



Concept Note

North-East Asian Forum on Population Ageing

1. Background

The East and North-East Asian subregion (ENEAS) is home to a large number of older persons in the world. In 2010, older persons (65 years and above) living in the six ENEAS countries (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation) accounted for 32% of all the older persons living in the world. Within Asia-Pacific region, ENEAS accounted for 56%.¹

In addition, population ageing in ENEAS is taking place at an unprecedented speed and scale in human history. The percentage of older persons within the national population grew from 7% to 20% in approximately 150 years in France. In comparison, the same demographic shift occurred in Japan in mere 40 years, and China and Republic of Korea are estimated to undergo the same transition in 35 and 30 years respectively. To illustrate the scale (volume) of population ageing in ENEAS, the number of older persons (65 years old and above) in the subregion is expected to increase from 190 million in 2015 to more than 300 million in 2030, due mainly to the large population size of China. In 2030, one in six persons living in ENEAS will be 65 years old or older.

Population ageing has already begun to affect a wide spectrum of policy areas from social protection and labour market to transportation and science and technology policies. ENEAS subregion is ahead of other parts of the Asia-Pacific region in reducing poverty rate, as it continues to be the economic powerhouse of the region, and the world. However, if the current population ageing is not matched by timely adjustment of various support systems and establishment of enabling environment for older persons², the subregion could face a new challenge of rising poverty and widening socio-economic inequalities among growing elderly population. For example, the Gini coefficient of older persons 65 years and

¹ These data, as well as all subsequent demographic data in this document, are calculated from the data available in the online database "World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision" (<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp>), accessed on 12 August 2015.

² For example, there is a need to: review social protection schemes, including pension and healthcare systems; plan national labour force for the long-term; develop (new) industries for future economic growth; support research in science and technology for assistive devices and medical advancement; increase professional as well as informal caregivers; regulate commercial goods and services with older consumers in mind; increase safe and appropriate housing for older persons; provide age-friendly transportation; and enable long-term care of older persons by the family, community and care institutions.

above in Japan is 0.341 (2009 data) and in Republic of Korea is 0.430 (2012 data); Poverty rate among older persons 65 years and above in Japan was 19% (2009 data) and in Republic of Korea is 49% (2012 data), while OECD average is 13%.³ Thus ENEA countries' strategies for "sustainable development" need to firmly take into account the reality of this demographic shift.

There are a growing number of initiatives and accumulated experiences on how to address the many challenges emerging from the subregion. In order to support and accelerate the efforts by various stakeholders within the subregion to address the common challenges posed by population ageing, ESCAP ENEA Office initiated development of an online Knowledge-Sharing Platform for Building Sustainable Ageing Societies in East and North-East Asia⁴, launched in August 2014. The initiative follows the outcome document of Asian Symposium on Building Sustainable Ageing Societies, held in Changchun, China in July 2012⁵, which called for a knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate further exchange of experience and good practices in addressing ageing-related issues.

Further knowledge-sharing among ENEA countries has the potential of benefiting not only the countries within the subregion, but also other parts of Asia-Pacific and beyond. This is because ENEA subregion is accumulating knowledge and experience from innovative responses to the challenges by both governments and market systems. It is only a question of time before similar challenges are faced by other parts of Asia-Pacific and beyond; population ageing after all is a global phenomenon. Against this background, ESCAP ENEA Office proposes to build a subregional network of researchers, practitioners and policymakers working to create sustainable ageing societies. Bringing together the cutting-edge studies by ENEA researchers and connecting them with policymakers would expand viable policy options and help us find ways forward towards sustainable development.

2. Goals

- To create a network of academic associations (primary partners), national research institutes, and civil society organizations engaged in issues related to population ageing in the ENEA subregion

³ These are the most recent data available from OECD database at http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/data/oecd-social-and-welfare-statistics/income-distribution_data-00654-en, and OECD Factbook 2014 at <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/302013081e1t024.pdf?expires=1423791207&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=0031EB0CB44D978A53B1ACA213A75A54> (accessed on 13 February 2015).

⁴ available at <http://www.unescap.org/ageing-asia>

⁵ for more information, please see <http://www.unescap.org/events/asian-symposium-building-sustainable-ageing-societies>

- To create a forum of researchers, practitioners and policymakers to critically review and analyze population ageing trends and related policies in the subregion, as guided by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)⁶ and the Bangkok Statement⁷
- To share the activities of the forum with wider audiences through posting them on the online Knowledge-Sharing Platform for Building Sustainable Ageing Societies in East and North-East Asia

3. Proposed Activities

Phase I – pilot phase (2015)

- Identify academic associations and institutions and networks as potential partners
- Review national strategies regarding population ageing from the ENEA countries (e.g. China, Japan and Republic of Korea each have 5-year national strategies) and identify key socio-economic policy challenges related to population ageing in ENEA. The key challenges should be aligned with MIPAA and the Bangkok Statement, and placed in the broader context of achieving sustainable development.
- Organize a subregional forum with network partners, focusing on key issues from MIPAA (Target date: November 2015)
 - Expected participants: researchers, practitioners, policymakers, civil society organization representatives
 - Expected outcome of the conference: emerging trends and policy recommendations, to be disseminated on the online Knowledge-Sharing Platform for Building Sustainable Ageing Societies in East and North-East Asia

Phase II (2016-)

- Annual or biennial forum following the same format as the Phase I conference, to be held in ENEA countries on rotational basis
- Joint publication of conference papers

4. Proposed partners

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5_4016

