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## A View From Singapore

CHINESE   MALAY   **INDONESIAN**

# 25 Minutes

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### The problem of rapidly ageing populations

February 27, 2008



From Singapore to Seoul, from Berlin to Beijing, governments all over the world are struggling to cope with the effects of a rapidly ageing population. This week in 25 Minutes, experts weigh in with their



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opinions on what the problems really are, and how we can tackle them. Stay tuned with me, Loretta Foo.

Newspaper headlines speak for themselves. Every other day, a new story will emerge focusing on the issue of graying populations all over the world. South Korea has proposed a US\$11 billion budget to cope with an ageing population in a country that may become the world's oldest country by 2050. Over in Germany, authorities are struggling to handle an unexpected influx in its already graying population with more than 700,000 immigrants likely to become part of its pension scheme for elders.

Studies have shown that Europe is starting to feel the pinch as many of its post World War II baby-boomers move into retirement, straining government purses to the limit. The percentage of the elderly is expected to surge over the next 20 years, beginning with Europe sometime between 2020 and 2030 and countries in South Asia feeling the effects beginning in 2035.

As such, the Asia-Europe Foundation has come up with "The Impact of Ageing: A Common challenge for Europe and Asia", a collection of essays tackling the problems of a graying population.

In today's 25 Minutes, editor of the book, Gabrielle Sinigoj, Bertrand Fort, Deputy Executive Director for ASEF and contributors Professor Gavin Jones and Assistant Professor Angelique Chan give their views on this thorny issue. Professor Jones first discusses the similarities that Asia and Europe share on the problem of rapidly ageing societies.

[Download the podcast to listen to the forum](#)

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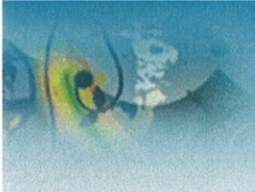
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