

**Concept note**

**International Workshop  
Strengthening Stakeholders Cooperation in Promoting Active Ageing**

**and Mental Health in ASEAN**

***18-19th November 2020, HaNoi-Viet Nam***

**1. Background**

Population ageing is a global phenomenon. Virtually every country in the world is experiencing growth in both the size and the proportion of older persons in the population [UN, World Population Ageing 2019]. In 2020, there are an estimated 727 million persons aged 65 years or over worldwide, accounting for 9.3%. This number will be more than double by 2050, reaching over 1.5 billion persons, accounting for 16%. [UN, World Population Ageing 2020 Highlights].

In ASEAN, there are more than 45 million population aged 65+ years, accounts for 7% of total ASEAN’s population in 2019. This number is projected to be 132 million persons, accouts for 16.7% of total ASEAN’s population by 2050. At the moment, 4 ASEAN Member States: Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia are in population ageing period. However, these states will become super aged states and other ASEAN Member States will become aged and ageing states by 2050 such as Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam... [UN, Profiles of Ageing 2019].

Viet Nam has begun the population ageing period since 2011 with the number of older persons (at aged 65+) accouted for 7% total population. At the currently, this number is 7,4 million older persons, accounting for 7.7% of total population. It will increase to 22.3 million older persons, accouts for 20.4% by 2050. Viet Nam is one of the countries that rapid ageing in the world. If developed countries take a century or some decades for transform from 7% to 14% of population at aged 65+ such as France (115 years), Sweden (85 years), Australia (73 years), United States of America (69 years), Canada (65 year), United Kingdom (45 years)... Viet Nam will take only 18 years!

Population ageing bring both opportunities and challenges in terms of socio-economic development. As for opportunities, population ageing can creat new markets such as in insurance, finance-banking, health care, nutrition, tourism, etc. Population ageing also accelerates the process of technological innovation and the application of science and technology to manufacturing or managing in the context of lack of young labour force.

Population ageing can presents serious challenges in terms of economic growth, social protection, labour, infrastructure design… particularly in health care sector. Older persons often have multiple non-communicable disease (NCDs) requiring life-long treatment such as blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, systematic disorders etc… as well as mental disorders. Covid-19 pandemic is sweeping across the world. Risks of dying from covid-19 are much higher at older ages, but differ greatly across countries.

ASEAN 2020-Cohesive and Responsive. Viet Nam- hosting ASEAN 2020 has worked with other organizations to hold the **International Workshop on Strengthening Stakeholders Cooperation in Promoting Active Ageing and Mental Health in ASEAN.** This is the right time to reaffirm the importance of collaboration among the ASEAN Member States in policy development to support, care for older persons and to strengthen the cooperation among various stakeholders in the region. The Workshop welcome the participants from the ASEAN Secretariat, all ASEAN Member States, UN agencies, international organization, diplomatic missions in Viet Nam, NGOs, academics and other stakeholders in Viet Nam and the region.

**2. Objectives**

- Provide an overview of population ageing in the ASEAN community (including the current situation, ageing trends, health status, mental health, care needs and the situation of care for older persons in ASEAN Member States particularly in the context of Covid-19);

- Share experiences in raissing the awareness of population ageing issues in ASEAN community; Coordinating among stakeholders to promote healthy active ageing in the ASEAN community;

- Offer policy recommendations for ASEAN on strengthening cooperation among stakeholders to promote healthy active ageing in the ASEAN community.

**3. Contents:** The Workshop consists of 6 sessions as following:

**Day 1:**

**3.1. Opening and Overview:**

After the opening remarks of the host country of Viet Nam, WHO, UNFPA and ERIA will deliver the speeches. The session provides an overview of ageing and health status of older persons in ASEAN as well as the broader Asia-Pacific region and the world; An overview of the ageing in the host state, Viet Nam, will also be presented.

**3.2. Health System Response in Ageing context:**

The session focuses on the health status of older persons and the health system responds to population ageing in ASEAN. The session will further discuss the new cross-sectorial approach of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, reorienting health system, developing long-term care systems and the lessons learned from the ASEAN Member States.

**3.3. Improving Older People’s Mental Health:**

The session focuses on an overview of older persons’ mental health status and lessons learnt from ASEAN Member States in term of prevention and intervention in mental health disorders for older people such as dementia, depression, etc...

**3.4. Creating an Age Friendly Environment:**

The session aims to explore the framework and elements of an age friendly environment and will discuss how to design age friendly communities including infrastructure, traffic, health facilities, market, recreation areas, community culture house, etc the role and participation of stake-holders in building an age friendly community and the importance of applying technology in ageing societies will also be discussed.

**3.5. Roles & Cooperation of Stakeholder in an Ageing Society:**

The voice of older person in the ASEAN community (video clip) that will be shown in this session and their ability to contribute to societies and their needs for all sectors will be to discussed. The session aims to clarify the roles of stakeholders and to strengthen cooperation among them including among state agencies, between state agencies and non-state agencies (especially the private sector), among families and the community in aging societies. The lesson learnt from ASEAN Member States will be shared in the session.

**3.6. A COHESIVE AND RESPONSIVE ASEAN: The Way Forward:**

A Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN is the theme of ASEAN 2020. It is also the title for the important final session of the Workshop. The session will discuss how governments responds to ageing, and how cooperation can be promoted among ASEAN Member States and between those states and development partners, in order to build a healthy and active ageing society in the ASEAN community by supporting technology transfer, capacity building, human resource circulation, etc.

The session will be held as a panel discussion with panel members from Viet Nam, WHO, UNFPA, Japan, Deloitte and Representative of older persons.

**3.7. Field trip:**

A field trip for participants will take place in the afternoon of the second day (some participants are advised to join in the technical working group discussion with rapporteurs instead of joining field trip).

**4. Methodology:**

The workshop will be a hybrid event of online and offline. The venue for offline (face to face) workshop will be to provide for all participants and the facilities for online/virtual workshop will also be offered for the participants who cannot attend in person due to the travel restriction caused by COVID-19.

**5. Time and venue**:

-Time: 02 days:18-19th November, 2020

-Venue: Melia Hotel, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

**6. Languages:** English, Vietnamese

**7. Speakers**

- ASEAN Member States

- United Nations

- ERIA

- Deloitte, HAI

- Viet Nam

**8. Participants**

**International participants**

- Health Group of ASEAN Secretariat;

- Social Group of ASEAN Secretariat;

- ASEAN Member States (10 states)

- Representative from 10 ASEAN’s Embassies in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;

- Representative of Timor Leste Embassy in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;

- Representative of embassies in Ha Noi, Viet Nam: Timor Leste, Japan, China, Korea, Australia, United of America, India, France, Israel...

- United Nations: UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, IOM…

- ERIA

- International Organizations: World bank, ADB, HelpAge International...

**Viet Nam**

- The Central Communist Party of Viet Nam: The Central Propaganda Committee; Central Economic Committee; Central Commission for People Mobilization, the Office of the Party Central Committee;

- The National Assembly of Viet Nam: The Committee on Social Affairs of the National Assembly, National Assembly Office;

- The Government bodies: The Government Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Transport and Communications Natural Resources, Environment, Population and Family Committee for Children (Ministry of Defense); Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam National Committee for the Elderly, General Statistics Office;

Ministry of Health: Leaders of the Ministry, leaders of the Departments: International Cooperation, Financial Planning, Health Care Management, Preventive Medicine, Education and Communication, Institute of Strategy and Policy Health, Central Geriatric Hospital... The General Office for Population and Family Planning (GOPFP): Leaders of GOPFP, leaders and officials of Departments and units of GOPFP;

- The political social organizations: Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front; Central Women's Union; Central Committee of Youth Union; Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, Central Association of the Elderly; Central Farmers' Union; Family Planning Association; General Medical Association ...

- Others: NGOs, research institutes, universities, academies, centers for health care for the older persons, related social organizations and enterprises; scientists, experts related to the issue of the older persons.

- Local government bodies: Ha Noi and some cities/provinces

- Mass media…

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