the quality and consistency of the final report.
- f. Submit the reports following the agreed format to the chief expert and APO Secretariat by the deadline.

5. Financial Arrangements

To be met by the APO

Honoraria for the chief and national experts.

To be met by experts or participating countries

All local implementation costs incurred by the national experts when collecting data at the national level.

6. Actions by Member Countries

- a. Member countries are requested to nominate candidate national experts before the deadline.
- b. Each nomination must be accompanied by the APO biodata form and uploaded to the APO Document Management System (DMS)/Fleekdrive by the NPO. The biodata form is available on the APO website.

7. Actions by the APO Secretariat

- a. Identify and invite a chief expert to lead the research until its completion.
- b. Coordinate all arrangements related to the research activities.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General