

The 23rd ASEAN & Japan High-Level Officials Meeting
on Caring Societies

Overall Summary

January 2026

OMC Inc.

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1. Background of the Meeting

The ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies has been organized by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan since 2003. Since 2011, MHLW has invited officials in charge of employment officialslabour policy in addition to health and social welfare officialsexperts, with a view to promoting cooperation in these three related fields. The purpose of this meeting is to enhance human resource development in the health, social welfare and labour areas, and to strengthen the ASEAN-Japan cooperative relationship.

This Meeting has been recognized as a vital platform to support the ASEAN plus Three (Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea) Health Ministers' Meetings, as well as the ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meetings on Social Welfare and Development and the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting. Japan reports the outcome of the Meeting to these ASEAN plus Three Ministers' Meetings.

2. Overview and Objectives of the Meeting

Title: The 23rd ASEAN & Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

Date: 28–30 October 2025 (Tuesday–Thursday)

Venue: Hotel Nikko Narita, Chiba Prefecture, Japan

Organizer: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan

Co-organizer: Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

Partner Organizations: ASEAN Secretariat, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS) of Japan, Chiba Prefecture, Narita City.

Participants: Representatives from 10 ASEAN Member States, Japan, People's Republic of China, ASEAN Secretariat, and related organizations.

The meeting was convened under the overarching theme of “Sustainable Support for Ageing Populations” to share policy challenges and best practices in the fields of health, welfare, and labour among participants, and to explore future directions for cooperation.

Discussions were structured around the following three pillars:

- Promoting initiatives for social participation of older persons
- Realizing inclusive access to healthcare and long-term care services for all, particularly through the promotion of universal health coverage(UHC) and the utilization of digital technologies
- Strengthening of and potential for gender equality and income security systems for older people

3. Major Topics and Summary of Discussions

Day 1: October 28, 2025 (Tuesday)

1) Opening Remarks

Dr. SAKOI Masami, Chief Medical and Global Health Officer, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, delivered the opening address.

He emphasized the significance of social security cooperation between ASEAN and Japan and the urgent need for a coordinated response to the rapid pace of population ageing.

Dr. Sakoi expressed Japan's commitment to deepening partnerships with ASEAN countries by sharing its accumulated experiences in long-term care, medical, and welfare systems, aiming to find practical solutions to common challenges. He further noted that addressing demographic change requires comprehensive and cross-sectoral collaboration among health, welfare, and labour policies, as well as the establishment of community-based support systems.



Mr. Miguel Rafael Villanueva Musngi, Assistant Director and Head of Poverty Eradication and Gender Division of the ASEAN Secretariat, followed by stating that “By 2050, one in four people in ASEAN will be aged 60 or above,” underscoring the need to develop inclusive and sustainable frameworks for care and support for older persons. He highlighted the importance of promoting gender equality, family support, and the development of the care economy through regional and international

cooperation.

Mr. KUMAGAI Toshihito, Governor of Chiba Prefecture, expressed his warm welcome on behalf of the host region.

He introduced local efforts to integrate medical and nursing care, extend healthy life expectancy, and improve productivity.

Governor Kumagai expressed his hope that exchanges of views among participants would provide new insights toward developing sustainable community-based welfare models, and he wished the meeting great success.



2) Presentations by Partner Organizations

Mr. Miguel Rafael Villanueva Musngi of the ASEAN Secretariat reported on the progress of population ageing within the ASEAN region.

He pointed out that issues such as poverty and vulnerability among older women are becoming increasingly visible, and emphasized ASEAN's commitment to promoting the protection of older persons' rights and the realization of healthy and active ageing.

These initiatives are being advanced through regional frameworks such as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and the ASEAN Care Economy Framework.

He further explained ASEAN's efforts to strengthen data collection, research, and technological utilization to enhance policy-making capacity and promote social participation among the older persons, aiming for a comprehensive approach to ageing by 2045.

Ms. KANDA Mikiko, Technical Lead for Healthy Ageing, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, stressed that preventive approaches and integration of community-based care are essential to achieving healthy ageing.

She highlighted the importance of strengthening coordination among health, medical, and long-term care systems to promote community-driven health improvement.



Mr. TOMITA Nozomi, Director of the ILO Office for Japan, provided an overview of the current status of pension systems and labour markets in ASEAN Member States.

He underscored the need to establish social frameworks that support continued employment for older persons.

Examples such as Japan's Act on Stabilization of Employment for Older Persons were introduced as lessons on balancing employment opportunities and social participation.

Ms. SATO Rie, Director at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), shared the overview of cooperation with ASEAN for healthy and active ageing.

She presented examples of collaboration with Thailand on community-based integrated care including preventive approach and seamless care model by various stakeholders, highlighting their potential for expansion across ASEAN countries through involving local governments, medical institutions, and community organizations etc.



3) Remarks by the Co-Organizer



Dr. YAMANAKA Takayuki, Chief Operating Officer of ERIA, presented key policy research on Ageing in ASEAN, highlighting initiatives on promoting active ageing, sustainable financing for integrated care for older populations, and longitudinal studies in Southeast Asia. He announced an MoU with UNFPA to enhance collaboration and emphasised ageing as a regional opportunity. He reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, resilient health and social systems across East and Southeast Asia.

4) Keynote Speech 1

Dr. Akksilp Somsak
Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing
and Innovation (ACAI)

Dr. Akksilp highlighted the need for regional body and coordinated regional action in response to ASEAN's demographic transition.

He emphasized ACAI's integrated approach, which brings together capacity building, evidence generation including the ASEAN Active Ageing Index (AAAI in collaboration with IPSS) and policy dialogue to support ASEAN Member States.

Through these efforts, ACAI acts as a regional connector to promote evidence informed and sustainable active ageing across the region.



5) Panel Session1

Promoting Social Participation of Older Persons
Moderator: Dr. IGARASHI Kumiko,
Research Managing Director, National Institute of
Public Health, Japan



(1) Session Overview

Dr. Igarashi introduced the theme of the session: “Promoting Social Participation of Older Persons.”

Case studies were presented by Japan (Narita City), Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Timor-Leste, followed by an exchange of opinions on common challenges and future directions.

(2) Presentations

Japan (Narita City)

Presenter: Ms. NOMURA Takako
Director of Long-Term Care Insurance Section,
Narita City



Ms. Nomura introduced Narita City’s efforts to promote preventive care and extend healthy life expectancy.

Although the city’s ageing rate of 24.2% is below the national average, it is steadily increasing.

The city implements a variety of community-based preventive programs enabling older residents to live independently in familiar environments.

Major initiatives include:

Senior Health College (established in 2015):

In cooperation with Juntendo University, muscle training programs are conducted to prevent sarcopenia and locomotive syndrome. Continuous exercise has proven effective for maintaining health.

“Hyakusai Taiso” (100-Year-Old Exercise):

Simple exercises for seniors that can be done while singing, either seated or holding onto a chair. Initially, a city public health nurse or staff of the Community Comprehensive Support Center provides support, and then local residents voluntarily carry out group activities.

Koppuku Academy:

Jointly operated with International University of Health and Welfare, offering outpatient and home-visit rehabilitation programs led by physical and occupational therapists.

Cool Life Project (since 2020):

Supervised by dementia specialists, this program provides cognitive decline prevention both in-person and online.

Community volunteer groups such as Aozora-kai actively organize light exercise and outings,

fostering social connection among the older persons.

Ms. Nomura concluded by reaffirming Narita City's commitment to creating a community where seniors can live with confidence and independence.

(3) Reports from participants

① Cambodia



Presenter: Mr. Siv SIRAPHEN

Chief of Bureau, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

Cambodia has formulated the National Ageing Policy 2017–2030, which aims to ensure that older persons are enabled to fully participate with freedom and dignity for as long as they wish to in family, community, economic, social, religious and political activities; and that younger persons are better equipped with knowledge that enables them to lead a more productive, healthy, active and dignified life in old age. The Policy is an overarching roadmap formulated for addressing the wide range of issues emerging from the evolving ageing situation within the broad national development framework, including the Pentagonal Strategy Phase-I and the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030. Among the nine priority areas of the policy, particular emphasis is placed on the establishment of Older Persons Associations (OPAs) and the promotion of intergenerational exchange. To date, 584 OPAs have been established in 584 communes nationwide, serving as key platforms for the engagement, participation, and dialogue of older persons at the community level. In parallel, efforts are ongoing to train care personnel and to establish care centres for older persons, in order to strengthen long-term and community-based care services. However, challenges remain, including the need to enhance digital literacy among older persons, strengthen the legal and policy framework, secure sustainable financial resources, and further develop qualified human resources to respond to the rapidly ageing population.

② Viet Nam

Presenter: Mr. Le Duc Quang

Deputy General Director, Department of Social Protection, Ministry of Health

Viet Nam is experiencing rapid ageing, with older persons accounting for about 16% of the total population—expected to reach 20% within the next decade.

While life expectancy stands at 74 years, healthy life expectancy remains around 65, highlighting the need to reinforce health support systems.



The government promotes Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs, a community-based care model offering day care, short stays, and long-term services.

From 2025, social allowances will be provided to older persons aged 75 and above who are not covered by pensions.

Future priorities include expanding care facilities, training care workers, and building an integrated support system linking medical and welfare services.

③ Timor-Leste



Presenter: Ms. Dos Santos Olivia Emiliana
Chief of Department, Department of Cooperation,
Secretary of State for Vocational Training and
Employment

Timor-Leste supports older persons through social pensions and community-based social participation programs.

- Under its social security system, cash benefits are provided to reduce economic vulnerability among

the older persons.

- Community centres serve as hubs for cultural activities, social exchanges, and volunteer initiatives.

Challenges include geographical barriers, low literacy rates, financial constraints, and cultural factors.

The government aims to address these through mobile pension services and awareness-raising initiatives, with plans to develop a national Active Ageing Policy and improve data collection.

(4) Discussion and Summary

Dr. Igarashi summarized four common challenges identified across countries

1. Reducing regional disparities and expanding support services for older persons, including rural areas.
2. Developing and deploying qualified professionals in care, welfare, and health sectors.
3. Strengthening legal frameworks for the protection of older persons' rights.
4. Understanding how pension and social security systems influence social participation.

The Philippines introduced its social pension program covering around four million beneficiaries, as well as ongoing legislative efforts toward a universal pension system.

Thailand reported active community engagement in rural areas through local volunteers, while noting growing urban isolation among older persons.

Dr. Igarashi concluded by emphasizing the need to improve data collection and analysis on social participation, calling on ASEAN countries to contribute to and utilize the Healthy and Active Ageing Index (HAAI).

6) ERIA-UNFPA MoU Signing Ceremony

ERIA and UNFPA formalised their partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance inclusive, sustainable development in ASEAN and East Asia. The collaboration will focus on evidence-based policymaking, regional dialogue, and capacity building. Key initiatives include research on integrated care financing for older persons and demographic impacts. The signing symbolizes a strengthened regional collaboration to address population ageing and marks a significant milestone in building resilience across ageing societies.



7) Keynote Speech 2



Dr. ONO Taichi
Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Dr. Ono presented Japan's policies addressing an ageing society, focusing on the sustainability of the medical, long-term care, and pension systems.

He explained how partial cost-sharing for older persons and automatic pension adjustment mechanisms contribute to financial stability while

promoting active ageing through community participation and preventive care.

He stressed the importance of enabling older persons to live independently with dignity and to remain engaged in society.

8) Keynote Speech 3

Dr. AMBIRU Takashi
Director, Employment Promotion & Research Dept.
For the Elderly, Japan Organization for Employment
of the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Job
Sealers (JEED)



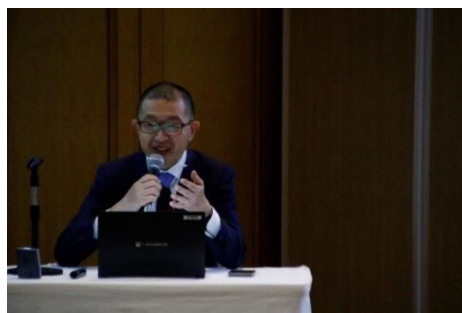
Dr. Ambiru introduced initiatives aimed at realizing a sustainable society through the employment support of older persons.

Under the Act on Stabilization of Employment for Older Persons, JEED promotes job retention up to the age of 70 through subsidies, consultation services, and improvements in employment management.

He also presented industry-specific guidelines, symposium activities, and information dissemination that foster an environment where seniors can remain active throughout their lives.

9) Panel Session 2

Realizing the Delivery of Health and Long-term
Care Services Open to All
Moderator: Mr. NAKAMURA Shintaro
Senior Advisor on Social Security, Japan
International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



(1) Session Overview

Mr. Nakamura opened the session by explaining that, as ageing progresses, the demand for health and long-term care services is rapidly increasing, yet access remains limited due to geographical, financial, and human resource constraints.

The session explored approaches to achieve inclusive and sustainable health and care systems through examples from Japan, ASEAN countries, and China.

(2) Presentation



①Initiative: Mobile Pharmacy Supporting Local Communities

Presenter: Mr. HOSHI Akihiro
Department Manager, WELCIA YAKKYOKU Co., Ltd.

Mr. Hoshi introduced the “Mobile sales vehicle” initiative implemented by WELCIA YAKKYOKU Co., Ltd., a nationwide pharmacy chain operating more than 2,200 stores across Japan, combining drug dispensing and retail services under the

corporate mission of “supporting both health and daily life of local residents.”

The mobile sales service, launched in 2022, aims not only to provide shopping assistance but also to promote health consultations and community interaction.

Each vehicle carries around 600 items, including food, daily necessities, and pharmaceuticals, and offers online consultations with pharmacists and registered dietitians.

In collaboration with local governments, social welfare councils, and neighbourhood associations, the service currently operates in 36 municipalities, visiting 8–10 locations per day, five days per week.

Mr. Hoshi emphasized that the initiative functions as a multifunctional local infrastructure, combining shopping support, health support, and community monitoring.

He expressed the company’s intention to further expand public–private partnerships to strengthen community-based support for older persons.

②Integrated Support Model for Medical and Long-term Care — “Nursing and Multi-functional Home Care”

Presenter: Mr. IWANO Shingo
Section Chief, SAINT-CARE NARITA Small-scale/Multifunction In-home Care and Home-visit Nursing



Mr. Iwano presented the “Nursing and Multi-functional Home Care” model, designed to support older persons requiring both medical and long-term care.

This system flexibly integrates three services—day care, short stay, and home visit—while ensuring the presence of on-site nurses who can provide medical treatment and respond to emergencies.

In the case of Narita City, around 70 percent of users are classified as Care Level 3 or above, representing those with high medical dependency.

Mr. Iwano introduced a case of an older person who, after a cerebral haemorrhage requiring tube feeding, successfully returned home following short-term residential care and family training support.

He highlighted that this service model acts as an intermediate support hub between hospitals and home care, providing reassurance for both patients and their families.

He concluded that this model contributes to the realization of community-based integrated care, ensuring that older persons can continue living in familiar environments with dignity and security.

(3) Reports from participants



① Lao PDR

Presenter: Ms. Kittilath Vanh Manivanh
Deputy Director General, Department of Policy for Devotees, Persons with Disability and Older Persons, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

A representative from Lao PDR presented the current situation of population ageing and the development of community-based care systems. While life expectancy has increased alongside economic development, disparities in access to

healthcare between urban and rural areas remain significant, and the shortage of home-based support services is a major challenge.

Efforts are underway to strengthen primary health care through district hospitals and health centres, supported by community volunteers who provide health checks, medication support, and daily life consultations for older persons.

The government plans to enhance the training of healthcare workers and expand community networks to ensure that older persons can continue to live safely in their familiar surroundings.

② Myanmar

Presenter: Ms. Ohn Yin Yin, Deputy Director General, Social Security Board, Ministry of Labour

A representative from the Myanmar reported on the progress and challenges of Myanmar's welfare policy for older persons.

The Law on Older Persons (2016) legally enshrined the rights and social participation of older persons, followed by the National Strategy on Comprehensive Care for Older Persons (2021–2030).

While local welfare centres and home-care services are being developed, financial constraints and human resource shortages continue to hinder implementation.

Community monitoring activities led by religious organizations and volunteer groups, as well as pilot projects in collaboration with private and international partners, were introduced as good practices.

Myanmar aims to expand these community-based models nationwide as part of its inclusive care strategy.



③ Philippines



Presenter: Mr. Marquez Victorio Juan Carlo
Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning, Department of Social Welfare and Development

A representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported on the country's initiatives addressing rapid ageing through public-private collaboration.

As traditional family-based care systems weaken, the government is enhancing institutional support under the Senior Citizens Act, including

medical subsidies and transport discounts.

Local governments operate Senior Citizens' Centres, which serve as venues for health

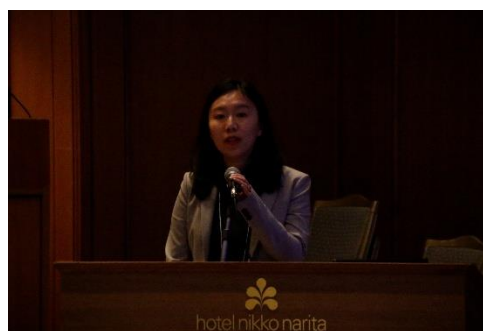
consultations, care advice, and recreational activities.

Volunteer programs in collaboration with private enterprises and NGOs have also been developed.

The presentation highlighted regional disparities in services and the importance of capacity building for local personnel, calling for the strengthening of comprehensive care through public-private partnerships.

④ China

Presenter: Ms. Zhao Ying
Assistant Researcher, Healthcare and Long-term
Care Research Office, Chinese Academy of Labour
and Social Security Sciences (CALSS),



A representative from the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security Sciences delivered a presentation on China's response to rapid population ageing, focusing on the role of social health insurance and long-term care insurance in achieving universal health coverage.

China has entered an ageing society, marked by a rapidly growing population of older adults, an increasing share of the oldest-old, and faster ageing in rural areas, driving rising demand for healthcare and long-term care services.

In response, China has established the world's largest basic medical insurance system, covering about 1.35 billion people, complemented by critical illness insurance and medical assistance to reduce out-of-pocket payments and improve access to care.

The presentation also highlighted the phased development of long-term care insurance, which has expanded from local pilots to broader implementation, covering over 100 million people and contributing to the growth of care services and the workforce.

Key lessons included strong political commitment, a pilot-based approach, integrated multi-tiered protection, and collaborative governance. Future priorities include further integration of health insurance schemes and nationwide expansion of long-term care insurance.

(4) Summary of Discussions

During the session, a question from Malaysia focused on how countries train and support informal caregivers, including whether governments provide training, remuneration, or financial support.

In response, Japan explained that local governments, such as city administrations, regularly organize caregiver training programmes to improve care skills. China noted that caregiver training had initially been led by market actors and care institutions, with services purchased through the insurance system, and that more recently the government has begun promoting professional certification for caregivers. The Philippines highlighted ongoing discussions on providing incentives and support for unpaid family caregivers, with plans to further address this issue in future regional meetings.

Overall, the discussion underscored the growing importance of supporting informal caregivers through training, certification, and incentives, while recognizing that countries are at different stages of policy development.

10) Keynote Speech 4



Dr. Bodiroza Aleksandar
Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA Asia & the Pacific Regional Office

Dr. Bodiroza emphasized the critical importance of data-driven policymaking, strengthening the care economy, addressing gender inequality, and promoting active ageing in ASEAN's response to population ageing.

He stated that older persons should not be viewed merely as a social burden, but as valuable contributors to economic and social

activities.

He called for comprehensive ageing policies that utilize regional cooperation and Japan's advanced experiences as models.

He reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to working with ASEAN to promote intergenerational solidarity, rights-based approaches, and community care, ensuring that older persons can live with dignity and social inclusion.

11) Keynote Speech 5

Ms. Queisser Monika

Senior Counsellor to the Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate and the Head of Social Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Ms. Queisser highlighted the urgent need for effective policy responses to the rapid population ageing occurring in ASEAN countries.

Drawing on Japan's experiences, she pointed out that promoting labour force participation, advancing gender equality, and utilizing migration policies can help mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of ageing.

She explained that OECD, through its joint projects with ERIA, is analysing the challenges and opportunities of comprehensive social policies—particularly in relation to pension systems and declining fertility rates—to support evidence-based policy development in ASEAN Member States.



12) Panel Session 3

Promoting Active Ageing in Southeast Asia

Moderator: Mr. HIRAI Narihiro

Chief Manager on Healthcare, ERIA



(1) Session Overview

Mr. Hirai opened this session and discussed policy directions for promoting active ageing, the

economic impact of extending working life, and country experiences from ASEAN Member States.

(2) Presentation

①OECD

Presenter: Ms. Queisser Monika

Senior Counsellor to the Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate and the Head of Social Policy Division, OECD

Ms. Queisser Monika presented findings from the joint OECD–ERIA report “Promoting Active Ageing in Southeast Asia.”

She noted that ASEAN countries are ageing much faster than OECD countries, with the proportion of older persons expected to surge within just 36 years on average.

In particular, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam are projected to age at speeds comparable to Korea—the fastest among OECD members—underscoring the need for swift policy responses. She identified five priority areas for advancing active ageing:

1. Tackling informality in labour markets
2. Promoting gender equality
3. Expanding social protection systems
4. Improving access to healthcare
5. Enhancing opportunities for social participation

Regarding informality, she explained that two-thirds of ASEAN workers are in informal employment, with rates reaching up to 90 percent in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

She stressed the need to lower the cost of formalization for low-income workers and to improve understanding of the benefits of social protection coverage.

On health, she noted that around 60 percent of older workers in ASEAN are engaged in physically demanding jobs, significantly higher than the OECD average.

While health levels are relatively good, labour participation—particularly among women—remains underutilized, and promoting women’s employment can simultaneously enhance economic growth and quality of life.

Ms. Queisser also pointed out gender-based inequalities in family and inheritance laws, calling for legal reforms and gender mainstreaming.

Concerning pension systems, she observed that current *pay-as-you-go* schemes with high benefit promises are financially unsustainable. She recommended reforms such as adjusting contribution rates and retirement ages and expanding coverage to informal workers.

In health, she reported that public healthcare expenditure in ASEAN averages 4.7 percent of GDP, roughly half the OECD average, emphasizing the need to improve rural access and invest in preventive medicine.

Finally, she underscored the importance of social participation to prevent isolation among older persons.

Although multi-generational living remains common, “skip-generation households”—where grandparents raise grandchildren—are increasing due to urban migration.

She concluded that policies should promote digital literacy, volunteerism, and accessible public spaces and transport, fostering inclusion and active ageing.

②ERIA

Dr. Chang Wan Sek, Consultant, ERIA

and Prof. Yasuhiko Saito, Senior Research Fellow, ERIA

Dr. Chang and Prof. Saito presented an analysis of the relationship between working life expectancy and economic growth in ASEAN.

Using an econometric model, ERIA demonstrated that raising the retirement age and promoting continued employment yield the greatest economic benefits.

Significant differences in working life expectancy among ASEAN countries were observed, influenced by national retirement policies. The analysis emphasized the concept of “healthy working life expectancy”, balancing health and employment longevity.

Policy recommendations included:

- Raising the retirement age and introducing flexibility into retirement schemes
- Ensuring that pension systems do not disincentivize working longer
- Providing adequate social protection for those unable to access pensions before reaching the revised retirement age
- Focusing on creating age-friendly work environments and promoting lifelong learning programs



(3) Reports from participants Thailand



Presenter: Mrs. Pitipanyakul Phatcharamont
Director of Older Persons Welfare and Rights
Protection Division, Ministry of Social
Development and Human Security

Thailand reported on its inter-ministerial approach to population ageing, coordinated among the Ministries of Social Development, Health, and Labour.

Key initiatives include:

- Nationwide senior schools promoting lifelong learning
- Community-based health promotion networks
- Expansion of the “Blue Book” health management app

In labour and social protection areas, Thailand implements tax incentives for older persons employment, re-employment support, and pension reforms.

Under a 2022 tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the 4S Strategy—Social Participation, Social Security, Sustainability, and Smart Digitalization—has been advanced, positioning older persons as active contributors in a cohesive society.

(4) Discussion and Summary

Participants raised questions regarding the relationship between longer working life and

productivity, to which ERIA responded that further empirical research is underway. Moderator Mr. Hirai concluded by confirming that active ageing policies benefit both the economy and society, highlighting the importance of strengthened cooperation between OECD and ASEAN countries.

The session closed with shared recognition that extending healthy working life and promoting inclusion are key to sustainable ageing societies in the region.

Day 2: October 29, 2025 (Wednesday)

13) Site Visits

Participants were divided into groups to visit mobile sales and welfare and healthcare facilities within Chiba Prefecture, including WELCIA YAKKYOKU CO., LTD., Hourai-no-Mori, SAINT-CARE NARITA small-scale/Multifunction In-home Care and Home-visit Nursing, Special Nursing Home Morinoie Narita, the International University of Health and Welfare Narita Hospital, the International University of Health and Welfare Narita Geriatric Medical Welfare Centre.

Each group visited the facilities to observe Japan's practical examples of community-based integrated care and long-term support for older persons.

WELCIA YAKKYOKU CO., LTD.



Hourai-no-Mori



SAINT-CARE NARITA Small-scale/Multifunction In-home Care and Home-visit Nursing



International University of Health and Welfare Narita Geriatric Medica Welfare Centre



International University of Health and Welfare Narita Hospital



Special Nursing Home MorinoIe Narita



14) Hands-on Experience Program

In addition, hands-on exhibitions and demonstrations were organized at the conference venue under the Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI) Awards, showcasing innovative products and services addressing challenges related to ageing. The following companies presented their award-winning initiatives:

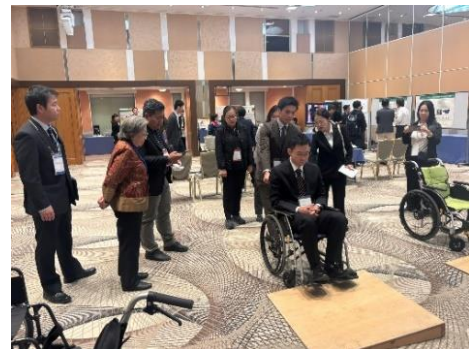
- (1) ITO EN, Ltd.

Provided tasting of universal design “thickened green tea,” an easy-to-swallow beverage designed for older adults.



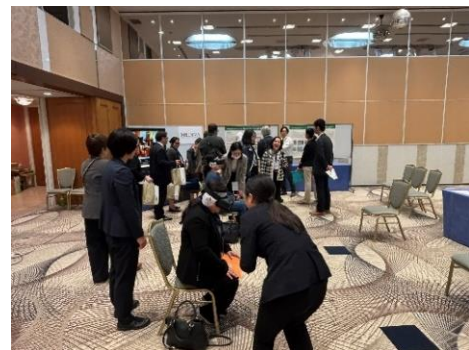
(2) COLORS CO., Inc.

Offered an experience with the assistive wheelchair COLORS@, designed to improve mobility and support outdoor activities for care recipients.



(3) MEDIVA Inc.

Demonstrated the “Dementia Eyes” augmented reality (AR) experience, allowing participants to understand visual perception difficulties experienced by persons with dementia.



(4) SILVER WOOD Co., Ltd.

Presented the VR Dementia Experience, using virtual reality to help users experience the emotions and perspectives of people living with dementia and their caregivers.



Through these site visits and demonstrations, participants gained valuable insight into Japan’s integrated approach combining medical, technological, and community innovations in care of older persons.

Day 3: October 30, 2025 (Thursday)

15) Panel Session 4

Generational Economy and Policy Implications for Ageing

Moderator: Dr. Nguyen Thanh Liem
Programme Manager on Social Welfare, ERIA



(1) Session Overview

Dr. Nguyen opened the final session of the meeting, which focused on “Generational Economy and Policy Implications for Ageing”, by emphasizing the importance of sustainable financing for later life. He also highlighted FISCO, a collaborative effort among ERIA, ACAI, IPSS, UNFPA, WHO and USABC aimed at addressing this challenge, as background of the session.

(2) Presentation



① NTA Introduction & Japan NTA Data: How Can We Use It for Policy Analysis?

Presenter: Dr. FUKUDA Setsuya

Senior Researcher, Department of Research Planning and Coordination, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)

Dr. Fukuda introduced the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) framework and its relevance for ageing-related policymaking, using updated data from Japan. The analysis highlighted lifecycle

patterns of transfers and significant gender disparities in contributions and benefits, with women receiving relatively more due to lower lifetime labour income and longer life expectancy. Population projections showed a widening gap between social security benefits and contributions, implying growing fiscal pressure. Policy implications included strengthening fiscal sustainability, promoting older-age employment, reducing gender gaps in labour income, and easing women's unpaid care burden.

② How to Hold the Demographic Dividend Not Ending in Indonesia

Presenter: Dr. Maliki

Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population, and Manpower, Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), Indonesia

Dr. Maliki discussed how NTA can be used in Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to manage population ageing and fiscal sustainability. With Indonesia's working-age population projected to peak around 2030, NTA was presented as a tool to analyse lifecycle deficits and extend the demographic dividend through effective labour participation. The analysis showed that improving female labour productivity and participation would expand fiscal space and prolong the dividend. Policy implications included enhancing labour productivity, promoting women's employment, investing in education and health, and strengthening social protection systems.



③ Milestones and Next Steps in NTA Policy Applications in Thailand

Presenter: Dr. Lowhachai Suphannada

Director, Social Data and Indicator Development Division, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Thailand



Dr. Lowhachai presented Thailand's experience in applying NTA to policymaking, highlighting its institutionalization within the NESDC. NTA has been used as empirical evidence for policies on health financing, social welfare, and labour, including healthcare funding for older population, poverty reduction measures, and pension reform. Simulations

showed that extending working life and improving labour productivity would significantly enhance national income and fiscal capacity. She concluded that deeper engagement with other ministries is essential to further expand NTA use in Thailand.

④ Shaping the Future Beyond GDP: Using National Transfer Account for Inclusive Fiscal and Social Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region

Presenter: Dr. Im-em Wassana

Regional Technical Specialist on Population and Development, UNFPA-APRO

Dr. Im-em presented the Generational Economy framework and the use of NTA, NTTA (National Time Transfer Accounts), and NIA (National Inclusion Accounts) as tools to complement GDP for inclusive fiscal and social policymaking in the Asia-Pacific region. These accounts capture



lifecycle economic flows, including unpaid work and gender disparities, which are not reflected in GDP. She highlighted limited institutional use of NTA due to capacity, funding, and awareness constraints among policymakers. Key recommendations included institutionalizing NTA/NTTA in national planning, strengthening technical capacity, and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration to address rapid population ageing.

(3) Discussion and Summary

The discussion focused on how NTA can support evidence-based ageing and social protection policies, including the treatment of external shocks and scenario-based projections. Participants noted that current NTA models primarily reflect demographic change, while future enhancements could incorporate policy and productivity scenarios. Country representatives expressed strong interest in deeper application of NTA and related tools in national planning. The session concluded with agreement to strengthen regional collaboration and joint research to support sustainable financing for ageing societies.

16) Overall Summary

(1) Reports from participants



① Brunei Darussalam

Presenter: Dr. Abd Razak Siti Zaharah

Acting Deputy Director, Department of Community Development, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

Brunei Darussalam, moving toward an ageing society, is led by two ministries: Health, providing universal and digital health care, and Culture, Youth and Sports, managing senior centres and social protection. Health initiatives include electronic medical records, digital health apps, NCD and mental health programmes, geriatric and home nursing services, and pilot

intermediate care for older persons. Social support relies on strong family care, supplemented by pensions, disability and caregiver allowances, and a national plan for senior citizens. The country has four senior centres, one WHO-recognized. Brunei's priorities are strengthening long-term care, expanding community-based care and volunteerism, and promoting active and intergenerational engagement of older persons.

② Indonesia

Presenter: Dr. Damayanti Yanti

Associate Planner at, Planning Bureau, Ministry of Social Affairs

Indonesia reported that over 12 percent of its population is aged 60 and above, marking a transition to an ageing society with both opportunities and challenges. The government's National Strategy on Ageing and Care Economy Roadmap (2025–2045) promotes intergenerational solidarity, lifelong learning, and community-based care through coordinated health, social welfare, and employment policies.

Key programmes include social rehabilitation, nutrition support for households with a single older person, conditional cash transfers, integrated health



posts (Posyandu Lansia), learning centres, and digital data systems (CDAIA) for better targeting. Social participation remains low due to accessibility, digital literacy, and limited local capacity.

Challenges include fragmented cross-sector coordination, insufficient data harmonization, and inadequate age-friendly infrastructure. Future plans focus on integrated community service hubs, stronger data integration, expanded lifelong learning and digital/financial literacy, and promotion of microeconomic empowerment and employment for older persons. Indonesia views ageing as an opportunity to build a caring, resilient society and is committed to ASEAN–Japan cooperation in care workforce development, community-based models, and joint programmes, aiming to ensure older persons live active, meaningful, and well-supported lives.

③Malaysia



Presenter: Dr. Vengirasamy Shela
Principal Assistant Secretary, Unit of Community Policy, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

Malaysia noted that population ageing brings both challenges—such as workforce decline and pressure on care systems—and opportunities like growth in the care and silver economies. Common priorities across countries include coordinated multi-sector efforts, integrated health and social care, sustainable financing,

strong data systems, and workforce development.

Key recommendations highlighted include Japan’s sustainable financing and community care models, active ageing initiatives, community-based and intergenerational programs, mobile services for remote areas, and flexible work arrangements for older persons. Malaysia concluded that Japan’s “3Ps”—Prevention, Participation, and Protection—offer valuable guidance and emphasized that family remains central to care in Asian societies.

(2) Recommendation Discussion

During the session, the co-organizers explained the draft recommendations prepared jointly by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and ERIA, aiming to translate the lessons learned from the three-day High-Level Officials Meeting into future policymaking and implementation. The draft consists of seven paragraphs, covering the background of the meeting, key takeaways from discussions and the site visit in Chiba, and a set of seven recommendations proposed by participants.

The recommendations emphasize person-centred approaches to ageing, innovative measures for active ageing, the importance of digital solutions and data governance, employment and income security for older persons, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, human resource development, and continued strengthening of the ASEAN–Japan partnership. Participants were invited to review the draft and submit comments within one week through the Secretariat. It was also noted that Japan would report the outcomes to relevant ASEAN and ASEAN+3 ministerial and senior officials meetings, and that the finalized recommendations would be shared subsequently.

(3) Summary of ACAI Session

The ACAI session provided an overview of the ACAI Country Coordinator Knowledge Exchange and Training workshops conducted in Narita from 27 to 30 October and presented the preliminary structure of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) on active aging for ASEAN. ACAI highlighted the four key pillars of the RAP—health and well-being, economic security,

social inclusion and protection, and age-friendly environments—and explained how these pillars were used to map national priorities across ASEAN Member States. ACAI also outlined its planned support to countries, including capacity building, curriculum development, monitoring mechanisms, and research collaboration.

During the session, representatives from each ASEAN Member State shared their reflections and recommendations on the RAP. Brunei underlined the need to strengthen step-down and long-term care services, with particular interest in utilizing community volunteers. Cambodia proposed the establishment of Centres of Excellence for the care and support of older persons as pilot initiatives that could be scaled nationwide. Lao PDR emphasized social protection reform, including exploring conditional cash transfer schemes for older persons, and requested further training and capacity-building opportunities.

Indonesia highlighted the alignment of the RAP with its revision of the national strategy and law on older persons, expressing interest in research collaboration and caregiver curriculum development. Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to integrated, life-course care and appreciated ACAI's facilitation of regional cooperation. Myanmar stressed the need for capacity development for caregivers and volunteers, particularly in rural areas, and called for greater awareness of active aging at all societal levels. The Philippines acknowledged the comprehensive nature of the RAP and recommended strengthening measurable outcomes, coordination mechanisms, and resource mobilization strategies, while also emphasizing digital inclusion and long-term care services. Thailand highlighted the importance of systematic preparation for aging society transitions, particularly in relation to disaster preparedness and climate change, and expressed interest in ACAI's support for research and planning. Viet Nam noted that the RAP's recommendations align with its ongoing revision of the Law on Older Persons and emphasized the value of ASEAN-Japan cooperation. Timor-Leste described the significant challenges in improving health and social services for older persons and highlighted the need for capacity building and monitoring support.

Overall, the session reaffirmed a shared regional commitment to advancing active and healthy aging. The feedback from Member States will contribute to the refinement of the RAP, which ACAI aims to finalize and present at the upcoming PMAC side event. ACAI emphasized that collaborative efforts and continued dialogue will remain essential to building a more inclusive and resilient aging society across ASEAN.

(4) Adoption of the Joint Statement

Moderated by Dr. Somsak, the participants welcomed the joint site visits and discussions held on 29–30 October 2025 in Narita City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, under the 23rd ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies and ACAI's Country Coordinator Knowledge Exchange and Training programme. He highlighted that the sharing of outcomes and recommendations from both programmes generated meaningful synergy. Building on these achievements, the participants adopted the joint statement, reaffirming their strong commitment to steadily advancing the development of a society that promotes active ageing.

17) Closing Remarks

The session concluded with expressions of appreciation from MHLW and ACAI for the active participation and close collaboration throughout the joint program. The moderator invited participants to complete the feedback questionnaire and noted that a follow-up survey would be conducted in the coming months to review how the meeting outcomes were reflected in national policymaking.

With the adoption of the Joint Statement and recommendations, the joint session of the 23rd ASEAN–Japan High-Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies and the ACAI Country Coordinator Knowledge Exchange and Training was officially adjourned, followed by a commemorative group photo of all participants.

