

**Tsao Foundation's  
International Longevity Centre Singapore  
with the support of UNESCAP**

cordially invites you to the

**Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the  
Third Review and Appraisal of the  
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing  
Luncheon Side Event on**

12 September 2017, 12.00 to 13.00  
Meeting Room H

Event Title:

**“Financial Security of Older Women  
from a Life-Course Perspective”**

Lunch follows at Ground Floor Reception Hall

## Background

### The Future and Females: Focus on the Financial Security of Older Women

#### **Older women need to be the policy priority**

Asia is on track to become one of the oldest regions in the world,<sup>1</sup> with older women outnumbering older men (comprising over 60 percent of the population over 60 years in Asia and the Pacific).<sup>2</sup> Governments need to respond promptly to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing's (MIPAA) call to make the situation of older women "a priority for policy action."

#### **Ensuring the financial security of older women will be a key challenge**

As women outlive men, how can policymakers ensure that that longevity does not translate into greater vulnerability to poverty and financial insecurity? To seek answers to this, the Regional Learning Network on Women's Financial Security has initiated a study on "The Financial Security of Older Women from a Life-Course Perspective."

The study is led by the Tsao Foundation's International Longevity Centre Singapore in collaboration with NGOs and researchers in 7 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

As noted in the MIPAA, since women "face obstacles throughout their life with a cumulative effect on their social, economic, physical and psychological well-being in their later years,"<sup>3</sup> the study uses a life-course approach to:

- Identify the main factors that affect women's financial security in old age;
- Highlight the main stages in the life course at which women are most 'at risk' of becoming financially insecure; and
- Suggest policies and programmes required to reduce the risk of financial insecurity at different stages of a woman's life.

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2017. *Population and Aging in Asia: The Growing Elderly Population*. Posted 18 January 2017. Available online: <https://www.adb.org/features/asia-s-growing-elderly-population-adb-s-take>

<sup>2</sup> UN 2012. *Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 10-12 September 2012, Bangkok*. Bangkok: UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), p. v.

<sup>3</sup> UN. 2002. *Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2002*. New York: United Nations.

# “Financial Security of Older Women from a Life-Course Perspective”

## Programme

- 12.00 – 12.10      **Welcome and Introductions**
- Ms Susana Concordo Harding  
*Director, ILC Singapore, Tsao Foundation*
- 12.10 – 12.40      **Financial Security of Older Women from a  
Life-Course Perspective: A Regional Study**
- Presenter:  
Dr Supriti Bezbaruah, PhD  
*Research Fellow, ILC Singapore, Tsao Foundation*
- Discussants:  
Dr Jariah Masud, PhD  
*Research Fellow, Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeing)  
Universiti Putra Malaysia*
- Ms Shagun Gupta  
*Programme Officer, HelpAge International Myanmar Country Office*
- Mr Sawang Kaewkantha  
*Executive Director, Foundation for Older People’s Development (FOPDEV)*
- 12.40 – 13.00      **Open Forum**
- Moderator:  
Ms Mary Ann Baquero Geronimo  
*Assistant Director, ILC Singapore, Tsao Foundation*
- 13.00                **End of session**
- 13.00 – 14.00      **Lunch**

## Organizers and Partners



The Tsao Foundation's vision is of an inclusive society for all ages that optimizes opportunities in longevity.

Established in Singapore in 1993, the goals of the non-profit family foundation are aligned to the MIPAA and WHO healthy ageing frameworks.

Through four major initiatives – the Hua Mei Centre for Successful Ageing, Hua Mei Training Academy, International Longevity Centre Singapore and Community for Successful Ageing (ComSA) – the Tsao Foundation pioneers and provides community-based, person-centred primary healthcare for adults aged 40 and above; builds capacity in professional and informal age care and self-care; fosters elder empowerment and community development; and initiates policy-relevant research and cross-sector partnerships in its advocacy for mindset and systemic change to actualise health, wellness and participation over the life course.

For more information, visit <http://tsaofoundation.org>



The **International Longevity Centre Singapore** (ILC Singapore) aims to promote the well-being of older people and contribute to national development through supporting policy, practice and capacity building. It facilitates a “connecting of the dots” between community, practitioners, academia, policymakers and the private sector through the creation of relevant stakeholder platforms, as well as high impact research that strives to inform policy, facilitate cogent policy-action translation, and promote quality, effective practice in Singapore and internationally.

ILC Singapore is a member of the ILC Global Alliance, a multinational research and education consortium which aims to address longevity and population ageing in positive and productive ways, typically using a life course approach, highlighting older people's productivity and contributions to family and society as a whole.

As an initiative of the Tsao Foundation, ILC Singapore's mission is to strive for constructive change in how society approaches and responds to ageing.

### Acknowledgement

The **Regional Learning Exchange Network on Women and Ageing** is supported by Citi Foundation.

Citi Foundation



## Regional Learning Exchange Network on Women and Ageing

There is a growing consensus that ensuring the economic security of older people may be the primary social and economic challenge for Asia in the coming years specifically, older women's financial security.

Women worldwide have a higher life expectancy than men which means women will form majority of the elderly population. Women are more likely to be economically dependent in old age because of lower overall labour force participation and they also tend to be paid less than men for the same work or work of equal value. Many older women provide care for, or are the sole caregivers of, dependent young children, spouses, partners or ageing parents. Spending their lifetime of work in the informal sector or doing unpaid care became barriers to accessing private health insurance or state-provided schemes, pensions and social security.

The **Regional Learning Exchange Network on Women and Ageing** aims to bring together key policymakers from the 10 member countries and country partners of the ASEAN Plus 3, relevant NGOs, policy think tanks and international organizations and leading academics, to bring attention and action on the issue of financial security among older women.

The Network has the following objectives:

- To raise awareness on the current state of older women in the region with specific focus on their income and financial security;
- To catalyse mainstreaming of gender in policy and program development;
- To build public-private partnerships that will promote more effective policy-action translation in addressing the issue;
- To promote networking and workgroups, learning exchanges and partnerships with broader regional organizations for advocacy;
- To initiate research collaborations for policy analysis and program evaluation; and
- To create an online platform for sharing of findings, data, best practices, model-building programs and other resources.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://asiawomen.org.sg>