

## **Concept Note**

Asian Population Association side event  
at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian and Pacific Population Conference (7APPC)  
Bangkok 16 November 2023 12:30-13:45  
Meeting Room G, UNCC and online (zoom)

### **Organizer :**

Asian Population Association

### **Title:**

The Changing Realities of Population in Asia and Pacific: Low-fertility and population ageing in post-COVID era

### **Background:**

In Asia and Pacific, the population is ageing, and fertility is decreasing. Both trends are welcome as they are the positive consequences of the efforts made by all stakeholders concerned with the population and development, along with the series of the Asian and Pacific Population Conferences, starting from 1963 in New Delhi. However, this new demographic reality needs further and differentiated policy attention. The increasing number of older persons inevitably increases health and long-term care demand. The total fertility rates keep declining, passing down the replacement level, and population sustainability is in question. To face these challenges, a more comprehensive range of policies must be developed, suitable in each country context. In addition to conventional ones such as health care or pension system, mechanisms to guarantee gender equity and work-life balance, social security assuring social protection floor, and decent work provision for nationals and foreign nationals are among those to be considered.

### **Objectives:**

In this side event, the members of the Asian Population Association will briefly demonstrate the country's experiences and policy responses to low fertility and population ageing. The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion with the APCC7 participants onsite and the stakeholders online. It is aimed to identify the key challenges and provide possible policy choices for the new demographic reality in the region of the post-COVID era.

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Up-to-date demographic trends in the region are shared with the participants, who are the stakeholders of the population and development in the Asian and Pacific region.

- A common understanding of the policy choices responding to the low-fertility and population ageing, suitable in the Asian and Pacific contexts, will be nurtured.

**Program:**

- 12:30- Opening remark (Dr.Reiko Hayashi, Deputy Director-General, IPSS, Japan; APA President, in person)
- 12:35- Country experiences (10 min. each)
- Iran: Below replacement fertility in Iran and corresponding policies (Prof.Fatemeh Torabi, University of Teheran; APA Council member, in person)
  - China: Low fertility and policy responses in China (Dr.Menjung Tang, Research Fellow, CPDRC, China; APA Member, in person)
  - Nepal: Emerging issues of population ageing, keeping replacement level fertility and gender equality (Prof.Yogendra Gurung, Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University; APA Member, online)
  - Regional perspective: Ageing and household change (Prof.Samir KC, IIASA/ADRI/KAUST; APA Secretary General, online)
- 13:15- Discussion
- 13:40- Closing remark (Dr.Aleksandar Sasha Bodiroza, Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA APRO; in person)

**Online registration link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAofuuupjlpGdZ2HicdMVAPYCSIsxHM1wYg>