ICAPP-2019 April (2)

3rd MEETING OF THE ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
APRIL 5-7, 2019

SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
ASIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Impression of the conference

The 3rd Meeting of the
Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF)
ICAPP

ICAPP

Republic of Korea

Colombo, Sri Lanka

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1.Press Conference on April 6

2.Welcoming Dinner hosted by H.E. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka on April 5

3.Farewell Dinner hosted by H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka on April 6

4. Cultural Visit to Galle on April 7

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I

Documents of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

1. Summary of the Results of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 5-7, 2019)

1. Background

In May 2018, Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party, proposed a bold idea, subject to final and official approval of the high authorities of Sri Lanka, to hold the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) during the 2nd Meeting of the AEPF in London. The proposal, presented by the Asian member (Sri Lanka), was warmly accepted at the meeting in London, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the AEPF.

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP, visited Colombo, Sri Lanka on 22-23 February 2019, and had the opportunity to meet with H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena, H.E. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, H.E Minister of Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana and several relevant officials.

Subsequent to these deliberations, the Government and political parties of Sri Lanka confirmed the hosting of the 3rd Meeting of the AEPF in Colombo in April. The ICAPP Secretary General actively engaged in cordial and effective coordination with Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Hon. Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development of Sri Lanka, and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the meticulous preparations for the 3rd AEPF.

Against this backdrop, following the First Meeting and Second Meeting of the AEPF in Seoul (2017) and London (2018), the Third Meeting of the AEPF was successfully and efficiently held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 5-7, 2019, with the full support and participation of the Government of Sri Lanka, United National Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party and Sri Lanka People's Front.

2. Programs

Over 90 participants including political leaders and representatives of 25 political parties and political groups from Asia and Europe participated in the 3rd AEPF. The programs proceeded as shown on page 9. Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee,

members of the European Parliament and the representatives of the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), as well as important figures of Sri Lanka participated in the meeting and official program of the 3rd AEPF.

(Welcoming Dinner and Opening Session)

The official program began with the Welcoming Dinner hosted by H.E. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, on 5th of April at the Speaker's Residence, with the participation of H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition.

On 6th of April, the Opening Session of the 3rd AEPF began with the Keynote Address delivered by H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, touching on the strategically important status of Sri Lanka and its policy on international cooperation. The Bureau members of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the AEPF, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, Hon. Khuon Sudary and Hon. Park Ro-byug delivered remarks.

(Organizational Issues)

Before moving to the sessions for discussions, the election of the new Co-Chairpersons of the AEPF took place by acclamation. Hon. Daya Gamage, who is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party, and Hon. Jan Zahradil, President of the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE), were appointed as the new Co-Chairpersons of the AEPF, for one term (of two years), by consensus.

Participants expressed appreciation for the tremendous contribution made by Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden and Hon. Khuon Sudary for the last two years in strengthening the platform of the AEPF as the Co-Chairpersons. It was agreed to designate Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden as the Honorary Advisor to the AEPF and Hon. Khuon Sudary as the Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF.

(Sessions)

Two sessions were held with focused agendas on ageing population and current urgency in the region. In each session, there was one Keynote Presenter, delivering comprehensive views on the topic. Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea, and Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Member of the European Parliament and Chief Whip of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, presented their views on addressing the issues of population ageing

in the First Session and Second Session, respectively.

Discussions and remarks of participants followed, reflecting the specific agenda of each. Hon. Daya Gamage chaired the First Session and Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden presided over the Second Session.

At the Closing Session, the Colombo Statement was adopted, which encouraged members to develop and explore effective avenues for addressing social security and employment challenges with the advent of increasing population ageing, and other issues. In addition, Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden provided special explanation on the recent developments regarding and consequences of Brexit.

(Future Meeting)
The participants in the 3rd AEPF welcomed and accepted the proposal by Hon. Jan Zaharadil, President of the ACRE, who expressed his willingness, through his letter, to host the 4th Meeting of the AEPF in May 2020 in Prague, the Czech Republic, as the newly elected Co-Chairperson of the AEPF.

(Press Conference)
Hon. Daya Gamage, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, Honorary Advisor of the AEPF, and Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP, led the Press Conference with each presenting views on the background, achievements and meaning of the 3rd Meeting of the AEPF.

In particular, they emphasized that the conference on population ageing provided a valuable, indeed unique, opportunity to engage in a useful exchange of lessons learnt from experience and learn best practices from each other, as well as reaffirm the global values and will for cooperation to cope with common challenges, along with Sri Lanka's enhanced international status and image.

(Farewell Dinner)
H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, hosted the Farewell Dinner at the President's House on 6th of April. All the participants had the special honour to greet the President during the Dinner and expressed their profound gratitude for his leadership and support for the 3rd AEPF.

(Visit to Galle)

On 7th April, the participants, including the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee, joined the cultural program, making a visit to the historic city of Galle, visiting the Galle Fort, Dutch Museum, National Museum and National Maritime Museum, enjoying the beauty of nature at these eminent sites, which are listed as UNESCO world heritage sites. They also visited the Unawatuna Peace Pagoda, which Hon. Daya Gamage greatly contributed to the construction, showing the participants of Sri Lanka's beacon of peace for all nationalities, surpassing religious creeds.

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2. Program of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum and the 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 5-7, 2019)

Friday, April 5

p.m.	**Arrival of Delegates** - Check-in at Hilton Colombo Hotel (Address: 2 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner, Mawatha, 00200)
19:30	**Welcoming Dinner** hosted by H.E. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka - *Venue*: Speaker's Residence

Saturday, April 6

07:00- 08:00	Breakfast
08:15-09:30	**The 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee** - *Venue*: Moon Stone & Amethyst, on the Ground Floor
10:00-10:40	**Opening Session of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum(AEPF)** - *Venue:* Ball Room 1, on the Ground Floor - Chair: Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka
10:00	National Anthem
10:05	Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party, Sri Lanka
10:10	Opening Remarks by Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairman and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan
10:15	Keynote Address by H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister, Leader of the United National Party of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

10:25 Congratulatory Remarks by Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament for the East of England and Vice Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), United Kingdom

10:30 Congratulatory Remarks by Hon. Khuon Sudary, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Cambodia

10:35 Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea

Election of the Bureau of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

10:40-10:50 **Group-photo**

10:50-11:00 Coffee Break

< Session Topic>

「How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region」

11:00-12:30 **1st Session**

- Chair: Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka
- Presentation by Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea
- Views/Remarks to be delivered by the Participants

12:30 Lunch

- *Venue:* Restaurant – Grace Kitchen, on the Ground Floor

14:00-16:30 **2nd Session**

- Chair: Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament for the East of England and Vice Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), United

Kingdom
- Presentation by Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF, Chief Whip of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Member of the European Parliament, Germany
- Views/Remarks to be delivered by the Participants

16:30-16:40 Coffee Break

16:40-17:10 **Closing Session**
- Chair: Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka
- Adoption of "Colombo Statement"
- Closing Remarks by Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the East of England and Conservative Spokesman for Security and Defense, United Kingdom
- Closing Remarks by Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea
- Closing Remarks by Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka

17:10-17:40 **Press Conference**
- *Venue*: Moon Stone & Amethyst, on the Ground Floor

19:00 **Dinner** hosted by H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, Leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- *Venue*: President's House

Sunday, April 7

a.m. **Breakfast**

07:30 Assembling at the Hotel Lobby

08:00 Leaving for Galle

09:30 Arriving at Galle and Site Visits
: Visit to Galle Fort, Dutch Museum, National Museum and Maritime Museum

16:00	Departure to Colombo
17:30	Departure of ICAPP SC Members and European Delegates

Monday, April 8

	Departure of ICAPP SC Members and European Delegates

3. List of Participants of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

1. Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee (23)

- **Azerbaijan,** Republic of (1)

- Mr. Ramin Mammadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party Youth, on behalf of Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party

- **Bangladesh,** People's Republic of (1)

- Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of the Parliament, Member of the Presidium, Bangladesh *Awami* League, Former Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of People's Republic of Bangladesh

- **Cambodia,** Kingdom of (1)

- Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Co-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP)

- **China,** People's Republic of (1)

- Mr. Ma Xuesong, Deputy Director General of Bureau I of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on behalf of Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

- **India,** Republic of (1)

- Hon. Vijay Jolly, Senior Leader of *Bharatiya Janata* Party (*BJP*) and President of Delhi Study Group

- **Indonesia,** Republic of (1)

- Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Central Board Member of the *Golkar* Party, on behalf of Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman of Patron Council of the Party of Functional Groups (*Golkar: Partai Goloongan Karya*), Former Minister of Man Power and Former Minister of Housing and Settlement

- **Iran,** Islamic Republic of (1)
- Hon. Dr. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Founding President of Foundation for Islamic Development, former Vice President of Iran and Member of Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party

- **Korea,** Republic of (1)
- Hon. Dr. Lee Hye-hoon, Vice Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Chairman of Intelligence Committee and Member of National Assembly, *Bareunmirae* Party, Former Chairperson of the *Bareun* (Righteous) Party

- **Lebanese Republic** (2)
- Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of the Free Patriotic Movement Party
- Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party

- **Malaysia** (2)
- Hon. Dato' Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim, Member of Parliament, United Malay National Organization (UMNO) and Former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister
- Hon. Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Secretary General of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)

- **Mongolia** (1)
- Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Head of the Department of International Relations of Mongolian People's Party (MPP)

- **Myanmar,** Republic of the Union of (1)
- Hon. Wunna Maung Lwin, Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar

- **Nepal,** Federal Democratic Republic of (2)
- Hon. Jhalanath Khanal, Senior Leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) and Former Prime Minister of Nepal
- Hon. Sujata Koirala, Member of Parliament and Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal

- **Pakistan,** Islamic Republic of (1)
- Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

- **Russian Federation** (1)
- Hon. Andrey Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs

- **Sri Lanka,** Democratic Socialist Republic of (1)
- Hon. Daya Dharmapala Kilittuwa Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP)

- **Thailand,** Kingdom of (1)
- Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Vice Chairperson of Asia-Europe Political Forum, Former Thailand Trade Representative and Former Minister attached to Prime Minister's Office, *Pheu Thai* Party

- **Turkey,** Republic of (1)
- Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs of the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*), on behalf of Hon. Cevet Yilmaz, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Chairman of Foreign Affairs of the *AK Parti*

- **Vietnam,** Socialist Republic of (1)
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, Deputy Director General of Department of General Research, Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), on behalf of Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the CPV

- **ICAPP Secretariat** (1)
- Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP and Former Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Russia

2. Representatives of Groups of Political Parties in Europe (6)

- **European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) (6)**

- Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the East of England and Conservative Spokesman for Security and Defense, **United Kingdom**
- Madame Fanny Van Orden, Spouse of Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, **United Kingdom**
- Hon. Nikolay Barekov, Member of the European Parliament, Republic of **Bulgaria**
- Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Vice-Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Chief Whip of the ECR Group and Member of the European Parliament, Federal Republic of **Germany**
- Hon. Urszula Irena Krupa, Member of the European Parliament, Republic of **Poland**
- Hon. Stephen Woodard, Deputy Secretary General of the ECR Group, **United Kingdom**

3. Special Participants (5)

- H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka
- H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
- H.E. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
- H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Leader of the Opposition and Former President of Sri Lanka
- Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea

4. Accompanying Delegates (31)

- **Bangladesh *Awami* League (1)**
- Madame Salima Sobhan Khasru, Spouse of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru

- **Cambodian People's Party (CPP) (6)**
- Hon. Khuon Vilavann, Advisor to Hon. Khuon Sudary
- Hon. Eng Kokthay, Advisor to President of the Senate
- Dr. Keo Piseth, Director of Center for Sustainable Development Studies of Asian Vision Institute (AVI)
- Ms. Nun Thavy, Deputy Director of International Relations Department of the Director General of International Relation, Protocol, and Media of the Secretariat of National Assembly

- Mr. Ly Chanrainsey, Deputy Director of Information, Secretariat of the National Assembly
- Ms. Pov Yousim, Assistant to Member of Parliament

- **Communist Party of China (CPC) (3)**
- Mr. Chang Jiuqing, Division Director, Bureau I, CPC International Department
- Ms. Zheng Youya, Third Secretary, Bureau I, CPC International Department
- Mr. Li Xiteng, Assistant Secretary, Bureau I, CPC International Department

- ***Bharatiya Janata* Party (BJP) of India (1)**
- Mr. Taj Mohammed, President of BJP Tajikistan

- **Islamic *Motalefeh* Party (1)**
- Mr. Alireza Ghafoori Fard, Special Assistant to Former Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran

- **United Malay National Organization (UMNO) (6)**
- Hon. Dato' Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, Member of Parliament
- Hon. Ros Suryati Alang, UMNO Women's Wing
- Hon. Dato' Nik Muhammad Zawawi bin Salleh, Member of Parliament
- Hon. Dato' Dr. Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali, Member of Parliament
- Hon. Dato' Mustafa Ali, Advisor to the Member of Parliament
- Ms. Wan Zawiyah Wan Halim, Secretary to Hon Dato' Seri Dr. Shahidan Kassim

- **Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) (1)**
- Hon. Dr. Tee Ching Seng, International Communication and Diplomacy Bureau Chief of the MCA

- **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) of Myanmar (1)**
- Mr. Nay Lin, Member of the Central Committee of the USDP

- **Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) (2)**
- Madame Ravi Lakshmee Chitrakar, Spouse of Hon. Jhalanath Khanal
- Mr. Shankar Prasad Khatiwada, Assistant of Hon. Khanal

- **Nepali Congress Party (1)**
- Mr. Rakesh Hamal, Active Member of the Nepali Congress Party and Executive Member of Social Welfare Council of Government of Nepal

- **United Russia Party (1)**
- Mr. Ivan Kozlov, Deputy Director of International Relations Department

- **Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) of Turkey (1)**
- Ms. Sevgi Hajdari, Expert of *AK Party* Foreign Affairs

- **Communist Party of Vietnam (3)**
- Mr. Nguyen Tran Xuan Son, Official of the Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam
- Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Tam, Department of Western Europe and North America, Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam
- Mr. Trinh Thuong Truong An, Official of the Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam

- **ICAPP Secretariat (3)**
- Ms. Jeong Sang-myoung, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Oh Hyun-jeong, Program Officer
- Mr. Yoon Seung-rok, Program Officer

5. Observers (3)

- **Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) (2)**
- Hon. Dr. Azhari Eltigani Awadelsed Ahmed, Deputy Secretary General of the CAPP
- Mr. Alniniri Abdelkarim, Staff of the CAPP

- **ICAPP Women's Wing (1)**
- Hon. Anoma Gamage, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing and Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development of Sri Lanka

6. Secretariat of the European Delegations (1)
- Ms. Weronika Dorota Pachla, Accredited Assistant to Hon. Urszula Irena Krupa

7. Others (1)
- Ms. Julee Nageswari, Director of Global Entrepreneur of Malaysian Business Woman Leader, Malaysia

4. Concept Paper for the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

Background

Further to the proposal made during the 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the 30th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC) by Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP) reached to an agreement that the 3rd Meeting of the AEPF to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2019.

In order to further prepare and develop the 3rd AEPF, the Secretary General Park Robyug visited Colombo on 22nd February 2019 to engage in cordial consultations with the Hon. Daya Gagamge, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment, Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP) and Hon. Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development, Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP) of Sri Lanka. H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President, Leader of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister, Leader of the United National Party (UNP) of Sri Lanka, and Minister Daya Gamage noted with satisfaction that the AEPF was successfully established, convening its first and second meetings in Seoul and London, and expressed their high expectation toward the upcoming AEPF together with ICAPP Standing Committee Meeting in Colombo.

Agenda

At the 3rd Meeting of the AEPF in Colombo, one major topic, with different perspectives from Asia and Europe will be discussed:

- How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region

It is envisaged that the 3rd Meeting of the AEPF will serve as an excellent platform to draw political leaders' attention to issues and challenges that both continents confront and how to manage those issues with policy implication.

The Management of the AEPF

1. As was practiced in the 2nd Meeting of the AEPF in London in 2018, it would be advisable to adopt effective and practical management in operating each session as follows:

- Session 1: Keynote speech by the expert from the Asian side (max.15 min), and interested members to sign up for delivering their views (max. 7 min).
- Session 2: Keynote speech by the expert from the European side (max. 15 min), and interested members to sign up for delivering their views (max. 7 min).

In order to further promote focused and effective discussions within the limited time allocation, the speakers are requested to deliver their speeches within the above-stated agendas, giving emphasis on an exchange of views and opinions among the participants, while avoiding monotonous approach.

For the sake of the balanced procession of sessions, the speakers for each session will be decided in advance on a first-come first-served principle. The tentative List of Speakers will be duly distributed to the participants, which shall include the names of the delegates who expressed their willingness to take the floor. For the smooth conduct of the Meeting, the time for each speech may be limited to less than five minutes.

2. The sessions will be conducted in the following manner:

1) <u>Important Schedules</u>

The Sri Lankan side will arrange the following schedules:

- The Government of Sri Lanka is planning to arrange a dinner hosted by or a courtesy call(s) to the President and/or the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the European Parliament.
- The medium hall for ICAPP Standing Committee Meeting (on 6th) and the large hall For the AEPF Meeting (on 6th)

2) <u>Main Sessions</u>

The keynote speakers will present the general direction and key points on the topic and the participants will express views in such a way, leading the discussion on the topic, within a limit of five to seven minutes.

Please take note on the following expected key points for the preparation of the remarks:

(1) Taking note of the importance of regional/international cooperation among political parties in implementing policies that could alleviate current challenges of aged population in various sectors; physical, emotional, financial abuse on older people, less opportunity in engaging social activities and digital gap, etc.

(2) Highlighting the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development Goals and its relevance of human rights of older persons, ensuring no one is left behind, by implementing strategies that could lessen poverty, economic insecurity, promote health care and well-being, as well as gender equality and women empowerment.

(3) Calling members to promote sustainable and affordable social infrastructure for the people, without discrimination, and to support healthy ageing population with fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and its follow-up plans.

3) Closing Session

- The Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the AEPF, the Secretary General of the ICAPP, and other VIPs.

3. Standing Committee Meeting

- Around 60 participants will be present at the Standing Committee Meeting before the AEPF Meeting

Host hospitality for the meeting facilities and cultural program

In accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the practices of the previous meetings in Seoul and London, the host is going to kindly provide conference rooms, accommodation and meals in prestigious places including the Hilton Hotel during the Meeting period.

The host will provide local accommodation up to two rooms for three nights during the Meeting for each member of the ICAPP Standing Committee (one for him/herself and one for his/her one accompanying delegate). It was also agreed that the host

would provide local accommodation for all Members of the European Parliament (MEP) and two participants from each organization, who are officially invited as the Observers. The experts from each side, who are to make keynote speeches, will be provided local accommodation for three nights as the Special Participants. All participants would be welcomed to join the Cultural Tour program in Galle.

The host has also made arrangements for cultural programs. In particular, the host is going to organize a tour of Colombo City. For those who have yet to notify their willingness in joining the cultural program are kindly requested inform the Secretariat about who will participate in the cultural program, at their earliest convenience through e-mail of the ICAPP Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org.

Participants

The 3rd Meeting of the AEPF is expected to be participated by the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Representatives of the four principal groups of political parties in the EP, i.e. the European People's Party (EPP), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Group (ALDE), in accordance to the ToR.

Following the practices, representatives from the COPPPAL (Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean) and the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties) are invited as Observers and will have the right to speak at sessions.

The 32nd Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee is expected to be participated by the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee.

Outputs

The "Colombo Statement" will be adopted at the end of the meeting.

The first draft will be prepared by the host and the ICAPP Secretariat. After close consultations on the elements included in the statement with participants, it will be circulated to all the SC members prior to the Meeting for comments. The final text of the statement will be completed before the Closing Session for adoption on April 6.

The Secretariat will publish the final report that will cover the presentations and remarks by the participants. In this regard, all participants are kindly requested to provide the copies of their point of discussion and other relevant documents to the ICAPP Secretariat by email at secretariat@theicapp.org as soon as their documents are ready, prior to the start of the Meeting.

Next meeting

The 4th Meeting of the AEPF will be hosted by one of the European countries in 2020. When a hosting country is decided, it will be notified in due course.

5. Colombo Statement

1. We, the leaders and representatives of over 25 political parties and political groups from Asia and Europe, following our Second Meeting in London on 18 May 2018, gathered here in Colombo, the capital city of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, for the Third Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF). The Forum was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka on April 5-7, 2019 and actively participated in by the United National Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party and Sri Lanka People's Front, to discuss relevant political, environmental and security issues with a focus on the main theme: "How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region".

2. We addressed issues such as the impact of Brexit and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. We expressed continuing concern, and noted the need for more concerted action, following the discussions at our last meeting, in addressing the pollution of our oceans as a result of human activities and its impact on humankind and marine life.

3. We recalled the Resolution A/RES/73/143 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 2018, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, and the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2005, which recognize the importance of placing ageing on development agendas, stressing the need to promote policies to address the challenges of an ageing population and for greater international cooperation.

(Current Situation)

4. We took note of the fact that there are 901 million people aged 60 or over, comprising 12.3 percent of the global population, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region (508 million), while the largest percentage of population of this age (24 percent, or 177 million) is in Europe. These percentages will increase.

5. In addition to social pressures, we also recognized the underutilized potential of older persons whose skills, experience and wisdom could provide a powerful basis for future development, particularly as these older generations become healthier.

(Relevance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals)

6. We agreed that ageing is likely to have far-reaching implications for all sectors of society, including labor markets, financial and health systems; political

participation; demand for goods and services; urban planning and infrastructure development; as well as family structures and intergenerational relations.

7. We shared a common understanding that there is an urgent need to bolster the collection, analysis and use of good quality data on age and ageing to effectively evidence the equitable delivery of the SDGs.

(Challenges)

8. We acknowledged that in many national settings, as traditional family bonds and responsibilities weaken, population ageing has raised concerns about the provision of adequate social protection for older persons, with pressure on public health and care systems and the need for improved technologies for prevention, detection and treatment of diseases related to ageing populations.

9. We also noted problems of age discrimination, where abuse of older women and men - physical, emotional or financial - has been acknowledged as a growing concern for many countries, as well as gaps in relevant data and statistics.

10. With concern, we acknowledged that considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition.

(Policy Implications)

11. We emphasized the importance of international cooperation to conduct research on ageing and age-related issues as an important instrument for the formulation of policies on ageing.

12. We stressed the responsibility of Governments as well as the role of families and society more widely, in promoting and providing basic care and social services, bearing in mind specific needs of older persons.

13. We called upon Members to promote, in accordance with their national priorities, equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including appropriate affordable housing; modern and renewable energy; safe drinking water and sanitation; safe, nutritious and adequate food; waste disposal; sustainable mobility; healthcare services and family planning; education, culture and information and communications technologies, and to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of older persons.

14. We encouraged Members to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women and older persons with disabilities.

15. We recommended that Members increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action and identify key priority areas for its implementation, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence; solidarity and reciprocity for social development; raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacities; as well as promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions.

16. We highlighted the importance of enhancing coordination and cooperation with global and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations. We encouraged age-sensitive and all-age-inclusive national and local policy development and implementation, with measurable indicators to track progress on the situation facing older persons.

17. We regarded development as an effective avenue for addressing the social security and employment challenges concomitant with the advent of an ageing society. We acknowledged the Belt and Road Initiative as an important opportunity for many participating countries to achieve accelerated development. We welcomed the Chinese government's hosting of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and encouraged members of the ICAPP to continue to hold Silk Road related activities.

18. We welcomed and appreciated the views of the experts of Asia and Europe on effectively addressing the current situation relating to ageing population, presenting future strategies to alleviate the challenges we face.

19. We agreed that, with collective efforts, UN agencies, policymakers, civil society, families and responsible individuals, can support the setting of a new agenda for active and healthy ageing that reduces the vulnerabilities and enhances the capabilities and resilience of older persons, thus fulfilling the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

20. We took note that, as one of the matters of urgency in Asia, continued endeavors to enhance mutual understanding and build trust between countries concerned need to promote peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in Asia.

21. Recalling, with deep sorrow, the terrible terrorist attack in New Zealand in March 2019, we all jointed in condemnation on of such heinous acts of terrorism. We shared a common understanding that wherever it takes place, terrorism is never justified under any circumstance.

22. We expressed our profound gratitude to the people and the Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka, for their excellent arrangements to ensure the resounding success of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum. Our special thanks went to H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, and H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, for their full support for this historic gathering. We also reaffirmed our deep appreciation for the ICAPP Secretariat's invaluable role and efficient preparations in organizing the meeting and the importance of our continued beneficial cooperation with political parties and groups from Europe.

23. The Forum thanked Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden and Hon. Khuon Sudary for their tremendous contribution as the Co-Chairpersons of the AEPF, and elected Hon. Daya Gamage and Hon. Jan Zahradil as the new Co-Chairpersons of the AEPF for the coming two years. The members decided to welcome Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden as the Honorary Advisor to the AEPF. Hon. Jan Zahradil proposed to host the 4th Meeting of the AEPF in Prague, Czech Republic in 2020.

Adopted unanimously on this 6th day of April, 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

6. New Bureau Members of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (2019-2021)

Co-Chairpersons			
	Hon. Daya GAMAGE ➢ Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP) ➢ Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment, **Sri Lanka**		**Hon. Jan ZAHRADIL** ➢ President of the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE) ➢ Member of the European Parliament (MEP), **Czech Republic**
Vice-Chairpersons			
	Hon. KHUON Sudary ➢ Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ➢ Member of Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, **Cambodia**		**Hon. Ryszard Czarnecki** ➢ MEP and Vice President of the Parliament, Republic of **Poland** ➢ Member of the Bureau of the ECR Group
	Hon. Dr. LEE Hye-hoon ➢ Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of Intelligence Committee, *Bareunmirae* Party ➢ Former Chairperson of the *Bareun* (Righteous) Party, Republic of **Korea**		**Hon. Ulrike Trebesius** ➢ MEP and Chief Whip of the ECR Group, Federal Republic of **Germany** ➢ Member of the Bureau of the ECR Group
	Hon. Dr. Nalinee TAVEESIN ➢ Former Thailand Trade Representative ➢ Former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office ➢ *Pheu Thai* Party of **Thailand**		

Honorary Advisor	
	Hon. Geoffrey Van ORDEN ➢ MEP and Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, **United Kingdom** ➢ European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Vice Chair

7. Terms of Reference of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

1. Members

The Asia Europe Political Forum will be composed of the following members:

(1) Members of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Standing Committee
(2) Representatives of the four principal groups of political parties in the European Parliament (EP), i.e. European People's Party (EPP), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Group (ALDE).
(3) Invited representatives of the other principal political parties in Asia that are not represented in the ICAPP Standing Committee
(4) Invited representatives of other political parties in Europe

2. Function

The main function of the AEPF will be to establish regular contacts and promote a closer cooperation between the ICAPP and political parties in Europe, in particular the four principal groups of political parties in the E.P.

3. Election of the Bureau

The AEPF will elect two Co-Chairpersons, one from the ICAPP Standing Committee and one from the four principal groups of political parties in the E.P., and it will elect four to six Vice Chairpersons: two or three from the ICAPP Standing Committee and two or three from the European side.
The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years.

4. Meetings

The meeting of the AEPF will be held regularly, either annually or biannually, on a rotational basis between Asia and Europe. If the meeting is held in Asia, it is recommended to hold the meeting back-to-back with either the General Assembly or the Standing Committee Meeting of the ICAPP.

The host of the meeting will provide conference facilities and other conveniences, including, if possible, local accommodation for the participants.
The main theme or topics of the meeting will be prepared in advance through consultation between the ICAPP Secretariat and the representatives of the four principal groups of political parties in the E.P., and finalized three months before the meeting.

The joint statement as outcome of the Forum meeting, if any, will be drafted by the ICAPP Secretariat and circulated to all participating delegations two weeks before the meeting. To this end, all participating delegations are encouraged to submit to the ICAPP Secretariat three weeks before the meeting their proposals that they want to be reflected in the joint statement.

8. Letter of Hon. Jan Zahradil

ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA hEORPA EUROPSKI PARLAMENT PARLAMENTO EUROPEO
EIROPAS PARLAMENTS EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW
EUROPEES PARLEMENT PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

Jan Zahradil
European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Member of the Bureau
Committee on International Trade, Vice-Chair
Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, Member

Honorable Park Ro-byug
ICAPP Secretary General
#911 Doryeom Building, Doryeom-dong, Jongro-ku,
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Brussels, April 02, 2019

Dear Honorable Secretary General Park Ro-byug

I am writing to you in light of the upcoming ICAPP meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) in Sri Lanka, set to take place this weekend April 5 - April 7. I am aware that the AEPF will be electing new Co-Chairs, and following my discussion with my colleague, friend and current Co-Chair Geoffrey Van Orden, it would be my honor to be nominated to become the "European" Co-Chairman of the AEPF for the upcoming term. Given Geoffrey´s extensive experience and long-term work in promoting the EU-Asia relations, I suggest that the AEPF appoints him Honorary Advisor (or any other Honorary role as you deem appropriate). I believe he would be a great asset to our future work together.

In my role as the European Co-Chair of the AEPF, it is my heartfelt pleasure and honor to host the AEPF meeting in Prague, Czech Republic last weekend of May 2020 (28/5 - 31/05). I look forward to working with you in putting this important event together.

Due to my ongoing campaign for the President of the European Commission, I am unfortunately unable to attend the meeting in Sri Lanka. I wish you a successful meeting and fruitful discussions.

With kind regards,

Jan Zahradil MEP

jan.zahradil@ep.europa.eu - www.zahradil.cz - ZahradilJan
WIB 05M097, Wiertzstraat 60, 1047, Brussel, BELGIE
Tel 0032 228 45666 - Fax 0032 228 49666

9. News Report

https://colombogazette.com/2019/04/04/sri-lanka-facing-challenge-of-an-aging-population/

Sri Lanka facing challenge of an aging population
April 4, 2019 - 18:06

Sri Lanka is facing the challenge of an aging population and the matter will be discussed at the third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019, the Foreign Ministry said.

Approximately (90) ninety participants representing political parties in Asia and Europe are expected to be in attendance at this International Conference.

Launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000, ICAPP is a forum of political parties of Asia-Oceania countries. ICAPP is headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Its objectives are to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies, to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asia's regional cooperation through political parties; and to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

In the recent past several political parties in Sri Lanka have been actively participating in ICAPP activities.

Considering the positive contribution made by Sri Lanka towards the progress of the ICAPP in the past, the ICAPP Secretariat invited the Government of Sri Lanka to host the 3rd meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019.

Park Ro-byug, Secretary General, ICAPP visited Sri Lanka on 22 March 2019 and met the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and senior officials of the respective Ministries. Subsequent to these deliberations, the Government of Sri Lanka consented to host the AEPF in Colombo in April 2019.

The Conference will be organized by the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This will be an occasion for Sri Lanka to create a platform bringing together political parties from both the ruling and opposition parties of ICAPP member countries in Asia and Europe, for consultation and exchange of ideas drawing from each other's experience. Further, the conference will help boost the image of Sri Lanka as a ICAAP member country, prepared to share global values and challenges with the rest of the world.

The theme of the conference is "How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region".

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT
SRI LANKA

http://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk/?p=7798

President hosts special banquet for visiting representative of ICAPP

President Maithripala Sirisena hosted a special banquet in honour of representative attended at the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) held in Colombo, at the President's House, yesterday (06).

Approximately (90) ninety participants representing political parties in Asia and Europe attended at this International Conference.

Launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000, ICAPP is a forum of political parties of Asia-Oceania countries. ICAPP is headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Its objectives are to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies, to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asia's regional cooperation through political parties; and to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

President Sirisena who was in a friendly conversation with delegates attended the conference recalled how he participated in this conference in several countries as a

Member of Parliament and said that he was able to gather many important experiences in those countries.

ICAPP founding Chairman and former Speaker of Philippines, Jose de Venecia, Asia Europe Political Forum Co-Chairman, Geoffrey Van Orden and Chairman of Organizing Committee of ICAPP-AEPF, Minister Daya Gamage and members of ICAPP, AEPF, ministers and other distinguished guests attended the dinner.

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வெகுசன ஊடக அமைச்சு

https://www.media.gov.lk/media-gallery/latest-news/2050-lanka-should-be-developed-as-hub-of-indian-ocean-pm

Sri Lanka should be developed as hub of Indian Ocean – PM

07 April 2019

Sri Lanka will be a developed country only if it becomes the hub of the Indian Ocean, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told the third meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and International Conference of Asian Political Parties 2019, launched in Colombo, yesterday.

"Sri Lanka has a very friendly relationship with other countries in the region. India has been our historical partner, which in fact, extends up to Pakistan and Bangladesh. We have an excellent relationship with Japan since the San Francisco Peace Conference, and we are one of the first countries which recognised the People's Republic of China. The best example of this friendliness would be our expressway. China, Japan, India and ourselves all together have constructed the expressway in the country," the Prime Minister said."We are maintaining these relationships, else Sri Lanka cannot be the hub of the Indian Ocean," he added.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe also highlighted the importance of the Maritime Silk Road initiated by China under the theme, 'One Belt One Road'."The Mediterranean sea and the Indian Ocean are the oldest trade routes in the world. We have to remember, a bulk of world transport goes through the Indian Ocean. We are now putting together this system back which was broken by the Western colonial powers," he said."Japan and India currently working together on the Asia-Africa growth corridor and India itself are focusing towards the region with their, look West, act East and neighbourhood first policy," he added.

India is our partner from our history. We share same civilization with Pakistan and Bangladesh. We joined Japan at the San Francisco Conference. Despite the opposition from the United States, Sri Lanka recognized People's Republic of China and first signed a trade agreement. We will maintain this situation. We do not get caught up in someone's competition."

"Many people consider that the Hambantota port is a Chinese military base. I accept that there will be an army camp. But it is a Sri Lanka navy camp. Once installed, a Sri Lankan Rear Admiral will be in control. Any ship from any country can come there. But we control the operations," the Prime Minister added.

Speaking further, the Premier said Sri Lanka can develop only if it becomes the hub of the Indian Ocean and in another twenty years Sri Lanka will become the hub in the Asian market.

The Third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) will be held in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019.Approximately (90) ninety participants representing political parties in Asia and Europe are expected to be in attendance at this International Conference.

The Conference is organized by the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister Daya Gamage will be the co-chairman of the conference.The ICAPP, established in 2000, aims to promote mutual understanding between Asian and European countries. Sri Lanka is a functioning state of ICAPP.

The international conference is being held with the objective to promote cooperation among different political parties in order to enhance mutual understanding and confidence among Asian countries, to promote regional co-operation and to create an environment for sustainable peace and prosperity.

ColomboPage
Sri Lanka Internet Newspaper

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_19A/Apr05_1554476322CH.php

* Hosting ICAPP gives Sri Lanka opportunity to prepare for challenges of population aging

Fri, Apr 5, 2019, 08:28 pm SL Time, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka.

Apr 05, Colombo: Hosting the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Colombo will give Sri Lanka the opportunity to prepare for the challenge of an aging population, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

"Sri Lanka is already facing the challenge of an aging population. Conferences of this nature give Sri Lanka a unique opportunity to discuss, exchange views, share experience and learn best practices from the rest of the world, on matters pertaining to the theme of this Conference," the Ministry said.

Sri Lanka will be hosting the Third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019.

Approximately (90) ninety participants representing political parties in Asia and Europe are expected to be in attendance at this International Conference.

The Conference is organized by the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The theme of the conference is "How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region".

This will be an occasion for Sri Lanka to create a platform bringing together political parties from both the ruling and opposition parties of ICAPP member countries in Asia and Europe, for consultation and exchange of ideas drawing from each other's experience, the Foreign Ministry said.

Further, the conference will help boost the image of Sri Lanka as an ICAAP member country, prepared to share global values and challenges with the rest of the world.

In the recent past several political parties in Sri Lanka have been actively participating in ICAPP activities.

Considering the positive contribution made by Sri Lanka towards the progress of the ICAPP in the past, the ICAPP Secretariat invited the Government of Sri Lanka to host the 3rd meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019.

Park Ro-byug, Secretary General, ICAPP visited Sri Lanka on 22 March 2019 and met the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and senior officials of the respective Ministries. Subsequent to these deliberations, the Government of Sri Lanka consented to host the AEPF in Colombo in April 2019.

Launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000, ICAPP is a forum of political parties of Asia-Oceania countries. ICAPP is headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Its objectives are to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies, to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asians regional cooperation through political parties; and to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

* Sri Lanka controls security and operations of Hambantota Port, PM affirms

Sat, Apr 6, 2019, 07:33 pm SL Time, Colombo Page News Desk, Sri Lanka.

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_19A/Apr06_1554559439CH.php

Apr 06, Colombo: Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe affirmed that the security and operations of the strategic Hambantota port in the deep south are totally under control of Sri Lanka and not transferred to another country.

Addressing the Third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) that commenced today in Colombo, the Prime Minister said Sri Lanka maintains friendly relations with all countries and is well aware of current global trends.

"India is our partner from our history. We share same civilization with Pakistan and Bangladesh. We joined Japan at the San Francisco Conference. Despite the opposition from the United States, Sri Lanka recognized People's Republic of China and first signed a trade agreement. We will maintain this situation. We do not get caught up in someone's competition."

"Many people consider that the Hambantota port is a Chinese military base. I accept that there will be an army camp. But it is a Sri Lanka navy camp. Once installed, a Sri Lankan Rear Admiral will be in control. Any ship from any country can come there. But we control the operations," the Prime Minister added.

Speaking further, the Premier said Sri Lanka can develop only if it becomes the hub of the Indian Ocean and in another twenty years Sri Lanka will become the hub in the Asian market.

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The international conference is being held with the objective to promote cooperation among different political parties in order to enhance mutual understanding and confidence among Asian countries, to promote regional co-operation and to create an environment for sustainable peace and prosperity.

CAMBODIA NEWS GAZETTE
April 5, 2019

Cambodia Attends AEPF Forum and ICAPP Standing Committee Meeting in Sri Lanka

Delegation of Cambodian People's Party (CPP) led by H.E. Khuon Sudary has been on a visit in Colombo, Sri Lanka to attend the 3rd Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the 32nd Standing Committee Meeting of International Conference of Asia Political Parties (ICAPP) from April 5 to 7, 2019.

According to the recent CPP's press release, while the AEPF forum would discuss the roles of political parties in solving the challenges facing social security and career issues of the growing elderly population, the ICAPP meeting would discuss issues on peace and regional and global cooperation regarding joint ICAPP goals.

H.E. Khuon Sudary would address congratulatory statement and deliver commentary on the growing elderly population in Cambodia, its effects on social security issues, and the emerging solutions within national and global context. She would particularly highlight the Royal Government's policies and programmes related to the issue.

The Cambodian delegation would also report the follow-up progress of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) after its official announcement early this year in Siem Reap province with the participation of about 700 national and international experts from 50 countries, representing ICAPP and Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) member countries.

AEPF is one of the ICAPP forums organised as a platform to foster regular and close cooperation between ICAPP and political parties in Europe, particularly the four big political groups in European Parliamentary system.

Source: Agency Kampuchea Press

Nhân Dân ONLINE
THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM
THE VOICE OF THE PARTY, STATE AND PEOPLE OF VIETNAM

http://en.nhandan.com.vn/politics/external-relations/item/7333102-party-delegation-attends-3rd-asia-europe-political-forum-meeting-in-sri-lanka.html

Party delegation attends 3rd Asia-Europe Political Forum meeting in Sri Lanka

Monday, 2019-04-08 10:15:24

NDO/VNA – A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) participated in discussions at the third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) in Colombo, Sri Lanka from April 5-7.

The third AEPF meeting saw the participation of representatives from 25 political parties, and experts from 23 Asian and European countries. Initiated in 2017, the AEPF has become an inter-regional mechanism for cooperation and exchange for political parties.

Participants to the AEPF discussed a number of emerging socio-economic issues in Asia, especially population aging and social welfare and job-related challenges; and shared parties' experiences in handling challenges.

They emphasised measures to ensure social justice, improve the quality of social security systems, expand social insurance participation, enhance the participation of families and communities in elderly health care, and expand opportunities for the elderly to contribute to the community after retirement.

Participants adopted the Colombo declaration, which stressed that the aging of the population has become a global challenge, and affirmed the important role of political parties in promoting governments to effectively deal with relevant challenges.

On the occasion, the 32nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held, focusing on orientations and key activities of conference.

Parties agreed to continue to promote regional political cooperation in the region as well as cooperation among political parties in Asia and those from other regions.

The Vietnamese delegation also attended and effectively contributed to the event.

DNA
DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY
Pakistan's Premier and Credible Wire Service

http://www.dnanews.com.pk/mushahid-praises-new-zealand-pm-leadership-big-vision/

Mushahid praises New Zealand PM for 'leadership with big vision,
DNA News | April 7, 2019

COLOMBO, APR 07 (DNA) – Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman, Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, praised Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of "tiny" New Zealand for showing 'leadership with a big vision, a big heart, compassion and humanity in the fight against racism and bigotry".

He added 'New Zealand set a fine example of leadership after the crimes against humanity committed by a terror attack on a Christchurch mosque full of Muslim worshippers'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain was addressing the 2nd Asia-Europe Political Forum, organised by the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), which was attended by 23 countries political parties, in his capacity as Vice Chairman of ICAPP. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe, was also present on the occasion.

In his speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain also referred to the Asian spirit of 'Resilience and Rejuvenation' which was evident in the cases of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, all three South Asian countries having defeated terrorism and violence after huge sacrifices through an indigenous effort, making the transition to peace and security in their respective countries.

He added that as the examples of New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal demonstrate, 'size doesn't necessarily equal strength, and what counts is political will, national unity and loyalty to the objective with single-minded commitment'.

Referring to changes in Asia, Senator Mushahid Hussain said the global balance of power is shifting from the West to the East, with 'resurgence of Asia in the 21st, the Asian Century' and the future belongs not to conflict and confrontation, but cooperation and connectivity.

He said Pakistan welcomes and will fully participate in the 2nd Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) Forum in Beijing during April 25-27, which he said is the 'most important diplomatic and development initiative of the 21st Century with CPEC as the flagship project of BRI, which Pakistan is proud to participate in'.

During his short stay in Colombo, Senator Mushahid Hussain also met President Sirisena as well as the Speaker of Parliament, Jayasuriya, and former President Rajapakse.=DNA

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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு - இலங்கை
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Sri Lanka

https://www.mfa.gov.lk/icapp-conference-eng/

THIRD MEETING OF ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM (AEPF), INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN POLITICAL PARTIES (ICAPP) TO BE HELD IN COLOMBO FROM 5 -7 APRIL 2019

Media Releases | Thu, 4 Apr 2019

Sri Lanka will be hosting the Third meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019. Approximately (90) ninety participants representing political parties in Asia and Europe are expected to be in attendance at this International Conference.

Launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000, ICAPP is a forum of political parties of Asia-Oceania countries. ICAPP is headquartered inSeoul, Republic of Korea. Its objectives are to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies, to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asia's regional cooperation through political parties; and to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

In the recent past several political parties in Sri Lanka have been actively participating in ICAPP activities.

Considering the positive contribution made by Sri Lanka towards the progress of the ICAPP in the past, the ICAPP Secretariat invited the Government of Sri Lanka to host the 3rd meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) in Colombo from 5 to 7 April 2019. Mr. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General, ICAPP visited Sri Lanka on 22 March 2019 and met H. E the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and senior officials of the respective Ministries. Subsequent to these deliberations, the Government of Sri Lanka consented to host the AEPF in Colombo in April 2019.

The Conference will be organized by the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This will be an

occasion for Sri Lanka to create a platform bringing together political parties from both the ruling and opposition parties of ICAPP member countries in Asia and Europe, for consultation and exchange of ideas drawing from each other's experience. Further, the conference will help boost the image of Sri Lanka as a ICAAP member country, prepared to share global values and challenges with the rest of the world.

The theme of the conference is "How political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aged population as well as items of current urgency in the Asian region".

Sri Lanka is already facing the challenge of an aging population. Conferences of this nature give Sri Lanka a unique opportunity to discuss, exchange views, share experience and learn best practices from the rest of the world, on matters pertaining to the theme of this Conference.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo
04 April 2019

ආසියා-යුරෝපා දේශපාලන සංසදයේ (AEPF) තුන් වැනි රැස්වීම,
ආසියානු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුව (ICAPP)
2019 අප්‍රේල් 5 -7 දිනවල කොළඹදී
ආසියා-යුරෝපා දේශපාලන සංසදයේ තුන් වැනි රැස්වීම සහ ආසියානු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුව (ICAPP) 2019 අප්‍රේල් මස 5 වැනි දින සිට 7 වැනි දින දක්වා කොළඹදී පැවැත්වේ.මෙම අන්තර්ජාතික සමුළුවට ආසියාවේ සහ යුරෝපයේ දේශපාලන පක්ෂ නියෝජනය කරමින් නියෝජිතයන් අනූ (90) දෙනෙකු පමණ සහභාගී වීමට නියමිතය.

2000 වසරේ පිලිපීනයේ මැනිලා නුවරදී ආරම්භ කෙරුණු ආසියානු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුව (ICAPP), ආසියා- ඕෂනියා රටවල දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල සංසදයකි. එහි මූලස්ථානය කොරියානු ජනරජයේ සියොල් නුවර පිහිටා ඇත. ආසියානු රටවල් අතර අන්‍යෝන්‍ය අවබෝධය සහ විශ්වාසය වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම උදෙසා විවිධ මත දරන දේශපාලන පක්ෂ අතර හුවමාරු සහ සහයෝගීතාව ප්‍රවර්ධනය කිරීම, දේශපාලන පක්ෂ උපයෝගී කරගනිමින් ආසියාවේ කලාපීය සහයෝගීතාව ප්‍රවර්ධනය

කිරීම සහ කලාපයේ තිරසර සාමය හා සමෘද්ධිමත් බව සඳහා පරිසරයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීම ආසියානු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුවේ අරමුණු වේ .

මෑත කාලයේදී මෙම ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුවේ ක්‍රියාකාරකම්වලට ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ බොහෝ දේශපාලන පක්ෂ සක්‍රීය ලෙස සහභාගී වී ඇත.

ආසියානු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවල ජාත්‍යන්තර සමුළුවේ අභිවෘද්ධිය උදෙසා අතීතයේ සිට ශ්‍රී ලංකාව දැක්වූ සාධනීය දායකත්වය සලකා බලමින් ආසියා-යුරෝපා දේශපාලන සංසදයේ (AEPF) තුන් වැනි රැස්වීම 2019 අප්‍රේල් මස 5 වැනි දා සිට 7 වැනි දා දක්වා කොළඹදී පැවැත්වීමට එකී සමුළුවේ මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජයට ආරාධනා කර ඇත. ICAPP සංවිධානයේ මහලේකම් පාක් රෝ බියුග් මහතා 2019 මාර්තු මස 22 වැනි දින ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සංචාරයක නිරත වූ අතර ඒ මහතා අතිගරු ජනාධිපතිතුමා, ගරු අග්‍රාමාත්‍යතුමා, ගරු විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍යවරයා, ගරු ප්‍රාථමික කර්මාන්ත සහ සමාජ සවිබලගැන්වීම් අමාත්‍යවරයා මෙන් ම අදාළ අමාත්‍යාංශවල ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ නිලධාරීන්ද හමු විය. මේ සම්බන්ධ දීර්ඝ සාකච්ඡාවලින් අනතුරුව ආසියා-යුරෝපා දේශපාලන සංසදය 2019 අප්‍රේල් මස කොළඹදී පැවැත්වීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජය කැමැත්ත පළ කළේ ය.

ප්‍රාථමික කර්මාන්ත සහ සමාජ සවිබලගැන්වීම් අමාත්‍යාංශය විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය හා එක්ව මෙම සමුළුව සංවිධානය කරයි. මේ මඟින් ආසියාවේ සහ යුරෝපයේ ICAPP සාමාජික රටවල්වල පාලන පක්ෂ සහ විපක්ෂ එකට හමුවන වේදිකාවක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමට ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට අවස්ථාවක් සැලසෙන අතර එක් එක් රටවල් ලබා ඇති අත්දැකීම් මඟින් උපදෙස් විමසීමටත් අදහස් හුවමාරු කරගැනීමටත් අවස්ථාවක් ලැබේ. තව ද ගෝලීය වශයෙන් වැදගත් වටිනාකම් හා අභියෝග පිළිබඳ දැනුම බෙදාගැනීමට සූදානම් සාමාජික රාජ්‍යයක් ලෙස ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රතිරූපය හුවා දැක්වීමට ද මේ සමුළුව මඟින් ඉඩ සැලසේ.

සමුළුවේ තේමාව වන්නේ “ඉහළ යමින් පවතින වැඩිහිටි ජනගහණයේ සමාජ ආරක්ෂණය සහ සේවා නියුක්තිය සම්බන්ධයෙන් මතු වන අභියෝග මෙන්ම ආසියානු කලාපය මුහුණ පාන අද්‍යතන හදිසි ගැටලු දේශපාලන පක්ෂවලට හසුරුවා ගත හැක්කේ කෙසේ ද?” යන්නයි.

මේ වන විටත් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව ඉහළ යන වැඩිහිටි ජනගහණ අභියෝගයට මුහුණ පාමින් සිටියි. මේ සමුළුවේ තේමාවට අදාළ කරුණු සම්බන්ධයෙන් ලෝකයේ සෙසු රටවල් හා සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට, අදහස් හුවමාරු කරගැනීමට, අත්දැකීම් බෙදා හදා ගැනීමට සහ යහ ව්‍යවහාරයන් ඉගෙන ගැනීමට මේ ආකාරයේ සමුළු මඟින් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට අද්විතීය අවස්ථාවක් සැලසේ.

විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය

කොළඹ

2019 අප්‍රේල් 04 වැනිදා

ஊடக வெளியீடு

கொழும்பில் 2019 ஏப்ரல் 05 தொடக்கம் 07 வரை நடைபெறவுள்ள
ஆசிய – ஐரோப்பிய அரசியல் மன்றத்தின் மூன்றாவது கூட்டம் (AEPF),
ஆசிய அரசியல் கட்சிகளின் சர்வதேச மாநாடு (ICAPP)

ஆசிய – ஐரோப்பிய அரசியல் மன்றத்தின் மூன்றாவது கூட்டம் (AEPF) மற்றும் ஆசிய அரசியல் கட்சிகளின் சர்வதேச மாநாடு (ICAPP) ஆகியவற்றை 2019 ஏப்ரல் 05 தொடக்கம் 07 வரை இலங்கை நடாத்தவுள்ளது. ஆசியா மற்றும் ஐரோப்பாவைச் சேர்ந்த அரசியல் கட்சிகளை பிரதிநிதித்துவம் செய்யும் தொன்னூறு (90) பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் இந்த சர்வதேச மாநாட்டில் பங்குபற்றுவர் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகின்றது.

ஆசிய அரசியல் கட்சிகளின் சர்வதேச மாநாடு (ICAPP) எனப்படுவது ஆசிய – ஓசனிய நாடுகளின் அரசியல் கட்சிகளைக் கொண்ட 2000ஆம் ஆண்டு செப்டம்பர்

மாதத்தில் பிலிப்பைன்ஸின் மனிலாவில் அங்குரார்ப்பணம் செய்து வைக்கப்பட்டதொரு மன்றமாகும். ICAPP யின் தலைமையகம் கொரியக் குடியரசின் சியோலில் அமைந்துள்ளது. பல்வேறு கொள்கைகளையுடைய அரசியல் கட்சிகளுக்கு இடையில் பரிமாற்றங்கள் மற்றும் ஒத்துழைப்புக்களை மேம்படுத்தல், ஆசிய நாடுகளுக்கு மத்தியில் பரஸ்பர புரிந்துணர்வு மற்றும் நம்பிக்கையை அதிகரித்தல், அரசியல் கட்சிகளின் பிணைப்பின் வாயிலாக ஆசியாவின் பிராந்திய ஒத்துழைப்பை மேம்படுத்தல் மற்றும் பிராந்தியத்தில் நிலையான சமாதானம் மற்றும் பகிரப்பட்ட செழுமை ஆகியவற்றுக்கானதொரு சூழலை உருவாக்குதல் போன்றன இந்த ICAPP இன் குறிக்கோள்கள் ஆகும்.

ICAPP செயற்பாடுகளில் அண்மைக் காலங்களில் இலங்கையில் பல்வேறு அரசியல் கட்சிகள் ஆக்கபூர்வமாக பங்குபற்றியிருந்தன.

கடந்த காலங்களில் ICAPP இன் செயற்பாடுகளுக்காக இலங்கையினால் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ள சாத்தியமான பங்களிப்புக்கள் தொடர்பில் கவனம் செலுத்தும் முகமாக, ஆசிய – ஐரோப்பிய அரசியல் மன்றத்தின் மூன்றாவது கூட்டத்தொடரை (AEPF) 2019 ஏப்ரல் 05 தொடக்கம் 07 வரை கொழும்பில் நடாத்துமாறு ICAPP இன் செயலகம் இலங்கைக்கு அழைப்பு விடுத்தது. 2019 மார்ச் 22ஆந் திகதி ICAPP இன் பொதுச் செயலாளர் திரு. பார்க் ரோ-புங் இலங்கைக்கு விஜயம் செய்திருந்ததுடன், அதிமேதகு ஜனாதிபதி, கௌரவ பிரதம மந்திரி, கௌரவ வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சர், கௌரவ ஆரம்ப கைத்தொழில்துறை மற்றும் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு அமைச்சர் மற்றும் தொடர்புடைய அமைச்சுக்களின் சிரேஷ்ட உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் ஆகியோருடனான சந்திப்புக்களில் ஈடுபட்டிருந்தார். இந்த சந்திப்புக்களின் விளைவாக, AEPF

இனை 2019 ஏப்ரல் மாதத்தில் கொழும்பில் நடாத்துவதற்கு இலங்கை தனது சம்மதத்தை தெரிவித்தது.

இந்த மாநாடானது வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சுடன் இணைந்து ஆரம்ப கைத்தொழில்துறை மற்றும் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு அமைச்சினால் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்படவுள்ளது. ஆசியா மற்றும் ஐரோப்பாவிலுள்ள ICAPP உறுப்பு நாடுகளின் ஆளும் மற்றும் எதிர் கட்சிகளைச் சேர்ந்த உறுப்பினர்களை ஒன்று சேர்த்து ஆலோசனைகளை முன்னெடுப்பதற்கும், அவர்களது அனுபவங்களிலிருந்து கருத்துக்களை பரிமாற்றிக் கொள்வதற்குமான களத்தினை அமைத்துக்கொடுப்பதற்கானதொரு சந்தரப்பமாக இது இலங்கைக்கு அமையும். ICAPP யின் உறுப்பு நாடு என்ற வகையில் உலகப் பெறுமானங்கள் மற்றும் சவால்களை உலகின் ஏனைய நாடுகளுடன் இணைந்து பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதற்கான இலங்கையின் தோற்றப்பாட்டினை இந்த மாநாடு மேலும் ஏற்படுத்தும்.

இந்த மாநாட்டின் தலைப்பு, 'அதிகரித்து வரும் வயதான சனத்தொகையினரின் சமூகப் பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் தொழில்வாய்ப்பு சார்ந்த சவால்களையும், ஆசியப் பிராந்தியத்தின் தற்போதைய அவசரமான நிலைமை சார்ந்த விடயங்களையும் அரசியல் கட்சிகள் எவ்வாறு கையாளுகின்றன' என்பது ஆகும்.

இலங்கை ஏற்கனவே வயதான சனத்தொகையினர் சார்ந்த சவால்களுக்கு முகங்கொடுத்து வருகின்றது. இந்த மாநாட்டின் தலைப்புடன் தொடர்பான விடயங்கள் குறித்து உலகின் ஏனைய நாடுகளுடன் கலந்துரையாடி, கருத்துக்களை பரிமாற்றம் செய்து, அனுபவங்களைப் பகிர்ந்து, சிறந்த நடைமுறைகள் தொடர்பில் கற்றுக் கொள்வதற்கு இந்த வகையிலான மாநாடுகள் இலங்கைக்கு தனித்துவமானதொரு சந்தர்ப்பத்தினை

வழங்குகின்றன.

வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு

கொழும்பு

04 ஏப்ரல் 2019

II

Presentations and Remarks

Speakers at the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

OPENING SESSION

Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan

H.E.Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister, Leader of the United National Party of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament for the East of England and Vice Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), United Kingdom

Hon. Khuon Sudary, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Cambodia

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea

FIRST SESSION

Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea

Hon. Jhalanath Khanal, Senior Leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) and Former Prime Minister of Nepal

Hon. Nalinee Taveesin, Vice Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Form, Former Minister attached to Prime Minister's Office and Former Thailand Trade Representative, *Pheu Thai* Party, Thailand

Hon. Andrey Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, Russia

Hon. Dr. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Founding President of Foundation for Islamic Development, Former Vice President and Member of Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, Iran

Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of the Parliament, Member of the Presidium, Bangladesh *Awami* League, Former Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh

Hon. Sujata Koirala, Member of Parliament and Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal

Mr. Ma Xuesong, Deputy Director General of Bureau I of the International Department of the Communist Party of China

Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, Lebanon

Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, Member of Parliament and Former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, United Malay National Organization (UMNO), Malaysia

SECOND SESSION

Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF, Chief Whip of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Germany

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Honorary Advisor of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, MEP for the East of England and Conservative Spokesman for Security and Defense, United Kingdom

Hon. Vijay Jolly, Senior Leader of *Bharatiya Janata* Party (BJP) and President of Delhi Study Group, India

Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Justice and Development Party (AK *Parti*) of Foreign Affairs, Turkey

Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of the Free Patriotic Movement Party, Lebanon

Hon. Dr. Lee Hye-hoon, Vice Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Chairman of Intelligence Committee and Member of National Assembly, *Bareunmirae* Party, Former Chairperson of the *Bareun*(Righteous) Party, Republic of Korea

Hon. Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Secretary General of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), Malaysia

Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Central Board Member of the *Golkar* Party, Indonesia

Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, Deputy Director General of Department of General Research, Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam

Dr. Keo Piseth, Director of Center for Sustainable Development Studies of Asian Vision Institute (AVI), on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Cambodia

Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Head of the Department of International Relations of Mongolian People's Party, Mongolia

CLOSING SESSION

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Honorary Advisor of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament for the East of England and Vice Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), United Kingdom

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea

Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka

OPENING SESSION

Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lank

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Good morning everybody,
Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe
Hon.Mushhid Hussain Sayed, Vice President,
Hon.Van Orden MBE,Co-Chairperson of the AEPF,
Hon.Park Ro-byug, Secretary General, ICAPP
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is with great honor and privilege I, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Third Asia Europe Political Forum, officially declare the 3rd Asia-Europe Political Forum of the ICAPP open.

I would like to first thank, the officials of the Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their contribution to ensure that you will have a pleasant stay and fruitful sessions. I warmly welcome more than 80 participants representing many political parties from 22 countries in ICAPP Standing Committee and Europe Parliament and distinguished observers from Africa and other international organizations.

As you all aware, the ICAPP was launched in Manila in year 2000 to promote cooperation and mutual understanding among political parties with different ideologies in Asian countries.

I have witnessed how ICAPP has been growing steadily in membership and the number of political parties as well as in its influence over the years.

Friends

ICAPP always promote a dialogue on a well-chosen timely theme relevant to us, member countries. ICAPP conducts a dialogue to discuss a number of important wide-reaching topics, such as Climate Change, environment, peace, poverty and gender disparity. Such meeting immensely helped member countries to address their problems in a coordinated manner. This year, the theme is about the aging population issue, which both of us agree challenges all of our nations. However, at this conference, I propose we look at this as challenge as an opportunity as well.

I hope that we will spend the day productive and a lively discussion.

I also thank the Hon. Speaker for hosting a Welcome Dinner last night and our President, His Excellency the President for hosting Dinner in honor of you tonight.
I am most grateful to my party, Leader, the United National Party, Hon. Prime Minister for gracing this occasion as the Chief Guest amidst his busy schedule.

Finally, let me thank Mr. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of ICAPP, and his predecessor for their decision to conduct this important meeting in Colombo.

With these remarks I welcome you all for this important meeting.

I wish that you all will have a pleasant memorable stay in my country. Thank you very much

May I now invite Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, to the podium to deliver his Opening Remarks?

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament for the East of England and Vice Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), United Kingdom

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I begin by thanking the President, Prime Minister and the authorities of Sri Lanka for hosting us and for all the really excellent arrangements for our time in Colombo. In particular may I thank the chairman of the organising committee for this event, the Hon. Daya Gamage, my Co-Chairman the Hon. Mrs. Khuon Sudary, ICAPP Vice Chairman the Hon Mushahid Hussain Sayed, and ICAPP Secretary General the Hon. Park Ro-byug.

Thank you Prime Minister for your excellent speech and your observations concerning our central theme today, the challenges of an ageing population.
You, Sir, have had a long and most distinguished political career. You were first elected in 1977 – coincidentally, the year when I first visited Sri Lanka as the guest of my dear friend the late Admiral Clancy Fernando. You soon became the youngest Minister in the Cabinet – given that we are today discussing old-age, that was as Minister for Youth Affairs! You are now serving your third term as Prime Minister.
You are to be congratulated on your brilliant career of service to the people of Sri Lanka.

As with so many Sri Lankan politicians, the terrorist campaign of the LTTE has provided the backdrop to your experience and has had a dramatic impact on your political fortunes. Prime Minister, your approach has always emphasised the need to separate the extremists from the wider, largely innocent community from which they operate, and to seek reconciliation between the Sinhalese and Tamil populations. For this you have received wide international support.

If I may digress Prime Minister, you also have experience of a very difficult Cabinet – perhaps you could pass on some of lessons learned to my colleagues at home in the British Cabinet today!

Prime Minister, this is our third meeting of the AEPF. At our last meeting in London in 2018, one of our themes was the prevention of environmental degradation. In particular, we pledged to work together to combat the man-made pollution of our oceans, especially through plastic waste. Every year some 8 million tons of plastic pollution enter the world's oceans. Sri Lanka is especially vulnerable to marine pollution given its geographical location and the reliance of its economy on the tourism and fishing industries – plastic pollution is thought to be a major cause of the 500% decline in Sri Lanka's fish stocks. I hope we can carry forward the work of our previous meetings and do more to overcome this awful problem.

Prime Minister, thank you for your remarks, thank you for your courtesy and hospitality. We wish you every success in all your endeavours.

Hon. Khuon Sudary, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Cambodia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

- H.E. Ranil Wickremesighe, Prime Minister, Leader of the United National Party of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- Hon. Daya Dharmapala Kilittuwa Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka,
- Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairman and Special Rapporteur of ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan,
- Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, Former Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of European Parliament, and Vice-Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group,
- Hon. Park Ro-byug, ICAPP Secretary General
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am pleased to welcome our distinguished delegates to the Third Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum here in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We are indeed honored to have with us the Hon. Prime Minister to grace our event in this historical and cultural city. Let me express my heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Sri Lanka for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement for this meeting.

2. Let's look into the challenges of political parties in the face of increasing aged population on issues such as social security, employment along with items of current urgency in the Asian region.

3. According to the United Nations studies, one quarter of Asia's population, or about 1.3 billion, will be over 60 years old by 2050. This demographic changes will leave us with no choice but to rethink whether our existing policies and practices are reflective of this new aging reality.

4. The challenges arising from ageing populations are real and will have significant impacts both at the regional, national and individual level. Increasing old-age dependency ratios across the region and fiscal constraint in providing social pensions and institutional care are two emerging trends that national policy makers will have to reckon with. Traditional family based care system and community cohesion is declining, even in our Asian societies that are known for centuries as strong collective and caring societies.

5. The elderly, mainly Asians, who are protected by social system and community bond, are increasingly vulnerable to this changing family relations. No doubt, the adjustments and resulting stresses will consequently give rise to loneliness, depression, and rapidly declining mental well-being. Even in advanced societies, we can notice other related issues of ageing population such as a rise of income insecurity for the elderly, a widening of intergenerational disparity, with women more likely to be disproportionately affected.

6. As political parties, we have to be pro-active to spot early this emerging issue so that we can devise good policy responses on our respective political platform. Political will and commitment are critical to developing a comprehensive and holistic policy approach in addressing the ageing issues. I can think of some very forceful policies that address life-long education, community cohesion building, gender and generational equality promotion, age sensitive market reforms, age-sensitive social and economic infrastructure development, and age-sensitive facilities. Anyhow, these are some food for thought.

7. I would like to close my remarks by saying: "May you all be blessed with peace, happiness, success, and longevity."

8. Finally, I would like to thank you all for honoring myself as co-chairperson of AEPF for the past two years together with Hon. Geoffrey Van Ordan, which comes to an end this year. I express my heartfelt congratulation to successors Hon. Jan Zahradil and Hon. Daya Gamage for being elected as co-chairpersons of AEFP for a new year of two years.

   I thank you for your kind attention.

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Good Morning Everybody!
(Are you Bowan)

Excellency Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Distinguished Participants! I am happy to see you all here as representatives of over 25 political parties in Asia and Europe including the United Kingdom, Germany and Bulgaria.

We feel a sense of shared gratitude to H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe and Hon. Daya Gamage for the tremendous and meticulous arrangements made for these historic meetings. We are particularly happy to hold this event in this inspiring Southeast Asian city of Colombo which is of great importance from a geopolitical and geoeconomic perspective.

This is my second time in Colombo and I feel an even deeper sense of the high level of democracy which has proved possible thanks to the efforts and support of respected leaders in Sri Lanka. They are still working hard. Last night they finished the budget approval process. Even today on Saturday without taking a rest, they really are participating and organizing this international conference. In this regard, I have every confidence that the economic programs and policy of international cooperation initiated by Sri Lanka will indeed yield great result.

As you know, the Asia-Europe Political Forum was launched only two years ago. But even in that short time we have made great progress, moving closer to the noble goals we embrace. This has been possible thanks to the excellent part played by our participants from Europe and Asia. In particular, Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden played an enormously valuable part in organizing the 2nd AEPF Forum with the successful hosting in the historic site in London last year.

I think we need his continued contribution to the AEPF in the future as an Honorary Advisor. I believe that in this capacity he would be a true asset to us. In addition,

Minister Hon. Daya Gamage exerted devoted efforts for the holding of another excellent meeting, selecting the very relevant topic of "Population Ageing". We all gained great lessons from the sharing of views. And we will do our best to play complementary roles, finding solutions in the years ahead.

We agree that at the individual level, living longer in good health is a blessing and what humankind may aspire to. However, at the national and global level, the increasing number and ratio of ageing population in a country can, from a long-term perspective, be a cause of enduring structural problems.

Therefore, political parties have a duty and responsibility to find solutions and put in place frameworks so that these issues do not spill over and evolve into economic problems in the future.

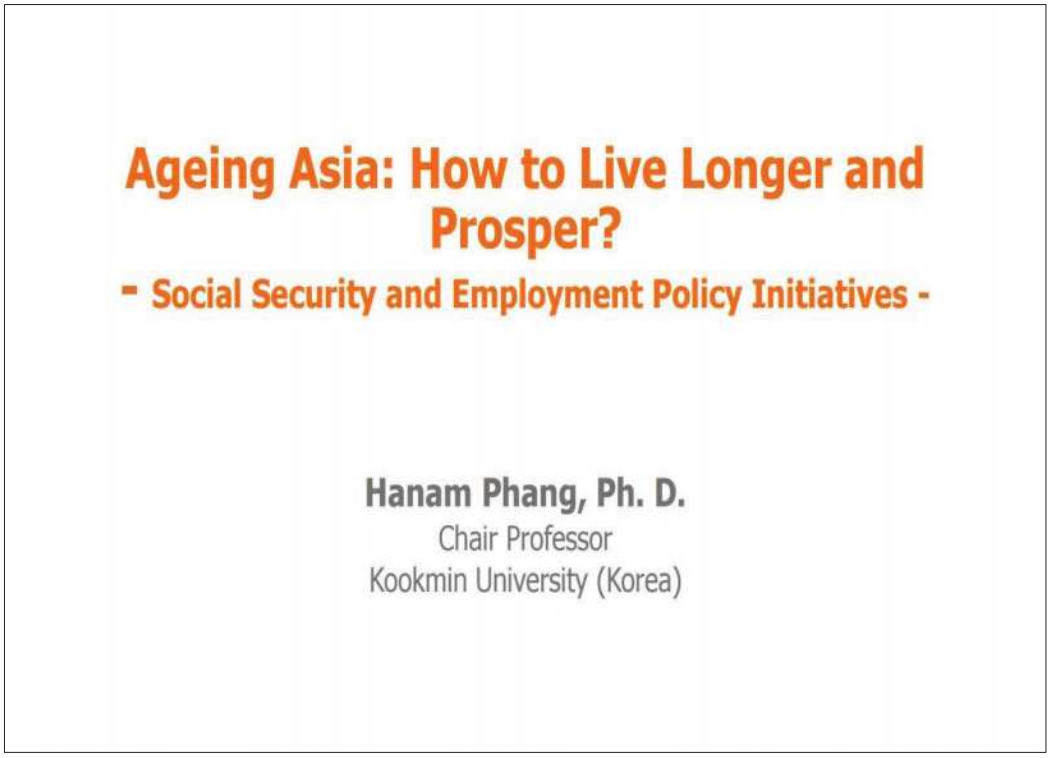
In closing, it is my sincere hope that we will work closely together to enable this AEPF Meeting to develop into an even more effective and democratic platform, dealing with many other political challenges. I wish you all good health. And also we remember our founding Chairman, Hon. Jose de Venecia, who we look forward to coming back in good health, thereby contributing to our further success.

Thank you very much.

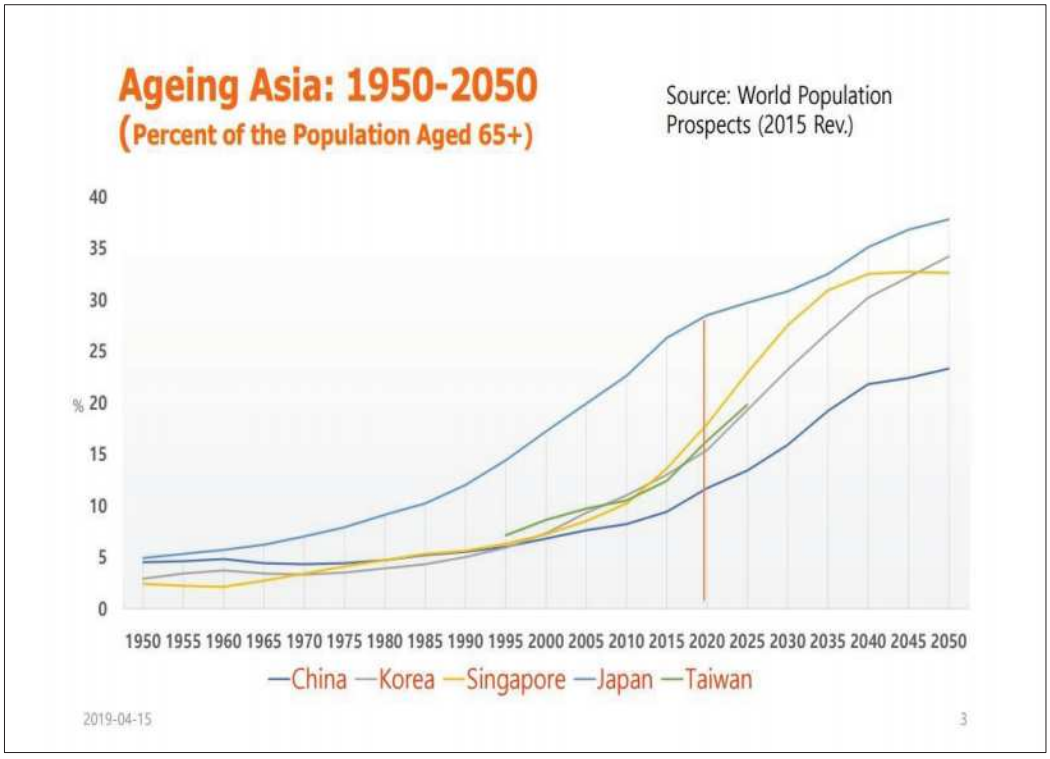
FIRST SESSION

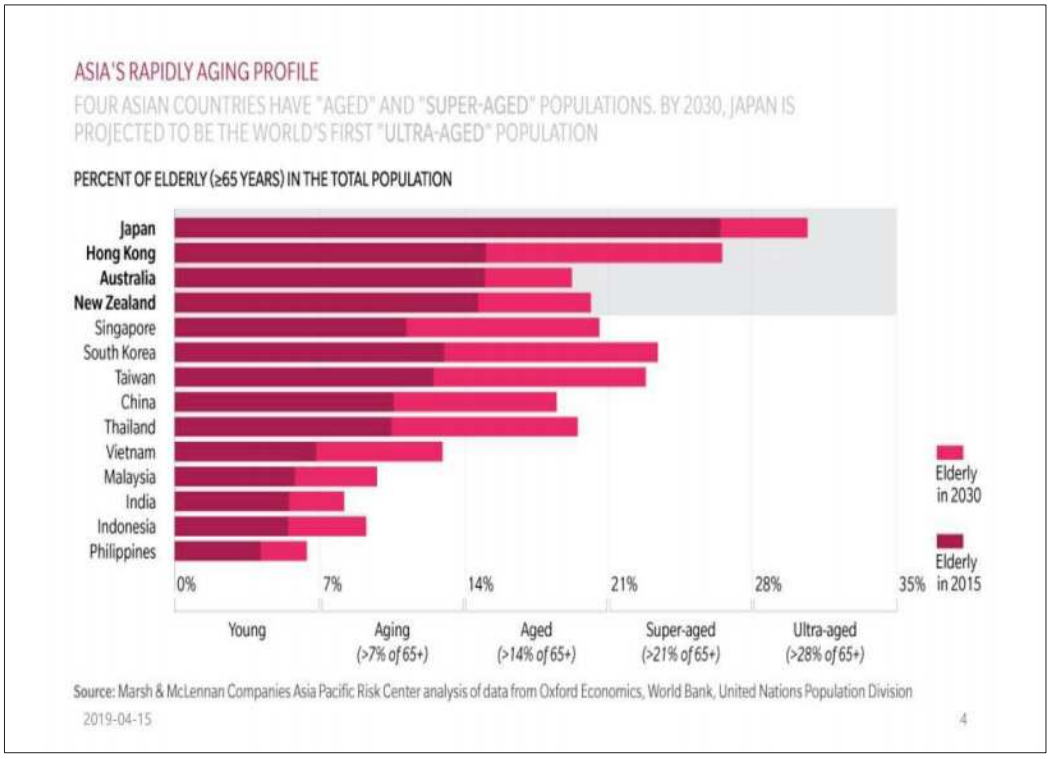
Hon. Phang Ha-nam, Former Minister of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019



Asian Population is Rapidly Ageing
2019-04-15
2


Ageing Asia: 1950-2050
(Percent of the Population Aged 65+)
Source: World Population Prospects (2015 Rev.)
40
35
30
25
% 20
15
10
5
0
1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050
—China —Korea —Singapore —Japan —Taiwan
2019-04-15
3



Transition from Ageing to Aged to Hyper-Aged Society: Asia vs. Europe

Country	Year reached			Years taken	
	7% (Ageing)	14% (Aged)	20% (Hyper-aged)	7% →14%	14% →20%
Korea	2000	2019	2026	19	7
Taiwan	1993	2018	2026	25	8
Japan	1970	1994	2006	24	12
Singapore	1999	2017	2023	18	6
England	1929	1976	2020	47	44
Germany	1932	1972	2010	40	38
France	1864	1979	2019	115	40

Source: World Bank

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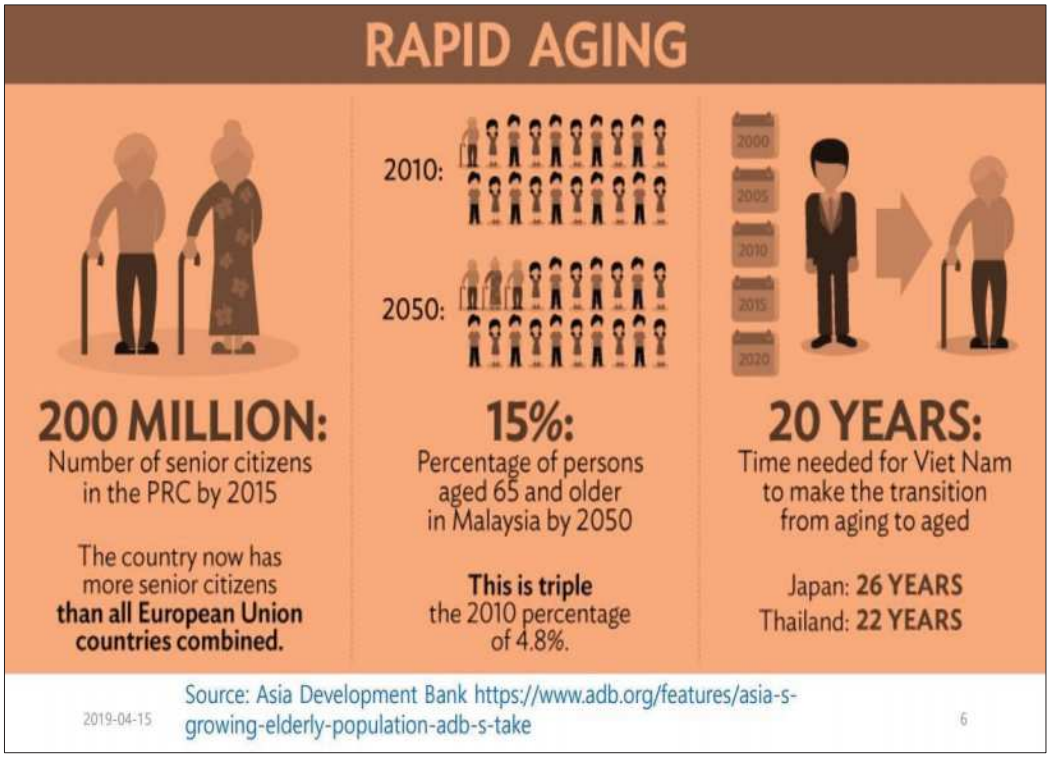
RAPID AGING
2010:
2050:
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
200 MILLION:
Number of senior citizens in the PRC by 2015
The country now has more senior citizens than all European Union countries combined.
15%:
Percentage of persons aged 65 and older in Malaysia by 2050
This is triple the 2010 percentage of 4.8%.
20 YEARS:
Time needed for Viet Nam to make the transition from aging to aged
Japan: 26 YEARS
Thailand: 22 YEARS
Source: Asia Development Bank https://www.adb.org/features/asia-s-growing-elderly-population-adb-s-take
2019-04-15
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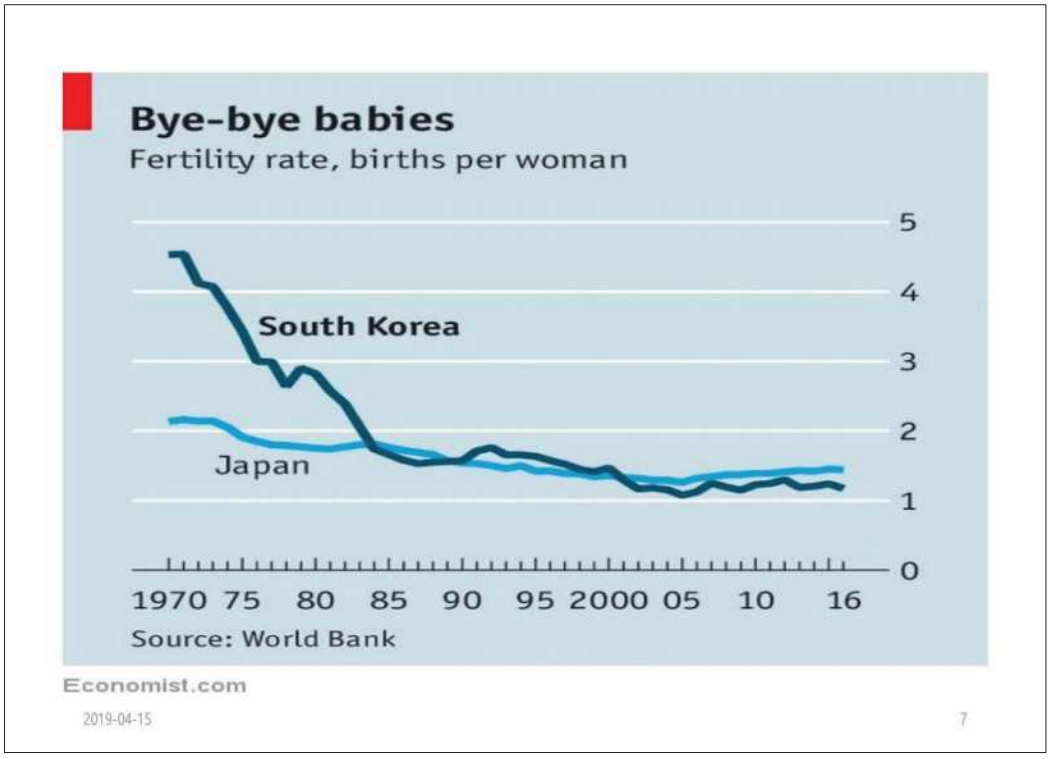
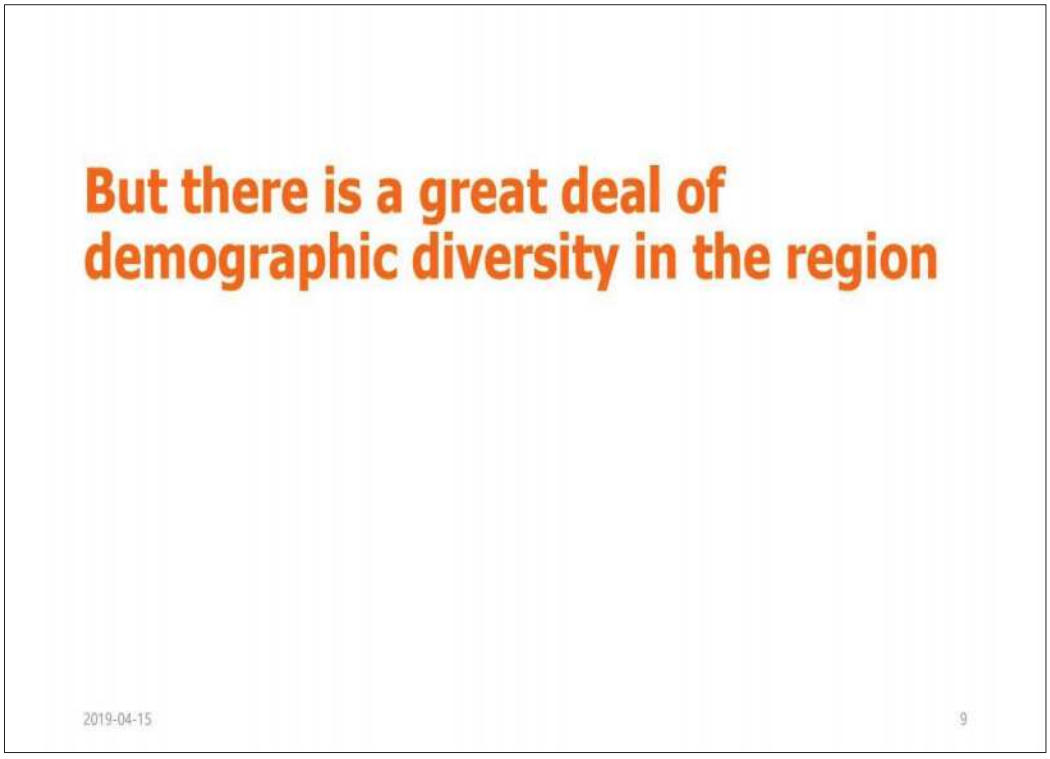

Bye-bye babies
Fertility rate, births per woman
South Korea
Japan
5
4
3
2
1
0
1970 75 80 85 90 95 2000 05 10 16
Source: World Bank
Economist.com
2019-04-15
7

Asian Total Fertility Rate: Long-term Trend
A welcome descent of man
Asian total fertility rate
5.8
5.6
5.8
5.6
5.0
4.1
3.7
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.4
2.3
2.1
2.1 Replacement rate
1950-55
1955-60
1960-65
1965-70
1970-75
1975-80
1980-85
1985-90
1990-95
1995-2000
2000-05
2005-10
2014*
Sources: United Nations; The Economist
Years beginning July 1st
*The Economist forecast
2019-04-15
8


But there is a great deal of demographic diversity in the region
2019-04-15
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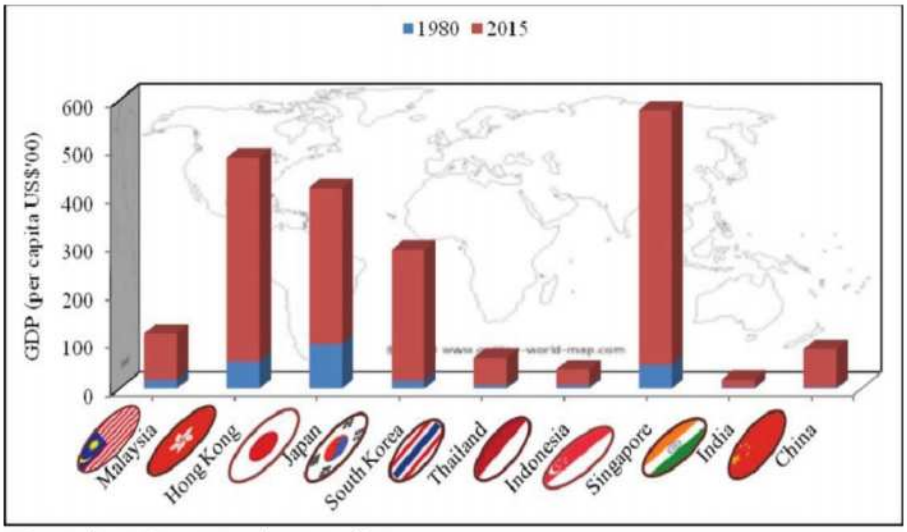
GDP per capita: East & Southeast Asian C's



*Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure

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Total Fertility Rate, Life Expectancy and Income Level

	Total Fertility Rate		Life Expectancy		GDP per capita*
	1960	2014	1960	2014	(in 2010 USD)
U.S.	3.7	1.9	69.8	78.9	50,728
Japan	2.0	1.4	67.7	83.6	46,519
Germany	2.4	1.4	66.8	78.6	44,878
France	2.9	2.0	66.6	79.3	41,204
S. Korea	6.2	1.2	53.0	82.2	26,901
Taiwan	5.6	1.2	62.3	79.8	21,782
Malaysia	6.2	1.9	59.5	74.7	10,512
China	5.8	1.6	43.4	75.8	6,108
Thailand	6.1	1.5	54.7	74.4	5,636
Vietnam	6.3	2.0	59.1	75.6	1,596
Myanmar	6.1	2.2	42.7	65.9	1,230

Source: World Bank. *GDP per capita in 2014

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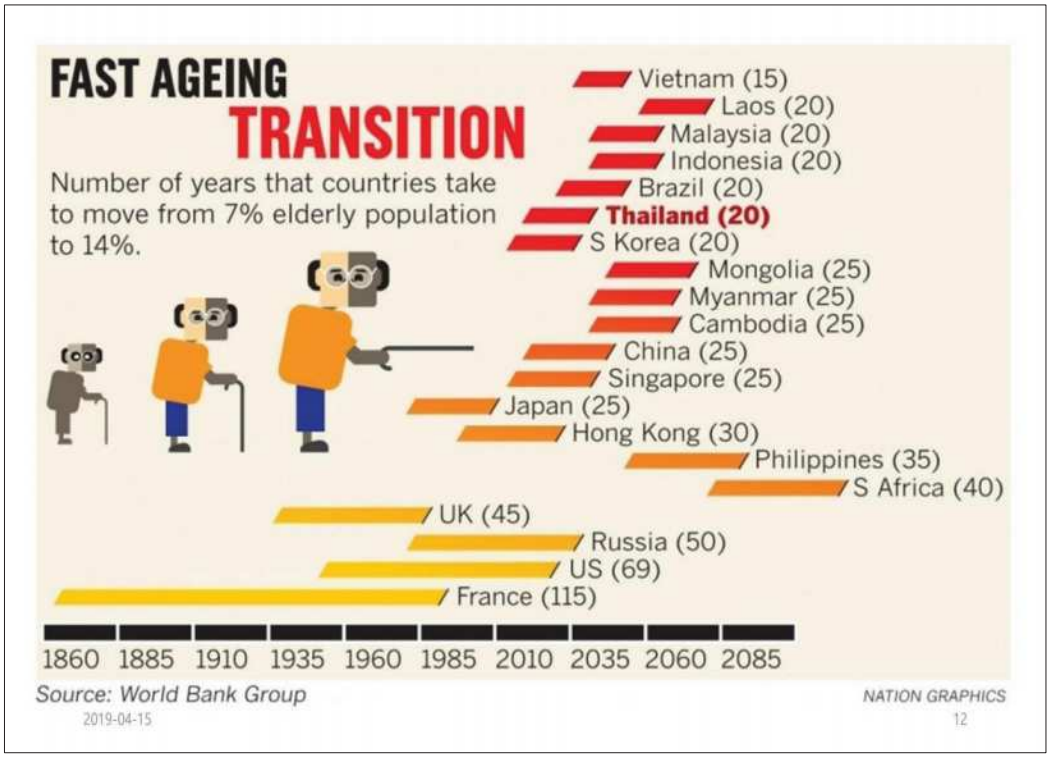
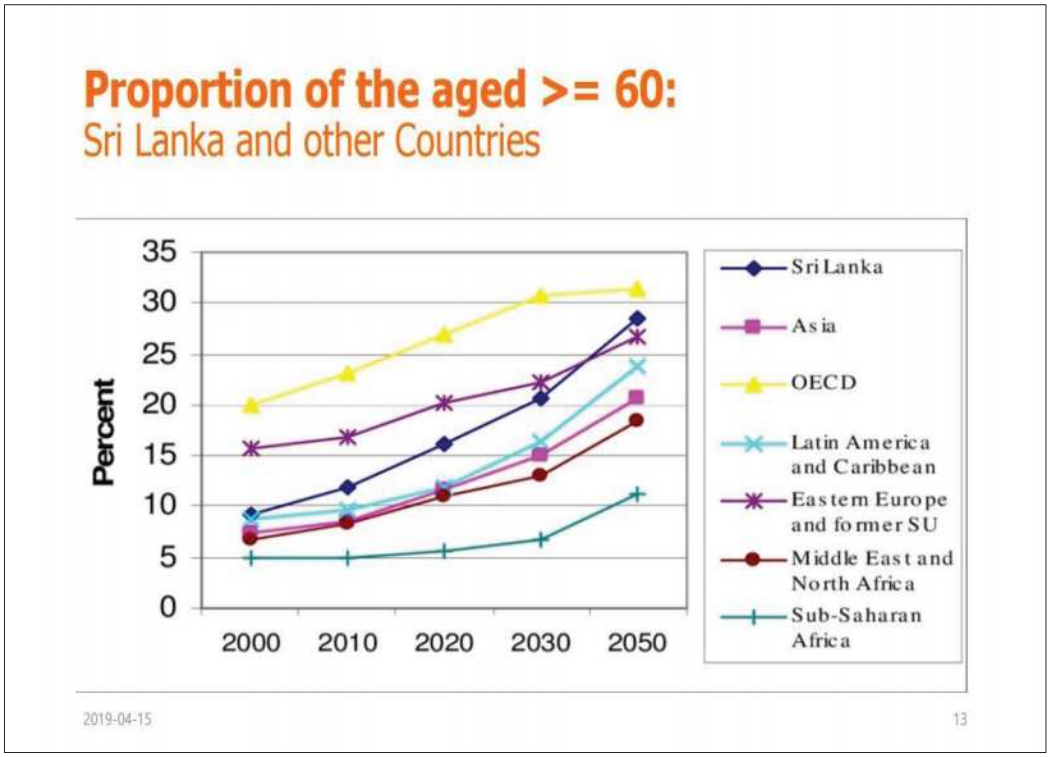

FAST AGEING
TRANSITION
Number of years that countries take to move from 7% elderly population to 14%.
Vietnam (15)
Laos (20)
Malaysia (20)
Indonesia (20)
Brazil (20)
Thailand (20)
S Korea (20)
Mongolia (25)
Myanmar (25)
Cambodia (25)
China (25)
Singapore (25)
Japan (25)
Hong Kong (30)
Philippines (35)
S Africa (40)
UK (45)
Russia (50)
US (69)
France (115)
1860 1885 1910 1935 1960 1985 2010 2035 2060 2085
Source: World Bank Group
NATION GRAPHICS
2019-04-15
12


Proportion of the aged >= 60:
Sri Lanka and other Countries
Percent
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2000
2010
2020
2030
2050
Sri Lanka
Asia
OECD
Latin America and Caribbean
Eastern Europe and former SU
Middle East and North Africa
Sub-Saharan Africa
2019-04-15
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Nevertheless,

- the demographic landscape of even younger Asia countries will be fundamentally altered by 2050
- all Asian countries should start preparing now for a century of demographic change

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Asia's Changing Age Structure

- Transition from Demographic Dividend to Demographic Tax
- The working-age population growth – decelerating sharply
- Old-age Dependency Ratio to be rapidly rising after 2020
- But Total Dependency Ratios are in good shape

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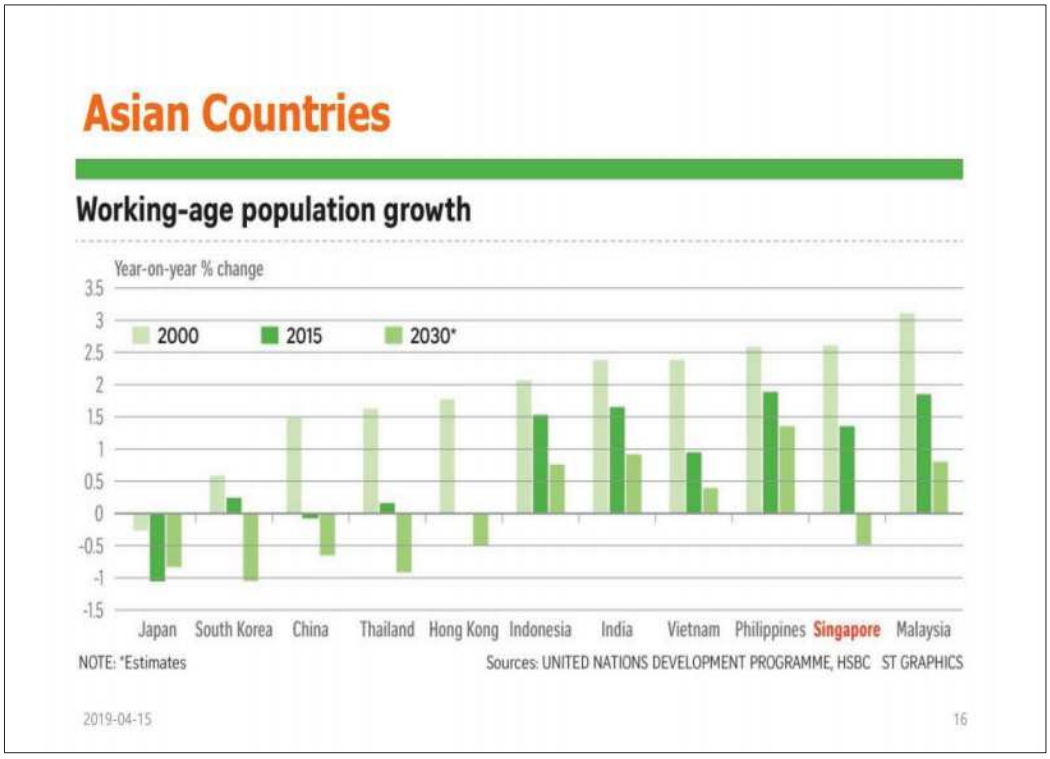
Asian Countries
Working-age population growth
Year-on-year % change
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
-0.5
-1
-1.5
2000
2015
2030*
Japan
South Korea
China
Thailand
Hong Kong
Indonesia
India
Vietnam
Philippines
Singapore
Malaysia
NOTE: *Estimates
Sources: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, HSBC ST GRAPHICS
2019-04-15
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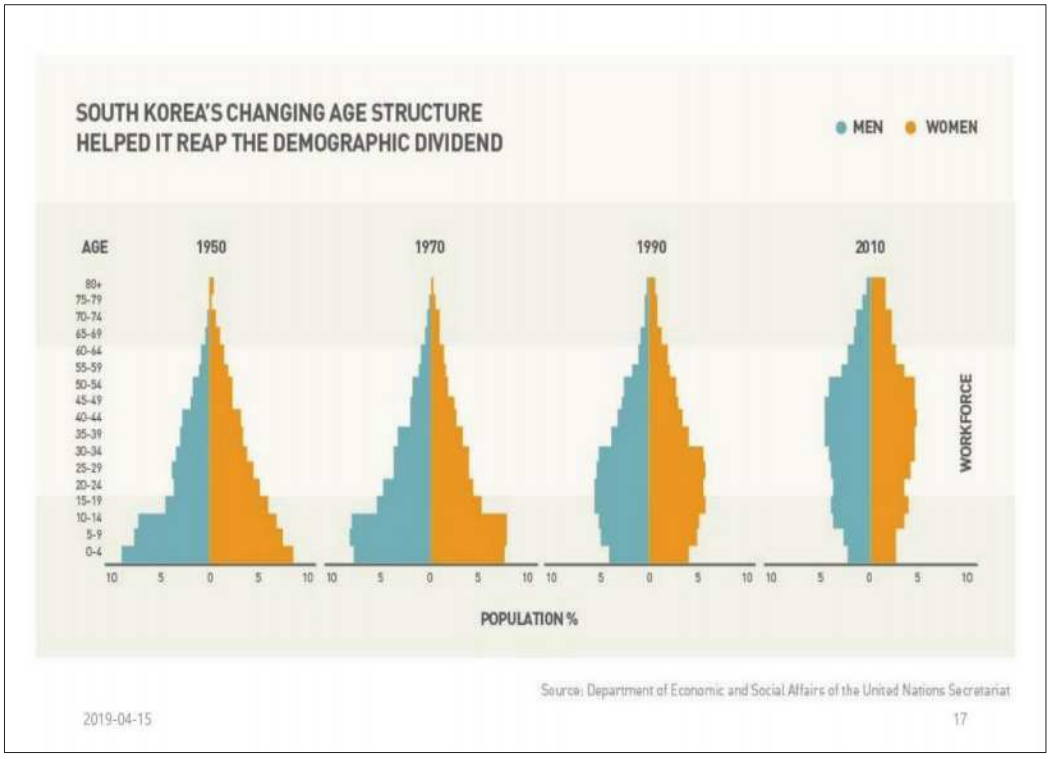
SOUTH KOREA'S CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE
HELPED IT REAP THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND
MEN
WOMEN
AGE
1950
1970
1990
2010
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
WORKFORCE
10 5 0 5 10
POPULATION %
Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
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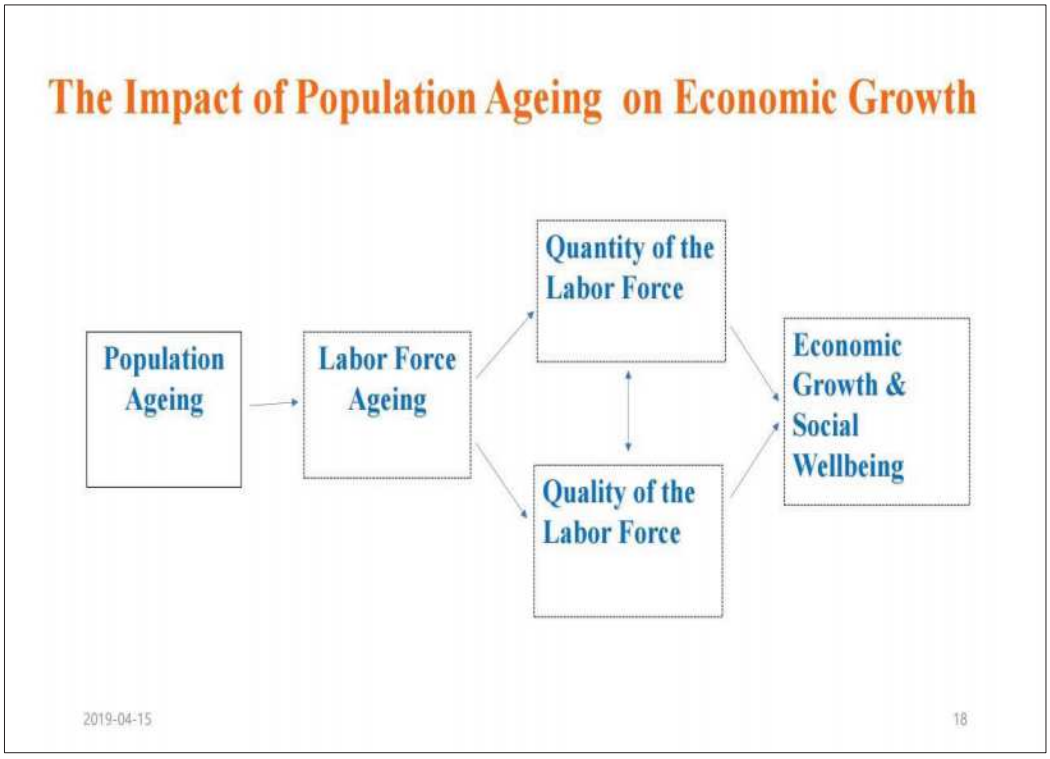
17


The Impact of Population Ageing on Economic Growth
Population Ageing
Labor Force Ageing
Quantity of the Labor Force
Quality of the Labor Force
Economic Growth & Social Wellbeing
2019-04-15
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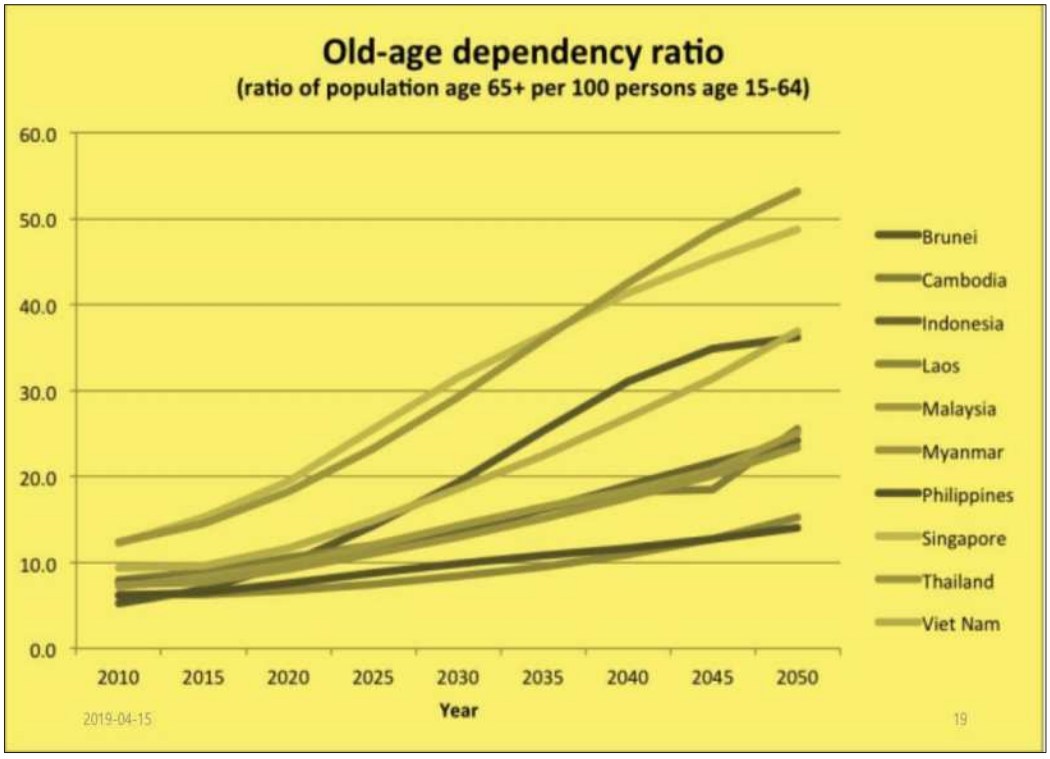
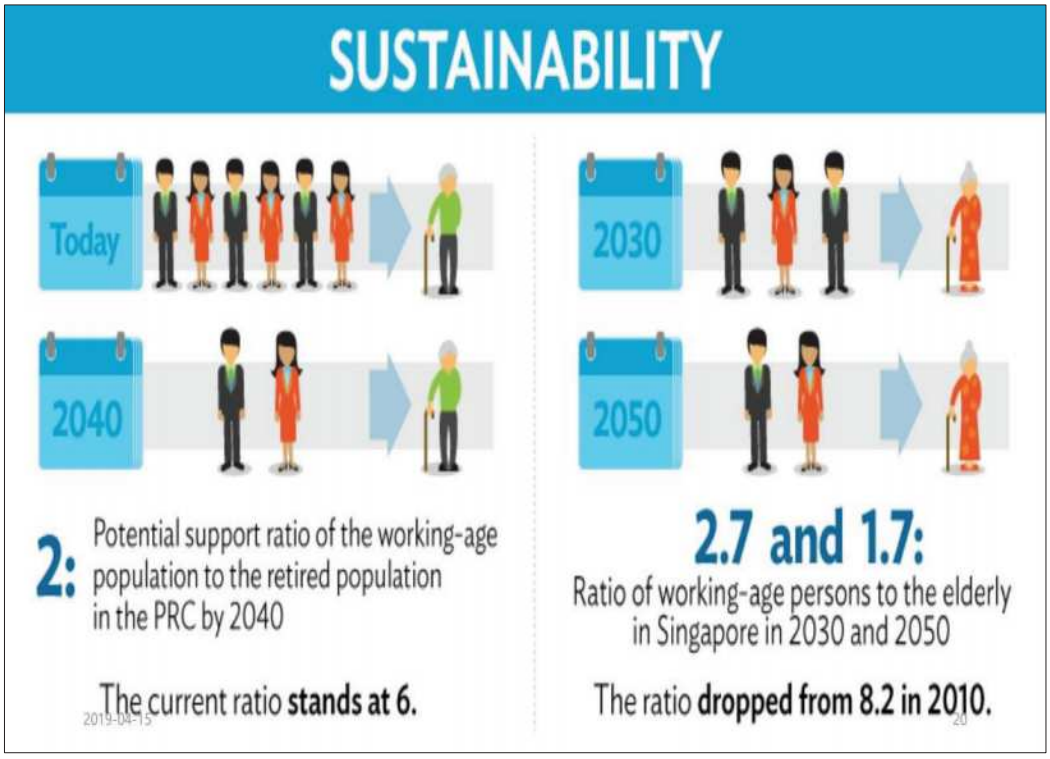
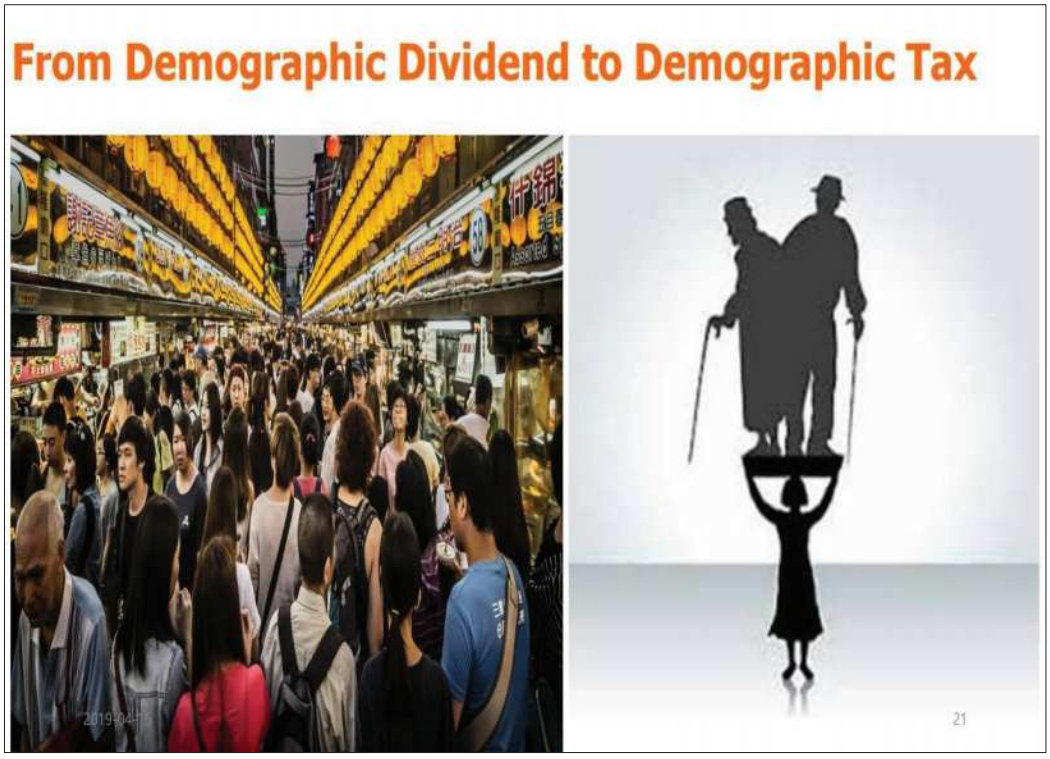
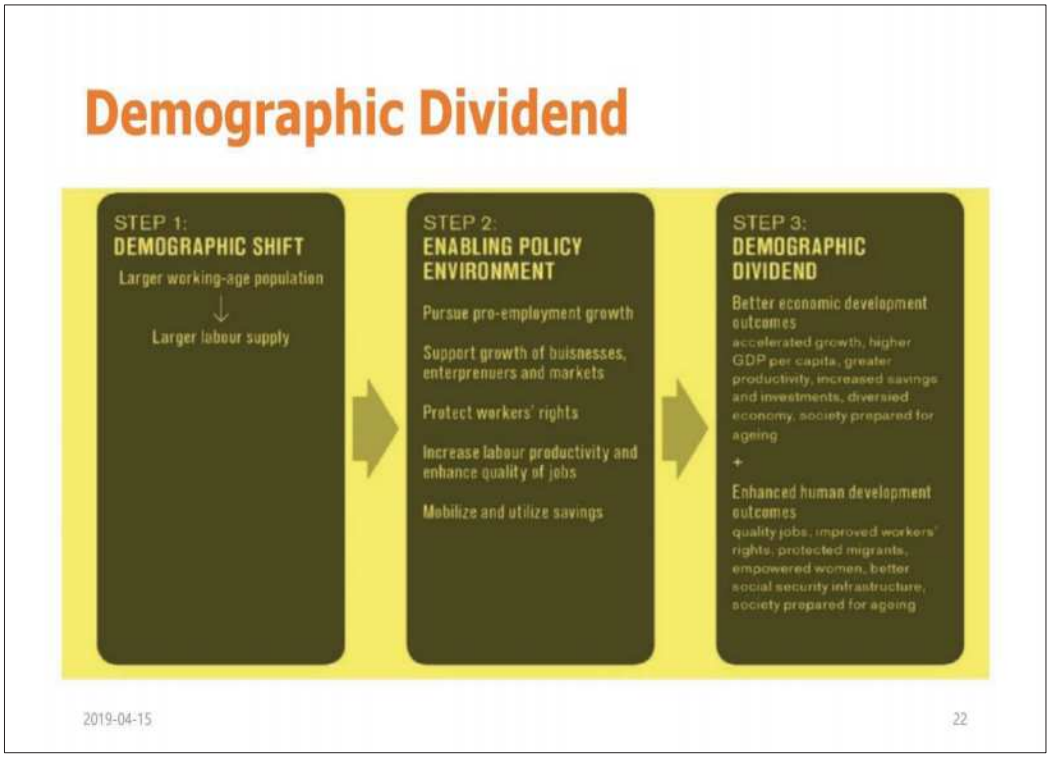

Old-age dependency ratio
(ratio of population age 65+ per 100 persons age 15-64)
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
Year
Brunei
Cambodia
Indonesia
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Viet Nam
2019-04-15
19


SUSTAINABILITY
Today
2030
2040
2050
2: Potential support ratio of the working-age population to the retired population in the PRC by 2040
The current ratio stands at 6.
2.7 and 1.7:
Ratio of working-age persons to the elderly in Singapore in 2030 and 2050
The ratio dropped from 8.2 in 2010.


From Demographic Dividend to Demographic Tax
21


Demographic Dividend
STEP 1:
DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT
Larger working-age population
Larger labour supply
STEP 2:
ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT
Pursue pro-employment growth
Support growth of buisnesses, enterprenuers and markets
Protect workers' rights
Increase labour productivity and enhance quality of jobs
Mobilize and utilize savings
STEP 3:
DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND
Better economic development outcomes
accelerated growth, higher GDP per capita, greater productivity, increased savings and investments, diversied economy, society prepared for ageing
+
Enhanced human development outcomes
quality jobs, improved workers' rights, protected migrants, empowered women, better social security infrastructure, society prepared for ageing
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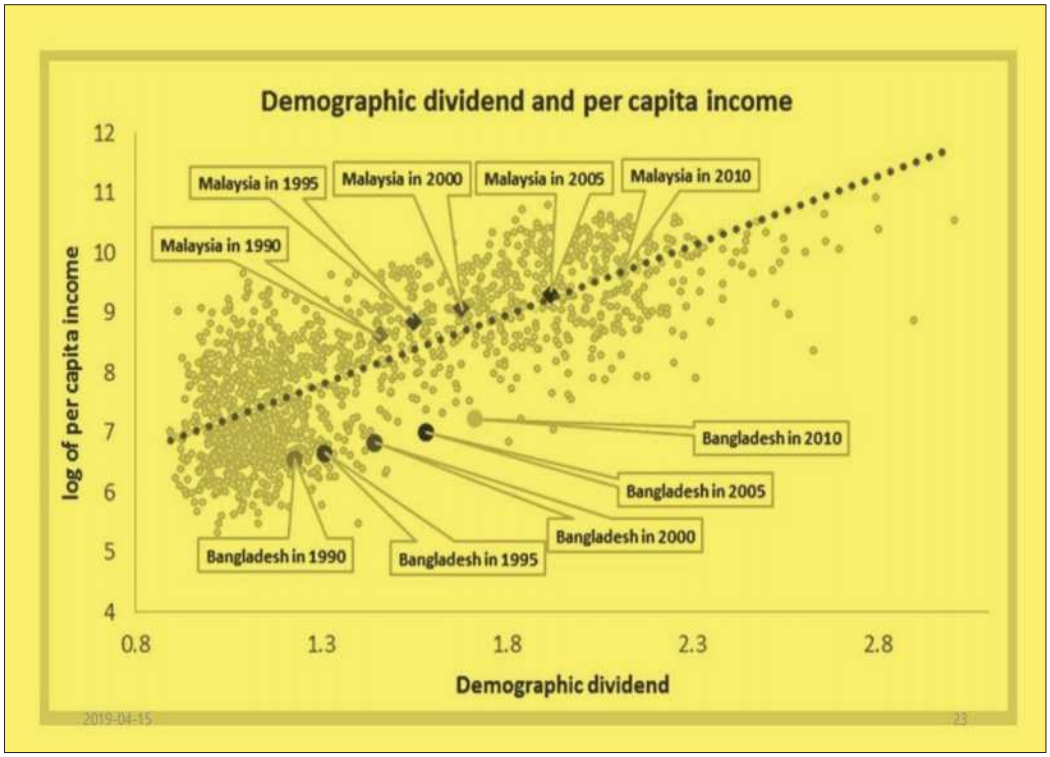
Demographic dividend and per capita income
log of per capita income
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
0.8
1.3
1.8
2.3
2.8
Demographic dividend
Malaysia in 1990
Malaysia in 1995
Malaysia in 2000
Malaysia in 2005
Malaysia in 2010
Bangladesh in 1990
Bangladesh in 1995
Bangladesh in 2000
Bangladesh in 2005
Bangladesh in 2010
2019-04-15
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Baby-boom Generation: Benefit to Burden (ROK)

- At the start of the half-century-long (1950-2000) demographic transition, the baby-boom generation was born during the 1950s (19555~1963): About 7.2 Million
- The baby-boom generation has been a so-called 'demographic dividend' to Korean economy and society. They grew up to become a young and growing labor force, which, in turn, contributed to a 'miracle' economic growth during the latter part of the 20th century
- However, as the large baby-boom generation is now getting old along with their life-expectancy ever-increasing, old-age dependency ratio will be rapidly increasing

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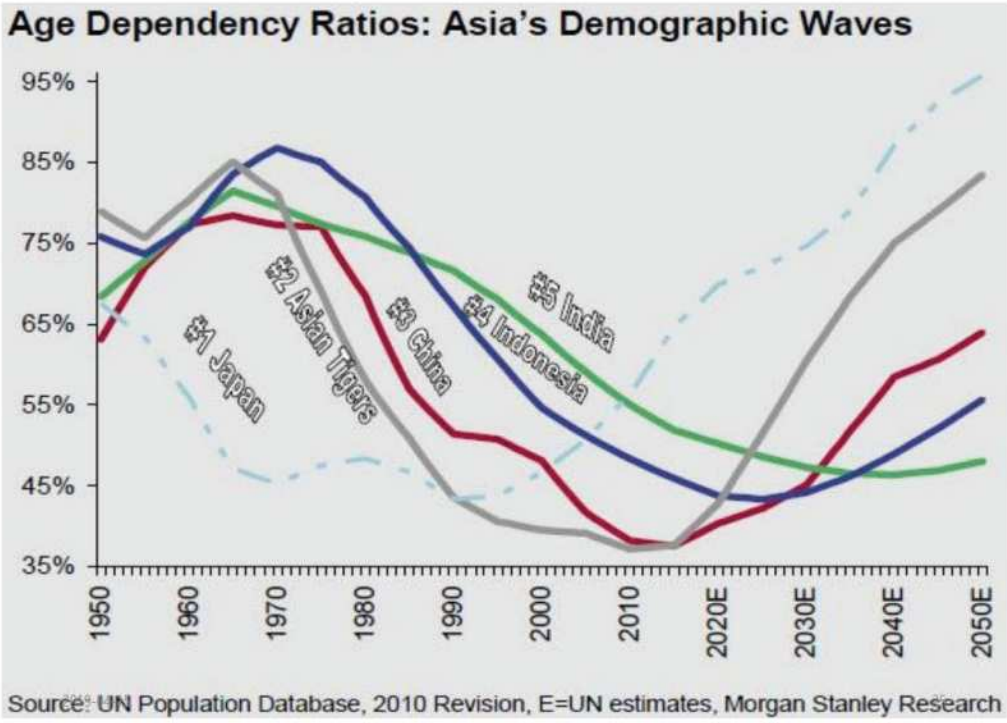

In sum,

Asia is growing old before it grows rich ! - Challenges ahead

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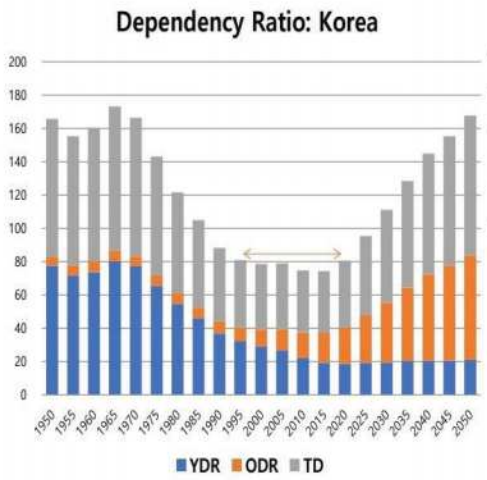
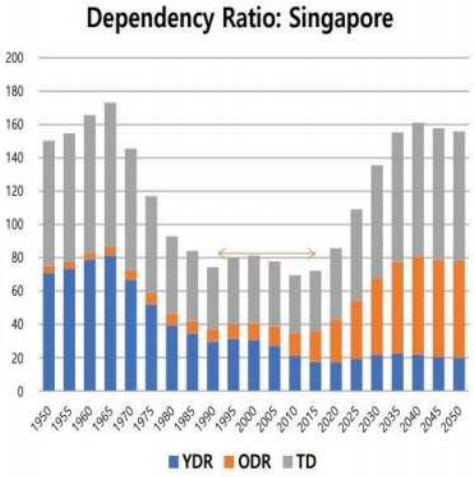
Now is the Right Time !





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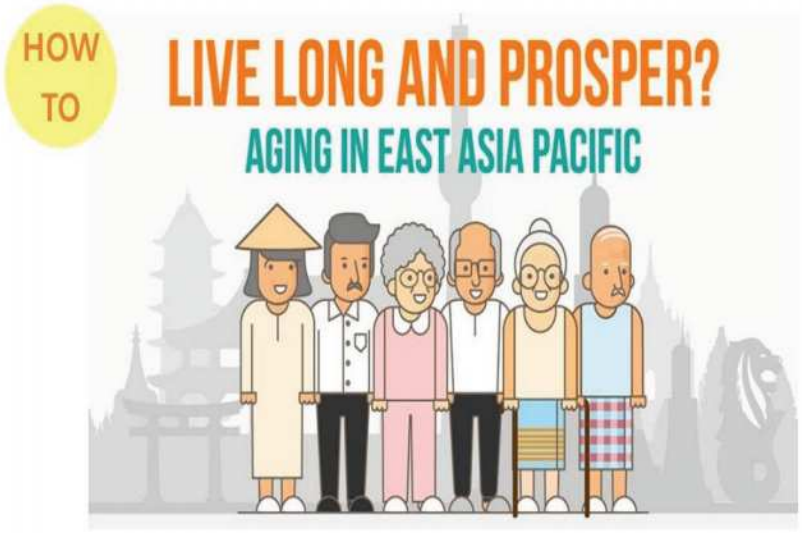

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Two Major Challenges:

(1) Sustaining growth in the face of rapid ageing

(2) Strengthening social security for a growing number of elderly people

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(1) Sustaining Economic Growth under Unfavorable Demographics

① Elderly and Female Labor Force Participation – Critical Variable in Coping with Shrinking Workforce

② "Active Labor Market Policy" to Utilize Elderly & Female Manpower

③ Labor market reform needed for flexible employment and working conditions for ageing labor force

④ Retirement should be re-institutionalized for ageing population

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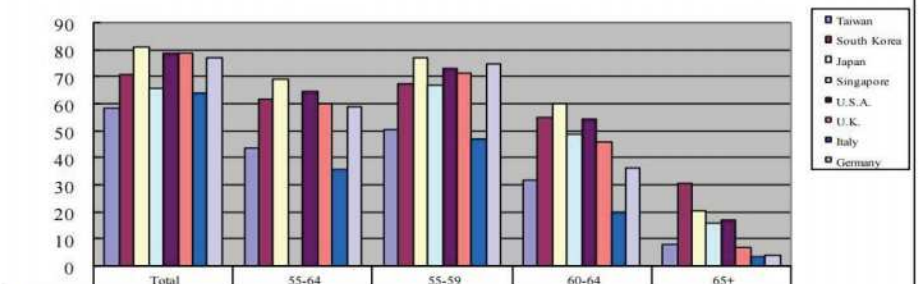
Labor Force Participation Rates of the Old Aged



	Total	55-64	55-59	60-64	65+
Taiwan	58.3	43.8	50.6	31.9	8.1
South Korea	70.5	61.8	67.3	55.1	30.6
Japan	80.7	68.8	77	59.8	20.2
Singapore	65.6		66.6	48.4	16.1
U.S.A.	78.5	64.5	73.1	54.1	16.8
U.K.	78.6	59.9	71.5	46	7
Italy	64.1	35.5	47.2	19.9	3.3
Germany	77.1	58.7	74.8	36.2	3.7

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Asian Elders: Old but Willing to Work

	Economic Need	To be Active	Other	Don't want
Korea 55-64	40.5	24.6	6.3	28.5
Korea 65-79	21.4	14.6	5.7	58.3
Taiwan (50+)	70.6	38.7	Multiple choice	
Singapore (50+)	77.9	12.4	9.7	

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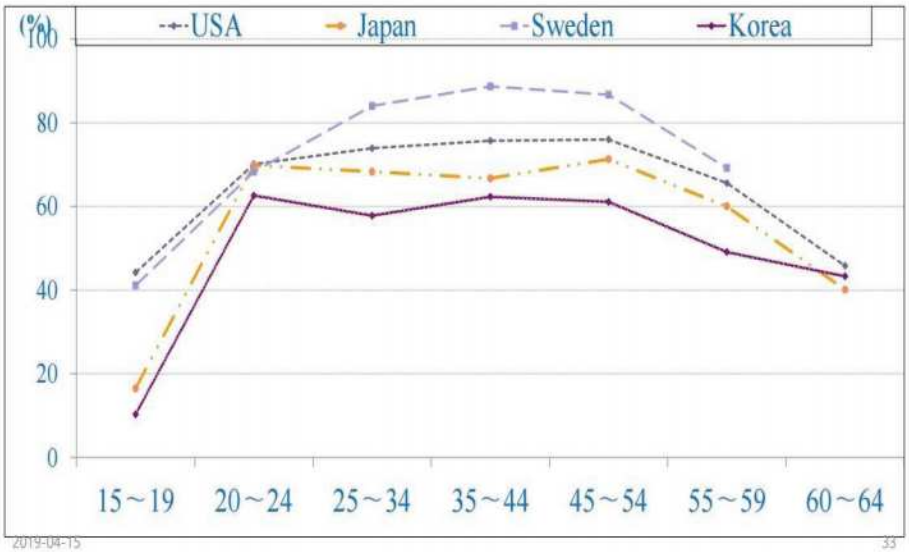
Female LFP Rate: International

OECD(2005), *OECD Labor Force Statistics.*



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(1) Sustaining Economic Growth under Unfavorable Demographics

① Elderly and Female Labor Force Participation – Critical Variable in Coping with Shrinking Workforce

② Labor market reform needed for flexible employment and working conditions for ageing labor force and married women

③ "Active Labor Market Policy" (+Life Long Learning) to Utilize Elderly & Female Manpower

④ Retirement should be re-institutionalized for ageing population

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(1) Sustaining Economic Growth under Unfavorable Demographics

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(1) Sustaining Economic Growth under Unfavorable Demographics

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④ Retirement should be re-institutionalized for ageing population

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(2) Strengthening Social Security for Aging Population

① In many Asian countries, older people have few retirement resources outside of their families – Old-age Poverty High

② But traditional family support to the elderly is declining, while public old-age transfer systems are underdeveloped.

③ Developing Asian countries must build up strong national pension and efficient healthcare system

④ Developed Asian countries need to reform their pension systems to be financially sustainable and socially acceptable

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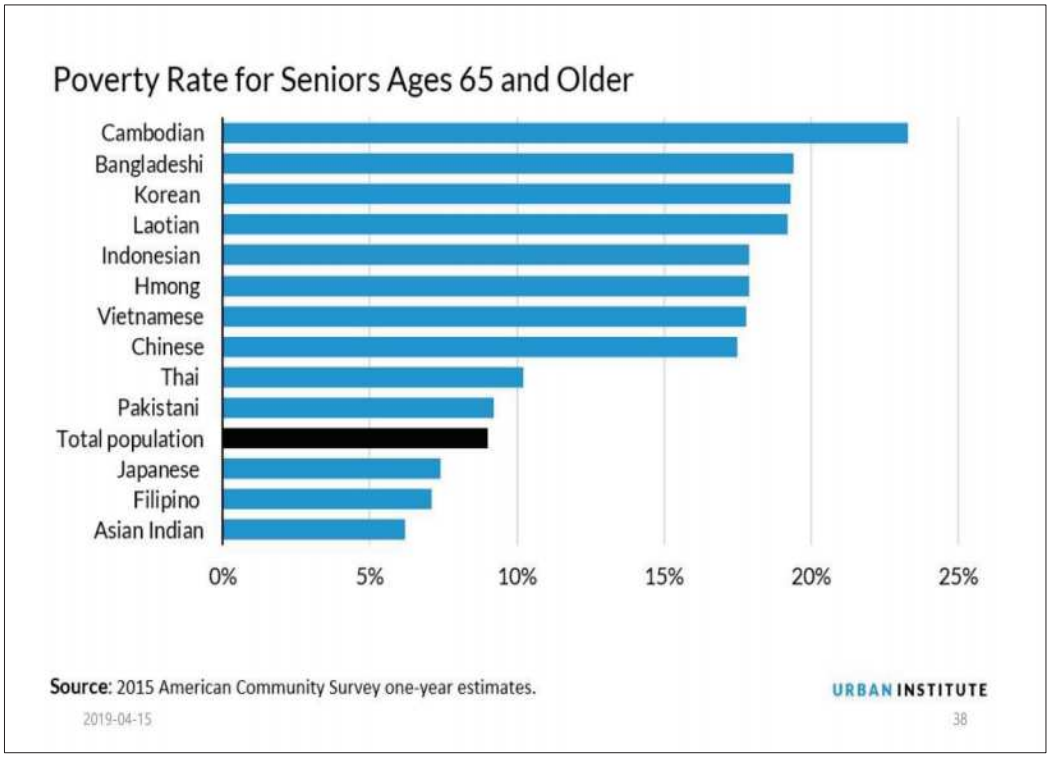
Poverty Rate for Seniors Ages 65 and Older
Cambodian
Bangladeshi
Korean
Laotian
Indonesian
Hmong
Vietnamese
Chinese
Thai
Pakistani
Total population
Japanese
Filipino
Asian Indian
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
Source: 2015 American Community Survey one-year estimates.
URBAN INSTITUTE
2019-04-15
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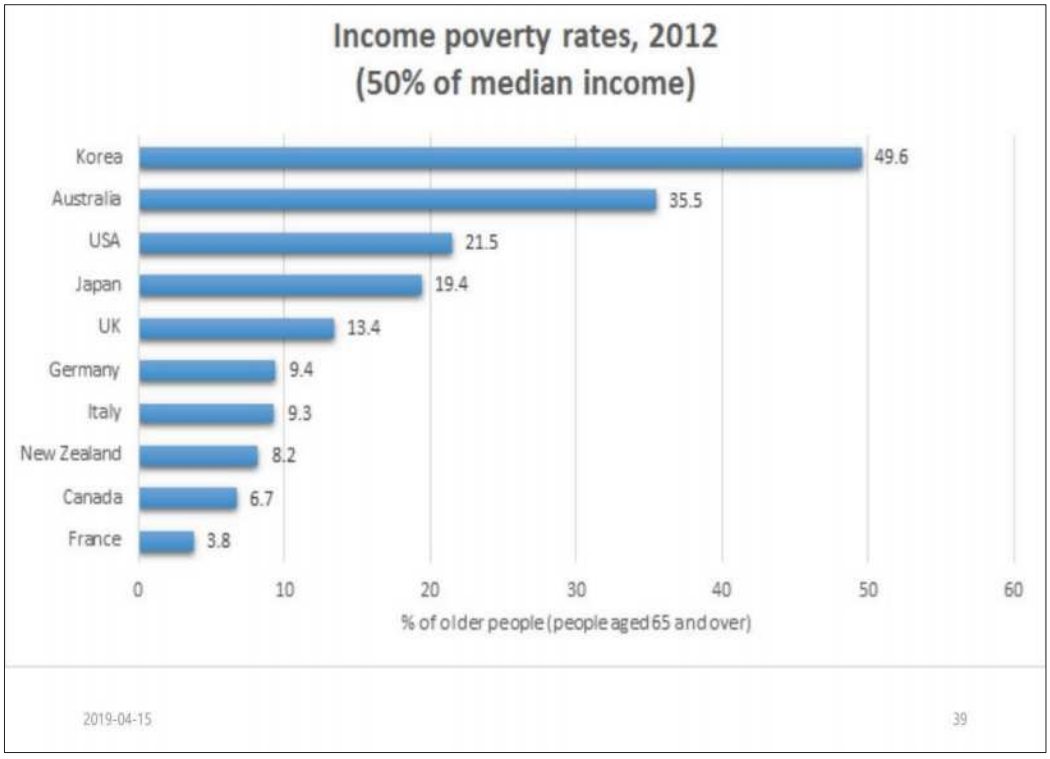
Income poverty rates, 2012
(50% of median income)
Korea 49.6
Australia 35.5
USA 21.5
Japan 19.4
UK 13.4
Germany 9.4
Italy 9.3
New Zealand 8.2
Canada 6.7
France 3.8
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
% of older people (people aged 65 and over)
2019-04-15
39

(2) Strengthening Social Security for Aging Population

① In many Asian countries, older people have few retirement resources outside of their families – Old-age Poverty High

② But traditional family support to the elderly is declining, while public old-age transfer systems are underdeveloped.

③ Developing Asian countries must build up strong national pension and efficient healthcare system

④ Developed Asian countries need to reform their pension systems to be financially sustainable and socially acceptable

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(3) Capitalizing on Asia's Advantage to Prepare for the Demographic Transition

- Younger countries should start to prepare their economies and old-age support systems for a much grayer future.
- Middle- and advanced-aging countries must activate structural reforms to offset the decline of the demographic dividend

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Conclusion: Windows of Opportunity

- Responding to these challenges will be one of the most difficult tasks facing governments in the first half of this century
- The longer they wait, the more constrained their choices will be.
- Fortunately governments still have time – many of the regions' economies are still young and have demographic space to prepare for the future
- With right policies and advance measures, Asian economies can become more productive, resilient and dynamic than ever

2019-04-15 45

The "problems" of an aging population, or "challenges" if one prefers, are not going to go away in a few years, to be replaced by others. They will be with us for a long time. Short-term "solutions" should be suspect. Think long.

(Denton and Spencer, 2003).

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Hon. Jhalanath Khanal, Senior Leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) and Former Prime Minister of Nepal

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

We have a challenge as to how we could make social security for elders more sustainable. Many countries even European countries with welfare system gave up schemes of social security during the period of economic crisis on the eve of the first decades of millennium. Developing countries have obviously more challenges given the limited resources.

There is positive co-relation between the countries having higher social security index with their happiness index. It also shows positive correlation with their overall prosperity. Sometimes social security schemes based on foreign aid could create more dependency and jeopardize the productive forces. In excessive cases, it has led towards debt crisis and problem of dependency. Hence, 'strong economy as a base' is very crucial for a sustainable social security scheme.

Decoupling of social security scheme with productive forces makes welfare system and economy both unsustainable. It is crucial to think what sorts of social security model should be adopted by developing and least developed countries. On one hand, equitable and egalitarian societies can be conducive for economic growth. On the other, robust economic growth creates a condition for a sustained social security. Connecting with this very dialectics, social security for the developing countries should be selective and targeted. It is crucial as to how it could be benefited for needy people with limited resources.

Distinguished guests,
We have been witnessing youth bulge in demographic history of Nepal as a new building block. Nonetheless, senior citizens are increasingly demographic heritages that we must take care. Nepal for the first time in the history in 1993 had provided social security benefit for the elderly people aged 70 or above by the government led by the Communist Party. Though it was token money initially, it had created social dignity and a sense of self-respect towards elderly people of Nepal. The scheme later expanded for widows, disables and disadvantaged communities and regions. My party

is committed to provide pension to all elderly people of Nepal covering almost 30 percent of minimum salary. To fulfill this task, we must work hard to increase economic pie as a necessary condition. Very recently our government has brought social security scheme to workers based on contribution of workers and employers both in formal and informal sectors. We are hopeful that it will make much secure condition for aged citizens after retirement.

The senior citizens should not be blamed for mere charity fund seekers. Our social security fund should create autonomy of space to elderly people where they can do voluntary work for social services. After retirement, they can invest their funds and resources for some creative work as their great experience and knowledge could help to change our societies.

Ladies and gentleman,
The world is witnessing 12 percent population aged 60 or above. The caring of increased number of senior citizens is already a challenge for developed countries. Taking senior citizens as social and family burden is most erroneous idea. Human civilization need to work for our senior citizens to ensure their healthy longevity. They have every right to live with dignity.

There dies an Asian value of 'happy homes' once social security is in the hands of private sectors detaching elderly people from societies and families. Political parties of Asia should think as to how 'happy homes' dwelling of three generations can be materialized with ensured social security and autonomy of elderly space. Political parties of Asia must work against the abuse of elderly people physiologically, physically and emotionally. Elderly people should not be neglected by their families and societies. Provided social security to elderly people by the governments significantly reduces such negative impacts.

Distinguished guests,
The issue of social security should be aligned with the SDGs goals. Retirement does not mean to promote an inactive and lonely life. Our senior citizens can engage voluntarily in creative economic activities. Re-skilling and new trainings can build the confidence of adults and so the private sector will not make them lame-duck chased by the whim of labor market. As senior citizens themselves are huge pool of practical knowledge and experience, there will be still need to link them with life learning process. We should have a forum where elderly people can gather, read and write, exchange their experiences, join eco-tours and pilgrimages, play elder friendly games and engage with other recreational activities. No country can exempt to realize these

dreams of our senior citizens.

Hunger is still a most potent socio-economic problem for least developed countries. Our countries must prepare for social and economic task not to throw our senior citizens and children with begging bowls in the streets.

Senior citizens are the social capital we must harness in a wise way. Senior citizens can be the role model to save Mother Nature as many of them had already proven as heroes. They can be voluntary great aspirators to materialize sustainability concept where they handover the regeneration capacity of nature unharmed to next generations. Senior citizens are great story and fortune tellers of our nature earth. They can play vital role to reinstate our blue rivers and sky, green land and snowy mountains.

Dear friends,
Last but not the least, we many senior leaders in the ICAPP have stepped into being senior citizens. I have just celebrated the occasion stepping for 70s in my life. It is right time to think about other senior citizens who are neglected, marginalized and cornered. Let us not define senior citizens as being senile and 'diminished identities' of society but value their practical experience and wisdom. Let us all work together to practically realize the dreams of senior citizens from Colombo declaration.

Thank you for your patience!

Hon. Nalinee Taveesin, Vice Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Form, Former Minister attached to Prime Minister's Office and Former Thailand Trade Representative, *Pheu Thai* Party, Thailand

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Excellencies
Distinguished Participants

I would like to thank you our host and in particular H.E. Mr. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the AEPF for the excellent hospitality and for organizing the AEPF. The topic we are discussing this morning is highly timely and appropriate.

Population aging is one of humanity's greatest successes, and also one of the greatest challenges. The world's population is ageing: virtually all countries are experiencing growth in the number and proportion of older persons in their population. Global ageing has put increased economic and social demands on all countries, at the same time; senior people are valuable and often ignored resources that make important contributions to societies. Population ageing is one of the most significant social transformations, with implications for nearly all sectors of society, including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services.

Excellencies
Distinguished Participants

We are not getting any younger and neither is the world's population. Worldwide, the proportion of people aged 60 and over is growing faster than any other age groups. In 2019, it is estimated that around 60 percent of the world's older population reside in the Asia-Pacific region, while the region makes up 59 per cent of the world's population. The proportion of people aged 60 and over is projected to grow in all Asian countries with Japan and South Korea aging faster than their neighbors. Laos will remain the youngest nation in Asia. The number of older persons is expected to increase from an estimate of 548 million in 2019 to nearly 1.3 billion by 2050. By then, one in four people in the region is expected to be over 60 years old. This is one of the clearest signs of the ageing population. While growing old is nothing to be

afraid of, governments and political parties need to find ways to ensure that senior citizens are able to participate actively in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their societies.

Ageing society is widely seen as one of the most significant risks to prosperity. Adapting to this trend poses economic, social and political changes and may increase the dependency of senior citizens on people of working age. A rising share of the older people will have substantial economic consequences, including potential shortfalls of labour, lower productivity and economic growth.

In addition, ageing population may exert pressures on lowering the labour force participation rate, which in turn constrains the elderly's income and the country's economic growth. In some Asian countries, large numbers of low-income elderly will rely on assistance from the government, resulting in a high fiscal burden. A larger fiscal burden from increasing health and welfare spending and slower tax revenue growth will crowd out the public investment budgets that are needed to drive economic growth. For example, in Thailand healthcare spending has increased steadily during the past 20 years. The rise in this spending alone could divert resources away from public needs like infrastructure investment, but this is a necessity.

In fact, ageing will dramatically change the way societies and economic work. This includes how senior citizens find fulfillment, at what age they retire and their quality of life once they reach their retirement age. Linked with this are the pressures on societies in terms of healthcare, social security and accessibility to innovative solutions for them, allowing societies to benefit from the contribution that older people can offer. If older people can remain active participants in society, they can continue to contribute to our socio-economic development. Therefore, quality of life is the key in addressing policy for ageing society.

Despite these challenges, if policy makers plan adequately for the changes well ahead, we will have a good chance of realizing the potential benefits of the ageing trend. I would like to suggest some recommendations on how political parties can handle these challenges and seize the potential benefits of the ageing trend.

- Firstly, Employability: Promoting employment opportunities for senior persons is indispensable for enhancing productivity and socio-economic development. This could include extensions of retirement age, more flexible retirement schemes, incentives to support retraining and re-employment, and redesign jobs for greater

flexibility. Promote self-employment initiatives by encouraging the development of SMEs and by ensuring access to financial credit. IKEA in Thailand has a scheme to hire senior citizens, for example.

- Secondly, Income security: Providing pension systems through social-security saving scheme and encourage the development of a long-term health insurance.
- Thirdly, Quality of life: As the older population are faced with mobility difficulty, health issues and living conditions, ensuring healthy lives and access to health care, as well as providing supportive environments are essential for the senior population to remain active in society.

Excellencies
Distinguished Participants

By understanding their specific population trends, it is very important for us to understand the policy changes to prepare ourselves for the future of Asia. Let me conclude that while the prospect of an aging society poses a number of important and overwhelming challenges, it also presents potential benefits. If we plan well ahead and act quickly to formulate effective changes in various elements of society, we have the potential of not merely mitigating the challenges but also enhancing the likelihood of the emergence of a truly equitable and productive aging society in Asia.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Andrey Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, Russia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

The topic we are discussing today is definitely very important. The growth of the world's population as a whole and particularly rapid growth in Asia, is indeed a serious challenge not only for this continent, it also affects the adjacent regions, including Europe.

In the draft outcome document proposed to our attention, we mention such issues related to this problem as poverty, lack of adequate access to medical services, education, and employment. This is true, but we must also bear in mind that threats such as international crime (including drug trafficking), radicalization of society, illegal immigration, and, of course, environmental pollution are also issues that are directly related to the topic under consideration.

We in Russia in general have the opposite problem, as precisely the lack of population growth, low population density in most regions of the country are very serious challenges for us. Therefore, the objectives that we face in terms of demographic policy are often different, although there are indeed Russian regions where the growth in the number of inhabitants is so high that it creates additional difficulties to solve quickly and effectively social and economic problems and therefore requires special approaches. The United Russia party in its strategic program devotes considerable attention to addressing socio-economic problems, and this program contains a set of very specific measures tied to specific Russian regions in order to ensure sustainable growth of both gross domestic product and the overall prosperity of Russian citizens across the country no matter what region they live in.

At the same time, we are confident that all political parties should bear in mind and be accountable to people, both to those who live now, and to people of future generations. By saying this, I mean that the simplification, peculiar to populists whose goals are to receive political bonuses at any cost or realize some political ambitions instead of a professional approach to solving problems concerning the population of their country, their region, including protecting the social rights of citizens. It is not useful in solving

the problems that are being discussed today, as well as in the general account in any other problems, since it primarily serves the interests of individual politicians, and not the nation as a whole. In other words, we must protect the social rights of people not only during the preparation and conduct of elections, but on an ongoing basis. This is exactly what the United Russia Party is doing, and as a result, enjoys steady support from the population in almost all regions of our huge country. Thus, we in Russia welcome our today's discussion and hope that international cooperation based on international law and the UN Charter and the responsible participation of political parties in solving problems related to changes in the demographic situation will bring the desired result.

Thanks for attention.

Hon. Dr. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Founding President of Foundation for Islamic Development, Former Vice President and Member of Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, Iran

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

The problem of the aging population can be either a treat or an opportunity: First of all, we notice that because of the improvement of the standards of life all over the world and health care and food security, the average of the age and life expectancy is growing more or less in all the countries. That is very good news, but at the same time, we all know that the ageing population needs the attention of all the people: The first and the most important things is the psychological attention: they need to be seen, they need to be considered, and they should be respected.

Fortunately, in all religions of the world I mean Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam you may find a lot of recommendation about the ageing population. Just to give some example I will give some verses from the holy book of Islam, The Quran and some saying of the great leaders of Islam. In Quran, Almighty Allah says you should respect the parents, help them in everything and never say things that they do not like. When your parents are ageing, you have more responsibility about them.

The great prophet of Islam Mohamad, May peace upon him, says:

If you want to glorify the almighty Allah, you have to respect all the elderly people.
He also says one way to respect me as a prophet is to respect the ageing people of my followers.

And you may find more and more of saying of the great leaders of Islam about the respect for elder and ageing people like.

If you do not respect the ageing people you are not Muslim. and also teaching of Islam is the respect for the elder, I mean greater people.

So I think the first and may be the most important thing for ageing population is respect for them.

The second thing is considering them as an opportunity to the society: They have a great deal of experience which is very valuable and very important for the society. We have to tell them that it is we that need them not vice versa.

The young generation needs the ageing population more than what the old people need the youngs. We should tell them that and make sure that we let them know that we need them. They should be confident that they are an important part and even the most important part of the development and without the help and teaching of them no country can have real development. Their great experience, knowledge and skills are very important factors for development and establishing a better society.

These are the physiologic needs but to live, and live respectfully the need something else too:

They need health care more than young generation. Therefore, accessibility to the health services is very important. They should be healthy to be able to enjoy the life and be able to help the society.

They have to have enough money to live on, that can be done by employment or/and by social security system and that is duty of political parties to ask the government for that.

They have to be informed about the news in their countries and all over the world, they have normally more free time and should make this time fruitful, by sport, by going different clubs, by reading the news, by talking to the people and by searching thru social networks and medias.

I think the most annoying subject is prejudice and discrimination toward older persons at individuals and institutional levels, which undermine older persons status as rights holders including their right autonomy participation, access to the education and training, health and social care, security and decent employment and may be here is right place that political parties can step in to work to remedy the situation.

Hon. Sujata Koirala, Member of Parliament and Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This gives me great pleasure to be amongst you for this meeting in this beautiful city of Colombo. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for organizing this important meeting and making excellent arrangements for its success. I also express my sincere gratitude to all concerned for warm hospitality extended to us in Colombo.

As the population of Asian region are fast becoming aged and the challenges are increasing as regards the huge task of solving problems of their social security and unemployment, this meeting is timely and would be crucial for coming up with fruitful outcome in this regard, particularly through the deliberations with our European friends. There is no doubt that due to advancement in medical system and technology, and care of the elderly people in recent years, life expectancy has increased in most of the countries of Asia also. But at the same time, there must be some efforts from governments and private sectors to jointly come forward to make the lives of the people more lively and quality-oriented. There is a huge gap in the Government policy and reality of projects in the field. There is marginalization and insecurity of elderly people.

The levels of economic development in each country differ but the investment in the social sector of public health management, medical insurance as well as the quality of homes and its environment for elderly people are equally important aspects of our society. Countries of Europe have gained a lot of experience, and they already have immense technological and technical know-how in this sector and these can be useful for our benefits in Asian countries. Our Governments should also be conscious of

welcoming investments from within and outside in this sector to improve the conditions of people. Other issues like employment of elderly people vis-a-vis the attitude of young people in this regard are equally important in our societies. People involved in the sectors of public health management and the medical sector should be more focused on the improvements of qualities. A Least Developed Country like Nepal should benefit from such deliberations and the recommendations should be implemented by the Government in a coordinated manner taking into account the views of all the stakeholders. Political parties of the Asia and Pacific region must focus on such social issues of importance and encourage our governments to implement sound social sector policy. In terms of all other cross-cutting issues, gender equality must be maintained. Female members of the family are more vulnerable to marginalization and isolation. They feel insecure by the treatments of young people of the family and outside.

As regards the current emerging problems in Asia, I would like to express my views that due to climate change, more people have become victims of natural and man-made disasters. The big earthquake of April 2015 in Nepal had severely affected the people's life and property and our economy is struggling to come back to normal. In this regard, enhancement of connectivity among the countries in the region and beyond, and promotion of tourism has become much more important aspects of our economy and must be further promoted, and projects in these fields be should be implemented in a very concerted manner without negatively affecting the environment. The basic principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations must be taken into consideration while our efforts are geared towards economic growth. ICAPP members should constantly sensitize the Governments for the improvement of the conditions of the life of vulnerable sections of society.

I hope that this important meeting would come up new innovative ideas which would be beneficial for all people. Before I conclude, I express my best wishes once again for the success of this meeting.

Thank you.

Mr. Ma Xuesong, Deputy Director General of Bureau I of the International Department of the Communist Party of China

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies & gentlemen
Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to thank the government of Sri Lanka and the ICAPP Standing Committee for co-hosting the 3rd Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF).

This year's forum focuses on "How should political parties handle the challenges of social security & employment of the increasing aged population as well as issues of current urgency in the Asian region". It is highly relevant as governments and political parties in Asian and European countries are striving to solve prominent problems in the process of social transformation.

As we look back at human history, in the 15th century, the average human life expectancy was only 38 years old, but in the 21stcentury, this index has nearly doubled to 69 years old. It can be predicted that with the continuous economic development, the gradual improvement of the life quality and the betterment of medical care, public health and education, the average life expectancy will further grow to a new high.

While we are expecting the continuous increase of human life expectancy, we must also pay great attention to the impact of the looming aging population. According to a UN report, the global population aged over 60 years old reached almost1 billion in 2017, accounting for 13% of the total population, and is still growing at 3% annually. The global trend of aging population is getting increasingly obvious. In fact, as population ages and such trend gathers momentum, it will certainly have negative effects on social and economic development.

At present, in countries seriously affected by aging population, the rising pressure on

social security and pensions, shrinking consumption capacity and shortage of labor supply have caused social "pains", which have slowed down economic and social progress. Therefore, it is now more necessary and urgent to find a way out.

Ladies & gentlemen
Dear friends,
Development is the ultimate solution to tackle all problems. As aging population is both an economic and livelihood issue, development holds the key to coping with such challenges.

By sustainable development, we can make the "pie" of social security bigger, enabling us to better "support the elders, treat the sick and help the weak".

By reform and development, we can accelerate the restructuring of economy and labor supply, and establish an economic and employment structure that is compatible with an aging society. We can accelerate scientific and technological innovation, adding effective means to alleviate the contradiction between industrial development and labor shortage caused by aging population.

By innovation and development, we can promote the pension industries that focus on medical care, pension service and livable environment, explore new vitalities and opportunities in our economy brought by the aging population, and unleash more "longevity bonus".

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,
China has the largest number of elderly people in the world and we are facing a deeper degree of aging population. Over the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, in particular over the past four decades after the initiation of China's Reform and Opening Up, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese Government have actively and scientifically responded to the aging of population. We have made important achievements and accumulated valuable experience.

We continue to give top priority to development and address issues such as the aging of the population through development. We have built the largest social security system in the world, covering over 925 million elderly people.

We continue to implement the population and family planning policy on the basis of China's national conditions and the phased features of development. In the 1980s,

China implemented the family planning policy for a coordinated development of population, economy and society. In recent years, however, in accordance with the changing trend of China's population development, while adhering to the basic national policy of family planning, the CPC and the Chinese Government fully implemented the policy that each couple can have two children, which is an important step in dealing with the aging population.

We dialectically cope with the challenge of the aging of population, exploring development opportunities from the aging of population. In the early 1990s, China began to lay out the pension industry. After nearly 30 years, China's pension industry has covered four major related sectors– real estate, finance, services and products for the elderly, with an output scale of nearly 8 trillion RMB (which is about 1.2 Trillion USD). It has not only effectively fulfilled the task of "providing for the elderly", but also created a new engine driving China's economic transformation and upgrade.

Ladies &gentlemen
Dear friends,
As a member of Asia and the global community, China has been actively addressing the issue of aging population, and has made important contributions to Asia and the world in finding effective solutions. China is ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries, including those in Asia and Europe, to jointly push for better solutions of aging population -related issues.

Six years ago, China put forward the "Belt and Road Initiative". This Initiative is in line with the trend of the times and the common aspiration of people worldwide for cooperation and development. Over the past six years, it has effectively boosted economic and social development of countries along the Silk Road, including those in Asia and Europe, and has provided important impetus for relevant countries to address the issue of aging population.

Later this month, China will host the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. We will discuss, with countries along the Silk Road, on how to advance Belt and Road cooperation, inject new vitality into common development, and bring more benefits to the people of all countries.

Countries in Asia and Europe are important partners of the "Belt and Road Initiative", and the AEPF is an important platform for political parties and people in Asia and Europe to reach consensus. China hopes that the AEPF can actively support the "Belt and Road" Initiative and welcome the hosting of the Belt and Road Forum for

International Cooperation, so as to build more consensus for Asian and European countries to cooperate under the Belt and Road framework.

Ladies & gentlemen
Dear friends,
At present, Asia maintains a sound momentum of stable development. In 2017, the average economic growth rate of Asia reached 6.1%, making it one of the most dynamic and promising regions in the world. Meanwhile, problems such as unbalanced development and widening income gap are holding back Asia's efforts to tackle challenges such as the aging of population. Asia needs to give more prominence to development and lay a more solid foundation for the addressing of such problems.

Political parties, as spokesmen of public opinion and makers of public policies, should take the lead in promoting national and regional development and play a key role in aligning development strategies of Asian countries, addressing challenges like the aging of population and promoting relevant cooperation. As an important platform for multilateral communication among political parties in Asia, the ICAPP should continue to play its role of promoting Asian political parties to support and get involved in development. As a major political party in Asia, the CPC will stay committed to promoting solidarity, cooperation and common development in Asia and is ready to join hands with other political parties to play a leading political role in pushing Asia onto a path of stable development and common prosperity.

Thank you!

Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, Lebanon

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Excellencies, Founding Chairman, and Co-Chairman.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

International inter-parties relations have always been crucially important in modern diplomacy and international relations. Indeed, they act as safety valves in case of any emerging international crisis, and can create solid common ground to solve any old lingering issues between countries.

In addition, if these parties focus on building concrete developmental ties and projects, this will significantly contribute to lowering international tensions, as people everywhere, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or ideology care primarily about their immediate economic interests and livelihoods. Thus, when parties help link different societies together using shared interests and developmental projects, the positive effects on stability, prosperity, and international peace are immediate, significant, and long lasting.

But when we take these inter-parties relations to continental levels, as we do in ICAPP, or even to inter-continental levels, as is the case with AEPF, they will tend to have added-value on other levels as well, notably on socio-economic levels. This brings me to our order of the day: Dealing with Increasingly Aged Population from the socio-economic perspectives of Employment & Social Security.

In this regards, recent international statistics look alarming: By 2050, the number of people aged 60 and older will more than double from its current levels, reaching around 2 billion!!! And while Europe was the first continent to embark on a demographic transition, most of the expected growth in the number of older people by 2050 will come from developing countries, as most of the Asian countries.

Our aging population will pose a challenge to the Fiscal and Macroeconomic Stability of many societies, mainly due to the increased government spending on Pension,

Healthcare and other Social Benefits Programs for the elderly. This might have negative impact on Economic Growth, and overall Quality of life, as governments may tend to divert public spending from areas such as Education and Infrastructure Investment to finance these programs for the elderly.

To face these crucial future challenges, Encouraging Older Workers to remain LONGER in the labor force is often cited as the most viable solution to potential fiscal pressures and macroeconomic challenges related to population aging.

In fact, implementing a Phased-in Retirement Scheme whereby older workers can choose to work fewer hours, yet remain longer in the work force, even after the official retirement age, can be beneficial to societies, employers and workers: it will allow continuity in tax revenues, reduced expenditure on pensions, knowledge-transfer inside companies, in addition to the positive effects on health and well-being of older generations.

Let us just reflect on the example of the USA, where about 25% of residents volunteer, providing 7.9 billion hours of service, and contributing $184 billion of service!!!!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let our Meeting here today be a Brainstorming Council on how we, the Political Parties of our esteemed nations, can effectively help our governments face their Fiscal and Macroeconomic Stability challenges resulting from the increasing aged population. And by doing this, we would be rendering our societies great social benefits by helping in improving the quality of life for our citizens in general, and the perceived well-being of our elderly in particular.

Thank you.

Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, Member of Parliament and Former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, United Malay National Organization (UMNO), Malaysia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

1. SALUTATION

2. First of all allow me to express my gratitude to the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) for inviting me to the 32nd Standing Committee Meeting. This is indeed a significant event for me and I am delighted to be here and to be able to visit the beautiful City of Colombo. I would also like to thank His Excellency Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, and the Government of Sri Lanka for their gracious hospitality.

3. Before I begin my speech, allow me to stress that I am from United Malay National Organization (UMNO), that being the biggest Opposition Party in Malaysia. The 14th General Election of Malaysia have changed the political demographic of Malaysia. Malaysians have decided to change their government in a very democratic way.

4. Although, I am not the ruling government in Malaysia, but it won't change my involvement in ICAPP. My fellow members, I will be carry on for what I am doing before, align with the purpose and objectives of ICAPP since the first day I joined ICAPP Family.

5. The theme of 32nd meeting is on how political parties can handle the challenges of social security and employment of the increasing aging population as well as issues of current urgency in the Asian region.

6. Today, I would like to focus on 3 main issues regarding to the current situation in Palestine, issue of Golan Heights in Syria, and EU discrimination on palm oil industries.

SITUATION IN PALESTINE

7. Social security is an economic and social rights, an achievement of the struggle of people, social movements and workers. There is the protection that a society provides to individuals and households to ensure access to health care and to guarantee income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner.

8. Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly mentioned that " Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality."

9. In Islam, takaful ijtima'i is the most common terms being used by the Islamic scholars to refer to the modern social security system. Takaful literally means mutual indemnity and ijtima'i refers literally to society and public. Takaful ijtima'i refers to the mutual assistance between members of society, be it a person, a society, an institution or a government. Thus, the term takaful ijtima'i is general in nature. It refers to any kind of assistance without specifying a specific responsible party.

10. The Prophet SAW has encouraged the people to protect the orphans and single mothers by saying: "I and the protector of orphan and single mothers are this close in the Hereafter". Social security is important from the Islamic viewpoint due to the realization of fairness and justice, fulfilment of the basic needs, protection of the five main elements of human and encouragement for mutual cooperation between people.

11. Social security has a powerful impact at all levels of society. It provides workers and their families with access to health care and with protection against loss of income, whether it is for short periods of unemployment or sickness or maternity or for a longer time due to invalidity or employment injury.

12. I find that population change has a significant impact on each, with the greatest causal impact on war. War exerts great influence on the dynamics of

the size and structure of the population: increasing mortality, decreasing parity and population growth, reducing the number of concluded marriages.

13. And if we look on what currently happened in Palestine, since March of 2018, more than 250 Palestinians have been killed and thousands more injured by Israeli army fire during protests demanding the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in historical Palestine from which they were driven in 1948 to make way for the new state of Israel.

14. The Israeli government continued to enforce severe and discriminatory restrictions on Palestinians' human rights; restrict the movement of people and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip; and facilitate the unlawful transfer of Israeli citizens to settlements in the occupied West Bank.

15. I want to stress that, Israel must implement all relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and withdraw from territories occupied in 1967. The Israeli authorities must halt and reverse the creation and expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan built in violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

16. Israeli authorities must stop issuing plans and tenders and stop retroactively legalizing outposts and other unauthorized constructions. They must also halt expanding the area effectively occupied by settlements by other means, such as the development of archaeological and tourist parks.

17. Furthermore, The Israeli authorities must also discontinue their support for private settler organizations' initiatives aimed at the seizure of Palestinian properties and the forced eviction of their residents.

18. The Israeli authorities must cease discriminatory and unlawful planning processes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. More specifically, Israel must refrain from implementing evictions and demolition orders on the basis of discriminatory and illegal planning policies, laws and practices that may lead to forcible transfer.

19. I'm representing Malaysia, and I would like to say that we "STRONGLY CONDEMNED" the killing in a statement, saying the man was killed while providing care to people injured. It is totally unacceptable by humanity, and

we as the members of ICAPP should give our stand on this issue. The routine of unlawful killings by Israeli forces and full impunity in Israel highlight the need for the International Criminal Court to open a formal probe into serious crimes committed in Palestine.

THE DECLARATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SYRIA AS ISRAEL'S PROPERTY

20. Today, about 27,000 Syrians live in five villages in the Golan. Israel's 1967 invasion forcibly displaced over 130,000 Syrians and razed 340 communities. The estimated diasporas of those forced from the Golan now living elsewhere numbers over 400,000. Those displaced residents have the right of return under international law; however, Israel has summarily blocked this right, indefinitely dividing families and friends.

21. However, for 52 years, Israel has occupied and exercised military control over the area and the UN Human Rights Council has ever since reiterated the illegality of the Israeli occupation.

22. Following its occupation of the Golan, Israel expelled Syrian civilians who had not already fled and carried out a systematic destruction of Syrian towns, villages and farms. A few months later, there remained only 6,396 Syrians in eight settlements. All the land owned by the people who had fled or been expelled was declared Israeli state land.

23. To prevent Syrian refugees from returning, the Israeli military administration published a list of destroyed villages and cities and declared them closed military zones. In a single administrative act, Israel confiscated over 90 percent of the territory of the occupied Golan.

24. Nowadays, there are more than 30 Israeli settlements in the Golan, which are home to an estimated 20,000 people. The settlements are considered illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this. The settlers live alongside some 20,000 Syrians, most of them Druze Arabs, who did not flee when the Golan was captured.

25. Israel's motives in the Golan are clear; the region is invaluable for its natural resources and strategic military plateau. Additionally, Israel has, in violation of international law, established 34 settlements and at least 167 settlement

businesses in the Golan.

26. The international community did not recognize the move and maintained that the Golan was occupied Syrian territory. UN Security Council Resolution 497 declared the Israeli decision "null and void and without international legal effect.

27. And the latest situation on 25 March 2019, when US President, Donald Trump signing a proclamation officially recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, which they captured from Syria in 1967 and has occupied ever since.

28. Once again, I urged ICAPP to give our stand whether to agree with the action made by US and Israel or to disagree with it. I, personally, this is something that can't be tolerated when it comes to countries sovereignty.

EU DISCRIMINATION ON PALM OIL INDUSTRIES

29. I would like to share the concerns of the Asian community if the European Union (EU) continues to be unjust and discriminates palm oil. Malaysia and Indonesia are the major producers of palm oil in the world and Europe is one of the largest export destinations of palm oil from Asian countries.

30. Based on statistics, over the last four years, from 2015 to 2018, palm oil exports from Asian countries, especially Malaysia to the euro-zone, have declined each year. According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Malaysia exported approximately two million tonnes of palm oil to the EU, down 3.3% from 2016. Of which the two million tonnes, about 600,000 tonnes were used as EU's feedstock for biodiesel, on top of the 215,000 tonnes of palm-based biofuels exported directly to countries there.

31. Among the reasons the EU given is that palm oil is produce in an unconstitutional way and has destroyed many forests and orang utans.

32. However, Malaysia has repeatedly stressed that we have implemented best practices including environmental impact assessment in creating and managing oil palm plantations and implementing the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Concept which balances social and economic development with the environment.

33. As a result, the most affected is the oil palm smallholders who live in rural areas. Whose majority are at the age of 45 years and above. They are low-income people, and struggled to make a living. This will caused more and more populations in Asia especially in Malaysia and Indonesia will face financial difficulties and income uncertainties because their main source of income is largely dependent on the palm oil industry.

34. Various efforts have been made through cooperation between Asian countries under the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC). Even we as a politician representing our respective political parties, we always voiced up our views to overcome this problem together although we have different political parties.

INCREASING AGED POPULATION

35. According to the United Nations (UN), in 2017, an estimated 962 million people aged 60 or over in the world, comprising 13% of the global population. The population aged 60 or above is growing at a rate of about 3% per year.

36. Asia is aging fast: by 2040, 16% of the region's population will be older than 65, more than double the 7.8% share in 2015. While the rise in healthy life expectancy is a positive development, this demographic shift poses a serious threat to many economies, which are already losing vitality.

37. Population ageing rises with the increasing of life expectancy and declining lower fertility rate. This phenomenon is depicted in Malaysia's demographic change over the time. Last year, Malaysian senior citizens above the age of 65 made up 6.2% of the total population of 32.3 million people today.

38. As Malaysia prepares itself to be an ageing nation when seven per cent of its population will be 65 years and older by 2030, it is obvious that much thought has to be given to grapple with the problems and challenges that would arise.

39. The number of Malaysians aged 60 and above is projected to reach 3.5 million in 2020 and 6.3 million in 2040 — about 20 per cent of the population.

40. The most common problems that senior citizens all over the world are facing include deteriorating health, malnutrition, lack of proper shelter, fear, depression, senility, isolation, boredom, non-productivity and financial

incapacity.

41. The health care system in Malaysia is primarily geared towards short term care and hospitalization. The elderly with their chronic diseases and problems require long term care.

42. Rehabilitation from acute illness to help return the elderly patient to the level of premorbid function is often lacking in our hospitals. Thus, the present health care system is inadequate and even inappropriate to serve the elderly with their chronic diseases and disabilities.

43. Health education and counseling must be provided at all opportunities that ageing is not a disease and that early intervention treatment can prevent disability. Nutrition education should be carried out regularly as it is important to prevent nutritional problems. Secondary prevention is concerned with slowing down the disease process once it has begun and to prevent the occurrence of other problems, complications or deterioration.

44. The main aim in the care of the elderly is to maintain the quality of life by assisting them to have a meaningful and complete life. There are other factors apart from medical that influence the quality of life of the elderly - such as work, retirement, income, housing, family, community and leisure activities. Socioeconomic security contributes to the quality of life of the elderly.

CONCLUSION

45. Before I end my speech, I would like to suggest that this 32nd Meeting of ICAPP would come to a conclusion with one resolution that condemn and express the dissatisfaction regarding on the Palestine, Golan Height's Issue.

46. It is clear that as long as we stand together with our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Syria we will become stronger. When it comes to humanity, there should be no compromise, we should stand firm.

47. Last but not least, I want to express my feeling and hope with ICAPP, that we can play a big role in the global quest for a more peaceful, prosperous and culturally diverse world.

48. Thank You.

SECOND SESSION

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Honorary Advisor of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, MEP for the East of England and Conservative Spokesman for Security and Defense, United Kingdom

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many of you have asked me about Brexit and I thought I would take this opportunity to explain a little of what it is all about and what is happening.

You will recall that on 23 June 2016 the British people, in a referendum, expressed the view by 52% (17.4million votes) to 48% (16.1 million) to leave the European Union (EU). The British Prime Minister had previously announced that he would respect and act on the outcome of the referendum. On 29 March 2017 the British Government sent a letter to Brussels formally notifying the intention to leave the EU.

In accordance with the EU Treaties, this then set the clock ticking for a 2 year period in which negotiations would take place on the arrangements for the UK's withdrawal and the framework for its future relationship with the Union. The period of negotiations could, under certain circumstances, be extended, and that as you know is what has now happened. We should have left last week, on 29 March. This was extended until 12 April, and now the British Prime Minister is seeking a further extension.

You will be aware of the lively debate going on in Britain at the moment. Some are saying the people didn't understand all the issues. Some are saying that leaving the EU shouldn't mean leaving the single market or the customs union. Some want to leave regardless of whether there is a deal with the EU or not. Some just want to stay. Most people just want to move on – they want a deal, they want to leave, they are bored with Brexit and want their lives back!

You may be baffled by all this. After all, the external view of the EU is that it is a very successful economic bloc and you can't understand why anyone would want to leave it.

It doesn't seem quite like that from those inside. Over the years, through successive treaties, the EU has gathered more and more powers to itself, gradually eroding the powers of independent national government. It is bent on political integration. It wants to create an EU superstate where national governments will only play a subordinate, tributary role. Imagine that the SAARC headquarters in Kathmandu was a huge civil service, and there was a parliament there making laws about every aspect of life to be applied in Delhi, or Islamabad, or indeed Colombo. Imagine ASEAN headquarters in Djakarta similarly making laws to apply in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok or Phnom Penh and so on. And all this done gradually with the full agreement of national governments. Sooner or later, people would begin to realise that they no longer had effective democratic control over those making laws for them.

I have no doubt that it was the issue of immigration, the refugee crisis, that eventually brought this to a head in the UK. There was a realisation that we no longer had full control over our own borders. And then people began to understand the wider transfer of powers that had taken place. By the way, it is not just in the UK that there is questioning of the role of the EU – we are also seeing strong concerns in France and Germany, in Sweden, Denmark, Austria and Italy.

The dilemma the British government faces is that it is trying to square a circle – regain control of our own laws and our borders and have the freedom to make our own trade agreements with other countries while ensuring frictionless travel, supply chains and trade with the European continent and maintaining the cohesion of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I feel confident that we shall leave the EU and with a reasonable deal so that we can begin to focus once more on other issues and the United Kingdom can engage more fully, in its own right, with Asia and the rest of the world.

I hope this gives you a little bit more clarity on what Brexit is all about.

And now we shall turn to the main part of our discussions and I invite my good friend and colleague from the European Parliament, from Germany, Mrs Ulrike Trebesius to address us.

Hon. Ulrike Trebesius, Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF, Chief Whip of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Germany

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Challenges of social security and employment for the increasing aged population.

Ulrike Trebesius MEP
European Conservatives and Reformists Group
European Parliament

ECR EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS GROUP

Key trends

Number and distribution of persons aged 60 years or over by region, in 2017 and 2050

	Number of persons aged 60 years or older in 2017 (millions)	*Number of persons aged 60 years or over in 2050 (millions)*	*Percentage change between 2017 and 2050*	*Distribution of older persons in 2017 (percentage)*	*Distribution of older persons in 2050 (percentage)*
World	962.3	2080.5	116.2	100.0	100.0
Africa	68.7	225.8	228.5	7.1	10.9
Asia	549.2	1273.2	131.8	57.1	61.2
Europe	183.0	247.2	35.1	19.0	11.9
Northern America	78.4	122.8	56.7	8.1	5.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	76.0	198.2	160.7	7.9	9.5
Oceania	6.9	13.3	92.6	0.7	0.6

Data source: United Nations (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision.

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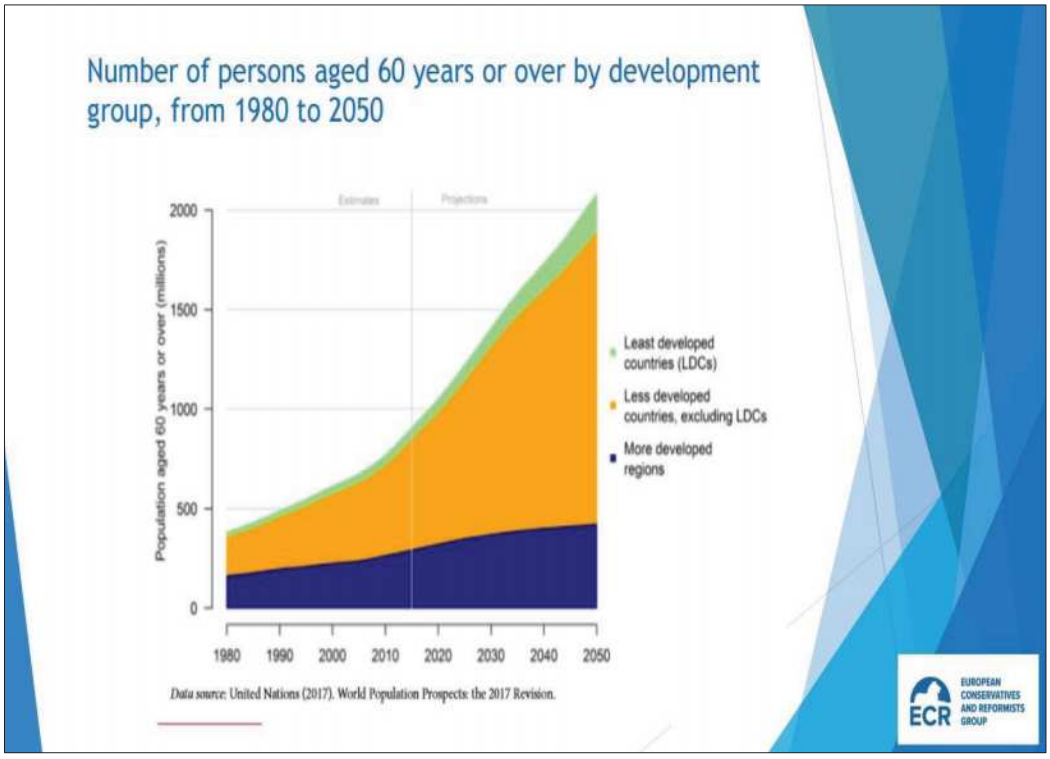
Number of persons aged 60 years or over by development group, from 1980 to 2050
Estimates
Projections
Population aged 60 years or over (millions)
2000
1500
1000
500
0
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
2030
2040
2050
Least developed countries (LDCs)
Less developed countries, excluding LDCs
More developed regions
Data source: United Nations (2017). World Population Prospects: the 2017 Revision.
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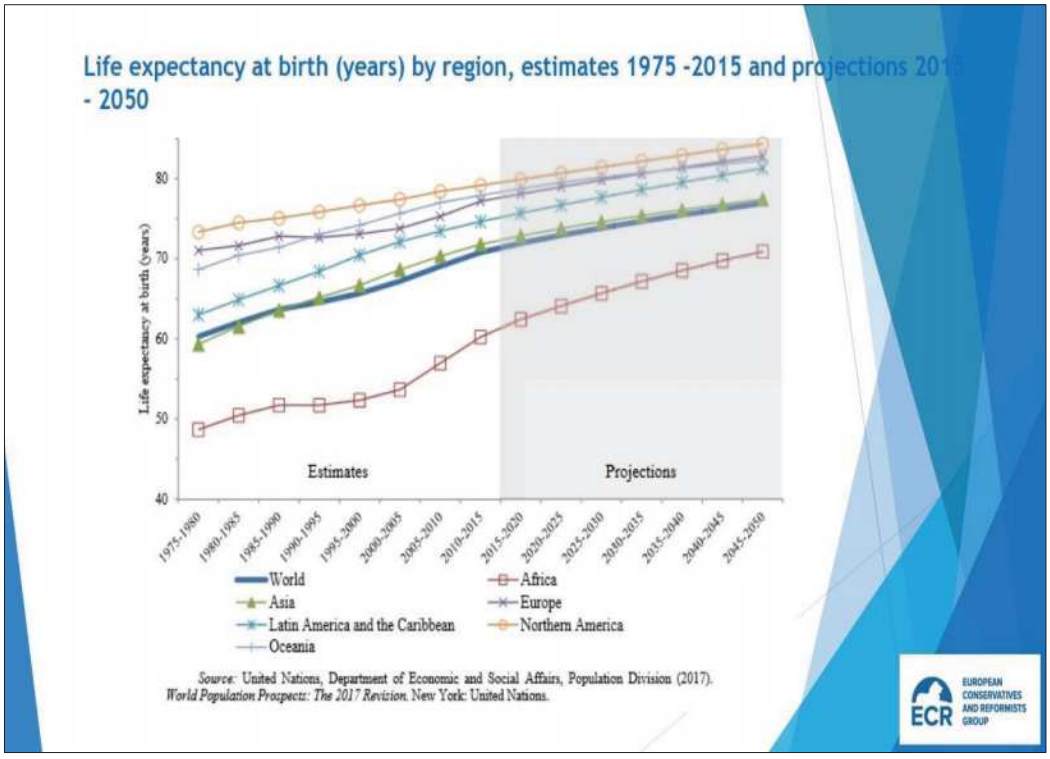
Life expectancy at birth (years) by region, estimates 1975 -2015 and projections 2015 - 2050
Life expectancy at birth (years)
80
70
60
50
40
Estimates
Projections
1975-1980
1980-1985
1985-1990
1990-1995
1995-2000
2000-2005
2005-2010
2010-2015
2015-2020
2020-2025
2025-2030
2030-2035
2035-2040
2040-2045
2045-2050
World
Africa
Asia
Europe
Latin America and the Caribbean
Northern America
Oceania
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision. New York: United Nations.
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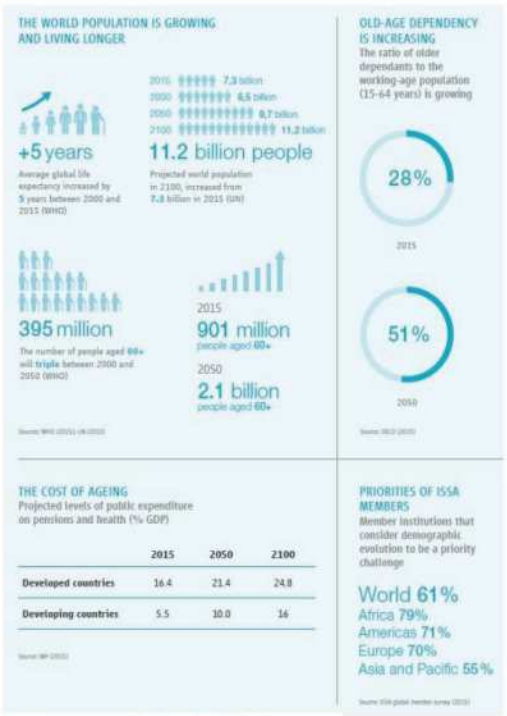
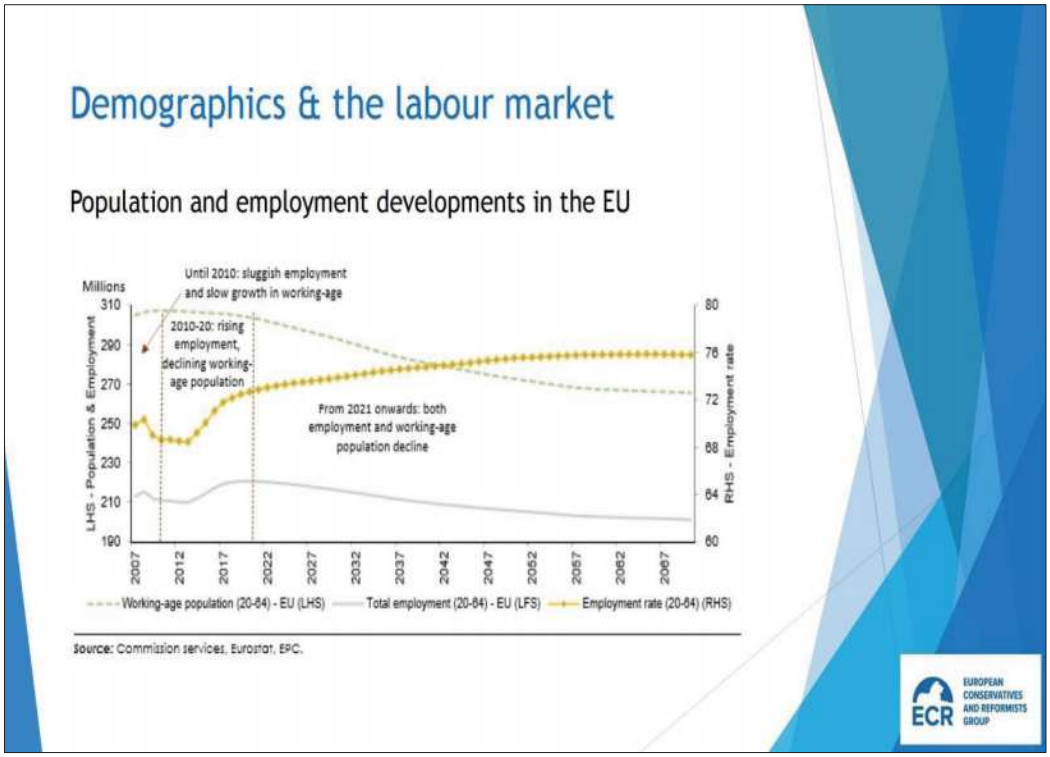
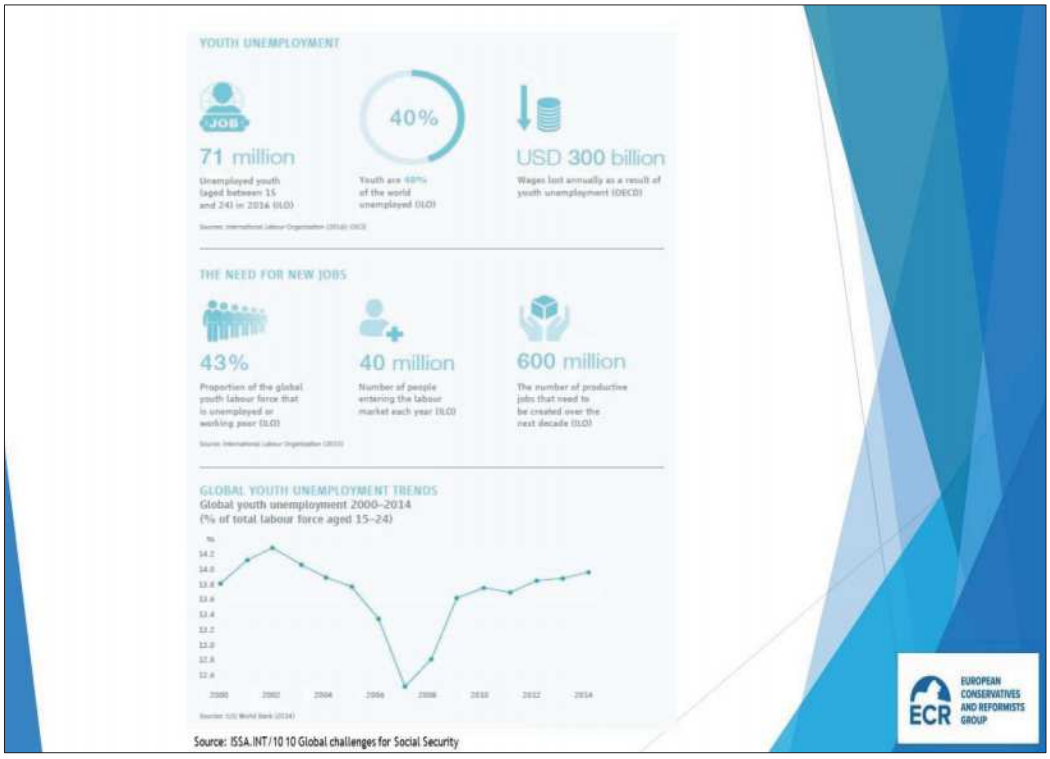


Source: ISSA.INT/10 10 Global challenges for Social Security




YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
JOB
71 million
Unemployed youth (aged between 15 and 24) in 2016 (ILO)
40%
Youth are 40% of the world unemployed (ILO)
USD 300 billion
Wages lost annually as a result of youth unemployment (OECD)
THE NEED FOR NEW JOBS
43%
Proportion of the global youth labour force that is unemployed or working poor (ILO)
40 million
Number of people entering the labour market each year (ILO)
600 million
The number of productive jobs that need to be created over the next decade (ILO)
GLOBAL YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS
Global youth unemployment 2000–2014
(% of total labour force aged 15–24)
%
14.2
14.0
13.8
13.6
13.4
13.2
13.0
12.8
12.6
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
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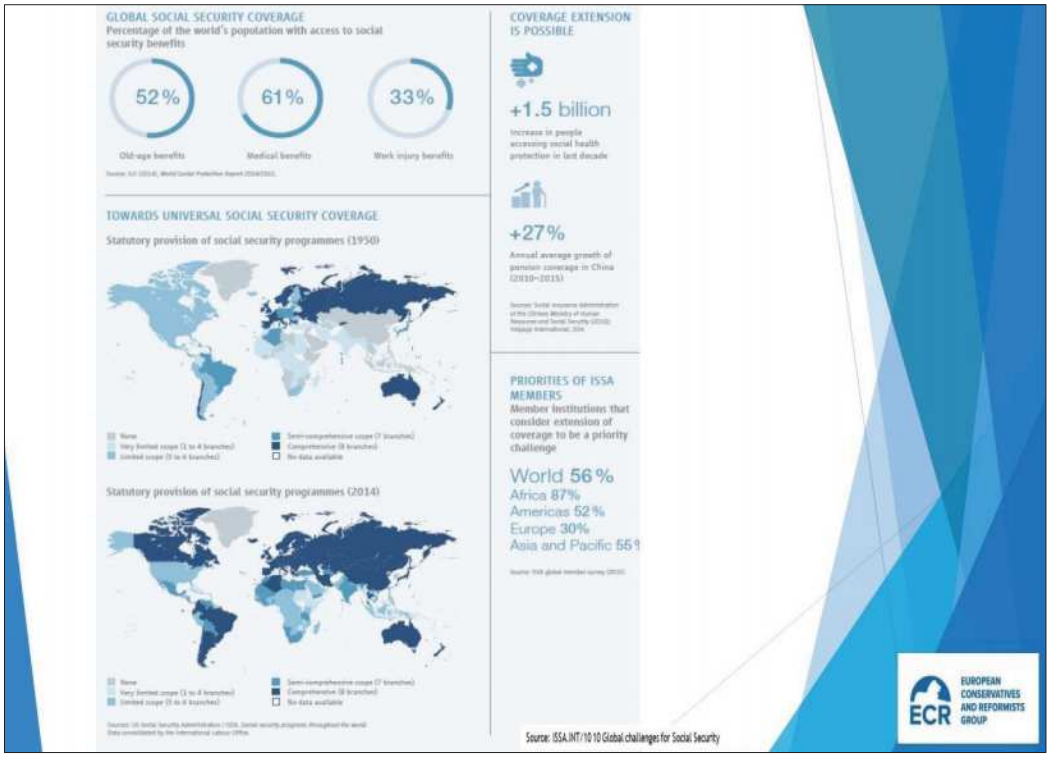
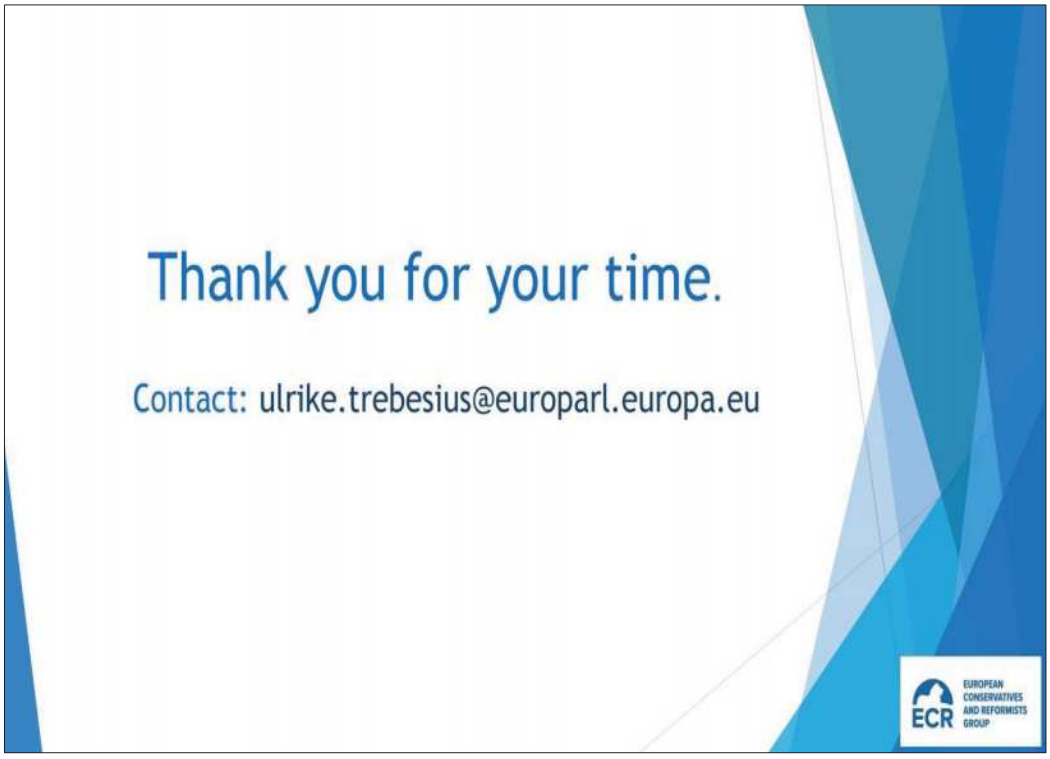
Source: ISSA.INT/10 10 Global challenges for Social Security


GLOBAL SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE
Percentage of the world's population with access to social security benefits
52%
Old-age benefits
61%
Medical benefits
33%
Work injury benefits
TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE
Statutory provision of social security programmes (1950)
None
Very limited coverage (1 to 4 branches)
Limited coverage (5 to 6 branches)
Semi-comprehensive coverage (7 branches)
Comprehensive (8 branches)
No data available
Statutory provision of social security programmes (2014)
None
Very limited coverage (1 to 4 branches)
Limited coverage (5 to 6 branches)
Semi-comprehensive coverage (7 branches)
Comprehensive (8 branches)
No data available
COVERAGE EXTENSION IS POSSIBLE
+1.5 billion
Increase in people accessing social health protection in last decade
+27%
Annual average growth of pension coverage in China (2010–2015)
PRIORITIES OF ISSA MEMBERS
Member institutions that consider extension of coverage to be a priority challenge
World 56%
Africa 87%
Americas 52%
Europe 30%
Asia and Pacific 55%
EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS GROUP
ECR
Source: ISSA.INT/10 10 Global challenges for Social Security


Thank you for your time.
Contact: ulrike.trebesius@europarl.europa.eu
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Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) of Foreign Affairs, Turkey

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,

It is my pleasure to be here at the 3rd Asia Europe Political Forum in Sri Lanka's lovely capital city of Colombo.

I would like to thank the United National Party of Sri Lanka and Hon. Daya Gamage for the kind invitation and I congratulate our host for this excellent organization.

ICAPP has always been a great platform for exchanging our views in various issues, and now we are working together with our European colleagues to develop new ideas and solutions on various global issues.

I would also like to thank The ICAPP Secretariat for the great efforts, invaluable role and efficient preparations in organizing the meetings.

Before I begin, I would like to extend my deepest condolence to New Zeeland for the fascist terrorist attack which took place in Christchurch and I am sure that you all agree with me that we strongly condemn all kind of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you know on Sunday 31 March there was local election in Turkey for the municipal administration.

Elections took place peacefully in a democratic and transparent atmosphere.

On Sunday 57 million registered voters voted for mayors and councilors with a

quite high turnout of 85%.

According to unofficial results, the People Front consist of AK Party and National Movement Party got approximately 52% of the votes whereas AK Party alone succeeded to get 45% of the votes

Distinguished Participants

The political parties as well as the governments should place on their urgent agendas the challenges with ageing population; such as poverty, discrimination, employment, education, social services, and accessibility to health services, etc.

According to the Turkish Statistics Institute (TurkStat) Turkey's elderly population increased by 16 percent in the last 5 years.

The numbers of educated elderly people also rose in the same period. The percentage of elderly citizens with a university degree reached to 6.2 percent in 2017.

We believe that elder people are great potential for economic and social development. Therefore we have to rely on and utilize the skills, experience and wisdom of elder people.

Elderly population make up 8.8 percent of the total population of Turkey, which is expected to increase to 16.3 percent by the year 2040 due to decline in fertility and the availability of new treatments that increase longevity.

Much of the world, particularly developed countries, faces the phenomenon of aging populations with the average life expectancy pushing well over 70 and even 90 in some places. Monaco with 33.2 percent, Japan with 28.4 percent and Germany with 22.4 percent are leading the list of countries with the highest proportion of the elderly citizens.

Combating poverty that elderly people facing is another important issue. According to 2017 OECD Stats, 12.5% of the population above 64 is living under the poverty line. In Turkey, this number is %18.9, while in Japan is %19, in Italy is %9.3.

Turkish Governments work closely with UN and EU related bodies in Turkey to ensure a secure life for the elderly people as well as youngsters.

Dear Participants

Providing income security for elderly people, ensuring healthy lives in old age, ensuring access to health care for elderly persons and providing supportive environments to elderly people are among the requisites for leaving no elder person behind.

These priorities were established when Madrid Plan of Action was adopted in 2002, to create a "society for all ages", while making sure that elderly people are not left behind.

Providing employment opportunities for elder persons by eliminating age barriers in the formal labor market is also an essential priority.

However we must ensure that aged persons are recognized as an integral part of the social fabric, that their knowledge and experiences are cherished and that their contributions are appreciated and capitalized upon. And especially, that every older person enjoys the dignity and human rights accorded to all members of society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey is a unique example of merging policies in well-established retirement system and promoting traditional social values to guarantee a good future for the elderly people.

Turkish Government is providing and ensuring the access of elderly and disabled people to basic social services as well as financial need.

However to secure active and healthy ageing population a good cooperation and coordination is necessary among intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as among political parties of different countries and ideologies.

I would like to end up my remarks by thanking you for your kind attention and hope this meeting create fruitful results for aged population of our societies

Thank you for your attention.

Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of the Free Patriotic Movement Party, Lebanon

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Dear excellencies
Ladies and gentleman

Thank you Sri Lanka for the warm hospitality.
My little speech I will make it in a moment , before I get to that I would like to speak about my political party , the free Patriotic movement of Lebanon

The president of Lebanon his Excellency Michel Aoun (founder of the FPM) recently went to Moscow , met with President Putin of Russia , exactly to talk about the Syrian refugees crisis in Europe that Sir Joeffrey was talking about .
This is a heavy burden for us in Lebanon
We already have those young people leaving because of the war situation in the Middle East that leave us with the older generation at home.
The young one are leaving for Brazil, Europe, America looking for a job, because too many wars are in the Middle East .
On the other hand we have the Syrian refugees are coming in, like they went to Europe, turkey and Jordan. We still have 1,5 million Syrians refugees in Lebanon among s population of 4 million .

So my party is working hard to make a political settlement to fix that major crisis, but it's really complicated because some countries still refuse to negotiate with the Syrian government in order to return their own citizens.

So this is our situation in Lebanon.
As we are here to discuss the issue of the aging population It is becoming an urgent matter and maybe more in Europe and Japan. Even though Asia have less problems with that issue than Europe , still the increase of the Aging population presents opportunities and also public health challenges that we need to prepare for. It is happening in every country in every part of the world .

It is affecting many aspects of our life Acute, long term health care needs ,pensions , work retirement benefits, transportation housing. So there is a lot of potential for learning from each other experience among our various political parties in ICAPP.

Also we must look at the positive sides of it , like they say some grows older but others grow wiser
So politically speaking, and by having older political leaders is a plus. Especially when it comes to make historical decisions that can be fatalistic for humankind future. Like in matters of negotiating war and peace, global economic direction between different nations around the world.

So let us use the best of our brains, the most of our experienced, in order to improve decisions crucial to our destiny, to improve the quality of our lives , whether in health issues , conflicts , or to bring our cultural heritage together so we can appreciate better the longevity and the quality of our generation and the future ones to come as well .

God bless you all
Thank you

Hon. Dr. Lee Hye-hoon, Vice Chairperson of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Chairman of Intelligence Committee and Member of National Assembly, *Bareunmirae* Party, Former Chairperson of the *Bareun* (Righteous) Party, Republic of Korea

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Until a while ago ageing was recognized as an issue of the West. Now it has become a serious pending issue for Asian countries as well.

Korea is one of the fastest aging societies not only in Asia but also in the world.
In the 1960s when I was born, the average fertility rate for Korea was 6.2

But it has now dropped very sharply to 0.98, which is less than half of 2.1

2.1 is necessary fertility rate to maintain a country. It means that Korea will disappear in sometime unless we take special measures.

Korea's population is ageing at super speed, faster than anywhere else in the world.

France took 115 years for transition from an aging society to an aged society.
Korea took only 19 years.

This evidently shows that, compared to the western countries, Asian countries are unprepared for a transition happening at lightning speed. It could be disaster.

Already observed in many studies, aging hinders economic vitality of a nation because aging leads to depressed productivity, declining savings and investment, and shortage of labor.

Thus aging is great threat to a country's sustainability. Aging exponentially increases social security expenditures such as pension and health care benefits whereas aging results in rapid decline in tax-paying population who actually pay for the social welfare expenditures.

In case of Korea, now 6 working people of 15 to 64 years old support the welfare expenditure of one elderly people who is over 65 years old. In 20 years later, the same burden should be borne by 2 working people.

We need to reform the social welfare system in order to ease such burden. This includes pension reform so that people pay higher contribution and receive less benefit along with astonishing expansion of life expectancy.

Health care reform is also needed to curb high-rocketing health cost within our accommodating ability. Nevertheless the most fundamental solution is to find an effective way to raise fertility rate. Over the past decade, Korean government spent 153 trillion won to improve fertility rate. But the result is so miserable. The birth rate has continued to decline and now is less than 1. It is definitely evident that we need to go back to the starting point and completely revise the policy measures to encourage childbirth.

We need to identify the true cause that keeps pulling the fertility rate down. Women want to engage in economic activities more and more. But patriarchal culture in Korea shifts the most of the responsibilities of childbirth and childbearing to women. In addition, various discrimination against women in workplace prevents women from childbearing.

We need to reform so that childbirth and childbearing should not act as obstacles in recruiting, promotion, and salary setting. We need to create a culture and social atmosphere that recognizes childbirth and childbearing as innate rights women can enjoy with dignity.

Today I'd like to propose another effective way that did not have proper attention. It is to expand support for infertile couples who sincerely wish for a child but are unable to have a child.

The official number of infertile people in Korea reaches at 220,000. Given the Korean culture that regards infertility as a kind of shame, we estimate that number to be much greater than the official figure. Korea is unrivaled in technology to treat infertility such as collection of the ova, artificial insemination, and implantation of embryos.

We need to expand health care benefit so that infertile people should not fail to receive timely treatment due to financial difficulties and thus lose the opportunity for childbirth and childbearing. It is national disaster as well as a personal tragedy

When the motto "Have children please. Then the government will take care of them" translates into real action, we can find a clue to solving the issue of low fertility and aging.

Hon. Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Secretary General of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), Malaysia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

1. Honorable Chairman,
   Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

2. Whenever we talk about the issue of ageing society, we almost always automatically zoom in on how to solve problems faced by the elderly in our society today. Very few pays attention to the root problems of ageing. For political parties, it is necessary to propose a holistic solution in this regard.

3. In effect, there are two main aspects to deal with the problems associated with an ageing population. One is how to effectively provide comprehensive social security for the ageing society and ageing groups, while the other is to awaken the people to prepare for an ageing society through family and population planning, education, finance and health care policies.

4. In Malaysia, the proportion of population aged 60 and over is projected to increase from 2.25 million or 8% in 2010 to 4.9 million or 15.3% in 2030 and 9.6 million or 23.6% by 2050. By 2045, those 60 and over will equal the number of young people below age 15, each making up 20% of the total population, and thereafter, the old will outnumber the young. The elderly's dependency ratio has increased from 9% in 1990 to 13.9% in 2015 and hit 39.5% by 2050. In contrast, the young dependency ratio has decreased from 90% in 1970 to 37% in 2015, and will drop to 28.3% by 2050.

5. Those developments increase the social-economic cost of tackling problems associated with an ageing population. China's experience arising from its "One-Child" policy of 36 years, has left one Chinese adult child to support his or her two parents, and four grandparents. Called the "4-2-1 Problem", this placed financial and psychological pressure on families, and the government.

6. In their pursuit of a life of comfort, young couples often elect birth control to provide their children with quality of life and good education. That, and other

leading factors such as delayed parenthood and marriage, as well as medical advances facilitating longer life as well as infertility that affects up to 15% of older couples of childbearing age worldwide, created an ageing population today. Our national fertility rate is projected to decline to the lowest level ever recorded since the formation of Malaysia 56 years ago where overall fertility rate of Malaysian women aged 15 to 49 is 2.0 children, which is below the replacement level of 2.1 children, compared with 6.0 children per woman in 1963. For every 1,000 population, there are only 15.8 Malaysian live births in 2018 compared to 16.1 in 2017, off a high of 46.2 at Independence in 1957.

7. Today, Malaysia's low fertility rate is changing the national demographics. In 2014, the fertility rate for Malays and Natives (Bumiputera) was 2.6 per woman aged 15–49 years, whereas for Chinese and Indians it was 1.4. Coupled with crude death rate of 6.3 among Indians, 5.9 for Chinese, and 4.8 for Bumiputera, this has altered the ethnic demographic ratio in Malaysia, which impacted its growth in diversity.

8. Financially, the burden of sustaining an aged population on the future generations of Malaysia is heavy. With the current rate of retirement of 20,000 to 25,000 civil servants annually, in 10 years, public sector pensions will more than double to US$15.5 billion (RM63 billion) and hit US$24.6 billion (RM100 billion) by 2050. Contributory pensions, increasing the retirement age to 65 and limiting intake of new civil servants are measures considered to ease the Malaysia's public purse.

9. Retirement brings huge challenges for Malaysians. Our national pension fund's data shows the average saving for members aged 54 is US$52,806 (RM214,923) for men and US$39,876 (RM162,296) for women. Assuming Malaysians live until 75 with no major medical expenses and outstanding debt, those savings bring just US$6.14 (RM25) per day, or only US$199 (RM810) monthly which is just above the absolute poor, poverty line income of US$186.70 (RM760). The hard fact is that Malaysian retirees can only sustain life for five years after retirement! Therefore, governments must awaken the people to plan and prepare for ageing life, and implement preferential policies that encourage people to invest in retirement savings.

10. Holistically, family planning covers "educational, comprehensive medical or social activities which enable individuals, including minors, to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved".

11. To address the problems of an ageing society in Malaysia, we must start from the root, where the government must raise awareness on the heavy burden of caring for the elderly. More urgently, we need policies and initiatives targeted at raising the fertility rate from 2.0 to at least 2.1, the replacement level. Malaysia must formulate strategies to boost birth rates and roll out initiatives such as providing convenient and affordable child care, child education and health services to young families, while encouraging family planning based on family affordability rather than blind birth control.

12. Solving and reducing the social costs of an ageing society requires long-term planning. Prepare everyone from the moment they are born. People-oriented political parties and governments must play a leading role in this regard.

13. Thank you, Honorable Chairman.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, Deputy Director General of Department of General Research, Central Commission for External Relations of Communist Party of Vietnam

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

H.E Park Robyug, Secretary General of the ICAPP Standing Committee,
H.E Chairpersons,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, first of all, to express our sincere thanks to the people and Government of Sri Lanka for hosting this Meeting as well as the excellence arrangement they have provided. Our compliments also go to the ICAPP Secretariat and AEPF Bureau for having selected a theme very practical and urgent for discussion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is growing old fast. And so is Vietnam. With rapid increase in the elderly population in both absolute and relative numbers, Vietnam is considered to be among the fastest ageing countries in Asia. The elderly population as a percentage of the total population reached nearly 12% in 2018 and will amount to around 20% in the next 20 years.

On the one hand, this aging population brings about important benefits to the society, including investment opportunities, experienced labour and knowledge.

On the other hand, rapid population aging also poses tremendous pressures on economic growth, as well as on the infrastructure and social security, requiring new approaches and comprehensive, proactive policies for the elderly. A glance at life of the elderly in Vietnam could tell something about those challenges: 27% have pension and stable income, while the rest 73% depend on their younger relatives for their living; 95% have diseases, mostly chronic and non-communicable, requiring frequent check-ups, constant monitoring and medication and 28% need assistance in personal hygiene, walking and eating, while only 63% have health insurance cards; 90% need help in using equipment like telephone, cooking, cleaning house, washing, driving vehicle.

So, what role does the Communist Party of Vietnam plays and how does it involve in

handling the situation.

The first important thing is the Party has raised its own awareness on the issue. Human development is the core value of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The Party as a result has always been committed to good social security, job security.

The Resolution of the 12th Party National Congress held in early 2016 reaffirmed that guaranteeing social security is among priority objectives, social security policies need to be improved in parallel with socio-economic development; social security system have to be efficient and inclusive.

Regarding the elderly population, our Party resolution issued in 2017 set forth some major targets, including life expectancy to increase to 75 years old by 2030, 100% older people in possess of a social insurance card and covered by a health management programme, 100% entitled to health care at home, community and elderly care centres.

Second, the Party helps build and consolidate the awareness of the whole political system. The Party's orientation, guidelines and directions, particularly through its resolutions, have impacts on the awareness of not only governmental agencies from central to local level but the whole society as well.

Third, as a ruling party, the orientation and guidelines worked out by the Party play the pivotal and leading role in directing the formulation of domestic policies and actions of concerned agencies and ministries in the area.

Furthermore*,* with a central-to-local structure and presence in ministries and agencies at all levels, the Party is actually participating in the formulation and implementation of policies concerning social security and employment.

Here are some key facts on what have been done or in consideration by the Vietnamese government in coping with challenges of social security and employment:

- Vietnam has reviewed and amended a number of laws aiming at expanding the coverage and improving quality of social security. Vietnam's 2013 Constitution, for the first time, includes in its text the basic right of citizens to social security assurance.

- Vietnam Ministry of Health has worked out an overall action plan aiming at improving health for older people in the 2017-2025 period, while provinces and centrally-monitored cities work out their own action plans in the field. By

improving elderly healthcare and encouraging saving for retirement from a young age, the future elderly will be able to live more independently, enjoy healthier and more joyful lifestyle as they get old and relive the burden posed on the society.

- Regarding social pension, a non-contributory social pension is offered to all older than 80 years of age and to those aged between 60-79 who are identified as poor. The trend is towards progressively lowering criteria for eligibility to social pensions and enabling extended benefits to more groups.

- Vietnam is now looking at options to raise retirement ages, in which people will work an extra of two to five years to get their pensions.

- Social work has been boosted to provide assistance and support to the elderly. Mass organizations, including the national level Vietnam Association of the Elderly and local level Vietnam Association of the Elderly, have been consolidated and conducted various activities for care and promotion of older people in Vietnam.

We are fully awared that big challenges are still ahead. But we stay committed. And we are willing and keen to listen and learning from your experiences.

Thank you.

Dr. Keo Piseth, Director of Center for Sustainable Development Studies of Asian Vision Institute (AVI), on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Cambodia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Honorable Geoffrey Van Orden, Chair of the Session II Discussion, and Co-Chairperson of AEPF

- Honorable Mushahid Hussain Sayed, ICAPP Special Rapporteur of ICAPP
- Standing Committee
- Honorable Khuon Sudary, Co-chair of AEPF
- Honorable Park Ro-byug, ICAPP Secretary General
- Honorables, distinguished guests, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the government of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan people for the warm hospitality and organization of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum in this beautiful city.

It is indeed my great honour for the opportunity to share with you the Cambodian perspectives and experiences on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary and the Royal Government of Cambodia on the topic of social security and ageing population in this high-level political platform.

As already been highlighted by our honourable guests and speakers, human health and wellbeing have significantly improved over the last century. Thanks to better health care system, advanced technology, and improved sanitation, human has greater longevity than ever. While longevity is a good sign of human development, it does not come without consequences. Population ageing does not only affect old people, but also the whole society and all economic sectors. Declining productivity, increasing costs on health care system and social pensions, and increasing dependency are some of the emerging challenges that our current systems have to address. With the rapid pace of change of ageing population closes to 1.3 billion people by 2050, Asian countries are going to face tremendous challenges. In fact, some countries in Asia are already struggling to effectively respond to this global phenomenon.

- ***Honorables, distinguished guests, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen***

Even though Cambodia is a low-income country with relatively low rate of ageing population at 7.74% in 2018, the Royal Government of Cambodia has paid close attention to ageing population issues since the late 1990s when the national committee for the development of policy and action plan on the welfare of elderly people was established. Soon after endorsing the Declaration of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid 2002, Cambodia adopted a policy for the elderly which was approved in 2003, and revised and turned into a "National Ageing Policy 2017-2030".

After more than two decades of promoting and implementing the policy on the elderly's welfare, I think it is worth sharing with you some of the key lessons learnt for consideration for future intervention. First, Cambodia, similar to other Asian countries, value family-based system for centuries, and this system should be strengthened. The family-based system, which allows the elderly to live with their adult offspring or other relatives, provides the most potent safety net. It helps keep the elderly company, reduce their risks and vulnerabilities including verbal or physical abuse, neglect, disobedience, and demeaning treatment. The elderly is also safer in the emergency situations such as natural disasters and civil strife when they are with their families. Additionally, the family-based system is also key to maintain intergenerational harmony. Promoting intergenerational relations is essential to ensure harmonious interaction between persons of different ages from grandparents to parents and children. With rapid advancement of technology, the intergenerational gap in term of differences of opinions and attitudes in most aspect of life is getting wider, and becoming difficult to bridge.

The second key message is the promotion of the sense of community for the elderly. The establishment of Older People's Associations (OPA) is one of the successful cases in Cambodia, and it may be of importance for other countries. This kind of association provides opportunities for the elders to interact and discuss various issues or organise various activities that would improve their well-being or address challenges in their daily lives. The communal system can also help the elderly to realise their potential for physical, social, and mental wellbeing and to participate in society, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when needed.

The third note I would like to share is the preparation of the younger population for ageing. It is undeniable that people getting older, not younger. The lessons and challenges shared by the older generation can be used to prepare the younger to lead a life that is more productive, healthy, active, dignified, and happy in their ageing. Investing in savings and subscribing to insurance and pension schemes, maintaining a healthy life style and undergoing periodic medical examinations, and teaching

offspring the importance of respect and care for the elderly can be some of the key preparatory strategies.

The final note I would like to emphasize is the multi-stakeholder cooperation. The efforts to support the elderly in the past have largely been driven by the government and non-government organisations. I believe there are spaces for the roles of private sector through public-private partnership ranging from technological innovation to social corporate responsibility and life-long trainings. These multi-stakeholders can work to create enabling environment for the elders to actively engage and participate in a wide spectrum of social, economic, cultural, spiritual and civic affairs. This would eventually enable them to stay active, live happy, and enjoy their longevity with dignity.

With the above mentions, I would like to conclude my remark here, and I wish you all with peace, happiness, health, and prosperity!

Thank you!

Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Head of the Department of International Relations of Mongolian People's Party, Mongolia

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

It is my pleasure to attend this Third Meeting of the "Asia Europe Political Forum' in this charming city of Colombo. In fact, this is my first meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum as well as my first time being part of the ICAPP process.

Let me introduce the policy of Mongolian People's Party (MPP) for elderly population is aimed at granting incentives, ameliorating the living environment with abundance. With the purpose of so, in 2016 it was nominated and participated for election with goals such as improvement of system, steady increase in pension, reduce interest rate of pension pledged loan which burdens elder's financial state, support for elderly employment, development of a "Veteran consultant" service to educate younger generation, medical services, care, nursery for elderly, and so on. The following activities are under the platform program. These include:

1. Renewing the Law of Elderly Social Welfare into "Law of Elderly" has made the rights of senior citizens clear.
2. Created a "Veteran consultant" service, registering senior consultants, guiding younger population with elder's know-how, professional skills and work experience.
3. Additional pension referred to as the "Age endowment" is granted twice a year to a person who is 65 or older.
4. Took steps to reduce the interest rate of pension pledged loan from 18% to 12%.
5. In order to increase the amount of pensions and allowances for the elderly, have been taking actions with coordinated inflation rate to increase annually.
6. Expanding the elderly's services, reformation of nursery, nursery services, strategy for establishing a nursing home, progress policy documents, preparing for implementation of experiment project.

Despite our positive progress in pursuing above goals with policy regarding elderly, our party is facing a fair amount of obstacles. Especially, the economic situation and lack of resources are limiting access to improvement of elderly's living conditions and aid services. Also, it also affects the limit which there is a need to reduce social security costs when financial and economic programs are collaborated with international financial institutions. Furthermore, there is a lack of national capacity to plan and implement sustainable policies and activities aimed at vulnerable groups such as elderly population, disabled people, orphan, and so on.

It has become the most important aspect that society needs to pay attention and intensify community participation in order to refine elder's security, constitute an appropriate and

pleasant environment.

Consequently, there are demand that needs to be taken into account of elderly employment, housing, chances, environment condition, health status, nursery, right to participate in society, preventing them from poverty, action of elimination of poverty, its funding and management. Furthermore, it eventually entails to intensify implementation by learning from international, especially neighbor countries, countries with social origin, countries in transition, party of powers policies and direction, in order to enhance performance of our country.

Within this framework, 4 sets of issues are demanded to thoroughly reviewed and resolved by theoretical and practical implementation.

1. Participation of social development including promotion of employment opportunities for elders, implement rights to benefit from consequences.
2. Establish a system that sustains healthy aging and elder's health, long term aid for ill and older people.
3. Arrange pleasant and satisfactory conditions for elderly families.
4. Create an elderly friendly living environment.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CLOSING SESSION

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, Honorary Advisor of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, Vice-Chairman of the ECR Group, MEP for the East of England and Conservative Spokesman for Security and Defense, United Kingdom

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
My thanks once more to Daya and the Sri Lankan authorities and to Mr Park Ro-byug. I think we have had enormously useful discussion on key issues of our times.

We have seen how the challenge of ageing is to change it from disadvantage to opportunity. In so many of our societies, the productivity and success of our people and workforce will depend on the older population. I am confident that technological progress and international cooperation will help us reduce physical disability and cognitive impairment. We certainly need to provide gainful employment for the elderly, drawing on their experience, in ways that do not impede the progress and ambitions of the young.

We recalled our commitment to help overcome maritime pollution. We also touched on the scourge of terrorism. And we described the reasons why the British voted for Brexit.

It has been an enormous honour to serve as your Co-Chairman these past two years. I congratulate Daya Gamage and my own successor, Jan Zahradil, on their election. I feel sure they will serve you well and I look forward to continued involvement with you through the honorary position you have kindly given me. Thank you and good luck to you all.

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, Republic of Korea

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Thank you all (stūtiyi) for your insightful presentation. Your constructive views and full participation have been of real value in making our conference truly relevant. The preparations proceeded with the full support of Minister Daya Gamage and Deputy Minister Anoma Gamage. Particularly, Hon. Anoma Gamage made a truly significant contribution to our preparations with a group of people comprising Foreign Ministry officials including Mrs. Damayanthie Rajapakse, Director General of the East Asia, South-east Asia & Oceania Division, and her colleagues, officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare and Social Empowerment, and officials from the Prime Minister's Office who did so much behind the scenes. Without doubt, we should give the unsung heroes a full applause for their efforts and the excellent role they played in ensuring a successful meeting. I would like to ask you to join in giving them a heartfelt round of applause.

First of all, I believe there was a shared understanding that the topic of this meeting had practical meaning and great relevance not only to our daily lives but indeed, even from a long-term perspective, our political parties' activities. Even the upcoming G20 Meeting in July in Japan will also touch on the "ageing population issue" as one of the main topics. So we are now exploring themes of real relevance – and I believe that we will continue to play a full part in this way.

Secondly, I want to extend my gratitude to the experts from Korea and Germany. In particular Hon. Ulrike Trebesius from Germany and Hon. Phang Ha-nam from the Republic of Korea brought some important points to the surface which we hadn't even recognized regarding the theme and provided common ground on which we can move forward in addressing this difficult task. This Forum brought to our attention a number of points which may not have fully come to our attention previously, and they helped to identify common ground in our efforts to seek to address the challenging task. Two key experts offered excellent guidance and reference on how to effectively develop specific local solutions through sharing benchmarking of exemplary practices. It is an important point since multiple-party-based cooperation and programs are imperative in resolving the issues that emerge from ageing populations. We already have a picture

of the problem as an abstract concept and that of the challenges it brings. But what we can actually do that will have a real effect is much more important.

Thirdly, from Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden's remarks, we gained a clear sense of the difficulties facing the people of Great Britain with Brexit. This is not just a matter facing the British people. It is also important to all of us. Previously, we thought of the EU system as an exemplary format for bringing adjacent countries together and believed that we should pursue this kind of approach in Asian communities economically and politically through our ICAPP activities. But Great Britain has provided us with a very valuable lesson - 'Do not touch on political authority or any surrounding issues'. So we should be careful not to touch on issues which are too sensitive, focusing rather on matters relevant to economic benefit, cultural diversity and human relations. We very much appreciate the British people's pioneering role and we also appreciate the Russians for their efforts and sacrifice to realize the idea of communism for decades. They strived to pursue another human philosophy and political system. But they showed that is the way we should not pursue. We are enjoying an advanced system of market economy and democracy in our global community. And we trust that all countries will find that they can identify tangible solutions to the tasks before them by learning from each other.

We are sharing with each other and learning from each other. And this Asia-Europe Political Forum will move ahead in pursuit of such a spirit. The AEPF is indeed a very great platform - we can learn a great deal from our friends: the UK, Russia, Germany and France, to name just a few. Accordingly, we can share our views on optimum scenarios. And we can share our best results through this platform.

And I would like to emphasize again that Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden has indeed contributed greatly to upgrading our forum. I would like to quote a famous phrase that American General - Douglas MacArthur - included in his "farewell address" in 1951. He said "Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away. Soldiers are always ready to come back." I hope Geoffrey Van Orden will also come back whenever we have an interesting conference. And I can say with every confidence that he will always be a President to us in spirit.

I would like to finish with three important points. The first one is that the new European side Co-Chairperson Hon. Jan Zahradil has proposed to host the 4th Meeting of the AEPF in Prague, one of the most beautiful capital cities in Eastern Europe, in May, 2020. We hope to see an even more productive format, and I would be happy to visit Strasbourg to encourage more participation on the European side and

indeed to spread the values of this forum, with the support of European colleagues.

There are two bits of good news for the ICAPP Members. One is that Hon. Andrey Klimov announced that he is ready to host the Media Forum, inviting journalists and members of the ICAPP to Vladivostok on Friday June 14th. So anyone who is able to participate in this forum, please inform the host by 22nd of May.

The next piece of good news is a wonderful compromise of the meeting between Azerbaijan and Malaysian colleagues. They agreed to hold the Youth Wing and Women's Wing, which are now rescheduled for September 5th.

So we are moving ahead with a spirit of compromise and consensus to find a mutually beneficial format, one which is ever better. Thank you all for your active participation in this forum. And we are looking forward to meeting with you again.

Hon. Daya Gamage, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd AEPF, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka

ASIA-EUROPE POLITICAL FORUM IN COLOMBO, 2019

Thank you Mr. Secretary General, for your kind words addressing to me and all the staffs of the Organizing Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to reciprocate your kindness by extending our gratitude to you and to your staffs at the ICAPP Secretariat for their cooperation and excellent work to make this Conference a big success.

I now would like to deliver my closing remarks on behalf of the people of Sri Lanka, the host of this 3rd Asia Europe Political Forum.

We now have come to the final conclusion of the 3rd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum of the ICAPP. It has been great honor and privilege for Sri Lanka to host this April meeting. We hope all the participants have had a pleasant stay and safely return to your countries with fond memories of Sri Lanka and visit as friends in years to come.

And again, I wanted to invite everybody to join the tomorrow's Galle trip, because we only have one day to bring you all to the Galle and definitely, you will be enjoying this Galle trip.

And I also wanted to mention few names. I thank Founding Chairman of the ICAPP, Jose de Venecia. We miss him, as his son and wife are contesting in the Philippines election, and Indonesia, due to the election. And Mushahid, he is one of the founding members, so that he has given so much contribution for the ICAPP meetings. Last two years, when we are starting this, starting is the most difficult part for any organization. When this Asia-Europe Political Forum started, Khuon Sudary, who had the responsibility and done the hard work. Cambodia has given so much of contribution to this ICAPP. Therefore, I must thank you, Madam, for your contribution to our ICAPP and again to the European sides. This is a great honour for the ICAPP in joining the Asia-Europe Political Forum. The second forum was held in the UK. Geoffrey, you have organized that very well. Thank you very much for coming here and giving us

contribution. We miss Hon. Chung. After he joined as the Advisor to the President of the Korea, we luckily got Hon. Park Ro-byug, continuing his work. I can definitely see that within two to three years of time period, you may do better. Thank you very much for your hard works. And, we may not success, if, my wife, Anoma is not there. Because of my busy schedule, I have given her a lot of responsibilities, as well as to the Ministries of Primary Industries, Social Welfare and Social Empowerment.

So, half of the country people are with us, like 2.6 million elderly people, and then I have to empower other 2 million people. Anoma, Mr. Maliyedda, staffs of the Foreign Ministry and my Ministry managed to organize this with the support and advice from the ICAPP Korean Office staffs. Thank you very much for co-contributed for us to success this event. Again, I would like to thank everybody, who joined us from so many countries; 23 countries have attended. The ICAPP, at this moment, has 350 political parties from 52 countries. I think we have concluded very successful event. I also wish to thank my Prime Minister, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, for joining with us and giving us very comprehensive speech among his busy schedule. His speech covered all areas what I have seen from so many speeches. I am proud to have my leader of United National Party, as the chief guest to this event.

Thank you very much everybody. We are happy to serve you tomorrow, and to invite everybody to come with your family to Sri Lanka so that we will look after you. Thank you very much!

III

Introduction of the ICAPP

1. Brief Introduction of the ICAPP

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched in Manila in September **2000 to promote exchanges and cooperation** between political parties with various ideologies from different Asian countries; to enhance mutual understanding and trust among Asian countries; to promote Asia's regional cooperation through dialogues and common programs among political parties, and to foster environment for solid peace, shared prosperity and diverse cultural exchanges in the region and beyond.

Since its inception, the ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. By bringing together Asia's political leaders in regular fraternal assemblies, the ICAPP has become a valuable platform for mutual understanding among peoples of Asian countries and beyond. As of May 2018, more than 352 political parties in 52 countries in the region with diverse political and ideological backgrounds are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities. The ICAPP will be able to contribute to works of global multilateral institutions such as the UN and UNESCO, based on its unique **characteristics and potentials** as follows:

First, the ICAPP is a constructive and visionary **network of political parties**, both ruling and in opposition. The ruling parties participating in ICAPP are responsible for forming the governments in their respective countries. These ruling parties are inter-connected with the governments and virtually be identified as the governments. The political parties in opposition also champion alternative policies, platforms, and agendas, sometimes together with a shadow cabinet, thus influencing and engaging substantively in the activities of the governments. Thus, political parties constitute part and parcel of the government, and the ICAPP is characterized as **an international organization of political parties of independent states.**

Second, the ICAPP has been strengthened with **its solid and efficiently managed structure of the General Assembly, Standing Committee, its affiliated bodies, such as Youth Wing, Women's Wing, Media Forum and Asian Cultural Council, and Special Conferences.** Nine General Assemblies of the ICAPP, which have been successfully held in Manila (2000), Bangkok (2002), Beijing (2004), Seoul (2006), Astana (2009), Phnom Penh (2010), Baku (2012), Colombo (2014) and Kuala Lumpur (2016), brought together political leaders throughout the region to exchange opinions and communicate with one another. The 10th General Assembly was held in Moscow in Russia in October 24-27, 2018. In particular, it was agreed that the ICAPP Secretary General will be in charge of coordination among three continents as well as developing ties with North America. The ICAPP Standing Committee is comprised of the leading political parties of 23 countries representing different sub-regions of Asia. Currently, a total of 38 political parties, both ruling and opposition, are represented in the Standing Committee. The committee has been meeting regularly, more than twice a year since 2004, to organize the ICAPP activities and programs in an effective and concerted manner.

Third, following the decision of the Standing Committee meeting in 2008, the 5th meeting of the General Assembly in 2009 approved **establishing the ICAPP Secretariat office in Seoul, the ROK.** Thanks to the outstanding management by the Secretariat, devoted far-reaching activities of the Secretary General and the full budgetary support of the ROK government for the Secretariat office, the ICAPP has been able to develop and expand their activities with accumulated records and high level efficiency.

Fourth, the ICAPP, originating in Asia, has been trying **to reach out to other regions in the world, especially to Latin America, Africa and Europe.** In recent years, the ICAPP has been trying to reach out to other regions in the world. For instance, the first joint session with the COPPPAL, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, was successfully held in Buenos Aires in July 2009. Since then, the ICAPP and COPPPAL have been holding joint sessions annually: the second meeting in Phnom Penh (2010), the third meeting in Mexico City (2012), the fourth meeting in Baku (2013) and the fifth meeting again in Mexico City (2014).

In addition, the ICAPP and the COPPPAL have successfully coordinated efforts to help political parties in Africa establish a similar organization. As a result, the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) was finally launched in Khartoum, Sudan, in April 2013. The first Conference of the CAPP held in Khartoum was attended by representatives of 35 political parties from five different sub-regions in Africa.

The ICAPP hosted the first Trilateral Conference among political parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America in April 2016. At the conference, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to the intent and spirit of the U.N. Charter for international peace and cooperation. In particular, they agreed to "urge their respective governments and parliaments to ratify immediately the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2016." On July 9th 2017, the first Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) was held in Seoul, Korea, after the full discussion between the ICAPP and political groups of the European Parliament with its desirability to enhance the mutual understanding and cooperation. The first Meeting of the Political Forum with the European Parliament was attended by Standing Committee members of the ICAPP and European representatives in European Parliament. Seoul Statement was adopted on the themes of "Climate Change" and "Populism in Politics" during the meeting, and the second Meeting was held on three major themes of "Asia-Europe partnership and the role of political parties in regional co-operation and connectivity", "Co-operation in promoting affordable and clean energy, mitigating climate change, and preventing environmental degradation" and "Disaster relief, combating major diseases-the humanitarian response", in London.

Fifth, as part of efforts to strengthen ICAPP's character as an intergovernmental institution, a **"Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation to Support the Activities of**

the ICAPP" has been signed by the governments of eleven countries, i.e. Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. More governments may be able to join the MOU.

Finally, the ICAPP could be **an effective tool in delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 2015, by strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. **The UNESCO** acknowledged **the ICAPP as an international organization of political parties of independent states** and signed **a MOU** on partnership cooperation in 2018. Given that parliaments are composed of representatives of political parties, enhanced awareness and increased participation of political parties representing the grassroots voices, **such partnership** will translate into effective **implementation of the UNSDGs as well as UNESCO's conventions and recommendations**. The ICAPP will make its best effort to achieve the UNSDGs through their enactment of legislation and enhancement of public participation.

The detailed information on the ICAPP is available at its website (www.theicapp.org).

In 2008, the ICAPP Standing Committee agreed to establish the ICAPP Secretariat in Seoul, Korea, and nominated Mr. Chung Eui-yong, then Member of the National Assembly of Korea and Former Ambassador, as Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Secretary General of the ICAPP, which was endorsed at the 5th General Assembly in 2009. Since January 2018, Amb. Park Ro-byug was appointed as the Secretary General. The ICAPP Secretariat can be reached by email at secretariat@theicapp.org. More detailed information on the ICAPP and its activities can be found on its website at www.theicapp.org.

2. Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee

(As of May 2019)

Bureau of the Standing Committee			
	Hon. Jose de VENECIA, Jr. ▸Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee ▸Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the **Philippines**		**Hon. CHUNG Eui-yong** ▸Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee ▸Director of National Security for President, Republic of **Korea**
	Hon. KHUON Sudary ▸Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▸Member of Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of **Cambodia**		**Hon. GUO Yezhou** ▸Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▸Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China**
	Hon. Mushahid HUSSAIN SAYED ▸Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee ▸Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, **Pakistan**		**Hon. PARK Ro-byug** ▸Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat and Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP ▸Former Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Russia, Republic of **Korea**
	Hon. Andrey KLIMOV ▸Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▸Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, **Russian Federation**		
Members (by alphabetical order of the name of country)			
	Hon. Shane L. STONE ▸Assistant Chairman of International Democratic Union ▸Former Federal President of the Liberal Party of **Australia**		**Hon. Ali Javad AHMADOV** ▸Deputy Prime Minister ▸Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party, **Azerbaijan**
	Hon. Abdul Matin KHASRU ▸Member of the Parliament ▸Member of the Presidium, Bangladesh *Awami* League ▸Former Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, **Bangladesh**		**Hon. Hussain Muhammad ERSHAD** ▸President of *Jatiya* Party ▸Former President of **Bangladesh**
	HRH Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh ▸Former First Prime Minister ▸Former Chairman of the National Assembly, and President of *FUNCINPEC* Party, **Cambodia**		**Hon. Vijay JOLLY** ▸President of Delhi Study Group ▸Senior Indian *Bharatiya Janata* Party (BJP) Leader, **India**
	Hon. Karan SINGH ▸Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress, **India**		**Hon. Andreas PAREIRA** ▸Member of Parliament ▸Chairperson in charge of Human Development and Culture, Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), **Indonesia**
	Hon. Theo L. SAMBUAGA ▸Vice Chairman, Patron Council of *Golkar* Party ▸Former Minister of Man Power and Former Minister of Housing and Settlement, **Indonesia**		**Hon. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ghafoori FARD** ▸Founding President, Foundation for Islamic Development ▸Former Vice President of **Iran** ▸Member of the Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party
	Hon. Mohammad Reza Sarmadi ▸Deputy Secretary General of International Relations and Member of the Central Committee of Islamic Labour Party, **Iran**		**Hon. Motohiro Oono** ▸Director-General of the International Department, Democratic Party For the People (DPFP) ▸Member of the House of Councillors, **Japan**

	Hon. Maulen ASHIMBAYEV ▸First Deputy Chairman of *Nur Otan* Party of **Kazakhstan**		**Hon. PARK Young-sun** ▸Minister of SMEs and Startups (MSS), Member of the National Assembly, and Former Chairperson and Floor Leader of *The Minjoo* (Democracy) Party, Republic of **Korea**
	Hon. Dr. LEE Hye-hoon ▸Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of Intelligence Committee, *Bareunmirae* Party ▸Former Chairperson of the *Bareun* (Righteous) Party, Republic of **Korea**		**Hon. Youssef AWAD** ▸Coordinator for Asia and Overseas, Free Patriotic Movement Party of **Lebanon**
	Hon. Fadi FAWAZ ▸Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party of **Lebanon**		**Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan bin KASSIM** ▸Member of Parliament, United Malay National Organization (UMNO) ▸Former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, **Malaysia**
	Hon. Dato' Dr. Hou Kok Chung ▸Vice President of Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and Senator ▸Chairman of Institute of Strategic Analysis & Policy Research (INSAP), **Malaysia**		**Hon. Baigal LUVSANCHULTEM** ▸Chairman of General Control Committee, Democratic Party of **Mongolia**
	Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar ▸Head of the Office for International Cooperation, Mongolian People's Party, **Mongolia**		**Hon. U Mahn Jonny** ▸Member of Parliament-*Pyithuhluttaw* and Member of Central Committee, National League for Democracy (NLD), **Myanmar**
	Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin ▸Member of the Central Executive Committee, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) ▸Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Myanmar**		**Hon. Jhalanath KHANAL** ▸Senior Leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), ▸Former Prime Minister, **Nepal**
	Hon. Sujata KOIRALA ▸Member of Parliament and Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party ▸Former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of **Nepal**		**Hon. Nuzhat SADIQ** ▸Senator and Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee ▸Head of Women's Wing of Pakistan Muslim League(PML)-N, **Pakistan**
	Hon. Daya GAMAGE ▸Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP) ▸Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment, **Sri Lanka**		**Hon. Dilan PERERA** ▸Member of the Parliament, Assistant Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP)▸ ▸State Minister of Highways, **Sri Lanka**
	Hon. Dr. Nalinee TAVEESIN ▸Former Thailand Trade Representative ▸Former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office ▸*Pheu Thai* Party of **Thailand**		**Hon. Chamni SAKDISET** ▸Former Deputy Party Leader of the Democrat Party of **Thailand**
	Hon. Cevet YILMAZ ▸Chairman for Foreign Affairs of the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*), **Turkey**		**Hon. NGUYEN Manh Cuong** ▸Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **Vietnam**
	Liberal Democratic Party/New Komeito Party, **Japan**		

3. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP

Memorandum of Understanding
on Cooperation to Support the Activities
of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

The Participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU"),

Recognizing the unique role which the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the "ICAPP") is playing to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in Asia by promoting exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies and thus enhancing mutual understanding and trust among the peoples,

Realizing that challenges in Asia can be more efficiently and effectively addressed if the political leaders of the region unite through dialogue by building mutual confidence and fellowship, by seeking political consensus through consultation and sharing of experiences, and by developing common political strategies, and

Wishing that the increased capacity of the ICAPP to aggregate and channel the views of the peoples in all diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and regional, will contribute to forging closer understanding and cooperation between the governments and helping them move forward to build a more peaceful, harmonious and prosperous region,

Have reached the following understandings:

Paragraph 1

The Participants will provide appropriate support that is available and possible within their capacity, for the activities and programs of the ICAPP, which include its General Assembly, Standing Committee meetings, Special Thematic Conferences, and other activities of its subsidiary bodies, such as the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Youth Wing, etc.

Paragraph 2

The Participants will also provide appropriate support that is available and possible within their capacity, for the activities of the ICAPP Secretariat.

Paragraph 3

This MOU is not intended to create any legally binding obligations.

Paragraph 4

Other Governments whose political parties are members of the ICAPP can participate in this MOU, by submitting their intention in writing to the ICAPP Secretariat.

Paragraph 5

The ICAPP Secretariat, acting as a Depository for the MOU, will immediately inform the other Participants when a new Participant joins. The Depository will also keep the list of the Participants in this MOU as Annex A.

Paragraph 6

All Signatories have equal status.

Paragraph 7

Any differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be resolved through consultations and/or negotiations between the Signatories.

Paragraph 8

This MOU will come into effect on the date of signature, and will come into effect upon the new Participant when a majority of the Participants notifies the ICAPP Secretariat (or Depository), in writing, of their intention to approve such submission of intention to participate in this MOU. This MOU will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years, and will be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years, unless terminated by the Participant giving six (6) months prior notice in writing to the other Participants. The Participants may, upon mutual consent, introduce amendments and additions to this MOU, which will come into effect in the same manner as the MOU. Such amendments and additions will form an integral part of this MOU.

Signed in Seoul on the twenty-sixth day of July, 2013, in the English language.

For the Government of the Republic of Korea
H.E. Mr. Kim Kyou-hyun, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Kingdom of Cambodia
H.E. Mr. Chan Ky Sim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
H.E. Mr. Tissa Wijeratne, Ambassasador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Mr.Khandker Masudul Alam, Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires

For the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. Ramzi Teymurov, Cahrge d'Affaires

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
H.E. Mr. Toan Trong TRAN Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of People's Republic of China
Mr. Feng Cuntai, Counsellor

冯寿台

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Kazem Soltanahmade, Counsellor

For the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
H.E. Mr. Dulat Bakishev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
H.E. Mr. Kaman Singh Lama, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

For the Government of Mongolia
H.E. Mr. Baasanjav GANBOLD, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary