

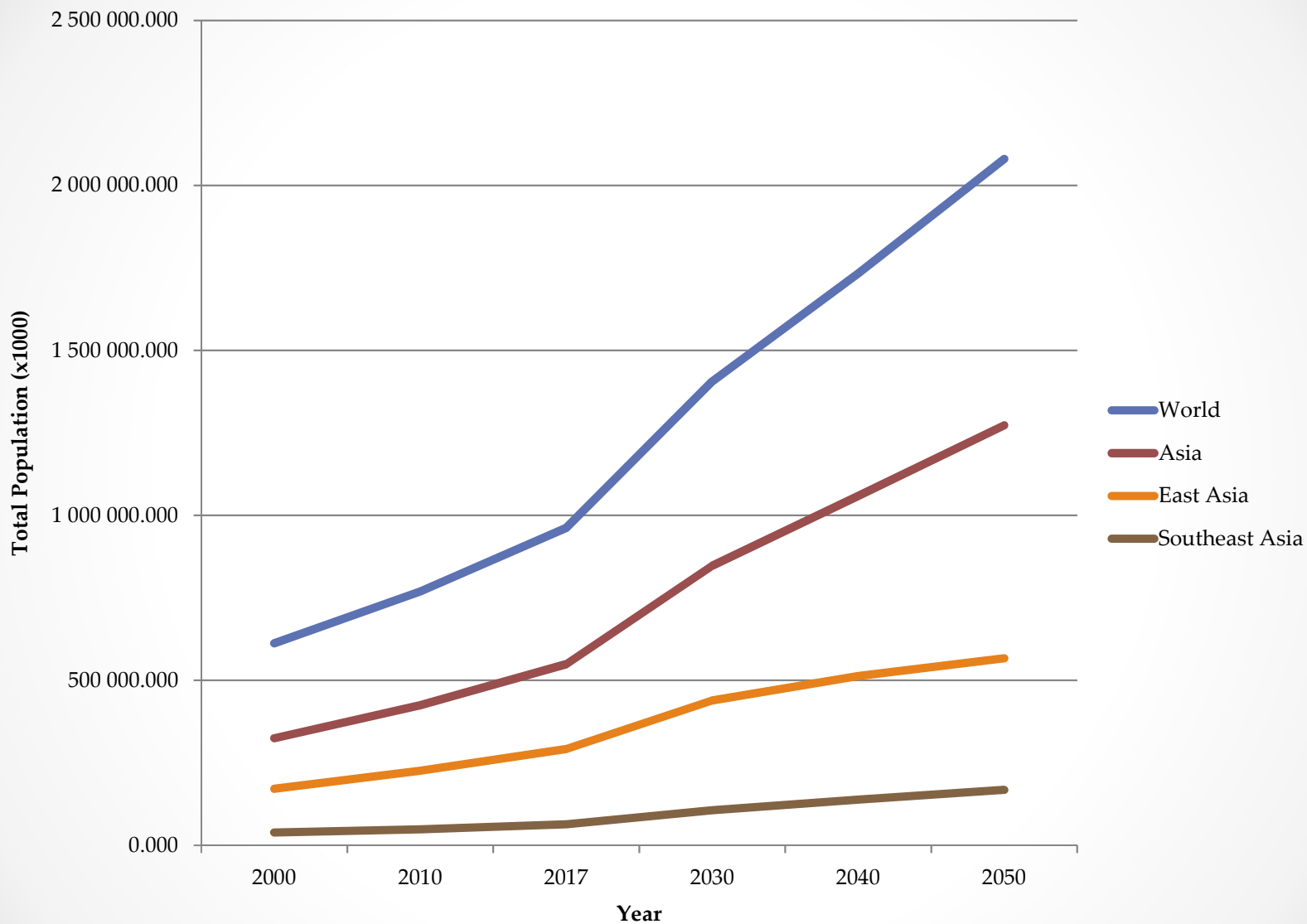
# Elderly Care Work and Migration: East and Southeast Asian Contexts

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Presented at

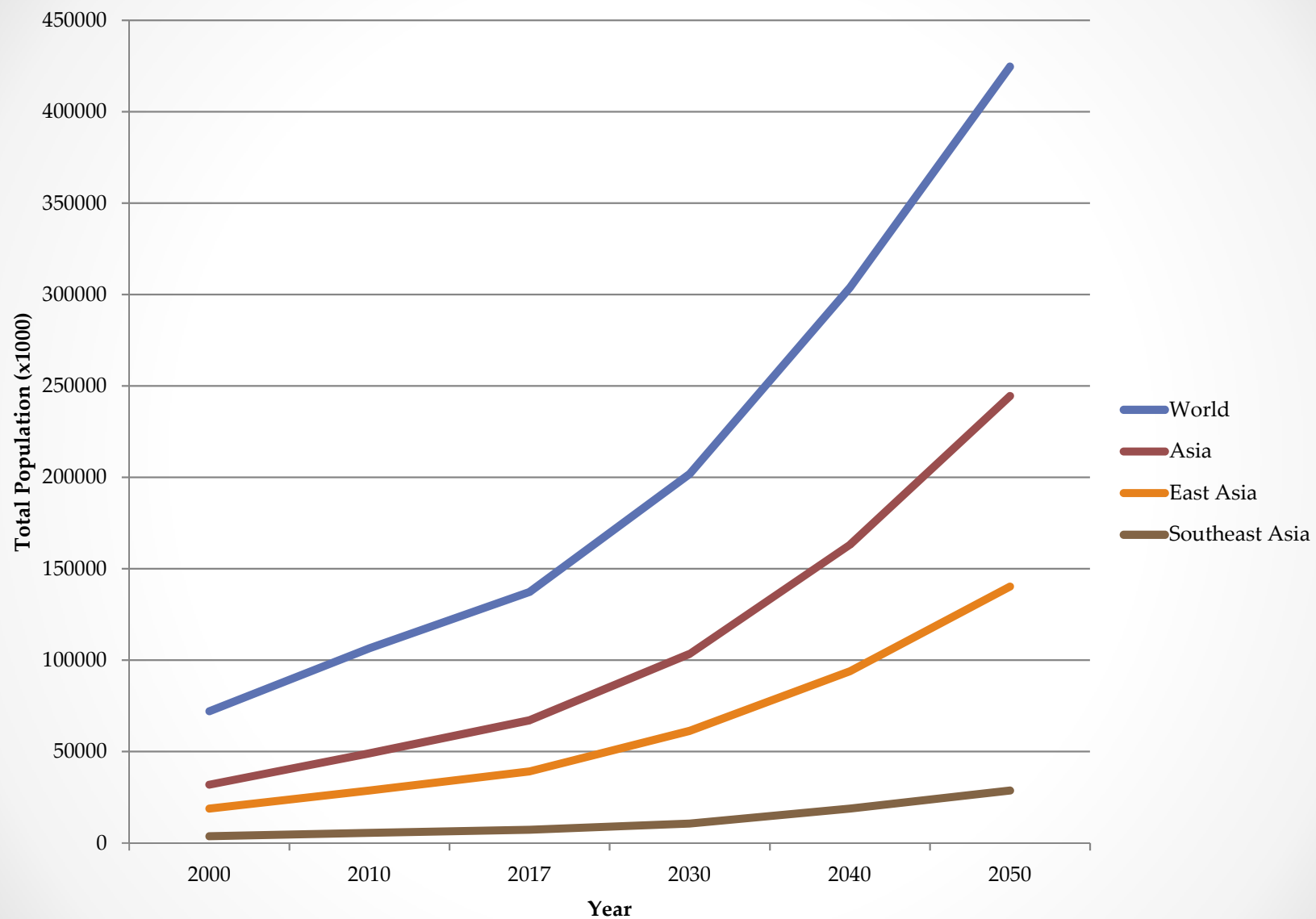
Expert Group meeting on  
“Care and Older Persons:  
Links to Decent Work, Migration and  
Gender”

United Nations Headquarters, NY  
5-7 December 2017

# Total Population 60+ (2000-2050)



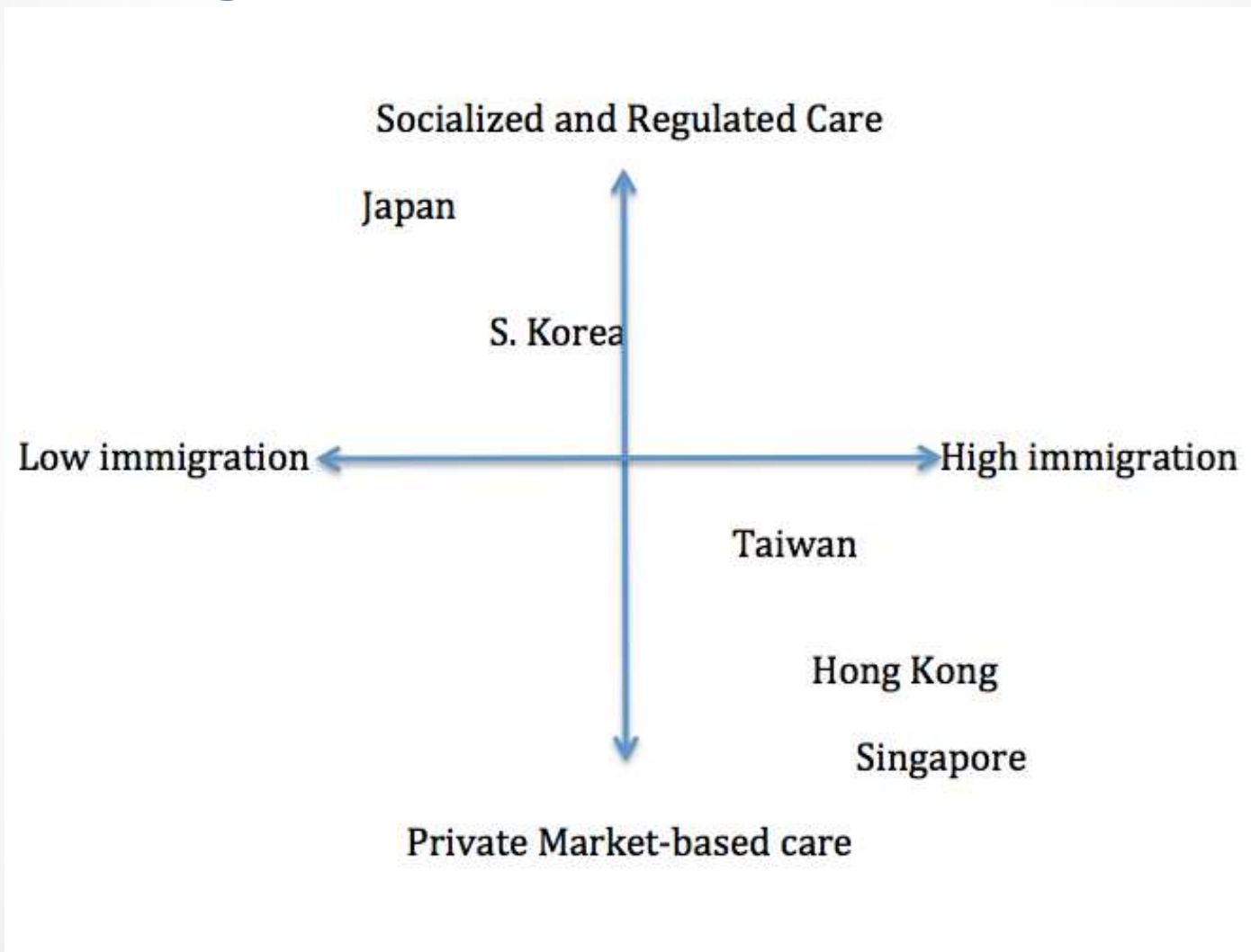
## Total Population 80+ (2000-2050)



# In my report, I show that:

1. There are diverse approaches to elderly care and care policies amongst EA countries, and this in turn influences:
  - a. The use of migrant care workers
  - b. Policies towards foreign workers and their migration patterns
  - c. Foreign care workers' working conditions and labour protection
  - d. The quality of elderly care
2. Population ageing and care deficit in SE Asia – an emerging policy agenda

# Spectrum of Care and Migration Regimes across East Asia



# Countries with Socialized and Regulated Care for the Elderly

- Japan
  - Long-Term Care Insurance implemented in 2000
  - Families prefer family care + LTCI services
  - Highly regulated elderly care services and market
  - Almost no use of live-in domestic/care workers
  - Limited acceptance of EPA nurses and care workers
  - Licensing requirements for nurses and care workers create high entry barriers for foreign care workers
  - Wages and working conditions of foreign care workers comparable to native-born care workers
  - Care worker shortage NOT due to lack of certified care workers: more due to low wage and poor working condition

# Countries with Socialized and Regulated Care for the Elderly

- South Korea
  - LTCI implemented in 2008
  - Families prefer family care + LTCI services
  - Somewhat regulated elderly care services and market – large share of private market providers
  - Some use of co-ethnic foreign migrant workers (Cheosonjok) in private elderly care outside of LTCI
  - Licensing requirements for care workers but less strict
  - Wages and working conditions different between those working within and outside of LTCI
  - Care worker shortage NOT due to lack of certified care workers: more due to low wage and poor working condition

# Countries with Private Market-based Care for the Elderly

- Singapore
  - Almost no publicly provided elderly care services; but tax relief and subsidies for private elderly care and to hire foreign domestic workers
  - Extensive use of live-in foreign domestic workers from neighbouring SEA countries
  - History of colonialism and the using domestic servants, multiethnic population, free-market orientation
  - Foreign domestic workers covered under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act – but lower wage than SG citizens
  - Inadequate government regulations and monitoring leading to employment legislation violations and human rights abuse concerns



# Countries with Private Market-based Care for the Elderly

- Hong Kong
  - Little publicly provided elderly care services; but tax relief and subsidies to hire foreign domestic workers available
  - Extensive use of live-in foreign domestic helpers from neighbouring SEA countries
  - History of colonialism and the using domestic servants, multiethnic population, free-market orientation
  - Foreign domestic helpers now covered by Employment Ordinance – though lower wage than HK/Chinese citizens
  - Inadequate government regulations and monitoring leading to employment legislation violations and human rights abuse concerns

# Countries with Private Market-based Care for the Elderly

- Taiwan
  - Little publicly provided elderly care services; but allowance for elderly people available
  - Extensive use of live-in foreign caregivers from neighbouring SEA countries
  - History of using domestic servants, multiethnic population
  - Government guidance on minimum wage and employment conditions for foreign caregivers – but lower than Taiwan citizens
  - Inadequate government regulations and monitoring leading to employment legislation violations and human rights abuse concerns
  - Debates over introducing LTCI

# Foreign Domestic/Care Workers to Household Ratio in East Asia

Countries	total population	total # domestic / care workers	tot # households	ratio of domestic/care worker to household
Singapore	5.6 million	243,000 (2017)	1,263,600 (2016)	1 in 5
Hong Kong	7.4 million	370,000 (2017)	2,548,000 (2017)	1 in 7
China	1,411.5 million	20,000,000 (2010)	375,069,000 (2014)	1 in 19
Taiwan	23.6 million	245,576 (2017)	8,386,5000 (2015)	1 in 34
South Korea	50.8 million	200,000 (2012)	19,561,000 (2015)	1 in 98
Japan	127.5 million	2,798 (2016)	53,330,000 (2015)	1 in 19,000

# Future of Elderly Care in Asia

- Rapid population ageing in Southeast Asia
- older people in Southeast Asia will more than double between now and 2050, from 64 million to 168 million.

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>% increase</b>
Indonesia	23 million	62 million	271%
Philippines	8 million	21 million	267%
Vietnam	11 million	32 million	306%

- Serious care deficit in the future due to population ageing and out-migration of working age women and men.

# Conclusion

1. Despite similar cultural orientations towards elderly care, huge differences exist among EA countries in terms of care and migration
2. Government policies have important influence in the use of care workers and migration of foreign care workers
3. The use of foreign domestic/care workers tends to be low in countries with regulated elderly care, and high in countries that rely on private market
4. The lack of government regulations on elderly care is closely linked to employment violations, human rights abuse, and poor working conditions
5. Population ageing and care deficit in SE Asia – an emerging policy agenda

# Thank you

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