Ageing Asia and the Pacific: Developing long term care systems and effective responses

Session 2: Policy Landscape and Emerging Models in Asia

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ASEAN has high-level political commitment and consensus on comprehensively addressing issues of older persons

- ASEAN Community Vision 2025 charts the path for ASEAN Community building in the next ten years

- Greater emphasis on the peoples of ASEAN and their well-being, Ensure fundamental freedoms, human rights and better lives for all ASEAN peoples

- ASCC Blueprint 2025 specifically aims for an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, dynamic, and one that engages and benefits the people

- ASEAN Community provides the impetus for more cross-sectoral and intra-pillar cooperation and collaboration, including on issues relevant to Older Persons in ASEAN
Key ASEAN instruments affirm and promote the rights and welfare of Older Persons in the region.

The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (2012)


The ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013)

The Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2015)

Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institutions: Caring for the Elderly (2010)
Programmatic approach in addressing issues of older persons at the regional level through the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020

Priority Area: Older Persons
Objective: Healthy, active and productive ageing is promoted in an enabling and supportive environment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>ASEAN+3 Regional Conference on Supportive Environment for Older Persons (Thailand)</td>
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<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Establish an ASEAN research network on ageing [Carried over from the Strategic Framework 2011-2015] (Malaysia)</td>
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<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Workshop to exchange views on the promotion of older people’s associations (OPAs) [Carried over from the Strategic Framework 2011-2015] (Cambodia)</td>
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<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Review the existing standards of care for older persons in AMS and develop a regional guideline for minimum standards for quality care for older persons (in collaboration with ASWC) (Malaysia supported by Viet Nam)</td>
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<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Workshop on technical assistance to provide access and opportunity for older persons in ASEAN (Cambodia)</td>
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### Priority Area: Older Persons

**Objective:** Healthy, active and productive ageing is promoted in an enabling and supportive environment

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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>ASEAN+3 capacity building activity on implementation of rights-based/needs-based and life-cycle approach on care for older persons (Philippines)</td>
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<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Strengthen database and data analysis on ageing issues by the ASEAN Research Network on Ageing (Malaysia)</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>ASEAN Act (Active Ageing): ASEAN Regional Impact Research Study Assessment on Active Ageing [Carried over from the Strategic Framework 2011-2015] (Philippines)</td>
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Some conclusions from the conference:

• In the APT context, except for Japan where institutionalization is a commonly-accepted practice, family is still the main source of long term care for the elderly. This is evident in studies in Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Singapore. These results suggest that despite the changing notions of filial piety and other traditional family values, there is still a normative basis for family care of the elderly in the region.

• Gender roles are very prominent in the practice of long-term care, with women taking most of the role of care provider and men as care recipient. At the family level, the task of looking after the elderly is commonly assigned to daughters or daughters in-law. Men’s support are still commonly limited to the provision of financial resources.

• Unmet needs of the elderly are greater with poverty. Several of the presentations demonstrated that elderly from poorer households are more prone to emotional distress and physical challenges hindering them from achieving an active and productive lifestyle.
Some conclusions from the conference:

- Countries in APT are not yet ready to provide systematic long-term care for the elderly. Individual countries know very little about long-term care which could be problematic since APT has a very short preparation time before a significant portion of its population becomes aged and will therefore need long-term care.

- Central to the provision of adequate and effective long-term care is the coordination of efforts among various sectors in the society and at different levels of care provision starting from needs assessment, policy formulation and program implementation.

- Lastly, financial support is very important for any initiative to take off, flourish and become sustainable.

[Event Link](https://ari.nus.edu.sg/Event/Detail/f05c69b0-4516-4d16-b04f-d02dc5296d94)