

Side Event Concept Note

Population and Development Outlooks and Challenges in Southeast Asia

Background

The UN-ESCAP is organizing the 7th APPC on 15-17 November 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok and online. The Conference will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development with its Priority Actions. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Taking the momentum of the demographic changes, dynamic and socio economic development in the region, four (4) Member of ASEAN countries will organize a side event, addressing the implications of demographic change, population ageing, low fertility and harnessing the demographic dividend. The side event is designated to be in line with the objectives of the conference by presenting experiences and good practices of the 4 countries, namely: Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia, of population policies and programme implementation and open up a discussion on population policies and programme implementation options in the future.

In this context, the side event will cover i). general issues related to the implications of demographic transition especially on the demographic parameters: fertility, mortality and migration; ii). The change of the demographic parameters that lead to the final stage of demographic transition: low fertility and mortality level; iii). The implication of the changes, such as the demographic dividend as the result of the demographic momentum; decrease in fertility leading not only to a lower fertility, but also a higher proportion of older persons which has also been contributed by better socio-economic and health status of the nations.

The four countries may have a similar stage of the demographic transition, but each country has different policies, directions and programme implementations which may have its advantages and disadvantages. The exchange of each country's experience will open the opportunities for other countries to learn from their experience without having to repeat the mistakes/wrongdoing or inappropriate decisions made in the past, and replicate the best practices.

Objectives of the Side Event

1. To share good practices, lessons learned in the implementation of priority actions through addressing the implications of demographic change namely population aging, low fertility and the emerging of demographic dividend in the context of global challenges: climate change, pandemics, digitalization, and food crises or other mega trends as they relate to the context of the 2030 Agenda;
2. To recognize the many achievements in population and development since the first Asia and Pacific Population Conference in 1963 and share to other countries on the areas of SRH, ASRH, Youth, Gender, Population Vulnerability and Data for practical policy options
3. To reaffirm the commitment to the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Program of Action, recognizing the central role of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls in addressing demographic change

Location and Time

Location : APPC Conference rooms for Side Event - UN ESCAP Building Bangkok
Dates : 15 November 2023 (Meeting Room H)
Time : 12:30 to 13:45

Organizers:

1. Commission on Population and Development (CPD), Philippines
2. BKKBN Indonesia

Programme:

12:30 - 12:45 (15 min)	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Pio Smith, UNFPA Regional Director• Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, UN ESCAP Executive• Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, TICA Director General
12:45 - 13:20	Moderated Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Countries in the side session are at various stages of the demographic transition (e.g., the Philippines and Indonesia at early transition, while Malaysia and Thailand are in the middle to late transition), implementing different policies,

	<p>programs, and directions, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to focus on similarities that host countries share, paving the way to discuss and showcase the diversity in policies and programs implemented by each country. Future directions will also be discussed, including for the South-South Cooperation. ● In general, presentations must include a discussion on demographic parameters (fertility, mortality, and/or migration) with emphasis on changes leading to the final stage of demographic transition and its implications. <p><u>Participating Countries:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indonesia, Ms. Lina Widyastuti ● Malaysia, Dr. Wan Nurbaiti Sudin ● Philippines, Dr Lisa Grace Bersales ● Thailand, Dr Suphannada Lowhachai <p>Moderator and Synthesis Mr. Rintaro Mori <i>Regional Adviser on Population Ageing</i></p>
13:20 to 13:35	Open Discussion
13:35 to 13:45	<p>Closing Remarks Undersecretary Lisa Grace S. Bersales <i>Commission on Population and Development, Philippines</i></p>

Target Audience: All 7th APPC delegates