

Asian MetaCentre
for Population and Sustainable
Development Analysis,
Asia Research Institute,
National University of Singapore

**Institute of Policy
Studies**
Singapore

Cordially invite you to a public seminar on

Future Population and Human Capital in Asia



Professor Wolfgang Lutz

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria;
Institute of Demography, Vienna; and Asian MetaCentre

Date : **Thursday, 17 October 2002**
Time : **9.00 to 11.00 am**
(Registration from 8.30am)
Venue : **Rose Rooms I & II (Upper Lobby Level),
York Hotel**
Chairperson : **Professor Tommy Koh**
Director, Institute of Policy Studies

Synopsis

While the 20th century was the century of population growth with the world population increasing from 1.6 to 6.1 billion, the 21st century will be that of population ageing. In China, for instance, the proportion of the population above age 60 will likely triple over the coming decades from currently 10 percent to more than 30 percent. In South-East Asia the proportion elderly may even increase by a factor of four. In Japan it is expected to reach an incredible 50 percent of the total population. This will pose daunting challenges for the support of the elderly, which in Asia is still largely a family responsibility. It will also have significant implications for the labour force and economic competitiveness. In this context human capital formation becomes a key priority. But the educational composition of the adult population cannot be changed over night. The degree to

which the qualification of the labour force will increase over the next three decades will largely be a function of past educational efforts. Here we find significant differences between the two Asian giants: While in China we expect that in 2030 three out of four working-age people will have some secondary or tertiary education, in India this proportion is likely to be as low as 40 percent, even in the case of strong educational efforts over the coming years. India will soon surpass China in terms of total population size but fall further back in terms of human capital. On a global level already in 2010 China will have more working-age population with secondary and tertiary education than Europe and North America together.

About the Speaker

Professor Wolfgang Lutz is leader of the Population Project at IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) in Austria, and Director of the Institute for Demography in Vienna. He is also Principal Investigator of the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis with headquarters at the National University of Singapore. For the past four years he also served as Secretary General of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

He is author of 15 books and more than 120 articles in the field of population. This lecture will mostly be based on the two recent publications "The end of world population growth" (in *Nature* 2001) and "The world's changing human capital stock" (in *Population and Development Review* 2001).

Admission and Enquiries

Admission to the seminar is free of charge and is open to the public on a first come-first-serve basis. Light refreshments will be served, and ample free carparking space is available at the York Hotel. For enquiries and attendance, please contact:

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Please RSVP by 15 October 2002.

ALL ARE WELCOME