



FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

ESID/HLM-MIPAA/CR.10

9 October 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan
of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)

9-11 October 2007

Macao, China

Country Report

*Islamic Republic of Iran**

* This paper was prepared by Islamic Republic of Iran, for the High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), 9-11 October 2007, Macao, China. The views expressed do not necessary reflect those of the United Nations. The paper has been reproduced as submitted.

COUNTRY REPORT

Naiini Ozra

Expert of Demography

Statistical Centre of Iran

Population & Labour-force and Census Department

E-mail address: o_naeni@sci.org.ir

High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

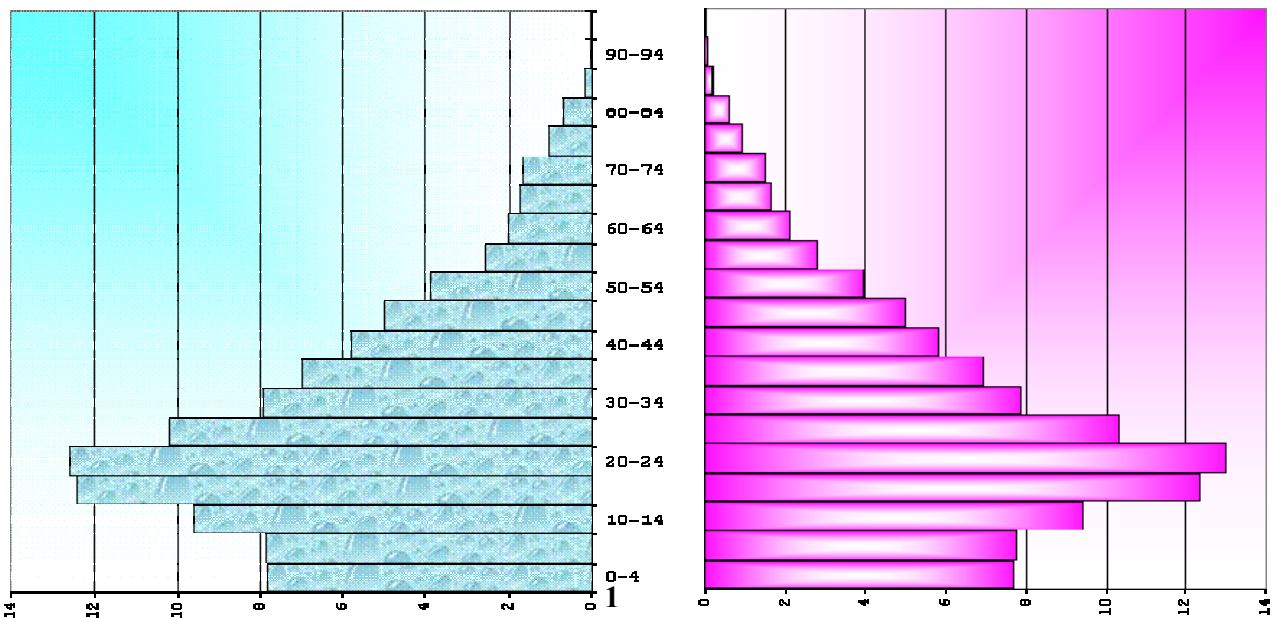
scheduled to take place in Macao, China from 9 to 11

October 2007

Over view:

Iran is bounded by Turkmenistan, Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, and Armenia on the North, Afghanistan and Pakistan on the East, Oman Sea and Persian Gulf on the South, and Iraq and Turkey on the West. Totally Iran has a border of 8731 kms of which 2700 kms go for water borders and 6031 kms for land borders .According to the last population and housing census ; population is equal 70495782 persons and Male and Female are equal 35866362 And 34629420 persons.

Population pyramid of Iran Population and housing 2006



Ageing in the I.R. of Iran

Population ageing around the world today is an unprecedented phenomenon. Looking into the future, by 2050, persons aged 60 or over will outnumber those aged below 15 in the world. The inverted population pyramid is already evident in some developed societies, such as Japan and Hong Kong, and is becoming visible in a number of Asian and Northern European countries (United Nations Population Division, 2005a). Population ageing has far – reaching consequences for social organization, economic activities, health care, housing, political policies and in almost every area of life.

The worldwide number of persons aged 60 or over in mid – 2006 was 687,923,000; that 54.5% of whom lived in Asia. According to statistics trend of changes of population ageing in Asian countries bring quite a challenge to the governments in the Region.

In brief, the long – term impact of decline in fertility and reduction in the size of family will lead to a decrease in the population of children (0-14 years old) which in turn will push up the population in the working age group (now state of Iran) and this after a time lag, depending on the decline in fertility and mortality rates and the increase in the expectation of life, will lead to an increasing population of the elderly. Let me, look at the population of children (below 15 years old and elderly persons 60+) in Iran according to population and housing censuses in 1976 to 2006. Population of children (0-14 Years old) decreased from 45.5% in 1976 to 25.1% in 2006, and persons aged 60 and over increased from 5.3% to 7.3% in 2006.

The Population that was young in 1976 to 1996 is coming to aged now and the future.

Aged population 1976-2006								
Ages	1355/1976		1365/1986		1375/1996		1385/2006	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total	33708744	100.0	49445010	100.0	60055488	100.0	70495777	100.0
60+	1770614	5.3	2710063	5.5	4010483	6.7	5121038	7.3
65+	1186470	3.5	1525431	3.1	2627537	4.4	3656580	5.2
70+	839232	2.5	951635	1.9	1551164	2.6	2459040	3.5
75+	459068	1.4	609615	1.2	704655	1.2	1339734	1.9
15-	15009363	44.5	22474017	45.5	23725545	39.5	17681031	25.1
15-/60+	8		8		6		3	
Ages 15-59	16928767		24260930		32319460		47693708	
number of persons in activity age to old age	10		9		8		9	
pop (65+/15-)*100	8		7		11		21	

Population aged 60 years and over is expected rise to highest numbers before 2050. Majority of Iranian households are interested to have just one or two children (TFR=1.9 in 2006). This phenomenon will be ended to decline in youth Population in comparison with the aged population, on the other hand, high birth rate in 1980 to 1986 will add the number of aged population for the next 30 years.

What have we done to cope with such impeding changes and challenges, and what shall we do in future?

National policies / Plan of action of ageing in Iran: Article 29, the constitution of I.R. Iran Article 192, part 5 Section of the Executive bylaw of the 3rd Development Plan 1999-2003.

In Iran services and supports for elderly mainly provide by 4 governmental organizations, Emam Khomeini Relief Committee, I.R. Martyr's Foundation, State Retirement Organization, and State Welfare Organization.

Services provided in 2005 by these organizations are as follow: 1,492,678 persons paid pension through Shahid Rajae Project (payments paid to rural elderly) and 4,385,978 persons through aid project of Emam Khomeini Relief Committee.

In addition to pensions this committee provided financial supports and self sufficiency loan especially for needy elderly. I.R. Martyr's Foundation paid pension to 174398 martyrs' parents aged 60 years and over, also provided medical, training, cultural, welfare and housing services for martyrs' parents.

In the same year 595400 persons covered by State Retirement Organization and in addition to salary, received pension in kind, also distribution of Manzelatz(Respect) cards has begun since 2005. This card has issued by the Retirement Organization of the Country. Owners of this card can have 1000000 Rials annual credit as their trip allowance. This process will be continued to the end of the year.

Using subway; internal transportation system (inner city buses); visiting country's cultural heritage, watching sport games and some other thing; are services which are available by this cards.

State Welfare Organization is the other organization which gives services for the elderly. This organization has paid pension to 206,876 persons in urban & 51,344 persons in rural areas. The other services

include rehabilitation services such as; physic-therapy; work therapy; optometry; audiometric and so on.

It should be mentioned that State Welfare Organization and Emam Khomeini Relief Committee cover other needs of the elderly but these needs are not related to the workshop topic , so no further details on them seems necessary.

Pensioners covered by Emam Khomeini Relief Committee; I.R. Martyr's Foundation, State Retirement Organization; State Welfare Organization						
State Welfare Organization (4)		State Retirement Organization (3)	I.R Martyr 's Foundation (2)	Emam Khomeini Relief Committee (1)		
Taking care of	Supporting guardian less and needy	disabled and retired	martyrs' parents	Aid project		Shahid Rajae Project
elderly and disabled	households in rural & urban areas			Ad hoc	Regular	
elderly 1533	urban 206876	595400	174398	1767686	2618292	1492678
disabled 6064	rural 51344					

- 1- In addition to services listed in the table, Emam Khomeini Relief Committee services include: financial support for medical affairs; self sufficiency loan and interest-free loan.
 - 2- In addition to services listed in the table ;I.R Martyr 's Foundation services include : medical ; training ; cultural ; welfare and housing affairs.
 - 3- Services of the State Retirement Organization include: retirement affairs such as Manzelat cards for retirees covered by State Retirement Organization include.
 - 4- In addition to services listed in the table; State Welfare Organization services include: rehabilitation services such as physic therapy; work therapy; optometry and so on.
- Source: State Statistical Yearbook 2006.

The explained services and supports are provided every year and the number of persons increased year by year. By considering this subject that the number of elderly persons is limited in Iran, available/provided services are adequate. The quality and quantity of these services should be promoted in accordance to increase in the number of elderly persons.

- Other supporting organizations:

A number of non – governmental organizations, such as Women Benefactor Association give services to centers take care of the elderly and also provide humanitarian supports for elderly and disabled persons.

There is a research centre for ageing studies in Iran. This centre recently was created to study the problems of the ageing population.

- Cultural and religious characteristics of people:

Aged Population Enjoy mainly social and mental safety in their family based on the cultural and religious characteristic of Iranian families.

According to these cultural and religious characteristics of people in Iran; aging is a value and elderly people have honor and social status; and because of this; they are provided with caring conditions or material and spiritual supports and social or mental security in family or society.

There are suitable conditions in rural and urban areas and some governmental and nongovernmental institutions or organizations are active in this field.

Nevertheless; planning to develop support for the elderly and improving their life qualities on the basis of the results of practical researches; would be necessary and helpful; also government has some

supportive plans to increase the elderly 's life qualities. Nowadays sickness, depression, loneliness, nursing and healthcare necessities cause inadequacy of income for these people.

- Research on ageing:

Increases in the number of researches on ageing, has led to critical thinking about services for the elder persons and policy responses in improving the quality of their life. In Iran, the focus on ageing of population and government's concern for the elderly as a priority has begun since 1996, after the publication of the results of the National Census (increased number of elderly persons and decreased number of the youth). After that, the ageing researches were started with analysis of aged data.

Later we will need to conduct more researches on the ageing phenomenon in the social sciences aiming at health care and welfare of the aged people. The university students in PhD level should study ageing issues and other related issues. By means of precise and complete information in this regard, the government also will be able to promote the activities that are useful for old population.