INAUGURAL LECTURE

POPULATION AGEING: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

SPENCER EMPADING SANGGIN
INAUGURAL LECTURE

POPULATION AGEING: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY
INAUGURAL LECTURE

POPULATION AGEING: TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Spencer Empading Sanggin

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
Kota Samarahan
CONTENTS

PREFACE xi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS xiii

LIST OF FIGURES ix

LIST OF TABLES x

INTRODUCTION 1

TRENDS IN THE WORLD’S POPULATION GROWTH 3

WORLD’S POPULATION AGEING 7

MAJOR DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION CHANGE 13

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF POPULATION AGEING 17

The Demographic Transition Model 18
Modernization Theory 23
Rational Choice Theory 26

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF GROWING AGEING POPULATION 27

Increasing Old Aged Dependency Burden 27
Greater Demand for Health and Other Social services 29
Impact on Country’s Sustained Economic Growth 31
CASE ANALYSIS OF POPULATION AGEING IN SELECTED COUNTRIES 35

Population Ageing in China 35
China’s One-Child Policy 36
Ageing Society in Singapore 42
Ageing Population in Australia 45
Population Ageing in Malaysia 49
Malaysia’s Old-Age dependency Ratio 51

STUDY ON AGEING IN SARAWAK 53
Key Findings of the Study 54

CONCLUSION 59

BIBLIOGRAPHY 63
**LIST OF FIGURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.1:</td>
<td>Long-term world population growth 1750 – 2050.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 1.2:</td>
<td>Average annual rate of population change by major area, estimates, 2000-2015, and medium-variant projection, 2015-2100.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.1:</td>
<td>Total fertility rate and life expectancy in the world, 1950 – 2050.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 2.2:</td>
<td>Number and proportion (actual and projected) of people aged 60 years and above worldwide in year 2012, 2030 and 2050.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.1:</td>
<td>The Five Stages of Demographic Transition Model.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 4.2:</td>
<td>Total fertility rates in developed and less developed regions of the world.</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 5.1:</td>
<td>Trends in the Dependency Ratio by Regions of the World.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.1:</td>
<td>Campaign for One-Child Policy in China.</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.2:</td>
<td>China’s population pyramid in 2010.</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.3:</td>
<td>China’s population pyramid: Actual (1970) vs. Projected (2050).</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.4:</td>
<td>Singapore’s Changing Population Structure.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.5:</td>
<td>Australia’s population pyramid, 2014.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.6:</td>
<td>Percentage of ageing population (65 years old and above).</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.7:</td>
<td>Malaysia’s population pyramid in 2000 and 2010.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 6.8:</td>
<td>Confronting old age in Malaysia. Courtesy of <em>The Star</em>, Sunday, 22 September 2013.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: World population ageing by region 8
Table 2.2: Ageing populations in selected countries 9
The book basically discusses the trends in the world population growth, specifically focusing on population ageing. The global trend in the growth in the proportion of ageing population is a direct consequent of rapidly declining fertility and mortality rates. The shift from a young population to an old population goes through a transition that can be explained with two relevant theories: Demographic Transition Model and Modernization Theory. Relying specifically on the data provided by the United Nations Population Division, I tried to explore the phenomenon of population ageing in the world and use selected countries, representing the developed and developing countries as case studies.

The capacity and readiness to deal with the growing numbers of old-aged will differ between countries: Most developed countries have reached the ageing status in the past few decades, but for many less developed countries, this is totally a whole new experience. While it is argued that the growing ageing population is associated with development - economically and socially, which has enabled people in the developed world to live longer lives, at the same time it is a “cause” for concerns as old age comes with different sets of needs and challenges. Several key issues and challenges faced by
countries with population ageing are also discussed. Among the important challenges are increasing old-aged dependency burden, higher demands for old-age care services, and a strain on the economy. Last but not least, a case study of ageing in Sarawak is also presented towards the end, that provide empirical data highlighting similar trends as well as key issues faced by the old aged population in Sarawak, and such trends will certainly have serious implications and concern for the government and families as the old aged needs will increase both in numbers and intensity.

Spencer E. Sanggin
Department of Development Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences, UNIMAS
April 25 2016
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank my family. To my caring, loving, and supportive wife, Rose: my deepest gratitude. Your constant encouragement especially during difficult times are much appreciated and duly noted. To my three children, Neal Hubart Megat, Alvin Miai and Michelle Ann, you have been my inspiration for all the things that I have done, either at home or in the work place.

To the Dean, Associate Professor Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat, and all my colleague in the Faculty of Social Sciences, thank you very much for your support and camaraderie.

Special thanks and appreciations goes to the Vice Chancellor, Prof Dato Dr Mohd Kadim Suadi and former Vice Chancellors (Prof. Emeritus Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohamad Zawawi Ismail, Prof Datuk Dr Yusuf Hadi, Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Rashid Abdullah, Prof Datuk Khairuddin Ab. Hamid) and all the deputy Vice Chancellors (past and present) for giving me the opportunity to serve UNIMAS, and for your constant support and encouragement.
Not forgetting, to my former supervisors, Prof Dr Edgar J. Boone and Prof Dr John G. Richardson, thank you for your understanding, encouragement and guidance when I was doing my doctorate.

I am also immensely grateful to UNIMAS Publisher for proofreading and editing of the manuscript, and finally published the book.
INTRODUCTION

The global population is fast changing in size as well as structures. Such demographic dynamic is a crucial factor and contextual backdrop in the development of any country. I would also argue that economic growth, development and population change are intertwined; changes in population size and structure will impact upon development, and economic development will influence growth in population. The reduction in the rate of population growth was a direct result of declining fertility and mortality. The drop in fertility and mortality, on the other hand, was influenced by the advances in science and technology through improvement in food production, better health and an overall higher quality of life. Increasing economic productivity will create more jobs, and enhances the economy’s capacity to absorb increasing number of workers into productive employment.

The aim of this paper is to look at the world population with the intention of highlighting the characteristics of population growth including the historical trend and explanations for the patterns of population change. Efforts will be made to relate the impact and challenges faced by people of different parts of the world as a consequent of changes in population structure, particularly with regards to increasing older population.
The world is rapidly ageing. The proportion of elderly population (65 and above) are on the rise mainly due to two main demographic factors: mortality and fertility. The decline in mortality and later followed by a decline in fertility have resulted in decreasing the percentage of younger population and an increase in the proportion of older population contributing to what is known as population ageing. This trend has been happening in the developed countries for over half a century ago, and is happening at a more rapid rate among the developing and less developed countries since the last few decades. Evidence have shown that the unprecedented demographic changes in the age structure has, and will have, some social and economics implications for the country and the world at large. Findings from a study on ageing in Sarawak revealed important information on the characteristics of the elderly population and the challenges they faced.

Spencer Empading Sanggin is a Professor of Development Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Spencer obtained his doctorate in Adult Education from North Carolina State University, USA. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) in 1981 and later his Master’s from Iowa State University, USA in 1985. He started his career as a lecturer at UPM (now known as Universiti Putra Malaysia) in January, 1985. Upon completing his PhD in June 1983, he served in UPM Bintulu Campus till March 1994 before joining UNIMAS on April 1, 1994. He was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 1st November 2008 until December, 2013. Currently, he serves as a member of UNIMAS Senate. He has co-authored two books and published several papers related to his research work. His research interests include tourism, rural urban migration, land development and natural resources utilisation amongst indigenous people of Sarawak. He was also a team leader for a study on ageing in Sarawak, a project commissioned by the Ministry of Social Development and Urbanisation, Sarawak in 2002.