

Observance of the 2025 International Day of Families

15 May, 1:15 – 2:30 pm, UNHQ, New York, CR8

*Family-oriented policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025*

*Asian Family Summit*

# *Family-oriented Policies in Response to Megatrends in Asia & Outcomes of Asian Family Summit 2024*

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# Asian Family Summit

## 亞洲家庭高峰會

Towards a Better Tomorrow for Families:  
Partnership, Collaboration & Action for Sustainable Development

構建幸福家庭：實現可持續發展 – 伙伴 · 協作 · 行動

Event Date 活動日期

27/12 F 星期五 – 29/12 S 星期日  
2024

Venue 地點

Grand Hall & Lecture Hall II, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre,  
LG/F, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong  
香港大學百周年校園 LG/F 李兆基會議中心大會堂及講堂 II



Sponsored by 贊助：



Co-organisers 合辦機構：



Consortium of Institutes on  
Family in the Asian Region  
亞洲區家庭研究聯盟



社會福利署  
Social Welfare Department



家庭議會  
Family Council  
www.familycouncil.gov.hk



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Faculty of  
Social Sciences  
The University of Hong Kong  
香港大學社會科學學院



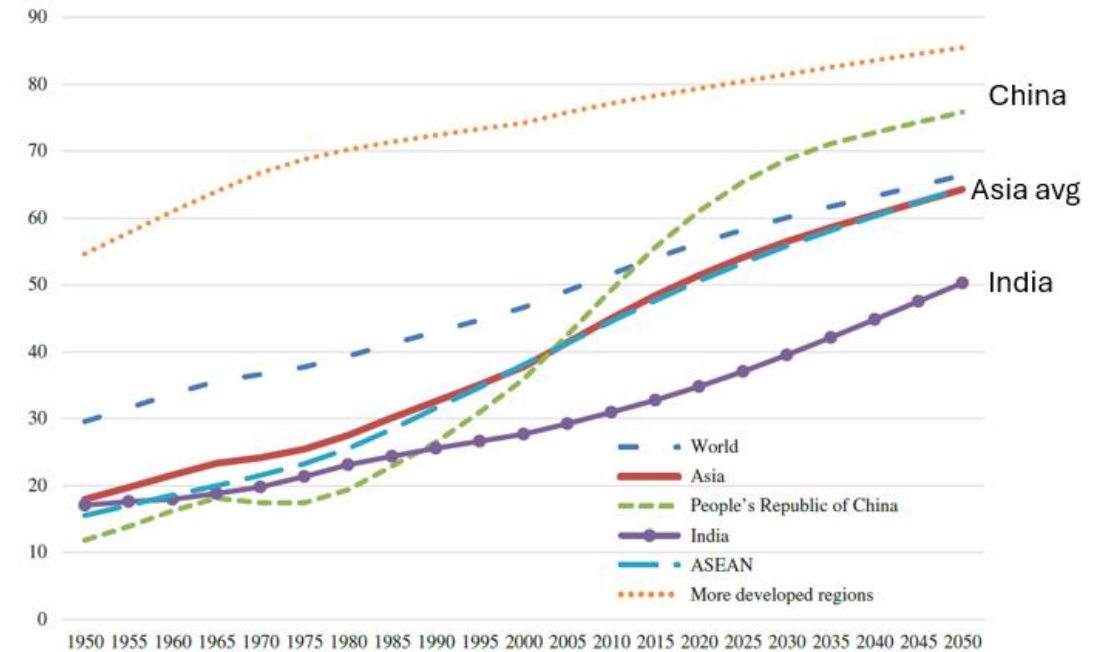
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The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Urbanization & migration | Demographic shifts | Climate change | Technology advancement



## Urbanization & Migration Trend

- As **young adults migrate**, the population left behind in rural areas tends to age, creating an uneven demographic balance.
- **Migrant Children** – Better opportunities but need to adapt to new environment & culture
- **“Left-Behind” Children** – Emotional & psychological challenges
- **Older Migrants** – Adaption to unfamiliar living arrangements, culture and social isolation
- **“Left-Behind” Grandparents** – In many cases, become the primary caregivers for children after parents migrate -> Additional burdens
- Rise in **Marriage Migrants** -> Leading to new forms of families and new social inequalities

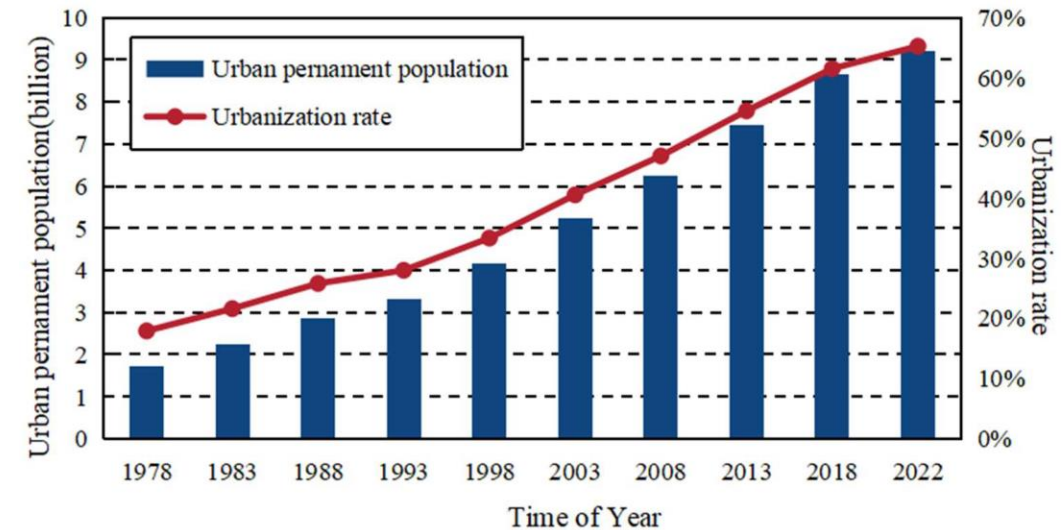


**% Population in Urban Area in Selected Regions  
1950-projected 2050 (UN, 2014)**

## Urbanism and Migration Challenges in China

### Challenges

- The social relationship network undergoes fracture and reorganization
- Traditional elderly care models are weakened
- The willingness to bear children continues to decline, while various costs associated with raising children are on the rise
- Rural depopulation

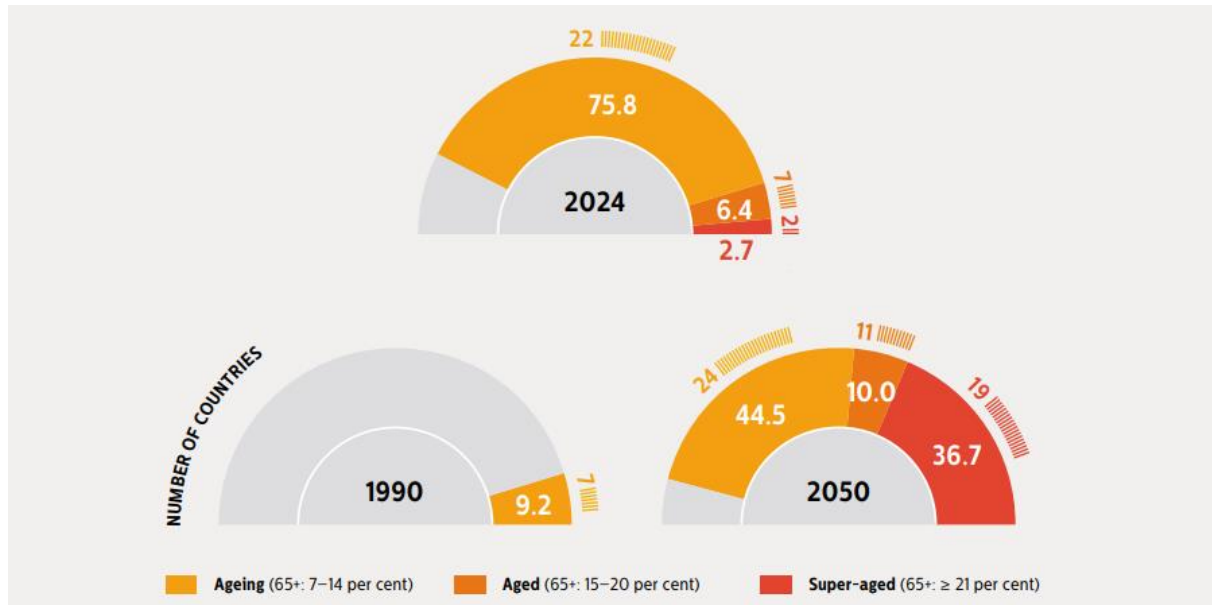


### Policies

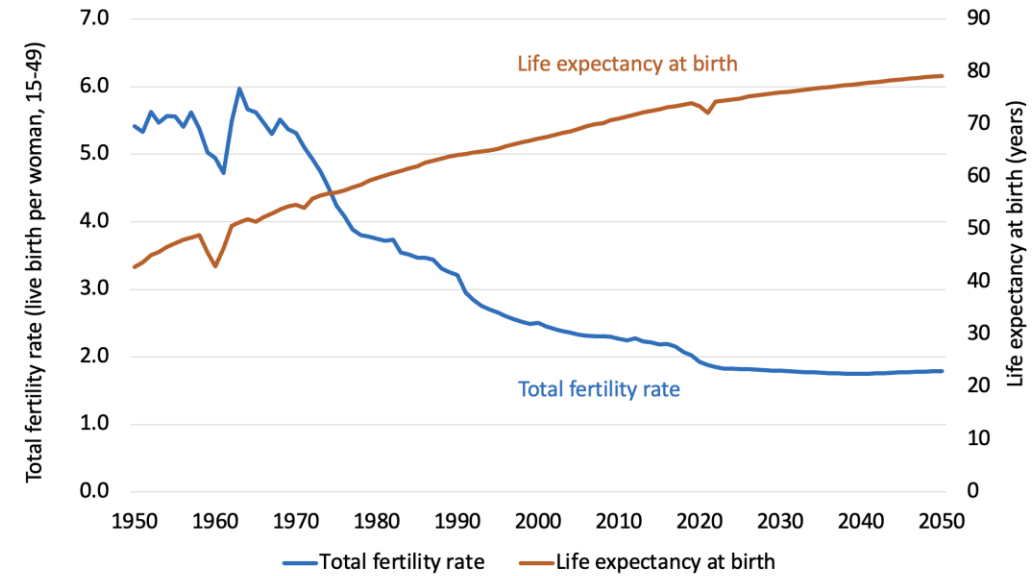
- Strengthen formal social network support and explore the functions of informal networks.
- Support the foundational role of family-based elderly care and improve the social elderly care service system
- Enhance the policy system for fertility support and develop an inclusive childcare service network
- Strengthen resource endowment in rural areas and optimize the development environment for rural families

# Demographic Shifts

- Since the 1960s, Asia's Total Fertility Rate has steadily decreased
- Now falling below 2 children per woman – lower than the replacement level.
- This persistent decline signals a long-term decrease in population, which contrasts sharply with the significant rise in life expectancy—from the mid-40s to around 80 years.



## Asian Family Summit



- In 1990, only 7 Asian countries were considered ageing, with over 7% of their population aged 65 or above.
- By 2024, 31 Asian countries are ageing, including 2 that are super-aged, with over 21% aged 65 or above.
- By 2050, 19 Asian countries are projected to become super-aged.

## Family Support & Childcare Policies

- Statutory maternity leave extended from 10 to 14 weeks
- Free Quality Kindergarten Education Scheme
- Expansion of affordable childcare – e.g. more subsidized childcare centre places and extended-hours day-care
- Paternity leave increased from 3 to 5 days
- Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project

## Healthcare & Elderly Care Policies

- Hospital Development Plan
- Aging-in-Place & Community Care
- Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme
- Carer Support

## Housing & Urban Initiatives

- Senior Citizen Residences Scheme
- Priority Public Housing Allocation
- Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme

## Labor Market & Retirement Policies

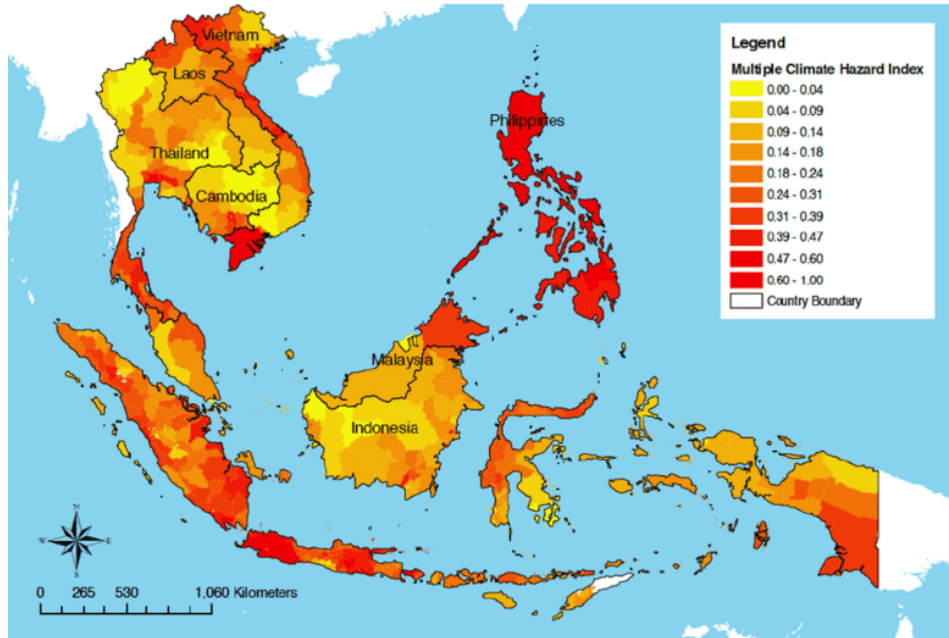
- Extending Working Lives: Retirement age for new civil servants was raised from 60 to 65
- Retirement Protection System
- Elderly Employment Support: Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-Aged

## Immigration & Talent Attraction Policies

- Mainland Immigration (One-Way Permit Scheme)
- Foreign Labour Importation – especially Foreign Domestic Helpers
- Quality Talent Admission
- Top Talent Pass & Recent Drives

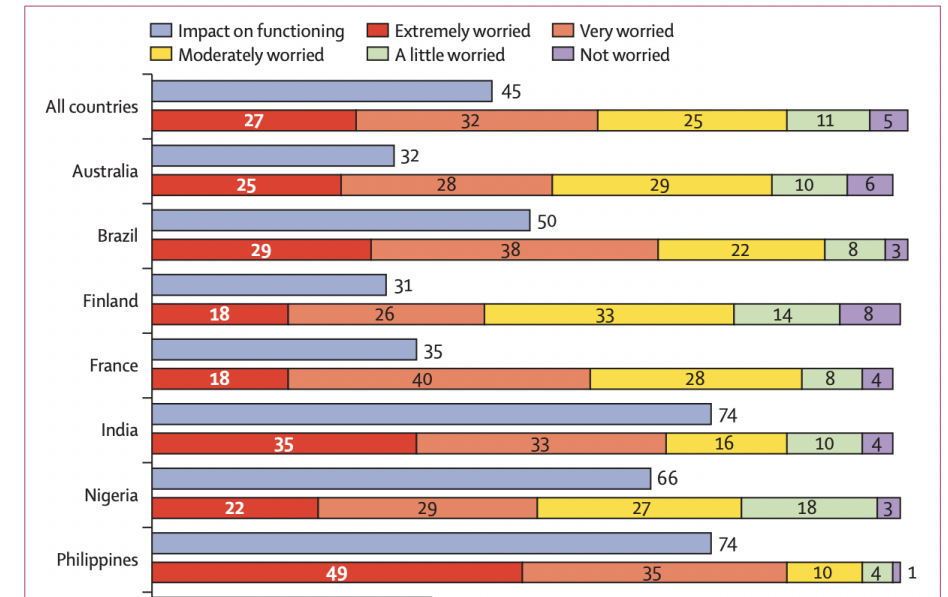


## Climate Change and Families



- Asia is a diverse continent where there are area with rapid urbanization as well as heavy reliance on agriculture
- Families can face very direct impacts from climate change
  - Typically, extreme weather

- 84% of youth in Philippines being Extremely or Very Worried about the climate change



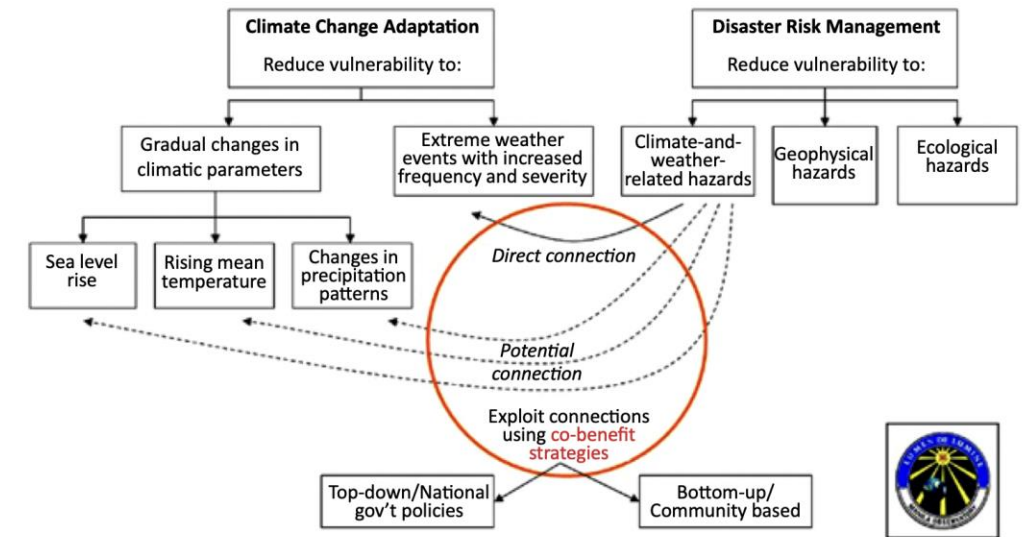
# National Climate Change Action Plan

2011-2028

- Human Security as one of the key objectives in **Philippines** National Climate Change Action Plan
- Defined as "to reduce risks of men and women and other vulnerable groups (children, elderly and persons with disability, etc.) from climate and disasters."

Specific Policies include:

- Increase local and community capacities for climate change risk management
- Implement community-based public health surveillance system for climate change-sensitive diseases.
- Improve system for health emergency preparedness and response for climate and disaster risks.
- Extensive community education program on climate change risks and population management
- Improve system for health emergency preparedness and response for climate and disaster risks.



**Figure 6**  
Conceptual Linkages of Climate Change adaptation and Disaster Risk management

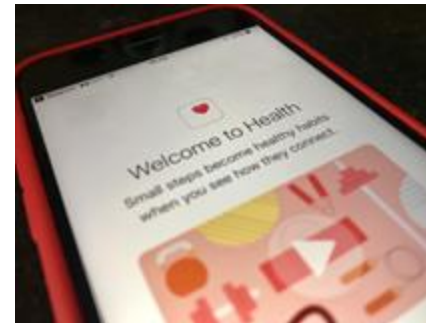
Source: Castillo, Charlotte Kendra G, 2007



## Technological Advancement



*The ultimate effects of technology will be determined by technical capabilities and by how technology is used, how individuals, organizations, and policy makers prepare for/respond to shifts in economic/social landscape.*



National Academies of Science (2017):  
IT and the US Workforce: Where do we go from here?

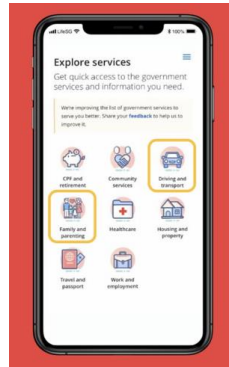


## Singapore

### LifeSG App –

### One-Stop Digital Platforms for Families

- LifeSG offers >40 integrated services for various life stages (covering family and parenting, housing, education, etc.), personalized to each user
- E.g. Simplify the birth registration process from 60 mins to 15 mins
  - 7 out of 10 birth registration using digital platform



### Virtual Assistant Chatbots

- Answering common questions about family schemes or childcare resources, providing quick answers 24/7.

### Social Service Net (SSNet)

- A common database of client information and social program usage
- Enabling different family service providers to coordinate help without making families repeat their concerns multiple times
  - One Client View (OneCV): Provide data to frontline officers with a comprehensive view of client information and assistance history

### Other Tech Usage in Social Services

- Residential homes deploying technologies such as video analytics and sensor networks to enhance care.
  - “Predict behaviour” and monitor safety
- Human-like cleaning robots and an AI-enabled assistant with voice recognition
- Online Counselling on Family Assist (OCFA)
  - Allows individuals to seek professional counseling for marital, parenting, or divorce-related issues remotely

# Envisioning Future

## Production of Commemorative Publication on AFS 2024

- Overview on the event
- Feedback from participants

## Planning of the Wofoo 3A Project 2026

- Themed at the 4 mega trends
- Encourage practitioners to share their best practices and experience on working with families



Preparation for the CIFA  
Regional Symposium 2026

Co-organiser: National  
Coalition for Mental  
Wellbeing (NCMW),  
Malaysia

Tentative date: November  
2026

Site visit to Kuala Lumpur &  
Sarawak, Malaysia (23-24/6)

Webinar on **Strengthening  
Family Mental Health in  
Changing Times** (23/6) in  
hybrid mode

# Asian Family Summit

## Phase II Study on ICT & the Family

- Conduct by the research teams in tertiary institutes in HK, Shanghai and Taiwan
- Finding to be shared during a round table meeting
- A report will be submitted to the Governments and concerned parties for working with families

## Planning of the Family We Time Campaign

- Raising awareness among families on the impact of the meta trends on their life
- How they can strengthen their resilience and ability to cope with these challenges



# Family We-Time Campaign



## Wofoo 3A project 2026

- **Purpose:**

- To raise awareness among families on the impact of the 4 megatrends on their life
- To convey positive family messages and generate positive energy among families through providing a platform for participants from Asian countries/region
- To offer an opportunity for families in the Asian region to participate in family photography/coloring
- Photography/coloring works collected to be presented in a photo collage and presented on the Campaign website
- **Campaign will launch in July 2025**

# Call For Action!

- **Slogan:**

- Aspiration for Sustainability, Innovation & Applicability (ASIA)

- **Objectives:**

- To identify and give recognition to **outstanding initiatives that have advanced an innovative idea, model or paradigm that enhances family well-being**
- To encourage sharing of experience and practice wisdom on developing family work
- To sustain the momentum of innovation and knowledge transfer among different countries

- **Briefing and Appeal for Submission: End of 2025 / Early 2026 (Exact date to be confirmed)**

- Final Round Adjudication at **CIFA Regional Symposium 2026 in Malaysia**

