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Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future  
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**Panel on**

**Marriage and Development**

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**Overview**

There has been a revolutionary change in marriage patterns in East and Southeast Asia over the past three decades. A notable feature of this change is the increase in delayed marriage and indeed in non-marriage. Though a very widespread trend, this varies widely across the region, and in some areas, early marriage remains common. Other growing tendencies are for divorce rates to rise and for marriages across international boundaries to increase. Cohabitation, though still not generally approved, also appears to be on the increase among those who are not formally married. All of these trends have implications for welfare and for development. They signal major changes in family life, gender relations, and the role of individuals in family and society. This panel brings together a number of papers dealing with these issues in various parts of East and Southeast Asia.