Initiatives of ASEAN in Promoting an Active Ageing Society

Edgar Gonzales Pato
ASEAN Secretariat
Tokyo, Japan
December 3-5,2013



What the Numbers Are Saying

- ❖ In ASEAN for year 2010, we have countries which have shown glaring indications of an ageing society;
- ❖ Life expectancies of other ASEAN Member States at birth were below 70 years in 2010 but are seen to rise;
- ❖ UN projects Asian countries age ±65 would rise from 24M (2000) to 58M (2025) and 129M (2050);
- Female lives longer than men.



In Response

- Ageing has been prioritized by two sectors in ASEAN – the Health Sector and the Social Welfare and Development Sector;
- Contrive and implement strategies to ensure adequate health care and support of ageing society;
- Strengthen regional cooperation to promote self-reliance of older persons to be productive members of the community.

On Social Welfare

- On the recent 23rd ASEAN Summit ASEAN
 Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection was adopted
- ASEAN commitment in promoting social protection in ensuring optimal benefits to the beneficiaries;
- ASEAN Member States adhere to key principle that everyone, including older people is entitled to equitable access to social protection.

On Social Welfare

- The Brunei Declaration on Strengthening Family Institutions: Caring for the Elderly was adopted in 2010
 - Commitment for AMS to take concerted efforts to promote the quality of life and well-being of the elderly and reduce social risks;
 - Strengthen the role of family in promoting active self-care and healthy elderly.



On Health

- The Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-Communicable Disease was adopted during the 23rd ASEAN Summit
 - Ensured the burden of non-communicable diseases be reduced;
 - Achieving universal health coverage are featured in the post 2015 development agenda
- ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage Network was established and TOR endorsed

On Health

- ASEAN Task Force on NCDs established, TOR endorsed and Work Plan fro 2012-2015 being implemented
- ASEAN Mental Health Task Force established, TOR endorsed, Work Plan for 2012-2015 being implemented
- Increasing Access to Health Services for ASEAN People Initiative established with detailed work programmes until 2015

Collaboration with AMS

 ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting with Plus Three Countries expressed concern on ageing society and given much attention in addressing such issue;

 In the joint Statements of the 11th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, the ASEAN Task Force on non Communicable Diseases was to respond to concerns on ageing.

Thematic Areas

The following are key thematic areas given focus by ASEAN and AMS on ageing society

ASEAN Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015)

Income Security for Old Age

Social pension as a means of reducing poverty and promoting inclusion of vulnerable sectors of society

Active and Healthy Ageing

Promotion of self help and health seeking behavior as alternative to lack of long term care services and financing

Thematic Areas

Community Involvement and Support

Older People's Association as support to the care of ageing societies;

 Strengthening Policy Formulation and Policy-Action Translation

Focuses on strengthening policy formulation capacities of Governments as they take on the lead role of addressing the challenges of population ageing

Establishment of an ASEAN Policy Network

Projects Initiated by AMS

- ASEAN-Wide Research Network on Ageing Malaysia
- Regional Impact Research Study Assessment on Active Ageing – Philippines
- Regional Conference on Caring and Self-Caring for the Elderly at Homes and Communities based on their Involvement and the roles of the Government – Vietnam and Singapore
- Capacity Building Workshop on Public Policy Focused on Ageing – Brunei Darussalam

Projects Initiated by AMS

- Training of Trainers for Social Work and Caregivers working in the area of Elderly – Vietnam
- Workshop on Capacity Building of Older People's Association in the Region-Cambodia
- Establishment of ASEAN Network for Family Development - Philippines



Moving Forward

- Ageing will be a pressing social issue for the next years to come;
- AMS to gear up to the challenges and be able to present and adapt social and economic policies;
- Develop the necessary expertise and human capacity at all level (service delivery, research, policy);
- ASEAN wide Data generation and research;

Moving Forward

Universal Health Care for AMS

Self –help and health seeking behavior

Support for Older People's Association



Thank you

