



## Foreword [ERIA]

---

Since the the mid-1980s, East Asia including Northeast and Southeast Asia has led the world in aggressively utilising the task-by-task international division of labour and has achieved fast economic growth and rapid poverty alleviation. One of the keys for the success was to effectively utilise a population bonus by creating jobs for relatively poor people through globalising industrialisation. However, the region starts facing a big challenge on how to deal with the coming ageing society. Although the timing of ageing is different across countries, the pace of population ageing for the whole region is the fastest in the world. The region still has huge development gaps between countries and within each country, so that some countries or regions are likely to reach a high proportion of old people even before moving up to a fully developed stage.

While our research organisation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), had initially concentrated on policy studies in economics, the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN) launched by the Government of Japan in 2016 provided us with an opportunity to expand our scope of research. AHWIN aims to promote cooperation and dialogue that will contribute to creating vibrant and healthy societies where people can enjoy long and productive lives, particularly in Southeast and East Asia. Our colleague, Dr. Osuke Komazawa, has established our Healthcare Unit with extra funding from the Government of Japan and has started conducting a series of ambitious research projects on healthy ageing, the long-term care system, the cross-border circulation of care workers, and other projects using a multi-disciplinary approach.

This book project was developed from our participation in the fourth World Social Science Forum (WSSF) held in Fukuoka, Japan in September 2018 when our Healthcare Unit celebrated its first anniversary. Professor Yasuhiko Saito of Nihon University, who has been the principal investigator of our flagship project on the longitudinal study of ageing and health as well as one of the local organising committee members of WSSF Fukuoka 2018, kindly helped ERIA organise two sessions, together with Nihon University. It was a great honour for the Forum to have its opening ceremony attended by Their Majesties the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan (the current Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress). Our sessions in WSSF Fukuoka 2018 were on 'the long-term care system in Southeast and East Asian countries' and 'the cross-border circulation of care workers,' which correspond to Parts I and II of this book. The sessions provided precious opportunities to exchange experts' views and upgrade the whole study, particularly from the academic perspective.

This book is a landmark in our healthcare and ageing studies and provides useful references for a wide range of readers, both academic and practitioners, to obtain basic information on the long-term care systems and cross-border care workers in the region. Parts I and II of the book consist of seven and four country chapters, respectively. Although the chapters were written

---

mainly based on the information available before the COVID-19 pandemic, they are highly relevant to the current situation. This infectious disease disproportionately affects older people and care workers who are in the long-term care system. It is crucial to take this opportunity to strengthen the social protection and welfare system. I hope the book will provide a good starting point for constructing a prosperous and inclusive society.

I would like to thank Professor Saito for his great mentorship and also express my appreciation to other contributors to this volume. I am grateful to my ERIA colleagues Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura for his guidance and to Dr. Komazawa for his leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fukunari Kimura', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Fukunari Kimura  
Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)



# Foreword

---

In October 2018, the International Science Council convened the fourth World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka in partnership with the Science Council of Japan, Kyushu University, Japan Science and Technology Agency, and the Center for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Studies. With the theme of ‘Security and Equality for Sustainable Futures’, the programme contemplated the multiple challenges that humankind faces in the 21st century, as well as alternatives to respond to them. Amongst the long list of topics, participants discussed issues such as emerging social needs, the pro and cons of advanced technology, environmental problems, threats to peace, the corrosive effects of growing inequality on societal cohesion, and policy responses to the challenges posed.

The scientific committee responsible for shaping the forum programme saw the expanding demand for long-term care as a pressing issue to be discussed. Taking into account the actual demographic profile of many societies, and global population trends, we recognised as crucial the question of how to provide for the needs of the expanding strata of older adults. In the quest for a sustainable future, the challenge of securing long-term care is a pressing issue on the policy agenda. The considerable increase in life expectancy in recent times has led to diverse policy responses that merit careful examination. Looking at the peculiarities and outcomes of different policies, and comparing them, provide powerful resources to expand our knowledge and improve our practices far beyond specific geographical areas.

It is extremely rewarding for all of us directly involved in developing the programme of the Fukuoka Forum to see that the two outstanding sessions on long-term care have been made available to a larger public in the book edited by Drs. Osuke Komazawa and Yasuhiko Saito. While focusing on the experience of six Asian countries, the book offers valuable information and insights, the relevance of which transcend Asia. Looking at China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, the authors address questions of global relevance. Advances in health and nutrition, declining birth rates, and the massive entrance of women to the labour market combine to pose new demands for policy responses to increased life expectancy across the world.

The diversity of demographic characteristics and policy solutions discussed in the book illustrates the distinctive singularity of nations. Yet, as the chapters indicate, while singular, nations share many commonalities, isomorphic features, and common problems that make up their universal social character. It is precisely this peculiar combination of singularity and commonality that confers great relevance to the discussion of differences and similarities between nations. Comparing structures, institutions, and policies across borders is valuable to further our knowledge and enlighten our practices. Looking at the experiences of six Asian nations, the book offers the reader a valuable opportunity to see universality in the diversity of situations and the responses to it.

---

In the geographical area the book explores, it is interesting to look at the distinctive characteristics of a social welfare model adopted in Japan in contrast to the family-based schemes traditionally adopted in other Asian countries. That is, while Japan has opted for an insurance-based scheme and careful quality regulation of care services, in other societies such as Singapore and Taiwan, caregivers are hired by individual families at their own expense and discretion, and there are no official prerequisites regulating the workers' performance. These systems deserve consideration for the quality of the services provided on the one hand and for the labour conditions of care workers on the other. The different, while sometimes complementary, outcomes that the market for long-term care work entails for sending and receiving countries also deserves attention.

The relevance of both the differences and commonalities observed across the six cases discussed goes far beyond the Asian context. They resonate, for example, with the experience of many countries in the Global North that import caregivers. The analyses provided also resonate in Latin America, where the acute need for cash in poor areas exports a high contingent of young adults, mostly female, to supply paid domestic and care work to better-off families, both in their own country and abroad. Very often, to undertake national and international migration, the migrants rely on older members of their family to look after the children that they leave behind. This imbalance between sender and receiving groups breeds other social issues and unmatched demands that transcend the remit of this book, but the insights it offers about specific Asian countries are inspiring for anyone concerned with long-term care. It is also worth noting that the policy targets outlined in the concluding chapter, while based upon the arguments presented throughout the book, offer recommendations of universal value to confront issues that are here to stay throughout the world. In short, if the book chapters constitute a significant contribution to the understanding of problems and solutions peculiar to the specific countries under examination, they also offer valuable ideas and arguments not only to other Asian countries but also to the rest of the world. Present and future generations cannot neglect long-term care issues if we are to honour our ethical and pragmatic commitments to justice and sustainability.



Professor Elisa Reis  
Professor of Political Sociology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and  
Vice-President of the International Science Council



## Preface

---

It may be a little difficult to imagine the life of octogenarians, nonagenarians or centenarians if you are still young and studying or working, yet most of the readers of this book are very likely to live until such ages. The twenty-first century is known as the age of population ageing following the century of population explosion. In the north and south alike, population ageing is everywhere, and accompanying the increase in the number of older adults in any given population is an increase in the number of older adults with care needs. Even if we expend maximum efforts to promote health and prevent disease, it is not clear that we will be able to reduce the number of older adults with care needs.

We cannot eliminate non-communicable diseases. You may think you will never suffer from non-communicable diseases if you lead a healthy lifestyle by exercise, eat the right foods, etc. Unfortunately, however, such preventive measures offer no guarantees of immunity from such diseases. Most people never notice impending stroke, heart attack, fracture by accident, cancer, and other non-communicable illnesses until the actual time of onset. Frailty and dementia, moreover, are prevalent amongst ageing populations, and individuals with such conditions tend to require long-term care. Once you acquire such a condition and need long-term care, what do you do? If you are wealthy enough to hire caregivers, the solution is simple. However, how many people in the world can do so?

If we look back historically, we can see that the proportion of older adults in the total population used to be small. Back then, in general, older adults were respected and supported by family and community members. We, however, live in a world of population ageing, which mankind has never before experienced. How can we provide enough care to older adults with care needs in societies where more than one-fourth or even one-third of people are aged 65 years or above? In such societies, it is absolutely necessary to establish universal long-term care systems. This book is an edited compilation of the papers presented, and discussions amongst participants, at the two sessions on long-term care at the 4th World Social Science Forum (WSSF) 2018 Fukuoka, which was attended at the opening ceremony by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan. The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and Nihon University (NU) co-hosted these two sessions, titled, 'National policies, systems, and practices of long-term care in Asia' and 'Long-term care workforce in the era of population ageing: Towards sustainable mobility of long-term care workforce'.

The first session had speakers from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam who discussed their national policies on the provision of long-term care. The focus was on 1) Policy responses to increasing long-term care needs that accompany declining birth rates and ageing populations; 2) determinants of policy responses; 3) institutional structures of care-service provision systems, and 4) policy considerations on the strategic use of family-public-market resources.

---

The second session included speakers from Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam who directed attention to the care workforce in the context of cross-border migration. Presentations focused on receiving countries of the care workforce, as well as demand-supply projections and current policies regarding human resources from foreign countries. Speakers from the countries of origin of the cross-border care workforce addressed issues related to overseas deployment policies and discourse, recruitment systems, and future directions. This session was designed to fill the information gap between receiving countries and countries of origin so that sustainable international mobility systems can be established.

ERIA and NU would like to express their full gratitude to all the speakers for their substantial contribution to the WSSF 2018 and for their willingness to contribute their papers to this publication. ERIA and NU would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of WSSF 2018 Fukuoka staff and related colleagues. We hope this book will provide a good opportunity not only to learn about long-term care systems and the realities of cross-border movement of the care workforce, but also to facilitate regional and international collaboration with a view to improving and effecting sustainable long-term care systems.

During the course of the editing, we received exceptionally sad news. Prof. Koichi Ogasawara, one of the authors of this book, passed away in December 2018. As we look back on the day when he moderated the first WSSF 2018 session, we find it hard to accept his death. We dedicate this book to him and promise to follow his wish to establish reliable long-term care systems in societies with population ageing. May his soul rest in peace.

Osuke Komazawa and Yasuhiko Saito