Expert Group Meeting

on Population, Technology and Research
in the Context of Sustainable Development

Session III:

Ageing populations: Technological advances for lengthening healthy, independent and active lifespans

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UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

Context

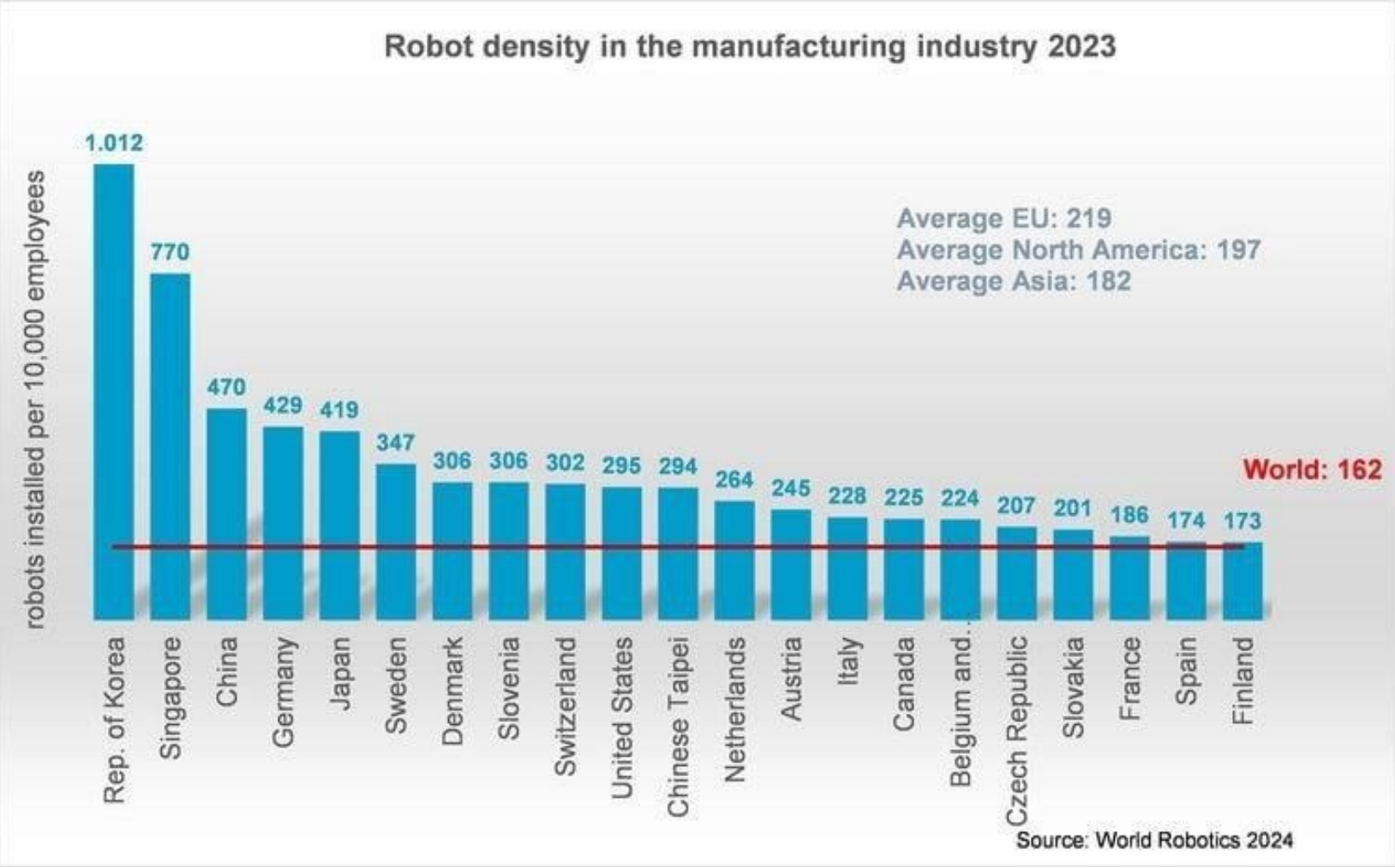
- **The two SG Reports to CPD**
  - UN DESA Population Division: Trends report
  - UNFPA programmatic report
  - CPD Theme: Population, Technology and Research in the Context of Sustainable Development
  - Session Theme: Technological advances for lengthening healthy, independent and active lifespans
  - Individual-level focus: Technology to enable a more independent and active life of older persons
  - Macro-level focus: Technology to manage a trade-off between labor and capital

- **The SG Report on programmes**
  - Less focused on individuals – Please share programmes you would like to draw our attention to!
  - More focused on economy – demography and technology/ labor and capital
  - Population ageing – universal phenomenon, w/ marked differences based on demographic state, income, development

Population ageing and labor force implications

HICs – not typical programme countries	MICs	LICs
• Advanced stage of demographic transition • Advanced population ageing / high share of older persons in total population • Population ageing often happening in context of labor force decline and even population decline Policy challenges • Limited scope to of "demographic solutions" to labor force decline (postponement of retirement/ active and healthy ageing; female labor force participation; immigration). • Reliance on technology, robotics, AI, etc.	• Intermediate stage of demographic transition • Fast population ageing/ Rapid increase in number and share of older persons in total population • Population ageing often at cusp of labor force decline, if not population decline Policy challenges • Greater scope for "demographic solutions" • At the same time, need to raise productivity levels, capital accumulation, technological progress	• Early stage of demographic transition • Fast population ageing/ Rapid increase in number of older persons, albeit small share in total population • Population ageing often in the context of high population growth, expanding labor force, and high unemployment/ underemployment Policy challenges • Essentially unlimited supply of labor (Sir Arthur Lewis, etc.), can undermine capital accumulation, technological progress and productivity increase • Yet, technological progress and productivity increase are essential for fighting poverty and raising income • Trade-off between full employment and productivity?

HICs – not typical programme countries



MICs and LICs – focus countries

- **Digital training of youth and women:**
  - **Kenya**: The “Ajira Digital Programme” trains youth in online freelance work and digital entrepreneurship.
  - **Tunesia**: The “Ylab” platform enables young people to co-create digital public services with local governments
  - **Rwanda**: The “Women in Innovation (WIN)” initiative supports female entrepreneurs with digital training, funding, and mentorship to launch tech-based startups.
  - **Brazil**: The “Rede Mulher Empreendedora” provides women with access to e-commerce platforms, coding bootcamps, and business acceleration.
  - **India:** The “She Codes” initiative trains young women in under-resourced communities in software development and AI.
- **System-wide incentives for automation:**
  - **Thailand:** Board of Investment (BOI) uses both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives (holidays, duty exemptions, streamlined visas/work permits), to encourage automation and productivity upgrades (including robotics) across manufacturing within their Eastern Development Corridor.
- **No examples about system wide, integrated support,**