

The Asia Impact Dialogue Workshop Series #3

Policy Dialogue on "Adapting Population Ageing in Asia: Social Participation and Employment Perspectives"

Hanoi, 7 March 2019
@Sheraton Hanoi Hotel

CONCEPT NOTE

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), HelpAge International Vietnam (HAIIV) and the Vietnam Association of the Elderly (VAE) will convene the Third Asia Impact Dialogue (AID) Workshop on Ageing in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 7 March 2019. The main purpose of the workshop is to understand the overall picture of population ageing and its challenges in East and Southeast Asia. We will also discuss key issues regarding social participation and employment with cross-cutting stakeholders in Vietnam for the healthier ageing society.

Background

The Southeast Asia and East Asia, including Japan, are experiencing rapid ageing of the population at an unprecedented pace. In the year 2017, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation decided to tackle this issue with its partner organisations as a part of the Asia Impact Dialogue Project, a platform for intellectual dialogue towards the shared vision and inclusive society in the region.

Two workshops were organised during the year 2018. The first workshop was on “Ageing and Demographic Change in Asia: Caring for the Rapidly Growing Number of Elders in Our Society”, co-hosted by SPF and ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, in Singapore on 26-28 February. In this workshop, experts and practitioners discussed ongoing issues of population aging mainly focused on the care for older people. The participants recognised the importance of informal care for older people and combination of formal/informal care as a path towards ageing issues in Asia, given that dependence on formal care is no longer sustainable. The concept of active ageing was also emphasised with an idea that older people should be considered as active participants of social, economic, cultural, and civic affairs.

The second AID workshop was on the “Alternative Solution for Ageing Asia - Building a Path for the Elderly to Be Social Asset”, focused mainly on active ageing of older people in Asia. It was co-hosted by SPF and a local non-profit organisation in Fukuoka, Asian Aging Business Center (AABC), on 29-31 August in Fukuoka. The participants discussed and shared current situations of active ageing in each country. Fukuoka city’s active ageing practices that go along with the city government’s grand strategy called “Fukuoka 100” was also showcased. It was confirmed that the concept of “active ageing” is diverse, and there is a need for further exploration.

Now, for the third Asia Impact Dialogue, the HelpAge International Vietnam (HAIV), a global network of organisations promoting the rights of all older people to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives, and the Vietnam Association of Elderly (VAE), a national organisation of around seven million members participating in 11,000 grassroots associations of older people in Vietnam, joined this common endeavor. The Vietnamese older population shows the highest growth rate in its history, while the child population is less likely to increase, and therefore the aging rate is expected to rise rapidly. Such a demographic change brings about both opportunities and challenges for Vietnam preparing for an aging society. This is the feature that Thailand and Japan have been facing. Together, we will reconsider population ageing in a wider perspective, looking ahead to 10-20 years of ageing society. Moreover, in light of the lessons learned from the past two workshops, we will discuss key issues regarding social participation and employment in Vietnam, Thailand and Japan, and to seek possible solutions with cross-cutting stakeholders.

Objectives

The objectives of this workshop is two-fold:

- (1) to understand a comprehensive picture of population ageing and its challenges in the Southeast Asia and East Asia;
- (2) to discuss key issues, particularly on social participation and employment in Vietnam, and search for the tangible and feasible solutions in Vietnam with multi-stakeholders from the cross-cutting fields.

Participants

The workshop expects to have attendees from various backgrounds to have active discussions and to make a difference. It includes governmental sector in Vietnam, such as Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs and other departments. It also includes non-governmental organisations, civil societies, experts and international organisations from Vietnam, Japan and Thailand.

Structure and format of the workshop

The workshop consists of two parts.

In the morning session, co-organisers will make brief remarks in the opening. Next, Dr. Long Giang Thanh, an associate professor at Viet Nam National Economics University, will provide general information about the potential challenges and opportunities of aging population to set the tone. Experts from Japan and Thailand will make some comments on the presentation and share their experiences in each country.

In the afternoon session, it is mainly consisted of group discussion. Two themes for the discussion are (1) social participation, and (2) income generating activities and employment for older people. Participants will join one of the groups to have active discussion. After the discussion, each group will present the summary of the discussion in turn.

Programme

Time	Contents	
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:30	Welcome Remark	<i>Ms Pham Thi Hai Chuyen</i> , Vice Chair, Vietnam National Committee on Ageing (VNCA), Chair, Vietnam Association of the Elderly (VAE)
	Opening Remarks	<i>Ms Nguyen Thi Ha</i> , Vice Minister of the Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs
		<i>Mr. Shuichi Ohno</i> , President, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
09:30-10:30	Key-note Presentation	<i>Dr. Long Giang Thanh</i> , Associate Professor, Viet Nam National Economics University, on “Aging population – potential challenges and opportunities”
10:30-11:00	Group photo & Coffee/Tea break	
11:00-12:00	Comments and exchange of experience	<i>Dr. Takeo Ogawa</i> , President, Asian Aging Business Center: from Japanese perspective
		<i>Mr. Pramote Eua-amnuay</i> , Project Team Manager, Senior Citizen Council of Thailand: from Japanese perspective
12:00-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-14:00	Q&A	Facilitated by <i>Mr. Ngo Trong Vinh</i> , VAE Vice Chair
14:00-15:30	Group Discussion	Theme 1: Social participation, moderated by <i>Ms. Tran Bich Thuy</i> , Country Director, HelpAge International in Vietnam (HAIV))
		Theme 2: Income generating activities/employment for older people, moderated by <i>Dr. Giang Thanh Long</i>
15:30-15:45	Coffee/Tea Break	
15:45-16:15	Group Presentation 1	Moderated by <i>Ms. Tran Bich Thuy</i>
	Group Presentation 2	Moderated by <i>Dr. Giang Thanh Long</i>

16:15-16:45	Overall Discussion	Moderated by <i>Dr. Dam Huu Dac</i> , Standing Vice Chair, VAE
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks	SPF (TBC) <i>Ms Pham Thi Hai Chuyen</i> , Vice Chair, VNCA; Chair VAE