

International Seminar on the Demographic Window and Healthy Aging: Socioeconomic Challenges and Opportunities

Beijing, May 10-11, 2004

In many developing countries, the rapid ageing of the population is viewed as an obstacle to the implementation of significant social policies and social security benefits (retirement pension plans, sickness insurance or medicare). A commonly held view is that developing countries age faster than developed countries and the faster the ageing, the heavier the burden to the society. Although this statement is true, the forecasted population ageing in developing countries will remain modest for the next two or three decades in comparison with the ageing level already reached in developed countries. In many developing countries, ageing, paradoxically, is accompanied by a substantial decrease in the dependency ratio. This ratio--the ratio of dependent young and elderly to the adult population--first declines with the fall in fertility before later increasing as the population ages. The rapid and significant fall in fertility together with the still modest increase in the number of old people modifies the age structure of the population in favour of young adults: producing the demographic window. As a result, working-age adults will support a relatively low social burden for the next two or three decades. This situation gives developing countries a rare opportunity to implement fundamental social policies that can be the foundation of sustainable development before they face inescapable and unprecedented fast ageing.

This International Seminar will bring together demographers and population economists from Western and Asian countries, to exchange the latest scientific knowledge on population dynamics, the change in population age structure and its impact on economic and social development. The seminar to be organized by IUSSP and Asian MetaCentre will be held in Beijing on May 10-11, 2004 and hosted by the Center for Healthy Aging and Family Studies at Peking University.

The programme will be structured around 7 key presentations to be given by: **Jacques Vallin** (INED, Paris, IUSSP President), **Jean-Marie Robine** (INSERM, University of Montpellier, Chair of the IUSSP Committee on Health and Longevity, Chair of the scientific and organizing committee), **Shripad Tuljapurkar** (Stanford University, Chair of the IUSSP Committee on Age Structure), **Naohiro Ogawa** (Nihon University), **Wolfgang Lutz** (IIASA, former IUSSP General Secretary, Asian MetaCentre Principal Investigator), **Justin Yifu Lin** (Peking University, Director, China Center for Economic Research), and **Angelique Chan** (National University of Singapore, Asian MetaCentre).

The IUSSP Scientific Committee on Longevity and Health and the Asian MetaCentre invite researchers in the field to submit a 300-word abstract and curriculum vitae before **December 31, 2003** to Jean-Marie Robine (robine@valdorel.fnclcc.fr) with a copy to Verene Koh (popnasia@nus.edu.sg). While participants are encouraged to seek their own funding, the Asian MetaCentre will support 14 paper presenters from **Asian countries** to be selected on a competitive basis. Asian candidates who wish to apply for the financial assistance should indicate their intention clearly on the cover letter of their application papers at the time of submission by the above deadline. The applicants will be informed of their application status before **January 31, 2004**.

Scientific and Organizing committee: **Jean-Marie Robine** (INSERM, University of Montpellier, Chair of the IUSSP Committee on Health and Longevity), **Jacques Vallin** (INED, Paris, IUSSP President), **Wolfgang Lutz** (IIASA, former IUSSP General Secretary, Asian MetaCentre Principal Investigator), **Shripad Tuljapurkar** (Stanford University, Chair of the IUSSP Committee on Age Structure), **Angelique Chan** (National University of Singapore, Asian MetaCentre), **Vipan Prachuabmoh** (Chulalongkorn University, Asian MetaCentre Principal Investigator), **Kua Wongboonsin** (Chulalongkorn University, Asian MetaCentre), **Naohiro Ogawa** (Nihon University), **Edward JC Tu** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), **Zeng Yi** (Peking University and Duke University),

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The audience will be limited to a maximum of 40 participants. An edited volume will be produced after the Seminar.

Sponsors: The International Seminar on the Demographic Window and Healthy Ageing is an IUSSP and Asian MetaCentre event (in collaboration with Peking University and Overseas Chinese Institute on Aging). The seminar will be supported under the Wellcome Trust Grant to the Asian MetaCentre, the IUSSP and other donors.