

ANNOUNCEMENT

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

**International Workshop on
Age Structural Transitions and Policy Implications**

Organized by
Asian MetaCentre
for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis

Date
08 -10 November 2000

Venue
Phuket , Thailand

Call for Papers

The age structural dynamics of a population and public policy are strongly interrelated. Age structural transitions include declines in mortality and fertility, as well as related changes in family and social arrangements. Policy affected by transitions covers aspects of human needs (e.g., human development, education, labour force, health), economic (e.g., savings and consumption, fiscal taxes) and, institutional aspects (e.g., governance, planning and implementation). Public policies aim to improve the welfare of a population; population welfare in turn is determined and shaped by the needs of present and future population; a population's needs and its potential are strongly shaped by its demographic composition – i.e., by age-structural transitions. The committee believes that transitions may be analysed in three (not exclusive) groupings: countries in emergent demographic transitions faced with substantial developments challenges, countries in a later transitional stage facing challenges of economic and institutional change, and post-transitional countries facing challenges relating to ageing, low fertility, and so on.

This conference will focus primarily on the second group, i.e., countries that are in the later stages of a fertility transition, including many Asian and Latin American countries. The topics to be considered include two broad aspects.

Age-structural dynamics include a hierarchy of effects driven by transitions in fertility, mortality and migration:

- The population-level pattern of age and sex composition and number
- Changes in kinship patterns and family structure
- Changes in lifecycle roles and relationships
- Patterns of and changes in needs (human development, social and economic support, health, disability, employment, pensions) in different parts of the lifecycle
- Changes in preferences and behaviour (e.g., labour force participation, fertility, consumption, savings, voting) over the lifecycle
- Momentum – irreversibility and speed of change in the short run, permanent shifts in population character in the long run.

Policy – national and international – characterised by

- Policy domains – the target and scope of policy in demographic terms (e.g., educational policy aimed at ages 15 versus education aimed at preparing people 15-24 to enter the labour force)
- Policy objectives – what needs policy aims to satisfy
- Policy impacts – demographic and socio-economic consequences, intended and accidental
- Temporal, institutional, and political dimensions - inertia, memory and reversibility

Recent demographic history has caused rapid and large age-structure changes that have caused, or are likely to cause, mismatches between the needs of population subgroups and the targets of policy. There are notable similarities but also substantial differences between these mismatches in the highly industrialised nations (with about 15 percent of the world population) and the less developed nations.

This conference will bring together scholars and researchers to discuss a range of topics including:

- Age structure dynamics and competing needs

Analysis of dynamics; Comparative and life cycle perspectives

- Current policies and age specific needs

Policy domains and policy actors; Spatial / regional issues

- Assessment of changing needs over time

Relationship between demographic dynamics and changing needs; resource allocation; economic and structural features

The conference will include both invited and submitted papers. Limited funding is available to help defray the costs of attendees. The organisers invite submissions in the form of detailed abstracts or full-length papers. Submissions should be sent to Shripad Tuljapurkar at tulja@mvr.org with cc to iussp@iussp.org. The deadline for submission is 15 August 2000.