



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
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 國際人口科學研究聯盟
 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population



Population and Sustainable Development Analysis



北京大學
 Center for Healthy Aging and Family Studies

International Conference 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 Conference 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 Conference 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.

An edited volume will be produced after the Conference.

A pre-meeting "Demographic Window and Population Aging: Challenges and Opportunities" is organized by the University of Hong Kong in collaboration with the University of Roma "La Sapienza" in Hong-Kong SAR on May 8, 2004 (Contact: Siu Lan Karen Cheung, slk.cheung@uniroma1.it).

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