

The Future of Population Aging in the Asia-Pacific Region: *Demographic Trends—Reflections*

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Unprecedented Age Wave

❑ **Rapid Pace**

Less than 30 years to transform from aging (7%) to aged (14%), about 10-15 years from aged (14%) to super-aged (21%).

❑ **Sheer Scale and Concentration in Less Developed Regions**

By 2050, 1.2 billion (78%) out of the 1.6 billion world elderly live in less developed regions.

❑ **Comes on Top of and Complicates the Already Experienced Stresses of Modernization**

From rapid industrialization and urbanization to weakening families and widening income gaps.



Challenges and Opportunities (1)

- ❑ **Lacks resources and institutions**

Lower income level, and adequate institutions (such as retirement, health, and long-term care systems) have not been put in place.

- ❑ **Changes partly the nature of issues**

Fiscal and economic growth challenges << Old-age poverty, humanitarian, and developmental challenges

- ❑ **Whether countries prosper as they age will depend critically on the policy choices they make.**



Challenges and Opportunities (2)

- ❑ **Strategic and foreword thinking**

Start preparation early, make best use of limited human and financial resources.

- ❑ **Inclusive, comprehensive, and integrated policies**

Coping with aging challenge is long-term all-out fight.

- ❑ **Globalization strategies**

Match jobs and workers, match savings activity and investment opportunities, across borders.



We live in an era defined by many challenges,
from global warming to global terrorism.

None is as certain as global aging.

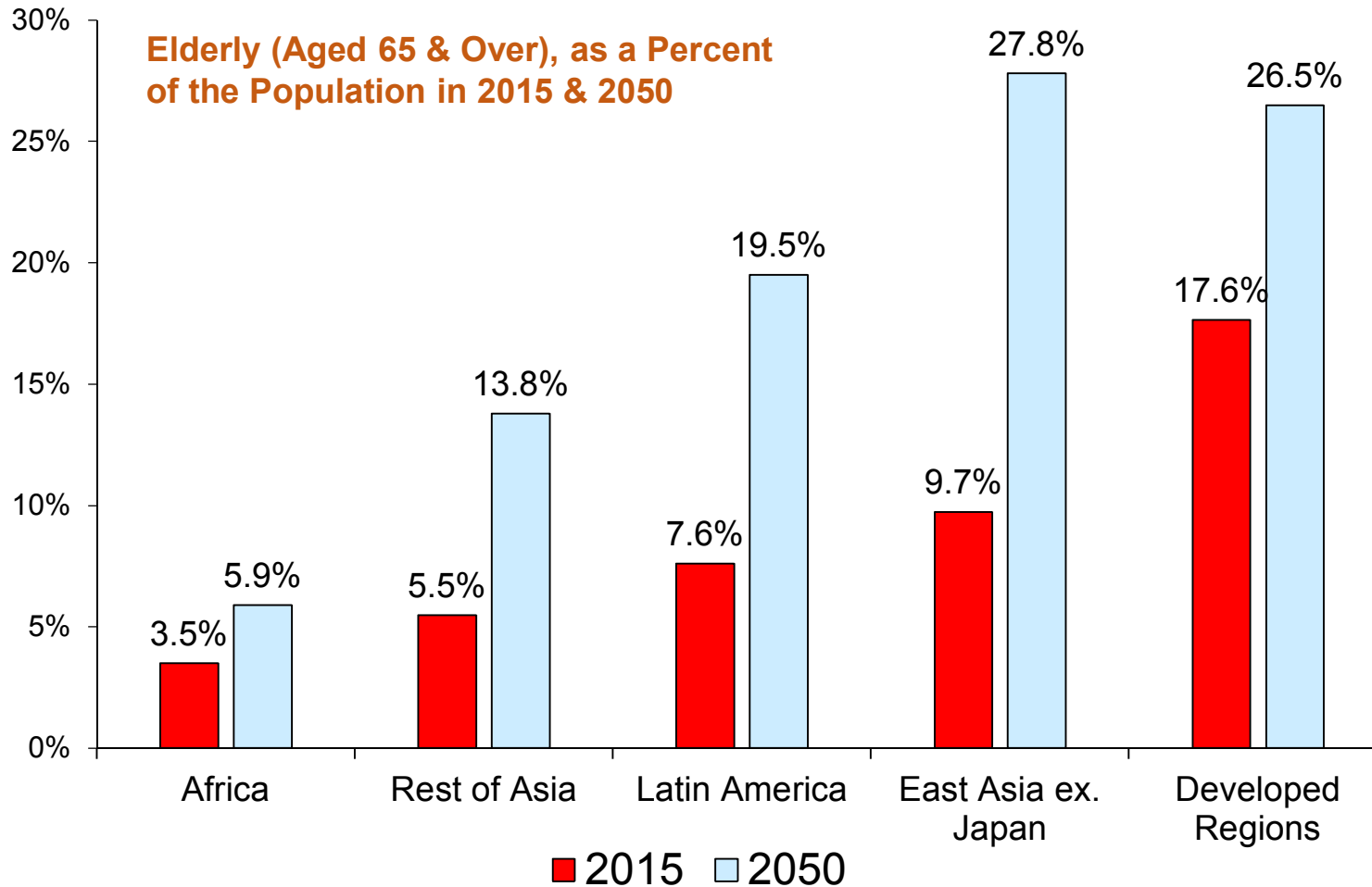
And none is likely to have such a large and
enduring effect on the shape of national
economies and the world order.

Dr. Richard Jackson
President of the Global Aging Institute



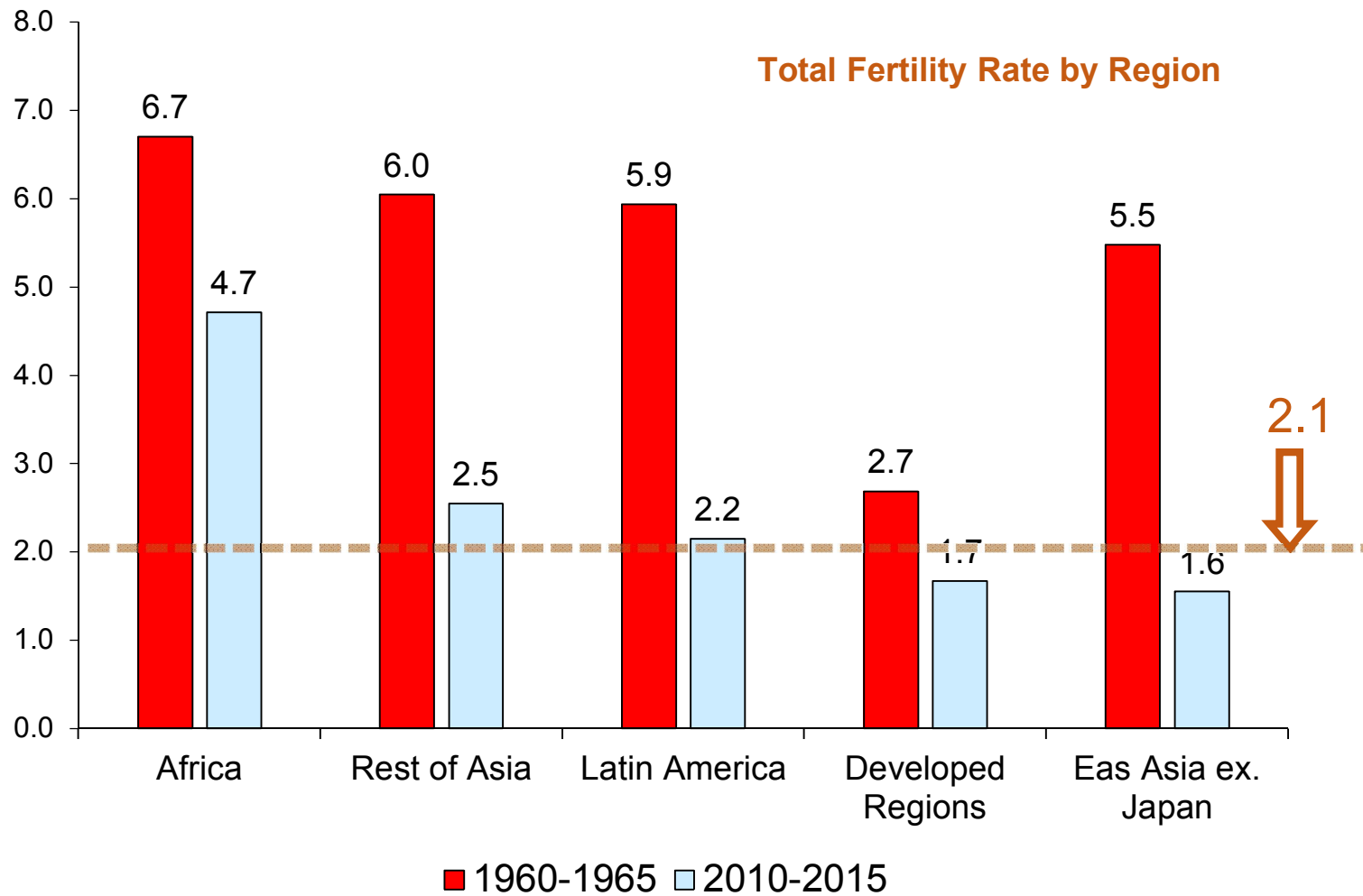
Appendix

East Asia will become the oldest region, surpassing the developed regions.



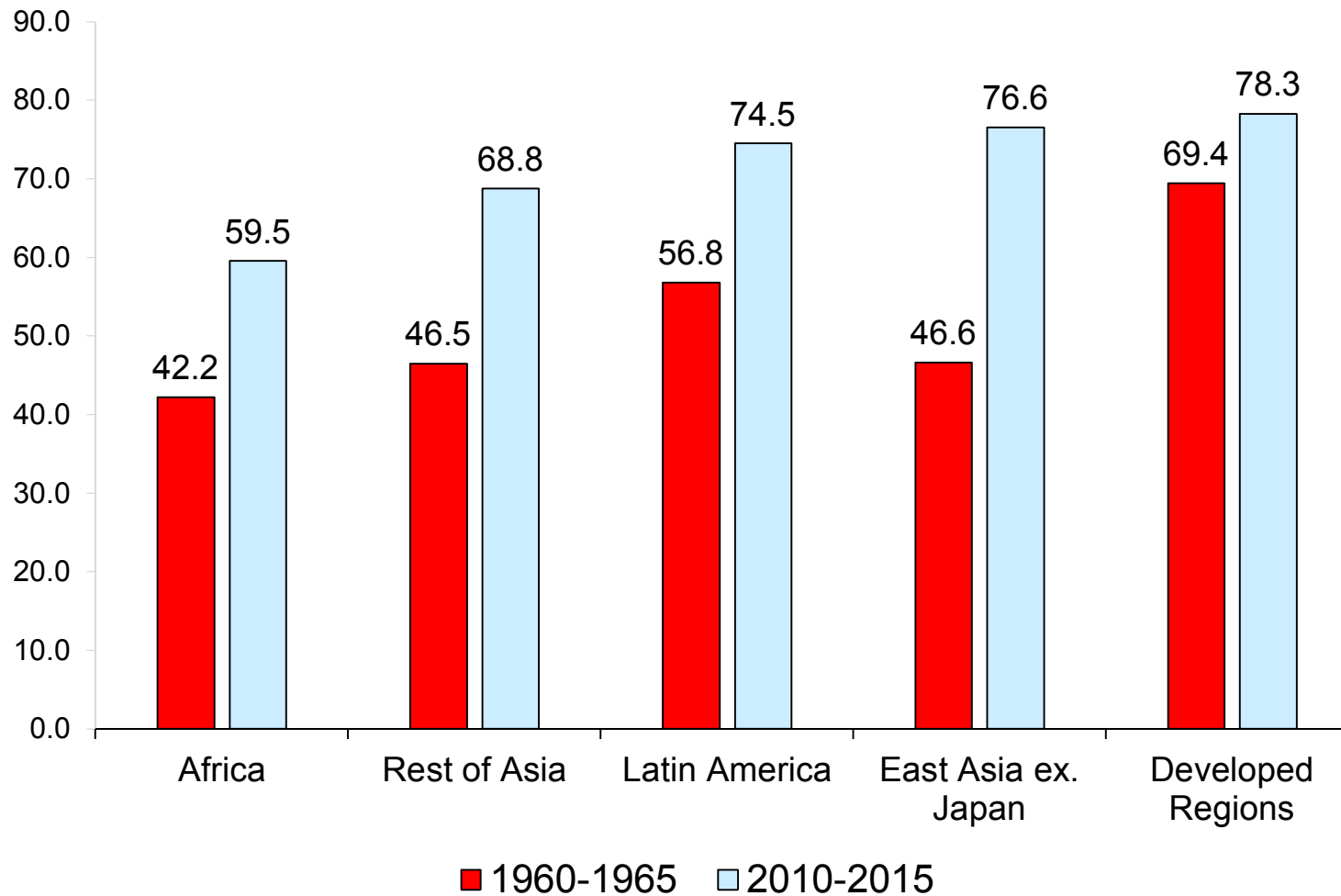
Source: UN (2015)

Two forces behind the age wave: A dramatic decline in fertility.



Source: UN (2015)

Two forces behind the age wave: An equally dramatic rise in longevity.



Source: UN (2015)

Years Required for the Elderly Share of the Population to Increase by 7 Percentage Points in Selected ESCAP Member States

Country	Years in Which Elderly Shares Reached to the Levels					Years Required			
	Aging (7%)	Aged (14%)	Super-Aged (21%)	Ultra-Aged (28%)	Ultimate-Aged (35%)	7=>14%	14=>21%	21=>28%	28=>35%
Japan	1970	1995	2007	2019	2043	25	12	12	24
S.Korea	1999	2017	2027	2036	2050	18	10	9	14
Singapore	1999	2019	2028	2038		20	9	10	
France	1865	1978	2021			113	43		
Thailand	2002	2022	2045			20	23		
Armenia	1993	2023	2044			30	21		
US	1942	2013	2032			71	19		
Sri Lanka	2007	2027	2045			20	18		
Viet Nam	2017	2034	2050			17	16		
China	2002	2025	2035			23	10		
Brunei	2022	2035	2045			13	10		
Iran	2023	2041	2049			18	8		
N.Korea	2004	2034				30			
Fiji	2021	2048				27			
Indonesia	2025	2050				25			
Malaysia	2020	2045				25			
Mongolia	2028	2048				20			
Bangladesh	2029	2047				18			
Bhutan	2027	2045				18			
Maldives	2028	2046				18			
Azerbaijan	2019	2036				17			



Elderly Population (Aged 65 & Over) by Regions, as Percent of the World Elderly Population

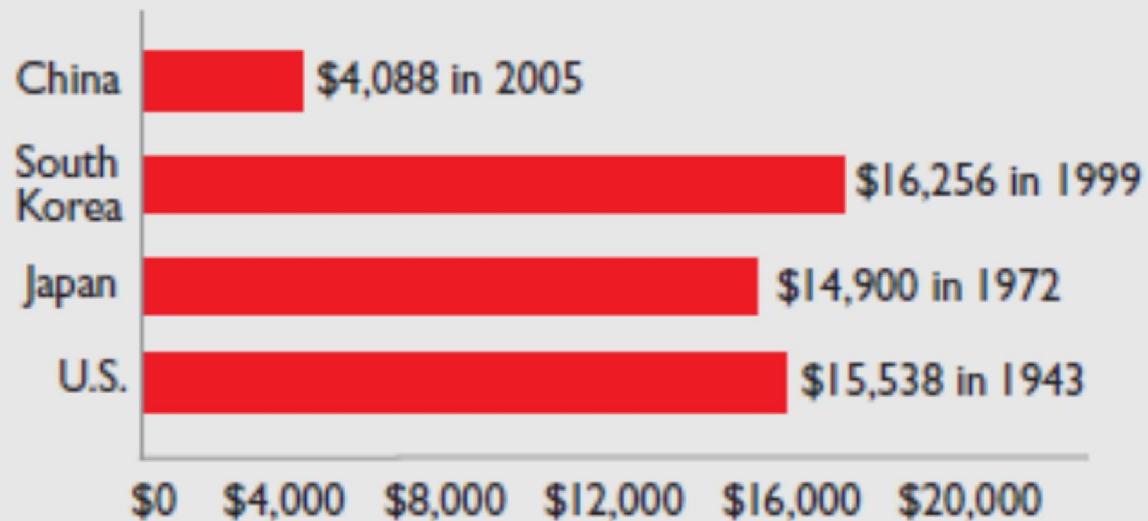
	2015	2030	2050
World	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Developed	36.3%	29.7%	21.9%
Less Developed ex. Least Developed	58.1%	64.5%	70.1%
Least Developed	5.6%	5.8%	8.0%

Elderly Population (Aged 65 & Over) by Regions (in millions)

	2015	2030	2050
World	608.2	994.8	1,559.0
Developed	220.8	295.6	340.9
Less Developed ex. Least Developed	353.3	641.8	1,093.0
Least Developed	34.1	57.4	125.1

China's "premature aging": A larger elderly population at a lower income level.

GDP Per Capita (in 2005 PPP Dollars) in Selected Countries in the Year They Had the Same Elderly Population Share as China in 2005



Source: R. Jackson, K. Nakashima, and N. Howe, *China's Long March to Retirement Reform* (CSIS, 2009), 8.