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

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.”