



Asian Population Association's Scientific Group on

## **Demographic, Economic and Social Implications of Changing Age Structure in Asian Countries**

### **Composition of the Scientific Group:**

|                  |                             |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Chair:</b>    | <b>Leela Visaria</b>        | <b>(India)</b>        |
| <b>Co-Chair:</b> | <b>Baochang Gu</b>          | <b>(China)</b>        |
| <b>Members:</b>  | <b>Youngtae Cho</b>         | <b>(Korea)</b>        |
|                  | <b>Jian Song</b>            | <b>(China)</b>        |
|                  | <b>Noriko Tsuya</b>         | <b>(Japan)</b>        |
|                  | <b>Joo Ean Tan</b>          | <b>(Singapore)</b>    |
|                  | <b>Abdullah Al-Khalifah</b> | <b>(Saudi Arabia)</b> |

Asia with nearly 4.4 billion people accounting for nearly 60 percent of the world's population includes countries with diverse demographic scenarios with regard to age structure, composition and distribution of population that has resulted from the diverse onset and pace of demographic transition experienced in the past few decades.

The continuous decline in fertility over two or more decades in some countries like Japan, China, South Korea, has resulted in below replacement level of fertility and has significantly changed their age structure. Their young population aged 0-14 has shrunk and the share of those in advanced ages of 65 years has increased. In South East Asian countries like Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia demographic transition began almost two decades later. Having invested in the education and the skill building of their young, these countries have in recent decades experienced high economic growth. Countries such as India and Bangladesh have begun to experience fertility decline very recently, giving them the advantage of bulging labour force if it receives needed skills and training. On the other hand, barring Iran in West Asia, other countries in the region have yet to undergo demographic transition or have just begun to experience changes in its population structure.

These very diverse demographic scenarios across Asia with the resultant changes in their age and sex structure will have significant social and economic implications in terms of insurance costs, pension payments, creation of employment opportunities, participation of women in work and policies related to migration of workers from labour-surplus countries to those countries facing shortage of young workers in the coming decades.

The implications of the likely changes need to be closely studied by scholars from the region in the country-specific context or in an inter-country comparative context. The members of the scientific group invite abstracts from scholars from the Asian region and others who have extensively studied Asian countries to examine in detail available information and data and likely trends in future to understand the

implications of the changing population age and sex composition in a comprehensive manner on a range of issues. The implications for the structure of work force and labour market, participation of women in work with implications for childbearing and childrearing, implications for urbanization and creation of employment opportunities in cities etc. merit data based analysis.

The abstract should not exceed 250 words, clearly stating the data sources, issue(s) examined, and implications of the changing age-sex structure of populations in the country under study in the coming 25 years. The members of the scientific group will review the abstracts for their relevance and invite the selected scholars to submit full-length paper to be presented at a seminar. **The abstracts should be submitted by 30 November 2016. The selected scholars will be asked to submit full paper by 31 March 2017.** The group plans to hold a seminar discussing the papers sometime towards the end of 2017 in one of the Asian countries. It is our fervent hope that the papers and discussion on this very important demographic issue affecting Asia would be of very good quality and will result in a published peer-reviewed volume.

**Interested scholars should submit their abstracts electronically to the Chair Leela Visaria (lvisaria@gmail.com) with copy to the APA Secretariat (secretariat@asianpa.org)**

**The Scientific Group in details:**

**Chair:**

**Leela Visaria**

"Sujit" 4 Abhinav Colony  
Drive-in Road  
Ahmedabad 380052, INDIA

**Co-Chair:**

**Baochang Gu**

Professor of Demography  
Center for Population and Development  
Studies  
Renmin University of China  
No.59 Zhongguancun Street, Haidian District  
Beijing 100872, CHINA

**Members:**

**Youngtae Cho**

Professor of Health Demography  
School of Public Health  
Seoul National University, Rep. of KOREA

**Joo Ean Tan**

Senior Lecturer  
Division of Sociology  
Nanyang Technological University  
SINGAPORE

**Jian Song**

Professor of Demography  
School of Sociology and Population Studies  
Renmin University of China, CHINA

**Abdullah H.M. Al-Khalifah**

(Saudi Arabia)  
Director General  
Research and Public Opinion Polls  
Department  
King Abdul-Aziz Center for National Dialogue  
Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA

**Noriko Tsuya**

Professor, Faculty of Economics,  
Keio University  
2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8345  
JAPAN