

POLICY RESPONSES TO POPULATION AGEING



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About the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



Part of the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was established in 2004 with the mission of being the leading global public policy school in Asia. Our strategic location in Singapore – a city-state widely known for its strong governance and efficient civil service – enables students to study in one of the best public policy laboratories in the world, while accessing the wider Asia-Pacific region in a distinctively global environment.

The school has produced more than 2,600 graduates from 80 countries who are international change agents, highly sought after in a diverse range of fields. Its curriculum spans across multiple disciplines and is complemented with case studies and a problem-based learning approach. Students from the LKYSPP can expect to extend their learning well beyond the walls of the classroom, and to benefit from strong empirical evidence and contextual narratives that emphasise Asian and international dimensions. The School boasts a pool of research-active faculty who addressed many vital global challenges. It has also cultivated an extensive network of international partners. In 2007, LKYSPP became the first Asian school to join the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), which was established by the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs in the United States, the London School of Economics and Sciences Po. By providing opportunities for the education and training of the next generation of Asian policymakers and leaders, the LKYSPP aims to raise the standards of governance throughout the region, improve the lives of the people in the region and, in so doing, contribute to the transformation of Asia.

Master in Public Administration



The 1-year full-time Master in Public Administration (MPA) Programme prepares students for senior management roles in the public sector. It provides an intensive, interdisciplinary course of study for professionals who wish to work on increasingly complex issues shaping national, regional and global policies and projects.

A key feature of the MPA Programme is the Governance Study Project (GSP), which aims to expose students to a complex public policy issue of relevance to Asia, and share insights on how local policymakers are addressing this issue through a multi-pronged effort.

In this module, students work together in groups to prepare a policy memo and report under faculty supervision. This applied learning component provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the knowledge and insights gained from the course. They will then share their research findings at a conference at the end of Semester 2.

Governance Study Project (GSP)

Policy Responses to Population Ageing

Many countries in Asia and across the world are experiencing population ageing and demographic transition. The ratio of working age citizens to senior citizens is falling, while state expenditure on healthcare and retirement needs will continue to grow. The demographic transition has numerous implications for public policy, spanning pension and healthcare systems, senior-friendly infrastructure and active ageing programmes.

Successful ageing requires attention to physical, psychological and social well-being. This necessitates a multi-stakeholder, whole-of-society effort to address the needs of seniors. Policies must also take cognizance of cultural norms, family structure and a country's stage of development. Insights into these issues from the Singapore perspective as a 'living laboratory' of good governance can help students develop a greater appreciation for governance, policy formulation, and policy implementation in addressing a complex policy challenge.

In the first part of the course, called the "Singapore Policy Experience", students learnt how policymakers in Singapore are addressing the multifaceted challenge of ageing and demographic transition. Lectures, practitioner sharing, as well as visits to public sector organisations helped them to gain a holistic understanding of the Singapore approach.

The second part of the course gave students the opportunity to work in groups, and to apply their minds to similar challenges faced by other countries. They have come up with recommendations across a range of policy domains, drawing on insights from the Singapore experience as well as their own research. The GSP Conference provides a platform for them to showcase their findings and recommendations to fellow students and interested stakeholders. It is hoped that this will contribute to public policy thinking on a topic of considerable importance to Asia.

GSP Conference Schedule 2022

Policy Responses to Population Ageing

Date : 27 April 2022
 Time : 8.30am to 5.30pm
 Venue : Shangri-La Hotel (Tower A Ballroom)
 22 Orange Grove Rd, Singapore 258350
 Dress Code : Business Formal

Time	Programme
8.30am to 8.45am	Registration
8.45am	All to be seated
8.50am to 9.00am	Welcome Address by Professor Danny Quah, Dean and Li Ka Shing Professor in Economics
9.00am to 10.15am (Each group will be allocated 15 mins of presentation and 10 mins of Q&A)	<p>Group B: Enhancing Japan's Social Resilience in Population Ageing (9.00am to 9.25am)</p> <p>Group I: Persediaan Malaysia Untuk Masa Hadapan: Ascertaining financial challenges to public institutions in the wake of the upcoming Silver Tsunami (9.25am to 9.50am)</p> <p>Group M: Improving the Affordability and Quality of Long-Term Care Services for China's Aging Population (9.50am to 10.15am)</p>
10.15am to 10.35am	Tea Break
10.35am to 12.15pm (Each group will be allocated 15 mins of presentation and 10 mins of Q&A)	<p>Group A: The Elderly in Thailand: A Successful Ageing Perspective (10.35am to 11.00am)</p> <p>Group C: Overcoming Productive Longevity Barriers in Hungary (11.00am to 11.25am)</p> <p>Group D: Building a Self-Reliant Silver Generation: Enhancing Fiscal Sustainability for Ageing in Taiwan (11.25am to 11.50am)</p> <p>Group E: Comparative Analysis of Policy Responses to Demographic Ageing in Singapore and New Zealand - A Discussion of Pension, Healthcare and Labour Approaches (11.50am to 12.15pm)</p>
12.15pm to 12.25pm	Group Photography
12.25pm to 2.15pm	Lunch
2.15pm to 3.30pm (Each group will be allocated 15 mins of presentation and 10 mins of Q&A)	<p>Group F: Improving Accessibility for Inclusive Elder-Friendly Neighbourhoods to Promote Successful Aging in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2.15pm to 2.40pm)</p> <p>Group G: The Bayanihan Blueprint: Planning for an Age-Friendly Built Environment in Metro Manila (2.40pm to 3.05pm)</p> <p>Group H: Enhancing the Social Protection System for the "Missing Middle" and Most Vulnerable in Vietnam (3.05pm to 3.30pm)</p>
3.30pm to 3.50pm	Tea Break
3.50pm to 5.05pm (Each group will be allocated 15 mins of presentation and 10 mins of Q&A)	<p>Group J: Strategies for Successful Ageing in Malaysia (3.50pm to 4.15pm)</p> <p>Group K: Japan and Singapore - A Comparative Study on Evolving an Inclusive Society for the Aging Population (4.15pm to 4.40pm)</p> <p>Group L: Cambodia: Key Barriers and Solutions to Productive Longevity (4.40pm to 5.05pm)</p>
5.30pm	End of conference

Meet the GSP Faculty



Joelle Fong **Assistant Professor**

Joelle Fong is Assistant Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. She holds a PhD in Applied Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Joelle's broad research agenda focuses on the economic and health aspects of population ageing, and their implications for policy. Her research interests include pension economics and finance, public and private insurance markets, longevity risk management, retirement security, and long-term care financing. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *North American Actuarial Journal*, *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance*, and *Scandinavian Actuarial Journal*. Her work on health and ageing has been published in *Health Services Research*, *Journal of American Geriatrics Society*, and *Archives of Gerontology & Geriatrics*. Joelle currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Governors for the Asia-Pacific Risk and Insurance Association. She worked in the Singapore Civil Service before joining academia.

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Terence Ho **Associate Professor**

Terence Ho is Associate Professor in Practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

Terence has served in various policy, research and leadership roles in the Singapore Public Service since 2002. He has also been a Board Member of Workforce Singapore as well as the Building and Construction Authority.

Terence is the author of *Refreshing the Singapore System: Recalibrating Socio-Economic Policy for the 21st Century* (World Scientific, 2021).

Abstracts (Overview)

Group A

The Elderly in Thailand: A Successful Ageing Perspective

Group B

Enhancing Japan's Social Resilience in Population Ageing

Group C

Overcoming Productive Longevity Barriers in Hungary

Group D

Building a Self-Reliant Silver Generation:
Enhancing Fiscal Sustainability for Ageing in Taiwan

Group E

Comparative Analysis of Policy Responses to Demographic Ageing in Singapore and New Zealand - A Discussion of Pension, Healthcare and Labour Approaches

Group F

Improving Accessibility for Inclusive Elder-Friendly Neighbourhoods to Promote Successful Aging in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Group G

The Bayanihan Blueprint:
Planning for an Age-Friendly Built Environment in Metro Manila

Group H

Enhancing the Social Protection System for the "Missing Middle" and Most Vulnerable in Vietnam

Group I

Persediaan Malaysia Untuk Masa Hadapan: Ascertaining financial challenges to public institutions in the wake of the upcoming Silver Tsunami

Group J

Strategies for Successful Ageing in Malaysia

Group K

Japan and Singapore - A Comparative Study on Evolving an Inclusive Society for the Aging Population

Group L

Cambodia: Key Barriers and Solutions to Productive Longevity

Group M

Improving the Affordability and Quality of Long-Term Care Services for China's Aging Population

Group A

The Elderly in Thailand: A Successful Ageing Perspective

Group members:

Akhila Savera Weerasinghe, Camila Rossini Pantera,
Nandini R Nair, Shek Ka Chun

Abstract:

Thailand is the third most rapidly ageing population in the world, and the second-fastest in ASEAN, after Singapore (World Bank, 2021). By the end of 2021, Thailand was predicted to become an aged society and by 2035 it is expected to turn into a super-aged population (ERIA, 2021). The challenges to achieving successful ageing for the growing population of older persons are significant, especially in urban areas, where there is an absence of social support and resilience provided by the presence of a supportive community. This presents a complex set of challenges for policymakers requiring tailored responses.

Our GSP project aims to review existing policies and examine the key challenges to successful ageing in Thailand. Through interviews across the spectrum of actors in Thailand, from civil society to academics, and an extensive literature review, we acknowledge the importance of community and its ability to provide the necessary pillars of successful ageing, and recommend the set-up of Community Innovation Labs at the municipal level to improve social engagement and exchange to promote successful ageing in Thailand.



During a meeting at LKYSPP



Meeting with Director of Public Health, Bueng Yitho Municipality



Meeting with founders of Buddy HomeCare



Meeting with Napaphat, Mahidol University



The group volunteered for the elderly in Singapore

Group B

Enhancing Japan's Social Resilience in Population Ageing

Group members:

Aung Paing Soe, Inada Masayo, Koh Yi Ling Yvonne,
Leong Wei Jian, Tang Chuan Lee

Abstract:

Anchored upon the concept of resilience, this project studies how Japan can enhance its software in addressing the emerging challenges faced by its aged population. These include Kodokushi (solitary death), the “grey” digital divide as exposed by COVID-19, and the rise in elderly crime rates. The proportion of elderly (aged 65 and above) in Japan is projected to grow from 30% today to 40% in 2065. With key hardware and programmes such as a pension system, a comprehensive Long-Term Care Insurance and integrated care models in place, the next steps in Japan's efforts – outlined in the Japanese Cabinet-approved Guidelines of Measures for Ageing Society in 2018 – focus on creating an age-free society where the elderly can continue to live with dignity, work and contribute; re-imagining local communities to better support ageing; and adopting technology as an enabler.

Ensuring individual resilience through better physical and mental health, financial adequacy and digital literacy and building community resilience are essential building blocks to achieve overall social resilience. From the emerging societal issues, viz., Kodokushi, “grey” digital divide and elderly crime, we will first analyse the evolving needs of the Japanese elderly vis-à-vis the different points in the spectrum of resilience that they will require, to negotiate the challenges of ageing. We will then examine and assess existing resilience-building efforts and other measures in Japan to address these problems. Finally, we will propose solutions to enhance Japan's “resilience software”, drawing on the experiences from Singapore and other countries where relevant.



Discussing project over coffee and tea

Group C

Overcoming Productive Longevity Barriers in Hungary

Group members:

Dalma Dorko, Firmansyah, Ijaz Hussain Bajwa,
Ken Bopreang, Kwan Mei Fong

Abstract:

Hungary's life expectancy improved to 76 years in 2019; it was still below the average age of 81 years in OECD countries (OECD, 2019). The age-dependency ratio has been steadily increasing, and the population growth rate is declining. As of 2022, one in every three Hungarians is above 65 years old and it will be one in every two by 2050 (OECD, Statistics[1][1]). The aging population changes the dynamics of society's social and economic structure. Achieving higher levels of economic growth is not possible with higher proportions of ageing societies as they cannot contribute to economic means like younger generations. This will increase stress on the government's ability to finance social welfare projects. In Hungary, there is a lack of age-friendly infrastructure, sustainable pension funding, and resources to spend on health and infrastructure for the elderly. Hungary faces challenges associated with its reduced workforce, making old age productive, and making long-term living enjoyable and fulfilling.

Our policy analysis examines the possible solutions to overcome the longevity barriers and create a healthier aging population in Hungary. Some of our proposed measures include the government stepping up its healthcare policies to reshape the attitude of Hungarians towards longevity and health. Policymakers should consider early interventions in the lives of all Hungarians such that mindfulness of good health and its associated costs with old age can begin at a young age and not when someone already enters the silver years. Other measures include enhancing access to better healthcare to continue to stay healthy and interventions through better science and technology to delay the onset of physical aging.

The population of Hungary is declining across all geographical areas: urban, suburban, and rural (Kovács and Tagai, 2021). With population shifts and rapid changes in old-age dependency, it is hard for governments to predict where they should allocate their limited resources. Differentiated patterns also make it difficult for the Hungarian government to forecast local needs. The presence of good health care facilities in rich urban centres will put more pressure on urban areas and disturb the social pattern. Access to healthcare facilities becomes critical in old age as they need more focused assistance.



GSP Group C - Discussion under umbrella



GSP Group C - Discussion in the iconic green Bamboo

Group D

Building a Self-Reliant Silver Generation: Enhancing Fiscal Sustainability for Ageing in Taiwan

Group members:

Chen Jinglin, Jonathan James Bonnar, Ng Zhuo Wei,
Sukhminder Singh Olikh, Tay Yi Pei

Abstract:

Like many other societies, Taiwan's population is ageing rapidly. Taiwan is expected to grow into a 'super aged society' by 2025, with 20% of its population aged 65 or older. This has important implications for its retirement benefits systems and for public funding of health and elder care.

In the Population Policy White Paper published in 2013 by the Executive Yuan, the Taiwan government highlighted the enhancement of the social security net through an improved pension benefit system and the expansion of long-term care delivery, as some of the key measures to address the issues of population aging.

With the assistance of the Taipei Representative Office in Singapore, this project explores the current state of Taiwan's pension system and public healthcare for the elderly, both of which have been facing financial sustainability issues due to a shrinking workforce and a rapidly growing older population.

We will highlight the strengths and challenges for Taiwan's pension and healthcare systems and examine the role of government support vis-à-vis self-reliance and social insurance on supporting an ageing population, focusing on i) the Defined Contribution (DC) pension scheme instituted in 2005 under the Labor Pension Act; ii) the National Healthcare Insurance which has high approval rating but has recently increased its premiums in 2021; and iii) the Long-Term Care Plan, most recently revised in 2017 (LTC 2.0) which aims to provide subsidies for long-term care with dedicated funding from a combination of government taxes.



Meeting with Representative Francis Liang and staff of the Taipei Representative Office in Singapore



Group meeting to discuss recommendations on demographic ageing

Group E

Comparative Analysis of Policy Responses to Demographic Ageing in Singapore and New Zealand - A Discussion of Pension, Healthcare and Labour Approaches

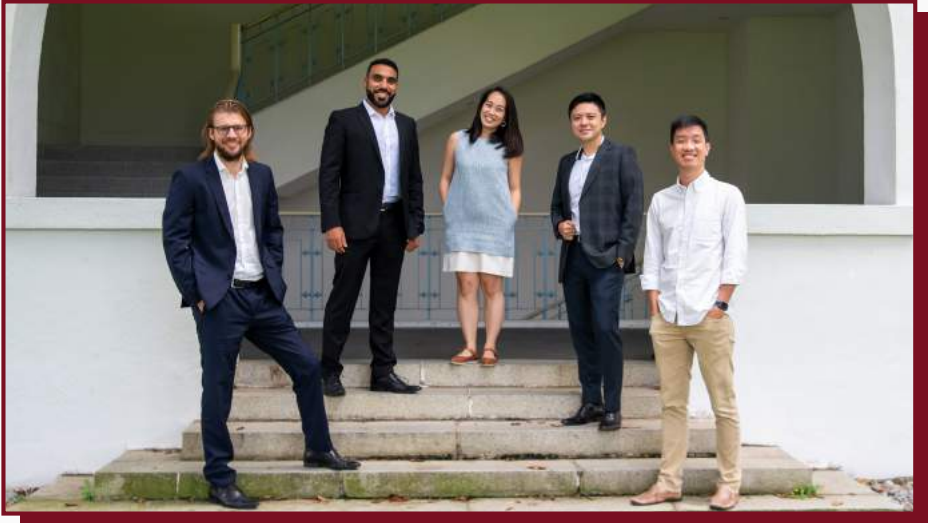
Group members:

Ali Mohammed Al Jasmī, Cai Xihao, Killian Destremau,
Lin Yusen, Tan Chay En Joanne

Abstract:

Many countries around the world are facing ageing populations. About 25% of Singapore's population is likely to be 65 and older by 2030, while 21-26% of New Zealand's population will hit the same benchmark by 2060. An ageing population presents myriad challenges and opportunities. Healthcare costs are expected to increase significantly. In Singapore, if healthcare expenditure continues to increase at current rates, it will reach about 3.5% of GDP by 2030. New Zealand, which has a publicly funded healthcare system, spent 6.9% of its GDP on healthcare in 2021 and this could increase to 10.6% by 2061. There will likely be greater demand for long-term assisted living facilities in both countries. Pension systems will come under pressure to account for individuals' longer life expectancy.

Currently, Singapore and New Zealand have adopted different approaches and policy responses to prepare for the challenges of a silver tsunami. This is no surprise, given the socio-cultural landscape, political and historical differences between the two. The differing approaches provide opportunities for Singapore and New Zealand to draw useful lessons from each other. For instance, with individuals leading longer and healthier lives, it could be worthwhile to assess how both countries have encouraged senior workers to remain in the workforce. In this report, we compare Singapore and New Zealand's policy responses to demographic ageing on pension, healthcare and labour issues, and thereafter provide recommendations for New Zealand, drawing lessons from relevant policies in Singapore.



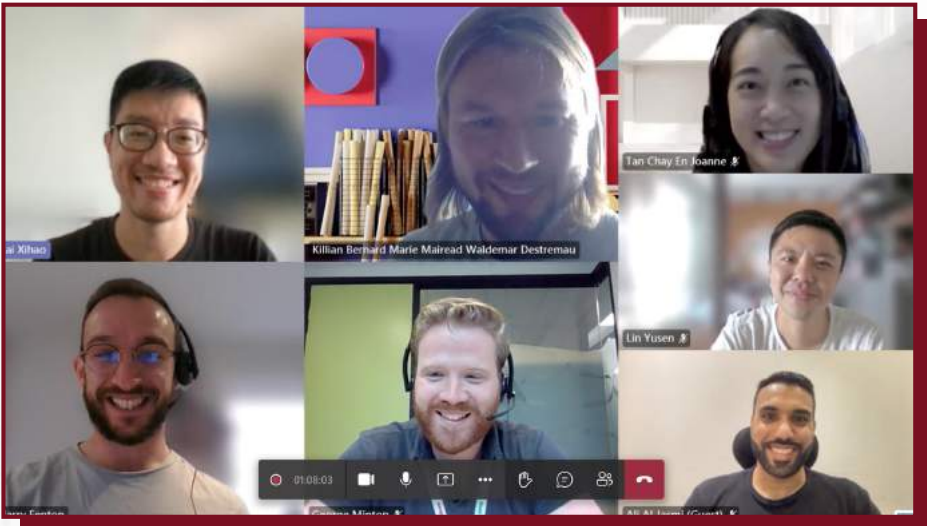
Group E from left to right - Killian, Ali, Joanne, Yusen, Xihao



GSP Group E at school



Interview with Dr Claire Dale from University of Auckland (New Zealand)



Interview with Mr Harry Fenton (Ministry of Social Development) and Mr George Minton (Ministry of Social Development - Office for Senior Citizens)



Interview with Mr Jim Nicolson from Ministry of Health (New Zealand)



Interview with Mr Ross Judge from Ministry of Health (New Zealand)

Group F

Improving Accessibility for Inclusive Elder-Friendly Neighbourhoods to Promote Successful Aging in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Group members:

Adisti Binte Jalani, Laela Fitriah, Laynameyammai d/o Lakshmanan
Mrs Laynameyammai Periyanan, Oeurn Panchakneat, Prachi Kulkarni

Abstract:

Indonesia is one of the fast-aging nations in the global south. In 2021, its senior population was 10.82% of its total population, and predicted to reach 20% by 2045. Of all provinces, Yogyakarta has the highest proportion of seniors at 15.52%, with the highest life expectancy. Bolstered by its recent issuance of regional regulation to better integrate services for seniors' health, social and economic issues, Yogyakarta is committed to support the elderly. It ranked the highest (68%) in its creation of an elderly-friendly city compared to the rest of Indonesia (43%).

Indonesia's National Strategic Plan 2021 has five visions towards successful ageing. Our research is aligned with them, and our primary findings define successful aging in Yogyakarta as a harmonizing balance of seniors' physical and mental health to remain productive and independent throughout their lives. Our research has shed light on the meaningful work of Yogyakarta at the provincial and community levels to create holistic elder-friendly communities through programmes and initiatives. Its priority has revolved around the elderly's immediate social and healthcare needs. However, we identified one of the most pertinent but less prioritised problems that the elderly in Yogyakarta face - lack of accessibility to public facilities within their neighbourhoods, hindering their ability to remain independent, healthy and productive, as they age in the comfort of their homes.

Through this lens, we aim to analyse the problem from different perspectives and bridge the gap, drawing insights from best practices in Singapore and Japan in terms of their cultural and geographical similarities respectively.



The team had a candid interview with Mrs Dwi Endah, Executive Director of Indonesia Ramah Lansia (IRL), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (top left) on issues that elderly face in Yogyakarta. She was excited to know more about the infrastructural support that Singapore provides for its elderly population.

7 Dimensi Pendekatan Multidisiplin Program Sekolah Lanjut Usia



			
Praying together 1. Dimensi spiritual	Exercise together 2. Dimensi Fisik	Providing Charity 3. Dimensi Sosial	Gathering with friends 4. Dimensi Emosional
			
Learning with friends 5. Dimensi Intelektual	Teaching other elderly, Seniorpreneur 6. Dimensi vokasional	Gardening together 7. Dimensi Lingkungan	



Mrs Dwi Endah shared heart-warming anecdotes on Indonesia Ramah Lansia's multidisciplinary programmes curated for the elderly.



Mr Doddy Bagus Jatmiko (Associate Planner, Regional Development Planning Agency) and Mr Mulyanta (Associate Social Worker, Social Agency) shared what the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta has been doing to tackle aging in the city.

USULAN BAHAN KEBIJAKAN YANG DIAJUKAN
 "KAWASAN RAMAH LANSIA"

- **FOKUS SASARAN**
- 1. RUANG TERBUKA DAN BANGUNAN
- 2. TRANSPORTASI
- 3. PERUMAHAN
- 4. PARTISIPASI SOSIAL
- 5. PENGHORMATAN DAN INKLUSI SOSIAL
- 6. PARTISIPASI SIPIL DAN PEKERJAAN
- 7. KOMUNIKASI DAN INFORMASI
- 8. DUKUNGAN KOMUNITAS DAN PELAYANAN KESEHATAN

Mr Doddy shared the provincial government's approach to creating elder-friendly communities, aligned with WHO standards.



Girl Power! Synergised 'A' team that never fails to find common grounds.

Group G

The Bayanihan Blueprint: Planning for an Age-Friendly Built Environment in Metro Manila

Group members:

Goh Pei Fang Cheryl, Guillermo Luna Francisco II,
Jang Hyeonjeong, Taufik Bin Ahmad, Tay Mui Joo

Abstract:

The Philippines is projected to have an ageing population between 2025 and 2030, with older Filipinos aged 60 years old and above accounting for at least 10 percent of the population. Metro Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is known as one of the most densely populated metropolitan areas in the world. The country's primary urban hub has been facing challenges brought about by rapid urbanization, including inadequate land-use planning, lack of inclusive infrastructure, and fragmented governance. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgency to ensure a more inclusive built environment, integrating considerations such as urban planning, infrastructure, access to services, mobility, and transport, and housing, to enable a more livable community for all citizens, including the vulnerable ageing population. Over the recent years, the Philippine government reached a historic momentum in infrastructure investments under the "Build, Build, Build" program to improve access and connectivity, while carrying out socioeconomic reforms to improve the quality of life for Filipinos. The ageing trajectory combined with the reform momentum provides a timely opportunity to anticipate and redirect policies to achieve successful ageing in the Philippines. Our GSP project aims to define successful ageing in the context of the Philippines, examine the existing policy gaps to support successful ageing, and draw applicable lessons from the experiences of Singapore, South Korea, and Malaysia. Consequently, we will develop policy recommendations and a strategic blueprint for an age-friendly built environment that fosters the Filipino value of "bayanihan" (spirit of communal unity) that can be implemented in Metro Manila.



Policy reformers all in for sustainable ageing communities!



Group meeting with Professor Joelle Fong



Consultation with National Commission on Senior Citizens (NCSC) Commissioner Dr. Ida Yap-Patron, Coalition for Services of the Elderly (COSE) Executive Director Emily Beridico and Mr. Dennis Destacamento, and the Office of Senator Hontiveros

Group H

Enhancing the Social Protection System for the “Missing Middle” and Most Vulnerable in Vietnam

Group members:

Jesslyn Chan, Sim Shi Kai, Siti Maishara Bte Mohd Said,
Wong Wu Shen Shaun, Wang Yitian

Abstract:

Vietnam is often credited for its economy’s resilience and miraculous growth since the Doi Moi reforms in the late 1980s. However, significant strides in economic development have not necessarily translated to an even distribution of gains across the population. This is particularly evident against the backdrop of Vietnam’s ageing population. According to its Population Change and Family Planning Survey, the proportion of older persons aged 60 and above has already reached 12.8% in 2021, and this is expected to increase further. These elderly face myriad issues, including retirement inadequacy and poor access to affordable and adequate healthcare services. Such challenges stem from a large informal working sector, weak financial inclusion policies, poor saving habits, and public perceptions toward reliance on the government for retirement support. Although efforts have been made over the years to strengthen financial security for the elderly, coverage is low – both for contributory and non-contributory pensions – and the existing system is not sufficiently equipped to support a fast-ageing population. We seek to draw on international models of successful ageing and provide recommendations on how Vietnam can enhance retirement adequacy for its ageing population, particularly its “missing middle” and the most vulnerable, taking into consideration Vietnam’s unique social norms and cultural context.



Group H



Group H GSP discussion over lunch



Group H Zoom Meeting with Professor Giang Thanh Long from National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam



Group H Zoom Meeting



Team H Zoom meeting with Mr Steve Landman, CEO, Kiu Global

Group I

Persediaan Malaysia Untuk Masa Hadapan: Ascertaining financial challenges to public institutions in the wake of the upcoming Silver Tsunami

Group members:

Abdul Razak Bin Sharif, Chinmay Prabhakar Patil, Iskander Akylbayev,
Krishna Bajpai, Snehal Govind Karle

Abstract:

Malaysia is ageing and ageing fast. In 2020, Malaysia became an ageing nation (>7% of population 65 & above) and expected to become aged (>14% of population 65 & above) by 2035. Longevity has improved from 72 years in 2000 to 76 years in 2020, and the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen substantially from 2.78 in 2000 to 1.7 in 2020. As a result, labor force dependency ratio (LFDR) has dwindled from 59% in 2000 to merely 44% in 2020.

Unlike its western counterparts like Germany and France which aged over almost six decades, Malaysia has had only two decades to prepare for the upcoming silver tsunami. This demographic shock is expected to disrupt the welfare engines of the country with potential impact on areas ranging from social security, pensions, insurance, healthcare systems.

By 2030, healthcare, pensions, and other social security costs will rise tremendously, while the workforce will shrink irreversibly. The number of pensioners has gone up multifold and as a result operating expenditure have increased by 100 times since 1977 (in absolute term) while the economy has grown only 36 times. On the other hand, Malaysia's aspiration to join an elite OECD group demands improvement in the economic growth rate, placing Malaysia at a crossroads.

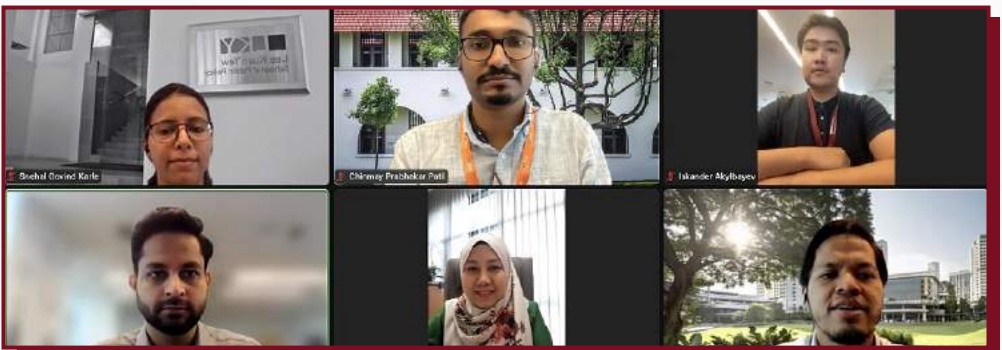
Taking the cue from World Bank's multi-pillared framework, the team proposes to move away from the traditional approach of 'Government does it all' towards contributory arrangements to make pension & healthcare systems financially viable & sustainable in long run. The team has also tried to amalgamate best practices from around the world to suggest reforms to social security, pension & healthcare systems specific in the Malaysian context.



Group I sitting together while having online meeting with officer from Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia



Zoom Meeting with Mr. Razman from Policy Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia



Zoom Meeting with Mrs. Aifaa from Post Service Division, Public Service Department Malaysia



Meeting with officer from Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia



Meeting with officer from PSD in school

Group J

Strategies for Successful Ageing in Malaysia

Group members:

Bathmashni Yanasudiam, Jiang Peilin, Quek Yi Ching Daphne, Tan Jin Rui
Jerald, Wickramarachchige Madhuka Sanjaya Wickramarachchi

Abstract:

More than 2.43 million Malaysians are aged 65 and above in 2021 and it is projected that by 2044, Malaysians aged 65 will double to 14%, making the country an “ageing nation”. The incoming ‘silver tsunami’ presents a challenge to Malaysia’s public policy decision makers. Aging threatens to increase poverty and vulnerability among older persons, especially those who are frail and in need of aged care and long-term care services. A healthier elderly population will benefit society; hence health promotion and preventive care is the most effective way to reduce downstream healthcare cost.

Research indicates that Malaysia adopted a policy of deinstitutionalization and focused largely on family and community care with inadequate support given to long-term care. Research also indicates that Malaysia’s long-term care system appears fragmented, owing to the divide between health and social care as well as between public and privately funded care. Active ageing initiatives are driven by NGOs like the Malaysian Healthy Ageing Society. Malaysia launched the 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025, a national strategy towards an inclusive and sustainable nation which acknowledges that Malaysia is moving towards an ageing nation and states that it is imperative to improve the healthcare programmes for the elderly. This presents an opportunity to rebuild, reform and transform Malaysia’s ageing policies into one that is fit for purpose to meet the challenges of an ageing population.

Government-led and driven active ageing policies and programmes will benefit Malaysia. Our GSP project examines the gaps in elderly health and wellness policies and proposes measures to enhance preventive health care and infrastructure for an inclusive aged care system, to prepare the Malaysian population for successful ageing.



Group J in school



Group J in consultation with Professor Ho



Group J meeting Gurcharan Singh - Senior Liaison Officer Department of Security and Social Policy High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore



Group J meeting with Mr. Muhammad Radzi bin Jamaluddin, Deputy High Commissioner of the High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore

Group K

Japan and Singapore - A Comparative Study on Evolving an Inclusive Society for the Aging Population

Group members:

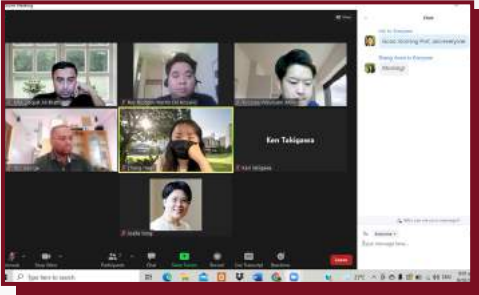
Liaquat Ali, Rey Runtgen Martin Leones Del Rosario, Rijo Pullat George,
Ryosuke Watanabe, Takigawa Ken

Abstract:

Mankind is growing old in number as well as age. Demographic profile will impact communities worldwide, in the coming years. An aging population is indicated by the country's increasing age-dependency ratio. This policy challenge deserves proper attention, and social intervention programmes are adopted as the key mechanisms to address this policy problem in Japan and Singapore. It is commendable that both nations recognised aging as a core public policy concern well in time, and actively formulated measures to tackle challenges and leverage opportunities.

The Singapore government formulated a detailed “Action plan for successful aging” in 2015 towards graceful and joyful aging through a multi-faceted approach based upon; opportunities for all ages at individual level, kampong for all ages at community level and city for all ages at national level. A notable policy initiative from recent years in Japan was the development of “Guideline of measures for aging society” in 2018 which aims to enable all generations to fulfil their life.

This GSP project focuses on the role of an inclusive society in supporting the aging population through comparative studies between Japan and Singapore with particular attention to the following dimensions: (1) universal design; (2) community service; and (3) digital inclusion. By discussing these aspects, this paper attempts to provide a detailed discussion on policy learnings and gaps from the two nations. Our aim is to contribute to the literature on aging which may serve as a reference to educational centers, governments, policy makers and analysts including interest groups.



Consultation Group Meeting with GSP Professor assisted by Teaching Assistant.



Discussion Meeting with GSP Professor assisted by Teaching Assistant.



Focus Group Discussion and Strategic Planning. Group K in Action.



Group Informal GSP Brief Discussion.



Group K Initial Briefing Meeting in Action for GSP Blueprint 2022.



Group K's Mapping of GSP Blueprint.

Group L

Cambodia: Key Barriers and Solutions to Productive Longevity

Group members:

Amani Al Saidi, Mouen Sophet, Seng Chan Pheakdey,
Vong Meng

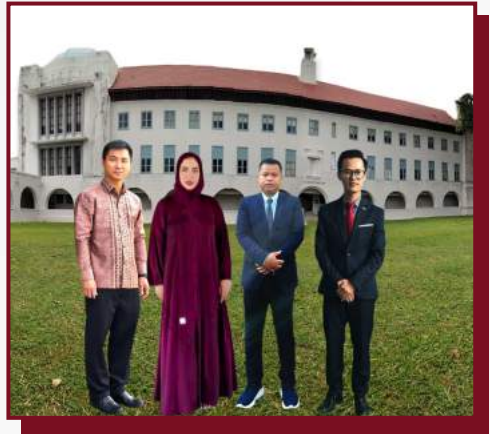
Abstract:

In 2019, Cambodian elderly aged 60 and above comprised only 8.9% (approximately 1.4 million) of the total population of about 15.5 million; this proportion is projected to accelerate from 11% in 2030 to nearly 18% (about 3.6 million) in 2050. However, only 30% of current seniors are in the labor force, for three significant reasons. Firstly, 25.6% of older persons turning 60 and above was disability, while some others got health issues. Secondly, there was a high illiteracy rate among the elderly: 55.2% did not finish primary school, while 23.8% and only 19% had primary and secondary school. Lastly, because of the health issues, disabilities, and illiteracy, the seniors had limited job opportunities even in construction and plantation work. This paper will analyze the root causes and solutions to these critical barriers.

Working closely with Cambodia's Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitations and other line ministries, our team would like to put forward two policy recommendations to support healthy ageing and promote productive longevity. In the short term, the government should provide greater access to quality essential health care through multi-sectoral cooperation for healthy aging. The government should also step-up cooperation with various stakeholders to redesign jobs and to provide skills upgrading schemes (soft and hard skills) to help seniors secure jobs. Taking a longer-term perspective, the government should extend the retirement age while nudging the younger generation towards healthy and active aging by providing a suitable environment that encourages them to lead healthier lifestyles.



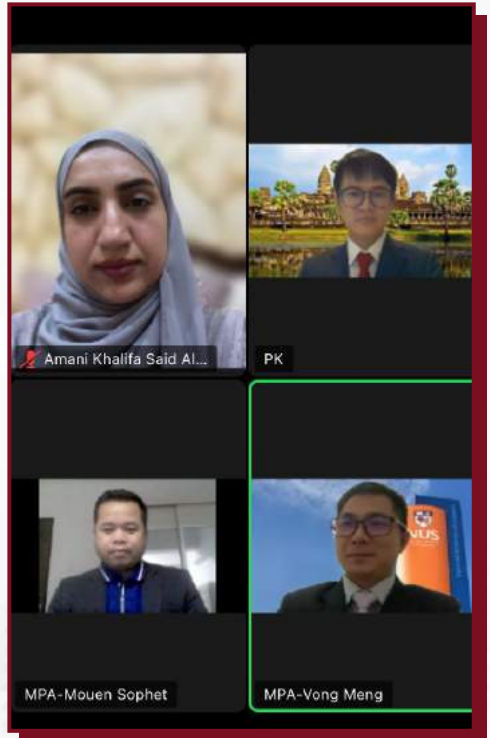
Group L at NUS



Group L at school



Group L



Group L discussion over zoom

Group M

Improving the Affordability and Quality of Long-Term Care Services for China's Aging Population

Group members:

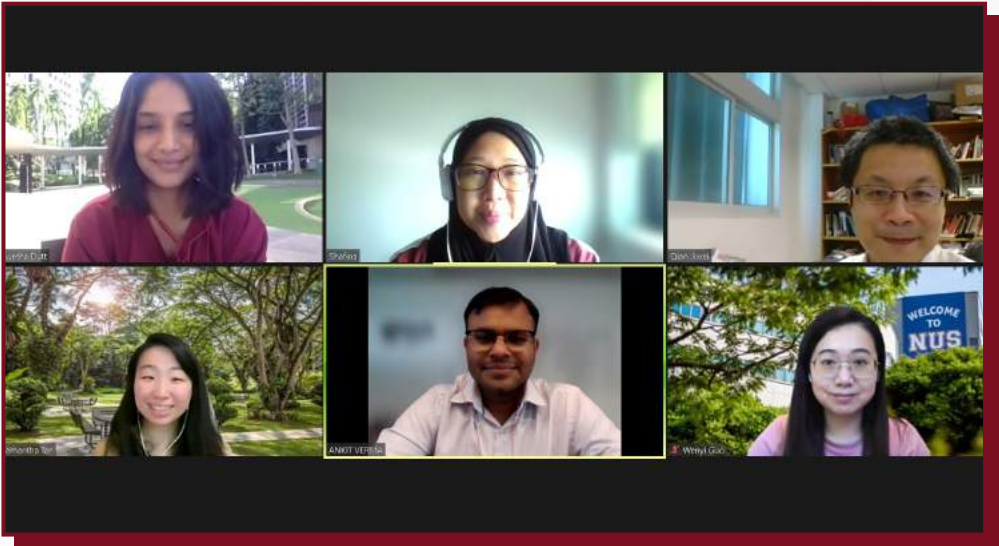
Ankit Verma, Bustard Swetha Dutt, Guo Wenyi,
Nurshafina Mohd Yusoff, Tan Si-Ning

Abstract:

According to the 2020 census of China, the number of residents aged 65 and above has reached 190.64 million, accounting for 13.5% of the total population. By 2050, residents aged 65 and above will account for over 25% of the total population, making China one of the fastest aging countries in the world. This rapidly aging population puts pressure on China's long-term care system to meet the increasing demand for care services for seniors requiring support in their activities of daily living (ADL). According to China's Longitudinal Aging Social Survey (2016), about 2% of the older population over 60-years-old suffered from a total loss of mobility and autonomy in their ADLs. By 2050, it is projected that 15% of women and 8% of men over age 45 will have at least slight ADL disabilities. Looking at the landscape of long-term care in China and its underlying drivers, our GSP project analyses key challenges of the long-term care system and provides recommendations to enhance the affordability and quality of long-term care. The team proposes a strategic framework to strengthen the long-term care system to meet the needs of a rapidly aging population.



Group M Bamboo Shot



Meeting with Professor Qian Jiwei Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute



Group M first discussion on chosen topic



*Meeting with Huan Song -
PhD Candidate doing research on
China's Sustainable Health
& Retirement study*



*Group photo after brainstorming and
deciding on the framework of the paper*

Master in Public Administration Governance Study Project Conference 2022 Policy Responses to Population Ageing







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