



Concept Note

Building a Knowledge-Sharing Platform on Sustainable Ageing Societies

1	PROJECT TITLE	Building a knowledge-sharing platform on sustainable ageing societies
2	THEMATIC FOCUS	Social development (population ageing)
3	PROJECT GOAL	To launch an internet-based knowledge-sharing platform in order to enhance awareness about population ageing-related issues in North-East Asia and contribute to promoting policies and programmes for building sustainable ageing societies, involving all spectrum of stakeholders.
4	TARGET COUNTRIES	China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation.
5	TARGET GROUP	Governmental policymakers, academic researchers, older persons' organizations, and other civil society stakeholders
6	PROJECT DURATION	March - December 2014

1. Background

Population ageing is one of the priority areas of social development for the six member States of the East and North-East Asian (ENEA) subregion, namely, China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. In 2010, the number of older persons in ENEA countries aged 65 and above accounted for 59 percent of the 65+ population in Asia, and 31 percent of the 65+ population in the world. The proportion of the elderly within a country's total population is also increasing in all ENEA countries. With the exception of Mongolia (4.1 percent), all ENEA countries in 2010 had a higher proportion of 65+ population compared to the world's average of 7.6 percent: It was 8.2 percent for China (with a projection of 14.0 percent in 2025), 9.5 percent for DPRK (10.5 percent in 2025), 11.1 percent for ROK

(19.6 percent in 2025), 12.8 percent for Russia (17.4 percent in 2025), and 22.7 percent for Japan (29.3 percent in 2025).¹

Population ageing in ENEA countries are also taking place at a speed unprecedented in the world, calling for innovative actions from all parts of the society to address the multi-faceted challenges brought on by this demographic shift.

Against this background, the Asian Symposium on Building Sustainable Ageing Societies was co-organized by ESCAP ENEA Office and in collaboration with the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China on 4-6 July 2012 in Changchun, China. Attended by 110 participants, including Ministerial-level and civil society participants, the Symposium adopted an Outcome Document, calling for a knowledge-sharing platform in order to facilitate exchange of innovative ideas to build sustainable ageing societies.

2. Objectives of the Knowledge-Sharing Platform

- 1) To facilitate exchange of innovative ideas for creating sustainable and prosperous ageing societies in North-East Asia, focusing on social and economic challenges posed by rapid population ageing.
- 2) To create an online community of practice among different stakeholders, including policymakers, academic researchers, civil society organizations, and the general public.

3. Expected Output of this Project

- A website containing a database of national policies, as well as community-level actions for building sustainable ageing societies in North-East Asia, along with other features for information sharing (e.g. list of available funding opportunities, list of upcoming events, etc), available in English (the main language), Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian and Russian.

¹ Data from the World Population Prospects, the 2010 Revision, http://esa.un.org/wpp/unpp/panel_indicators.htm

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