

# Ageing in Asia

- By 2025, Asia will have 58% of the world's elderly while Europe will have 12%. Developed regions will have less of the world's elderly, with an actual decline in Europe.



# Ageing in Asia

- By 2030 one quarter of the population of Asia will be over 60, and by 2040 Asia will be demographically mature, with more older than younger people.
- While it took Europe (EU 15) some 120 years to go from a young to mature population, such a shift in the proportion of young and old will have occurred in Asia in less than 25 years.



# Ageing in Asia

- Three concerns raised on ageing:
  1. health costs
  2. pension costs
  3. intergenerational solidarity

(Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies, "Demographic 'Time Bomb' or Demographic 'Dividend': Myths Surrounding Ageing Populations in Asia," August 2010)



# Rethinking Ageing in Asia

- Predominant, “apocalyptic” view of ageing
- Is it a demographic time bomb, or a demographic dividend?



# Rethinking ageing in Asia

- Dependency ratios and how they can mislead policy
  - failure to integrate other factors, such as:
    1. productivity of older persons
    2. barriers to full engagement of women into the workforce



# Why it is relevant to rethink the ageing phenomenon

- The perspective on ageing that is used determines policies for BOTH THE OLD AND THE YOUNG.

# The Youth and Ageing

- Concept of intergenerational solidarity: reciprocity, integration
- Ageing is a lifelong process that begins at birth.
- Need to adopt a “life-course” and human rights-based approach to ageing



# World Youth Alliance:

“We are all members of an ageing society.”

