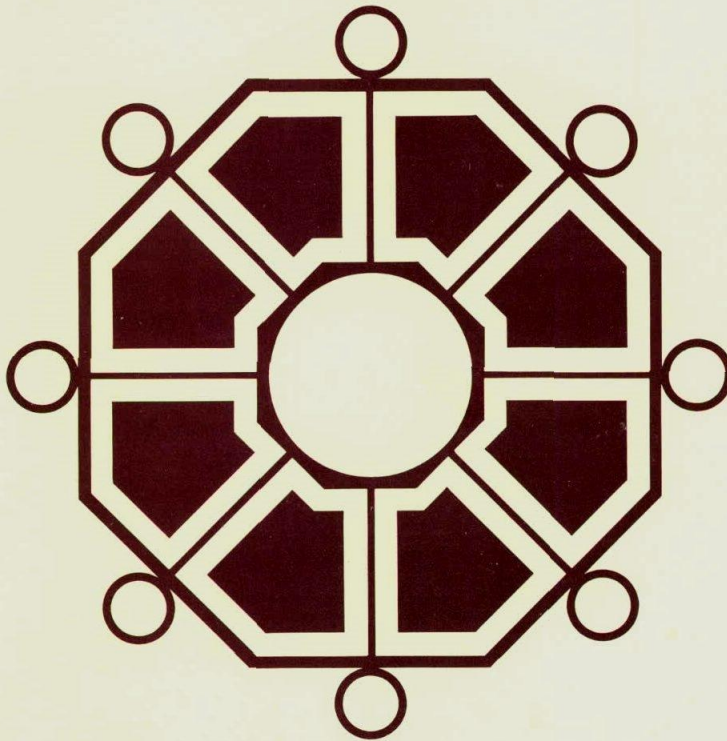


AUGUST 1985
SUMMARY REPORT

EAST-WEST POPULATION INSTITUTE

SIXTEENTH
SUMMER
SEMINAR
IN POPULATION



MAY 27 – JUNE 28, 1985

EAST-WEST CENTER 卐 HONOLULU

Summary Report

SIXTEENTH SUMMER SEMINAR

IN POPULATION

May 27 to June 28, 1985

Cosponsored by

East-West Population Institute

Xian Jiaotong University

East-West Population Institute

EAST-WEST CENTER

Honolulu, Hawaii

August 1985

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INTRODUCTION

The Sixteenth Summer Seminar in Population was held at the East-West Population Institute (EWPI) in Honolulu, Hawaii, and at Xian Jiaotong University in Xian, China, from 27 May to 28 June 1985. The program provided an opportunity for professionals in population-related fields to share and expand their knowledge of population studies and demographic techniques and, in some cases, to develop plans for research collaboration. In all, 83 people, including seminar coordinators, resource people, and 66 regular participants from 16 countries, took part in the seminar. This report summarizes the Honolulu portion of the seminar and includes the agenda for the program in Xian.

During the Honolulu portion of the seminar, participants concentrated on four areas of population research. The four workshop topics were (1) fertility estimation using microcomputers, (2) family research for family policy, (3) economic consequences of rapid population growth, and (4) population aging. The workshops included expert presentations on specific topics, participant discussions of problems and possible solutions, and, in some cases, hands-on computer programming and analysis of data or development of written research strategies related to the workshop topics. The program of each workshop is described in detail later in this report. In addition to workshop activities, there were numerous seminar-wide activities including two general lectures and various social events. The seminar-wide activities are outlined beginning on the next page.

On June 21st, seminar participants and four staff members left Honolulu for the Asian portion of the seminar, cosponsored this year by the Centre for Population Studies of Xian Jiaotong University. The seminar group spent the night in Shanghai on June 22nd, and arrived in Xian on Sunday, June 23rd. After an initial day of visiting historical sites in the area, the group met for presentations on China's 1982 Census data, the 3rd Population Census in Shaanxi Province, demographic mathematics in China, the application of automatic control theory in population studies, family planning policy and its implementation in China, and the methods and results for mortality and fertility analysis based on China's census. The program also included a field study evaluation of the practice of family programs in rural China.

SEMINAR-WIDE ACTIVITIES, HONOLULU PROGRAM

Monday, May 27	East-West Center Orientation Rose Nakamura, EWC Participant Services Officer Brent Watanabe, EWC Housing Officer Steve Karel, EWC Health Officer Julia Hecht, Summer Seminar Assistant
Tuesday, May 28	OPENING CEREMONY Welcoming Remarks on Behalf of the East-West Center, Victor Hao Li, President, East-West Center Welcoming Remarks on Behalf of the Population Institute, Lee-Jay Cho, Director, EWPI Introduction of Seminar Staff, Andrew Mason Assistant Director for Professional Education, EWPI, and Seminar Coordinator Seminar Arrangements, Valerie C. Wong, Program Officer, EWPI, and Assistant Seminar Coordinator
Wednesday, May 29	Pau Hana Social Hour
Friday, May 31	Seminar Lecture: "Hawaii's Population" Eleanor Nordyke, Fellow, EWPI
Saturday, June 1	Mini City/Island Tour
Friday, June 7	Catamaran Dinner Cruise
Saturday, June 9	Diamond Head Hike
Tuesday, June 11	Seminar Lecture: "Recent Demographic Trends in the United States" Bryant Robey, Director of Public Affairs
Friday, June 14	Language Orientation: "Survival Chinese" Cynthia Ning, East Asian Resources Coordinator, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Hawaii

Saturday, June 16

Institute Picnic

Thursday, June 20

WORKSHOP REPORTS AND CLOSING CEREMONY

Introductory Remarks, Andrew Mason

Workshop Presentations

Fertility Estimation Using Microcomputers

Family Research for Family Policy

Economic Consequences of Rapid Population
Growth

Population Aging

Closing Remarks, Lee-Jay Cho

Presentation of Certificates and Leis

AGENDA, CHINA PROGRAM

- Monday, June 24 Sightseeing: Historical Sites Near Xian
Dinner in Honor of Guests
- Tuesday, June 25
Morning OPENING CEREMONY
- Welcoming Remarks by Vice-Governor of Shaanxi
Province and Vice-President of Xian Jiaotong
University
- Lecture: "Introduction to China's 1982 Census
Data," Mr. Li Chengrui, State Statistics
Bureau of China
- Lecture: "Third Population Census in Shaanxi
Province," Mr. Zhang Zhongchen, Census Office
of Shaanxi Province
- Afternoon Lecture: "The Application of Automatic Control
Theory in Population Studies," Mr. Yu Jinyuan,
Information and Control Institute of Beijing
- Lecture: "Economic Development and Population
Growth," Dr. Andrew Mason, EWPI
- Wednesday, June 26
Morning Lecture: "Family Planning Policy and Its
Implementation in China," Mr. Shen Guoxiang,
National Family Planning Program Commission
- Lecture: "The Methods and Results for Mortality
and Fertility Analysis Based on China's
Census," Prof. Jiang Zhenghua, Xian Jiaotong
University
- Lecture: "Demographic Mathematics in China,"
Mr. Han Jingqing, Systems Science Institute,
Academy of Sciences of China

Thursday, June 27 Field Study Evaluation of the Practice of Family
 Programs in Rural China

Closing Ceremony

Final Participant Get-together

Friday, June 28 Departure

WORKSHOP REPORTS

FERTILITY ESTIMATION USING MICROCOMPUTERS

Coordinators: Victoria Ho, EWPI; Peter O. Way, U.S.A.

Resource Person: Michael Strong, U.S.A

Guest Lecturers: Rodolfo Bulatao, EWPI; Minja Kim Choe, EWPI; Subbiah Gunasekaran, India; Paul Kwong, Hong Kong; David K. Lassner, UHM; J.R. Rele, EWPI; Robert D. Retherford, EWPI

Participants: Karen B. Allen, U.S.A.; Yongchan Byun, Korea; Chairani Effendy, Indonesia; Sita Ram Garg, India; Anrong Jin, China; Nam-Il Kim, Korea; Nancy J. McGirr, U.S.A.; Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh; Abul Khayer Ubaidur Rob, Bangladesh; Cecilia M. Ruiz, Philippines; Sureerat Santipaporn, Thailand; Kanikar Sookasame, Thailand; Vinod Chandra Srivastav, India; Paul W. Stupp, U.S.A.; Belen Villaflor, Philippines; Feng Wang, China; Xiushu Ye, China; Weimin Zhang, China

With decreasing cost and increasing computational power, microcomputers are becoming indispensable tools in many offices and population centers. Fertility estimation techniques, among others, can readily be applied on microcomputers.

The workshop began with an introduction to microcomputers, familiarizing participants with the hardware and peripherals available as well as the DOS commands and BASIC language. This section was followed by instruction on (1) planning a demographic survey; (2) designing a questionnaire; and (3) data entry, editing, and coding of questionnaires. Intermediate BASIC techniques were also introduced at this time, with afternoon practice sessions and evening labs scheduled to allow each participant hands-on time with the microcomputers. Generally the

participants worked in groups of two or three on each microcomputer.

The second and third weeks provided an overview of software with discussions on system utilities, languages, word processing, data base management, and communication softwares. Statistical packages like SPSS-PC, SL-Micro were used with sample WFS data. Techniques for direct fertility estimation were also discussed. The focus then shifted to indirect techniques for deriving fertility estimates from population census and survey data, including the own-children method, Brass P/F ratio methods, cohort parity increment method, indirect Arriaga estimation method, Rele method, Brass Relational Gompertz method, first-births method, reverse survival methods, regression (Palmore and Gunasekaran) methods, and Luther-Makeham method. Researchers at EWPI who were responsible for the development of these methods, or who have applied the methods extensively with Asian country data in their own work, were invited as guest lecturers to discuss the theory underlying these methods as well as their applications.

The application of spreadsheet software SuperCalc as a computational tool for the demographers and graphics as an analysis and presentation tool were also covered. The user-friendly EASWESPOP-Fertility package, developed at EWPI, and the Westinghouse Health Systems-adapted U.S. Census Bureau programs were introduced to the participants. Participants, either individually or in teams, began working on their own analyses with population and fertility data brought from their respective countries and organizations using the programs and methods that had been introduced in the workshop.

The final week included a field trip to a local retailer of microcomputer hardware and software and a presentation of projects

completed by participants during the seminar. Examples of these are

1. Fertility estimates from Philippines National Demographic Survey of 1983;
2. Comparison of fertility estimates using Arriaga and Coale methods on Philippine NDS data (a program that calculates Coale's age-specific fertility from tabulations of parity of two censuses is a by-product of the workshop and is available to all participants);
3. Fertility trends of Korea from 1925 to 1980 censuses;
4. Age at first birth and covariates in rural Bangladesh using longitudinal vital registration data of Demographic Surveillance System from International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research;
5. Sri Lanka and Pakistan data using Bongaard's covariates of fertility model;
6. India 1961-81 and Indonesia fertility data; and
7. Sichuan Province 1982 National Fertility Survey of China data, analyzed comparing Minister Sung Jiang's model and Brass P/F ratio method.

FAMILY RESEARCH FOR FAMILY POLICY

- Coordinators: Peter C. Smith, EWPI; Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr., U.S.A.
- Resource Persons: Stella R. Quah, Singapore; Paul C.K. Kwong, Hong Kong
- Guest Lecturers: Eddie Kuo, Singapore; Yaurawat Porapakham, Thailand; Robert D. Retherford, EWPI
- Participants: Gordon A. Carmichael, New Zealand; Jing Chen, China; Lih-chuen Chen, Taiwan; Xiangming Chen, China; Ke Jing Dai, China; Sudsawat Dissarajana, Thailand; Doo-Seung Hong, Korea; Nancy S. Landale, U.S.A.; Ping Keung Lui, Hong Kong; Sal Oropesa, U.S.A.; Allan M. Parnell, U.S.A.; Kanthi Ratnayake, Sri Lanka; Joseph Lee Rodgers, U.S.A.; Swarnalatha Ukwatta, Sri Lanka; Alexander Chienchung Yin, Taiwan; Siti Norazah Zulkifli, Malaysia

The family has become a focus of both scientific and policy interest in recent years. Childbearing, residence changes, workforce patterns, and other kinds of behavior frequently are seen by social scientists in household terms. Governments increasingly are aware of disparities between the behavior that would contribute to achieving national goals (lower fertility, for example), and the often rather different behavior that reflects the goals of families. High fertility, excessive rural-to-urban migration, educational inflation--these and other outcomes are often viewed as results of goal-directed family behavior. However, families are not seen only as a source of problems--they can sponsor social mobility and foster social change, and it is widely argued that the personal stresses accompanying development are best dealt with in the context of families. Such problems as youth delinquency and adolescent fertility, for example, are often approached through efforts to strengthen family life.

Governments in Asia have begun to consider an expanding range of

programs intended to influence the behavior of families. It is important that the underlying policies be firmly grounded in accurate information, which can only be obtained from well-designed research. In light of the growing need for reliable data on the family, this workshop considered the following broad topics and their interrelationships:

- Major trends in family or household structure and processes in Asian and Western settings and the adequacy of data available for monitoring them
- The major economic and social policies related to families in Asian and Western settings and, more broadly, the stances taken in different Asian and Western settings regarding state intervention in the affairs of families
- The kinds of research that best serve as the basis for policy formulation and program design in various Asian and Western settings

The workshop participants included social scientists from academic settings as well as those working in government planning offices related to the family, such as ministries for housing, social welfare, or statistics. Other participants were from private agencies concerned with the family, and a few were advanced graduate students with an interest in aspects of the family. Most mornings during the workshop were devoted to lectures and related discussion; afternoons were used to prepare individual and subgroup projects and reports.

The topics of workshop presentations break down into research and policy overviews for specific countries (Singapore, the Philippines, the United States, and the People's Republic of China were considered in detail) and reports focused on topics such as comparative family organization and kinship; family configuration: concepts and methods; adolescent sexuality in the United States, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and

Thailand; and household-level data analysis for policy.

Two subgroups of participants were active during the workshop, one focusing on adolescent sexuality in Asia and one considering household-level analysis of census data. The latter subgroup prepared a report, which is to be developed further for possible publication as a set of guidelines on the topic.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH

- Coordinators:** John Bauer, EWPI; Andrew Mason, EWPI; Naris Chaiyasoot, Thailand
- Resource Persons:** David Lam, U.S.A.; Srawooth Paitoonpong, Thailand; Burnham O. Campbell, U.S.A.
- Guest Lecturers:** James Roumasset, U.S.A.; K.L. Luthra, EWPI
- Participants:** A.W.A.D. Gamini Abayasekara, Sri Lanka; Prakarn Arphasil, Thailand; Vannao Bulsuk, Thailand; Abeyratne Banda Damunupola, Sri Lanka; Ding-Ding Wang, China; Victorina P. Hermoso, Philippines; Siti Halimah Ismail, Malaysia; Myung-Shik Kim, Korea; Deborah Levison, U.S.A.; Leonardo N. Qitos, Jr., Philippines; Siti Ram Rastogi, India; Terry Scott, U.S.A.; Jamal Devi Shrestha, Nepal; Jin Wei, China; Rebeca Wong, U.S.A.; Guolan Wu, China; Xue-jiang Xu, China; Chuzhu Zhu, China

Population growth influences the economy through its affects on intervening demographic variables such as population size and age composition. In order to gain a familiarity with population dynamics, to develop a quantitative orientation, and to provide the demographic setting for discussions concerning economic consequences, the participants conducted population projections for their countries. They collected the necessary data for components projections and used the computer to carry them out. Results from the projections were reported in the workshop. These reports not only included discussions of trends in population growth rates and sizes, but also dealt with age structure changes, the timing of these changes, and evidence of population momentum.

With the demographic setting outlined, the workshop turned to an overview of the issues, as we reviewed the literature and made preliminary examinations of the evidence. The discussion was broad,

treating a wide range of topics such as the effects of population growth on per capita income, savings and investment, economies of scale, capital widening, human capital accumulation, labor market outcomes, agricultural production and food supplies, natural resource use and the environment, and technological innovation. The net effect of population growth on economic growth has been an area of debate. Both sides in this debate were included in the readings, including some of the work by Julian Simon. The participants tended to reject most of his arguments with respect to their countries, opting for a more negative view of population growth's influence.

From the many issues discussed, four were selected for intensive examination: income distribution, human resources, labor markets, and savings and investment. The coordinators and resource persons outlined current research, thought, and evidence concerning these topics. These presentations were followed by general discussions, motivated also by data collected by the participants that were relevant to these issues in their countries.

David Lam led the discussion on income distribution. The general finding in many cross-national studies is that higher rates of population growth are associated with greater income inequality. Upon further examination, however, the relationship becomes less clear. Even if the relationship was well supported by cross-national data, interpretation of the effects remains difficult. The commonly cited reasons for the effects of population growth on inequality include issues of real welfare significance, such as a decrease in wages relative to the returns to capital and land, and other issues of minimal welfare significance, such as the pure compositional effects of younger age structure.

Many have argued that higher population growth rates increase inequality in part because of the resulting younger age structures. An increase in the proportion of low-income young workers increases inequality as measured in the cross-section. This argument, however, is incomplete because it ignores the within-group component of inequality. Since young workers may have relatively equal incomes, it is possible for an increase in their number to lower standard measures of inequality. The effect of differential fertility is also complicated by compositional effects, making inferences drawn from inequality indices suspect.

An issue of real welfare concern is relative wages. Historical time series for England and the United States provide evidence that rapid population growth can depress relative wage rates, thus increasing inequality. There has not been, however, comparable research for developing countries.

Naris Chaiyasoot led the discussion on human resources. There has been debate on the constraints imposed by fertility on educational attainment. One group contends that high fertility has negative effects on schooling. Educational expenditures, they argue, are fixed, implying less resources per student as the number of students increases. The reasons for expenditures being fixed include constraints on financial and teacher resources and the constraints imposed by institutional and administrative frameworks. This view is supported by several studies and may be true in some cases.

A second group does not believe that educational expenditures are unresponsive to changes in population growth. Children represent investment opportunities, and people shift resources from consumption to spending on education as the number of children rises. There is evidence

that people change resource allocations in response to fertility. This group also argues that the negative effects of population growth are due to strong relationships between population growth and per capita income and other variables. If these variables are controlled for, negative effects are not as pronounced.

John Bauer led the discussion on labor market issues. The effect of population growth on labor supply is straightforward; however, three factors should be noted. First, changes in the population growth rate affect the labor force by creating a long lag. Secondly, changes in fertility not only affect the size of future populations, but also influence the labor force through age structure effects. Finally, changes in fertility may also affect labor force participation, especially that of females. These factors ensure that the labor forces of most developing countries will continue to grow rapidly during the next two decades.

If the labor force grows too rapidly, investment may fail to keep up with the additions to the workforce, resulting in capital dilution. Productivity declines with the drop in capital-labor ratios. Although capital dilution is often cited, there does not seem to be a consensus on the magnitude of its effect.

Urban labor markets in LDCs are segmented. There is a modern manufacturing sector characterized by high productivity and wages. The less productive informal service sector has generally low wages. Rapid expansion of labor supply can have two negative effects in these markets. Because modern sector employment is constrained, more job seekers are forced either to accept open unemployment or low-productivity, informal-sector jobs. Secondly, since informal-sector wages are

flexible, the increase in workers depresses wages in this sector.

In agricultural sectors, rapid population growth is also believed to retard progress. In the short run, population pressure on land will depress the productivity of agricultural workers, depress wages, and increase rents. In the long run, however, these effects are at least partially offset through induced innovations such as the adoption of modern varieties combined with irrigation and fertilizer use.

The composition of employment changes during development as labor shifts out of agriculture into the more productive secondary and tertiary sectors. Population growth affects this transfer. Given a rate of labor absorption in the industrial sector, higher population growth implies that a smaller proportion of agricultural labor can be transferred, depressing overall productivity growth. This also slows the transition from traditional to more productive modern agriculture. This transition relies on agriculture labor scarcity to motivate innovations that increase the productivity of farm workers.

Andrew Mason led the discussion of savings and investment. Two major questions were addressed. The first was whether or not the savings rate is important for economic growth, and the second was whether rapid population growth affects savings. The answer to both questions appears to be yes.

Savings encourages economic growth through its stimulation of investment. Evidence was reviewed indicating that domestic savings are important for investment, even when taking into account foreign capital flows. The importance of the rate of investment to economic growth appears to vary over time and across countries. Studies indicating its importance were discussed. A cross-national plot of Asian countries

illustrated a strong relation between growth in GNP and investment rates during the 1960s. The relation, however, appeared to be less strong in 1970s.

After critiquing earlier empirical work, Mason presented a model of the relationship between population growth and savings. Estimation results from the model were then discussed. In the model, an increase in the growth rate of aggregate income--given life-cycle patterns of household saving--leads to higher aggregate saving. To the extent, then, that population growth leads to higher growth of aggregate income, saving increases with population growth. An increase in child dependency, however, operates in the opposite direction. By shifting consumption from nonchildbearing to childrearing stages of the household's life cycle, an increase in childrearing affects the timing of life-cycle saving. The impact on aggregate saving depends on the rate of growth of national income. A rise in the dependency ratio, given a higher rate of economic growth, leads to a greater decline in the saving ratio. Econometric evidence from the model was presented showing that countries have achieved higher national saving via lower dependency ratios.

In addition to these topics chosen for intensive examination, a number of additional issues received special attention. K.L. Luthra gave a lecture on family planning efforts in Asia. James Roumasset spoke on population pressure, rural transformation, and patterns of resource use. Srawooth Paitoonpong and Andrew Mason lectured on economic-demographic models. Srawooth outlined recent work in ESCAP's modeling project.

The participants concentrated much of their efforts on conducting case studies of their countries. Teams prepared studies for Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal, India, and Korea.

These studies, which were presented at the workshop, contained demographic projections, extensive data tables outlining demographic and economic trends, and discussions of the economic consequences of rapid population growth deemed most important in each country.

POPULATION AGING

Coordinators: Linda G. Martin, U.S.A.; Jill S. Grigsby, U.S.A.

Resource Person: Judith Treas, U.S.A.

Guest Lecturers: Celeste Dye, U.S.A.; Cullen Hayashida, U.S.A.;
Graeme Hugo, Australia; Ronald F. Matayoshi, U.S.A.

Participants: Filipinas R. Altuna, Philippines; Richard C.
Carson, New Zealand; Hoil H. Choi, Korea; Jeremy
Evans, Australia; Chongde Guo, China; Kao-Chiao
Hsieh, Taiwan; Ved Parkash Kataria, India; Peggy G.
Koopman-Boyden, New Zealand; S. Jay Olshansky,
U.S.A.; Anthony Pramualratna, Thailand; Haibo Qu,
China; Potireddy Jayarami Reddy, India; Dianne
Marie Rudd, Australia; Keiko Shimoda, Japan;
Joseph P. Tierney, U.S.A.; Malinee Wongsith,
Thailand; Haiou Yang, China

The proportion of the world's population over age 65 is currently equally divided between the more and the less developed countries, and in the future the majority will live in the latter. The declines in fertility and mortality that constitute the demographic transition make such aging inevitable. Although the various countries of Asia and the Pacific are at different stages in the population aging process, and they may define being elderly at an age other than 65, the workshop participants found much in common among their countries, all of which are trying to meet the challenge of accommodating an aging population.

The participants included government planners responsible for developing programs for the elderly, as well as academics engaged in related research. The workshop began with the participants giving short presentations on aging and relevant policies and programs in their countries. Later in the workshop each participant also made a lengthier presentation on a more specialized topic, and these

presentations are referred to in the following paragraphs.

After the initial country presentations, Linda Martin discussed general differences in aging between the Asia/Pacific region and the rest of the world. Jill Grigsby reviewed the effects of changes in fertility, mortality, and migration on population age composition. Jay Olshansky presented his alternative projections of the U.S. population, which are based on delaying mortality from various diseases, and Chongde Guo discussed the effect on population aging of the one-child family policy in China. The workshop divided into small groups to review various computer simulations of population aging, including one for Japan using 1980 fertility and mortality data.

The discussion of aging from the aggregate or national perspective continued into the second week with presentations on the economics and the politics of aging. Of special interest were the nature of intergenerational contracts and the changing status of the elderly with development. As societies age, there is a tendency for intergenerational contracts to shift from the family or micro level to the government or macro level. The family, however, still maintains an active role in providing care to its dependent members. In both developed and developing countries, women are generally expected to assume responsibility for care-giving to the elderly (in addition to children).

Participant presentations in the second week included Richard Carson's work on measuring dependency in New Zealand and Hoil Choi's discussion of aging policy formulation in the context of overall economic development in Korea. Graeme Hugo joined the workshop for one day and provided a review of social and economic policies for the

aged in Australia, and Cullen Hayashida gave an introduction to aging and programs for the elderly in Hawaii that served as a briefing for the one-day field trip to various facilities for the elderly in Honolulu. Ron Matayoshi of the Hawaii Executive Office on Aging arranged for the workshop to visit Kuakini Medical Center, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, and Kupuna Elderly Housing Project.

During the first part of the third week the workshop focused on aging from the individual perspective, with Judith Treas leading discussions of biological aging and trends in morbidity and mortality. Of particular concern to the participants was the question of the implications of life extension for the quality of life. The workshop viewed the movie, "Do You Remember Love?", which portrays the effect of Alzheimer's Disease on a female college professor and her family. Celeste Dye then reviewed cognitive and physiological changes and the social psychology of aging. Next was a discussion of stereotypes about aging, followed by presentations by Jeremy Evans and Haibo Qu that highlighted the diversity of living arrangements among the elderly in Indonesia and China respectively.

The last part of the workshop was devoted exclusively to a discussion of public policy and aging, although policy issues were discussed throughout the four weeks. Emphasis was given to the need to recognize heterogeneity among the elderly in terms of gender, ethnicity, residence, functional ability, and socioeconomic status. Filipinas Altuna, Kao-Chiao Hsieh, Keiko Shimoda, and Haiou Yang each reviewed the different social welfare programs available for the aged in their own countries. Of special concern was the question of whether eligibility for programs should be based upon age or upon

need. Of course, many elderly can support themselves and many continue to participate actively in the labor force. Ved Parkash Kataria discussed employment and retirement policy in India, and Peggy Koopman-Boyden presented results from her interviews on the retirement transition in New Zealand.

The coordinators and resource person discussed pensions, health care, long-term care, and housing for the elderly. The rising costs of these programs is a major policy issue in the more developed countries and leads the less developed countries to question the extent to which they should be designing similar programs. Dianne Rudd and Joe Tierney emphasized also the importance of local service delivery in their presentations on spatial distribution and neighborhood segregation of the elderly in Australia and the United States.

Of course, as in most areas of policy and program development, more research on aging is needed. On the last full day of the workshop, Malinee Wongsith described the ASEAN aging research project and in particular discussed plans for a multifaceted survey project in Thailand, and Tony Pramualratana talked about his experience using focus group discussions to complement more standard household surveys. Because issues of aging are just beginning to be raised in many of the countries in the region, the collection of very basic information about status, needs, and attitudes of the elderly is essential. At the same time, efforts must be made to provide to the aged and their families information about what services are available to them, however rudimentary.

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