

AGEING IN ASEAN

ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CONSEQUENCES

Reproduced from *Ageing in ASEAN: Its Socio-Economic Consequences* by Chen Ai Ju and Gavin Jones (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1989). This version was obtained electronically direct from the publisher on condition that copyright is not infringed. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. Individual articles are available at < <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg> >

The **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies** was established as an autonomous organization in May 1968. It is a regional research centre for scholars and other specialists concerned with modern Southeast Asia, particularly the multi-faceted problems of stability and security, economic development, and political and social change.

The Institute is governed by a twenty-two-member **Board of Trustees** comprising nominees from the Singapore Government, the National University of Singapore, the various Chambers of Commerce, and professional and civic organizations. A ten-man **Executive Committee** oversees day-to-day operations; it is chaired by the Director, the Institute's chief academic and administrative officer.

The **Social Issues in Southeast Asia (SISEA)** programme was established at the Institute in 1986. It addresses itself to the study of the nature and dynamics of ethnicity, religions, urbanism, and population change in Southeast Asia. These issues are examined with particular attention to the implications for, and relevance to, an understanding of problems of development and of societal conflict and co-operation. SISEA is guided by a **Regional Advisory Board** comprising senior scholars from the various Southeast Asian countries. At the Institute, SISEA comes under the overall charge of the Director while its day-to-day running is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator.

AGEING IN ASEAN **ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES**

CHEN AI JU and GAVIN JONES

In collaboration with

Lita Domingo
Pitchit Pitaktepsombati
Hananto Sigit
Masitah Bte Mohd Yatim



Social Issues in Southeast Asia
INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

Final Inter-Country Report of the ASEAN Ageing Project,
Phase III ASEAN Population Programme.

Published by
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Pasir Panjang
Singapore 0511

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

© 1989 Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Cataloguing in Publication Data

Chen, Ai Ju.

Ageing in ASEAN: its socio-economic consequences/Chen Ai Ju and Gavin Jones.

1. Aged — Employment — ASEAN countries.
2. Aged — Medical care — ASEAN countries.
3. Aged — ASEAN countries — Social conditions.
- I. Jones, Gavin W.
- II. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore). Social Issues in Southeast Asia.
- III. Title.

HQ1064 A9C51 1989 s1s89-66983

ISBN 981-3035-36-6

The responsibility for facts and opinions expressed in this publication rests exclusively with the authors and their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views or the policy of the Institute or its supporters.

Typeset by Letraprint

Printed in Singapore by Kin Keong Printing Co. Pte. Ltd.

CONTENTS

List of Tables vii

List of Figures xi

Acknowledgement xiii

Foreword xv

1	INTRODUCTION	1
	Who Are the Aged?	
2	DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND TO THE AGEING PROCESS	7
	Dependency Ratios	
	Sex Ratios of the Aged	
	Share of the Very Old in the Elderly Population	
3	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AGED: A BRIEF OVERVIEW	25
	Age and Sex Distribution	
	Marital Status	
	Family Structure of the Aged	
	Residence, Literacy, and Education	
	Labour Force Participation	
4	FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND AGEING	39
	Availability of Kin	
	Living Arrangements of the Elderly	
	Role of Children in Old Age Security	

5	EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE AGED	53
	Patterns of Work and Retirement	
	Sources of Financial Support	
	Formal Social Security Systems: Their Links to Capacity of the Economy to Pay	
	Issues in Retirement Policy	
	Conclusion	
6	HEALTH CARE OF THE AGED	73
	Experience and Treatment of Sickness	
	Mobility and Disability	
7	SERVICES PROVIDED AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS	89
	Health Services	
	Financial Support Services	
	Home Care Services	
	Recreational Support	
	Adequacy of Services	
8	ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE AGED IN THE COMMUNITY	99
9	POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	103

Appendix 107

References 111

LIST OF TABLES

2.1	Projection of Population Aged 65 or Over in ASEAN and Other Countries	9
2.2	Projected Proportion of Population Aged 65 and Over in 2025, ASEAN and Other Countries	14
2.3	International Comparison of the Speed of Population Ageing	15
2.4	Relative Increase of the Aged (60+) and Other Age Groups in ASEAN Countries, 1980–2000	16
2.5	Ageing Index in ASEAN Countries, 1980–2020	21
2.6	Sex Ratios of the Aged in ASEAN Countries by Age, 1980	22
2.7	Projection of Sex Ratios in the Population Aged 65+ in ASEAN Countries	22
2.8	Ratios of the Very Old to the Old (75+/60+) in ASEAN Countries	23
3.1	Age and Sex Distribution of the Population Aged 60+, 1980	27
3.2	Age and Sex Distribution of the Population Aged 60+, 1986	28
3.3	Marital Status of the Aged (60+) by Sex, 1980	29

3.4	Marital Status of Respondents, 1986	30
3.5	Relationship to Head of Household by Age and Sex	32
3.6	Respondents' Ownership of House by Age and Sex, 1986	33
3.7	Literacy Rates among the Aged (60+), 1980	34
3.8	Respondents with Secondary or Post-Secondary Education by Sex and Age Group	35
3.9	Labour Force Participation Rates among Those Aged 60+, 1980	36
3.10	Occupation of Employed Persons Aged 60+	37
3.11	Respondents by Activity Status and Retirement from Last Job	38
4.1	Number and Percentage of Old People Living in Old People's Homes, 1980	42
4.2	Number of Siblings Still Alive	44
4.3	Respondents by Number of Children Still Alive	45
4.4	Living Arrangements of Respondents	47
4.5	Indicators of Children's Economic Roles by Country and Sex of Respondents, 1975-76	50
5.1	Respondents Not Working by Age and Sex	54
5.2	Urban Respondents Not Working by Age and Sex	54
5.3	Rural Respondents Not Working by Age and Sex	55

5.4	Respondents' Reasons for Stopping Work by Sex	56
5.5	Total Aged Respondents Who Want to Work (Including Those Working), Thailand and the Philippines	57
5.6	Respondents' Main Source of Material Support by Sex	58
5.7	Respondents Receiving Certain Kinds of Monetary/Material Support	59
5.8	Main Source of Material Support by Sex, Urban Areas	61
5.9	Main Source of Material Support by Sex, Rural Areas	62
5.10	Elderly Persons by Age Group, Sex, and Own Monetary Income, Singapore	63
5.11	Pensions and Old Age Insurance	66
6.1	Respondents Who Had Any Major Illness/Injury in the Past Year Which Affected the Activities of Daily Living, by Sex and Age	76
6.2	Respondents with Health "Very Good" or "Good" by Age, Sex, and Marital Status	78
6.3	Respondents with Health "Not Good", "Not Too Good", and "Poor" by Age, Sex, and Marital Status	79
6.4	Respondents Who Can See and Hear Well by Age	80
6.5	Respondents by Age and Mobility/Ability to Get Around Home	82
6.6	Persons Suffering from Certain Disabilities by Age Group and Sex, Malaysia and the Philippines	84
6.7	Respondents Suffering from Specific Health Problems, the Philippines and Thailand	86

6.8	Who Takes Care of the Elderly When They Are Ill by Residence and Sex, Indonesia	87
6.9	Who Takes Care of the Elderly When They Are Ill by Age, Sex, and Residence, Thailand	88
8.1	Respondents Engaging in Various Leisure Time Activities	101

LIST OF FIGURES

2.1	Age Pyramids 1957 and 1980 and Projected for 2000 and 2030, Singapore	10
2.2	Age Pyramid 1970 and Projected for 1986 and 2000, Thailand	12
2.3	Dependency Ratios: Total, Young, and Old in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand	18
6.1	Health and Disability Status of Those Reaching Old Age	74

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The "Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing of the Population" project is one of the seven projects of the Phase III ASEAN Population Programme funded by the Government of Australia and co-ordinated by the ASEAN Population Co-ordination Unit.

This report is published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies on behalf of the project.

FOREWORD

The "Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing of the Population" project is one of the seven population projects of the Phase III ASEAN Population Programme. At the time of its inception, the then five member states of ASEAN — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand — agreed to participate in the study under the lead of Singapore. The Project is designed to provide information to policy-makers and planners on the extent of ageing, its implications, and the potential problems which might emerge as a consequence of ageing in each country. It also serves to review the conditions of the aged in different environmental settings and the existing policies and programmes for the elderly in the context of the overall development of the participating countries.

The decision to focus attention on this subject arose out of the realization that the region as a whole is making rapid strides towards completing the demographic transition into a mature society. Presently, the proportion of old persons is still small in ASEAN countries when compared with the West. Therefore, what is faced is not an immediate crisis of ageing but rather a steady trend which will lead to changes in the way societies work.

The political will which inspired the ASEAN Population Programme originated from the ASEAN Summit Meeting in 1976. The Declaration of ASEAN Concord called for the "intensification and expansion of existing co-operation in meeting the problems of population growth in the ASEAN region". Since then a total of nineteen projects under the umbrella of the ASEAN Population Programme have been implemented with the ultimate

objective of improving the quality of life in the ASEAN region. The seven projects under the Phase III ASEAN Population Programme were funded by the Government of Australia.

The Project "Socio-Economic Consequences of the Ageing of the Population" was initiated in 1984. It has undertaken a series of activities under its aegis. A review of literature on ageing issues and secondary data analysis provided a springboard for further action. Existing policies and programmes were studied and evaluated, and projections of the aged population made. A survey of the socio-economic profiles of the aged and their attitude towards ageing was carried out in each country with certain core items of information sought so that inter-country comparisons could be made. A study visit was also made to the relevant organizations and facilities in Australia and Japan to examine and observe the policies and programmes for the elderly in these countries. These two countries were identified as they have, among the countries in this region, a relatively larger proportion of elderly and well established programmes for them. These visits enabled the study directors to learn from the experiences of these two countries. Towards the end of the project, national seminars were held in each participating country to discuss with policy-makers and planners the project findings and their implications on the socio-economic development of the country. In these seminars important issues were highlighted and recommendations made.

It is appropriate that the Project culminates with this ASEAN Inter-Country Report to tie together all the knowledge and information gathered over the past years. This report will serve as a useful reference for all concerned with the issues of ageing.

I would like to thank Dr Gavin Jones of the Australian National University, the Project Consultant, and the Country Project Directors — Dr Hananto Sigit, Director of the Bureau of National Accounts, Central Bureau of Statistics, Indonesia; Mrs Masitah Bte Mohd Yatim, Deputy Director of the Division for Population Studies and Evaluation, Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia; Dr Lita Domingo, Associate Professor at the Population Institute, University of the Philippines; and Dr Pitchit Pitaktepsombati, Associate Professor at the School of Public Administration, National Institute of Development Administration, Bangkok, Thailand — for their hard work and

unflagging enthusiasm, and for their contributions to this book. Through their efforts the Project has achieved its main objective of raising the awareness of policy-makers and planners to the potential problems which might emerge in the process of ageing in ASEAN.

Dr Chen Ai Ju
Regional Project Co-ordinator
ASEAN Population Project
Socio-Economic Consequences of
the Ageing of the Population.

