

EWC-KOSTAT Conference on
The Demographic Dividend and Population Aging in Asia and the Pacific

East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i USA

October 29-30, 2015

Organizers: Ronald D. Lee, Sang-Hyop Lee, and Andrew Mason

Synopsis

Changes in age structure are an inevitable consequence of the demographic transition that is occurring all over the world. Many countries in Asia and the Pacific in particular, are experiencing demographic transition at an unprecedented speed. The first demographic dividend occurred in many Asian countries because of the effect of fertility decline on the number of dependent children. Rapid fertility decline increased the proportion of workers in the population, which accelerates growth in per capita income. Countries in East Asia were particularly successful in realizing large demographic dividends, in part, because their fertility decline was so rapid. However, the connection between the demographic dividend and economic growth is not automatic. The magnitude of the benefit will depend, for example, on the ability of the economy to absorb and productively employ the large influx of young workers due to previously high fertility.

East Asian countries and some Southeast Asian countries are far along in their demographic transition, and beginning to experience rapid population aging. Responses to population ageing can also lead to very different economic outcomes. There are concerns about slow economic growth due to large dependent old-age population or low saving rates. Fiscal problems are another concern because tax revenues may not keep paces with entitlement programs such as public pensions and publicly-funded health care. Limited participation of the older people in the labor market makes them particularly vulnerable to poverty, lacking in access to health care, and exposed to other risks. Adverse consequences of population aging will be offset, however, if workers increase saving to cover longer life expectancy, or if the quantity-quality tradeoff lead to more investment in human capital and higher productivity. These responses to population change, and others, may lead to the second demographic dividend. What will happen in Asia and elsewhere, however, remains an open question.

The EWC-KOSTAT (East-West Center-Statistics Korea) conference is organized to bring together researchers to present new research on the economic effects of demographic transition and aging in Asia and the Pacific, particularly focusing on updated trends, causes, and policy responses of demographic changes in Asia and the Pacific.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

28 October 2015

- Arrival Check-in at the hotel
 Hawai'i Prince Hotel Waikīkī
 100 Holomoana Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
 Tel. (808) 956-1111
- 6:30 p.m. Opening ceremony (cocktails and dinner)
 Captain's Room (Hawai'i Prince Hotel Waikīkī, 3rd floor)
 Welcoming remarks: Charles E. Morrison, President, East-West Center
 Congratulatory remarks: Tai-Hun Kim, Chief Demographer, Asia Pacific
 Population Institute
 Congratulatory remarks: Ronald Lee, Professor, UC Berkeley

29 October 2015

- 8:00 a.m. Bus pick-up at the hotel to the East-West Center
- 8:30–9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast at the East-West Center, John A. Burns Hall Room
 3015/19

SESSION I. DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND POPULATION AGING IN ASIA

Chair: **John Piggott**, University of New South Wales

- 9:00–9:30 a.m. Paper 1: Introduction: Setting the stage
 by **Ronald Lee** and Andrew Mason

9:30–10:00 a.m. Paper 2: *Demographic Dividend and Asia's Economic Convergence towards the US*

by **Joonkyung Ha** and Sang-Hyop Lee

10:00–10:30 a.m. Paper 3: *Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific: Dependency Metrics for Policy*

by **Rafal Chomik**, Peter McDonald, and John Piggott

10:30–10:50 a.m. Coffee break

10:50–11:20 a.m. Commentaries: Peter Heller (Paper 1), Andrew Mason (Paper 2), Ke Shen (Paper 3)

11:20–11:50 a.m. Open discussion

11:50–12:00 a.m. Group Photo (Outside John A. Burns Hall)

12:10–1:00 p.m. Lunch (1st Floor Staff Lounge)

SESSION II. POPULATION AGING IN EAST ASIA: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Chair: **Alejandro N. Herrin**, University of the Philippines School of Economics

1:00–1:30 p.m. Paper 4: *Wellbeing of the Elderly in East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*
by Hidehiko Ichimura, Xiaoyan Lei, Chulhee Lee, **Jinkook Lee**, Albert Park,
and Yasuyuki Sawada

1:30–2:00 p.m. Paper 5: *The Economic Burden of Chronic Diseases: Estimates and Projections for China, Japan, and Korea*
by David Bloom, Simiao Chen, **Mark McGovern**, Les Oxley, and Klaus Prettner

2:00–2:20 p.m. Commentaries: Hawre Jalal (Paper 4), Timothy Halliday (Paper 5)

2:20–2:40 p.m. Open discussion

2:40–3:00 p.m. Coffee break

SESSION III. POPULATION AGING IN EAST ASIA

Chair: **Tai-Hun Kim**, Asia Pacific Population Institute

- 3:00–3:30 p.m. Paper 6: *The Aging of Japan: What Lessons Can Be Drawn?*
by **Peter Heller**
- 3:30–4:00 p.m. Paper 7: *Japan's Pension Reform and Its Economic Impact*
by **Sang-Hyop Lee**, Naohiro Ogawa and Rikiya Matsukura
- 4:00–4:20 p.m. Commentaries: Sumner LaCroix (Paper 6), Michael Abrigo (Paper 7)
- 4:20–4:40 p.m. Open discussion
- 4:50 p.m. Board bus to Hawai'i Prince Hotel Waikīkī
- 6:15 p.m. Bus pick up at Hawai'i Prince Hotel Waikiki to Hyatt Regency Waikīkī Beach
Resort and Spa
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner at *Japengo Waikiki*, Hyatt Regency Waikīkī Beach Resort and Spa,
Ewa Tower, 3rd Floor (2424 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i)
- 8:45 p.m. Bus pick up at Hyatt Regency Waikīkī Beach Resort and Spa to Hawai'i
Prince Hotel Waikiki

30 October 2015

- 8:00 a.m. Bus pick-up at hotel to the East-West Center
- 8:30–9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast at the East-West Center, John A. Burns Hall Room
3015/19

SESSION IV. POPULATION AGING AND SOCIAL POLICIES

Chair: **Andrew Mason**, University of Hawaii at Manoa and East-West Center

- 9:00–9:30 a.m. Paper 8: *Compression of Morbidity and Projected Medical Spending in Japan
in Comparative Perspective*
by Jay Bhattacharya, Brian K. Chen, Karen Eggleston, Hideki Hashimoto,
Toshiaki Iizuka, **Hawre Jalal**, Lena Shoemaker

9:30–10:00 a.m. Paper 9: *National Pension Program: Panacea or Poison under Rapid Population Aging?*

by **Kevin Yu-Ching Hsieh** and An-Chi Tung

10:00–10:30 a.m. Paper 10: *Analyzing the Gender Differentials of Demographic Transition in Korea*

by **Hyunkyung Kim** and Sang-Hyop Lee

10:30–10:50 a.m. Coffee break

10:50–11:20 a.m. Commentaries: Mark McGovern (Paper 8), Rafal Chomik (Paper 9), Hee Hoon Eun (Paper 10)

11:20–11:50 a.m. Open discussion

11:50–1:00 p.m. Lunch (1st Floor Staff Lounge)

SESSION V. GENERATIONAL ECONOMY BY GENDER AND INCOME

Chair: **Ronald Lee**, UC Berkeley

1:00–1:30 p.m. Paper 11: *Examining Economic Gains Accompanying Age Structure Transition in the Philippines Using Population Groups Observed Over Time*

by Rachel H. Racelis, Michael R.M. Abrigo, **J.M. Ian Salas**, Alejandro N. Herrin

1:30–2:00 p.m. Paper 12: *Patterns of Inequalities in Public Transfers by Gender in China*

by **Ke Shen**, Feng Wang, and Young Cai

2:00–2:20 p.m. Commentaries: Jinkook Lee (Paper 11), J.M. Ian Salas (Paper 12)

2:20–2:40 p.m. Open discussion

2:40–2:50 p.m. Coffee break

SESSION VI. MAJOR FINDINGS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

2:50–3:40 p.m. Convened by **Ronald Lee**, **Sang-Hyop Lee**, and **Andrew Mason**

3:40–3:40 p.m. Closing remarks by EWC and KOSTAT organizers

4:00 p.m. Board bus to hotel

List of Participants

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