

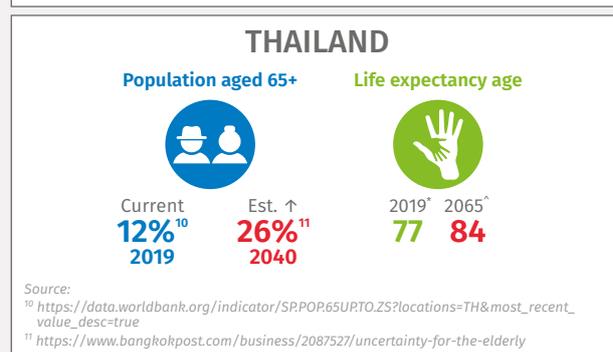
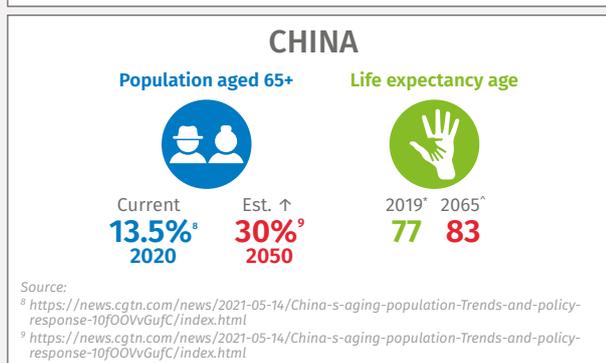
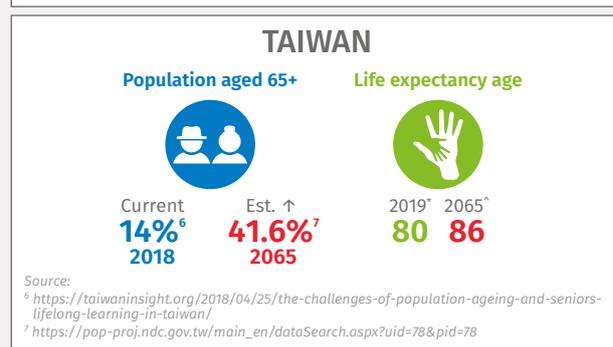
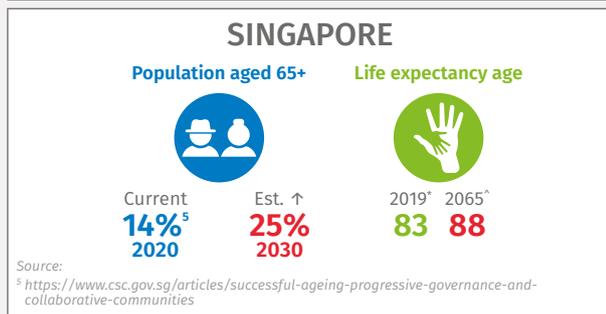
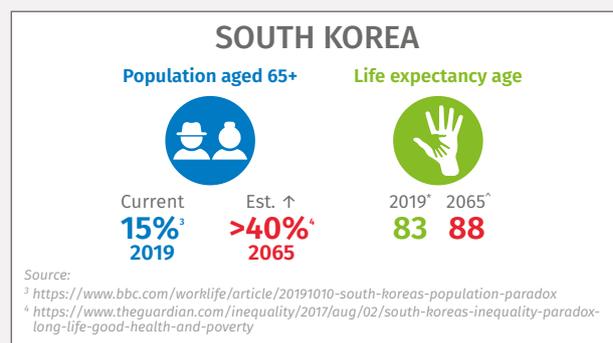
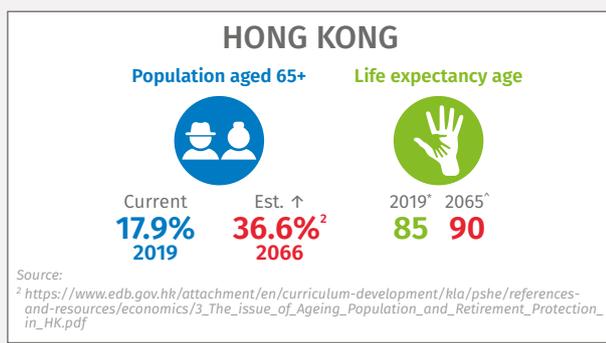
Meeting the expectations of Asia's aging population

As the region's aging population increases, its growing needs and expectations for quality aged care services will have far-reaching impacts on healthcare systems and particularly service providers.

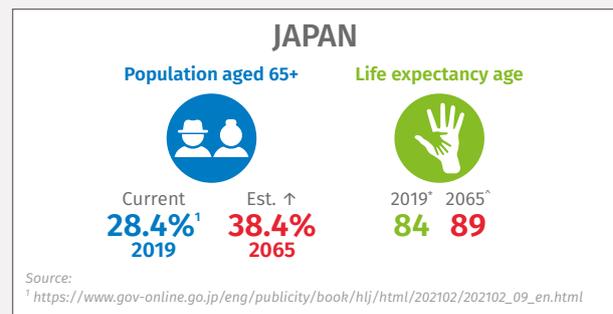
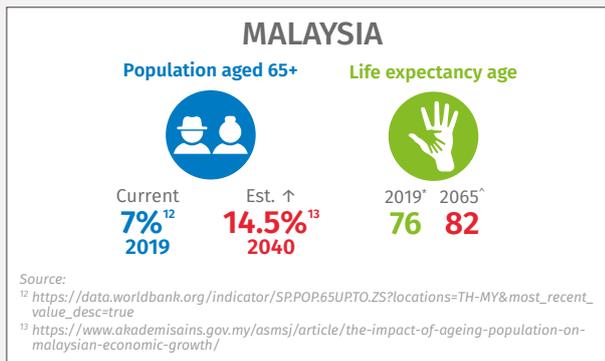
Asia's [elderly population is projected to reach almost 923 million by 2050](#), resulting in the region becoming one of the oldest in the world. This represents double the numbers of people aged 60, from 9.8% (2017) to 20.3% (2050).

In response to the increasing demands of Asia's aging societies, [healthcare professionals play crucial roles in elderly and long-term care and quality assurance of services](#).

COUNTRY AND TERRITORY SNAPSHOT



^{*} <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN?view=chart>
[^] <https://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=PopDiv&f=variableID%3a68>



DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACTS OF AGING

Prof Graeme Hugo outlined the following [key issues faced by older people in Asia](#) during a presentation to the General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council in 2010:

- Traditional support systems being eroded
- Limited government resources to devote to growing older population
- Many older people unable to accumulate sufficient resources during their working lives

In his presentation, Prof. Hugo said older people were more vulnerable to:

- Poor physical and mental health
- Poverty
- Loneliness, isolation
- Influenced by social and family changes

According to the report, the impacts of aging include:

- Increased aged dependency
- Decreased youth dependency
- Sex imbalance in older ages
- Issues associated with older widowed women
- Urban/rural balance
- Increase in the 'oldest old' – population aged 80+ is the fastest growing age group in the world.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- A major impact of an aging population is increased pressure on health and aged care services.
- Advancing age can increase the risk of disability and many health conditions, such as arthritis, cancer and dementia. This can put pressure on healthcare services and create hospital challenges.
- More people are also likely to need home care or residential aged care services.
- An overview of the challenges and approaches in Asia include:

JAPAN



- The [number of elderly needing home care and care in institutions tripled](#) between 2000-2012 (from 1.49 million to 4.45 million).
- Japan has invested in community aged care by raising the pension age, and using technology such as [elder care robots](#) to fill aged care worker shortages.
- In 2000, the government initiated [mandatory public long-term care insurance](#) to help older people lead more independent lives and relieve the burdens of family carers.
- In 2018, the government approved the [Guideline of Measures for Aging Society](#) aimed to create an age-free society.
- [New technologies have inspired public and private sectors](#) in health policies and innovation to provide older people a better quality of life.

CHINA



- Pensions, healthcare, and assisted-living facilities are the main areas to be impacted, which [the government hopes will be supported by private-sector innovation and cost-sharing](#).
- China has one of the fastest aging populations in the world, leading to a marked increase in the number of care-dependent elderly people.
- According to the World Health Organisation's [China country assessment report on aging and health](#): Long-term care package options led by health professionals will enable early diagnosis, treatment and management of health issues for older people in primary care settings and reduce care crises and costs of specialist care.
- The WHO report says well-designed long-term care options will also support family caregivers to sustain quality care at home, relieve caregiver burden and improve quality of life for recipients and caregivers.

TAIWAN



- The [accelerated rate of aging in Taiwan](#) is more than twice that of European countries and the United States.
- Taiwan is expected to become a [hyper-aged society by 2026](#).
- Government policies include the introduction of the Long-Term Health Services Act and the Long-Term Health Insurance Act.
- Social and Family Affairs Administration established a healthcare system to [enhance welfare services for seniors](#), enable them to remain living in the community, and provide residential care suited to their needs.

HONG KONG



- The number of people [aged 75 or above is estimated to increase from 7.9% to 18.3%](#) by 2038, adding extra strain on the overly stretched health care system, with [dementia management one of the biggest challenges](#).
- The government's aging in place focus prioritizes care for elderly patients within the community rather than institutionalization.
- Many elderly people live with chronic illnesses, creating a large demand for elderly services, according to a study on [Challenges facing the elderly care industry in Hong Kong](#). The report suggests that VET providers, elderly service providers and enterprises could work together to provide timely and relevant education and training programs to attract and retain staff in the industry.

SOUTH KOREA



- The population is aging faster than any other developed country, with the number of [people aged over 65 expected to be twice higher than the world's average](#).
- About half of Korea's elderly [live in poverty](#). Crimes committed by senior citizens increased 45% between 2014-2019.
- [Concerted efforts are required to adapt to demographic changes](#), including an overhaul of health care, insurance, pension, housing and transportation systems.

SINGAPORE



- Singapore has adopted several measures and public policies which focus on providing senior friendly communities.
- [Central Provident Fund Lifelong Income for the Elderly](#) scheme provides cover for retirement income needs, which is funded through compulsory monthly contributions.
- [MediShield Life](#) provides life-long coverage for hospitalization expenses.
- [Action Plan for Successful Aging](#) covers more than 70 initiatives in 12 areas to help people age confidently and lead active lives.

MALAYSIA



- [Lack of adequate elderly care homes and healthcare geared towards elderly care](#).
- The practice of caring for older people is being challenged, while [artificial intelligence programs are being developed](#) to meet their future health needs, eg digital home assistants and robots with sensors that track people's movements and behavior.
- Malaysia needs to [address the expected growing demand for aged care services](#), which are still in their infancy, including industry regulation, standards, improving the scope and quality of services, and increasing the number of qualified social and care workers.

THAILAND



- Challenges include work and education opportunities for older adults, long-term care plans and age-friendly housing.
 - Demand is growing for [trained and skilled caregivers](#) to support older people's needs, such as meal preparation, personal care, mobility, medication use, transportation and emotional support.
 - *Act on Older Persons* promotes healthy living, access to healthcare and long-term community-based care.
-

AUSTRALIA'S AGED CARE QUALITY STANDARDS

Australia's aged care industry faces similar challenges to Asia, with the number of people expected to use aged care services estimated to almost triple to [3.5 million](#) by 2050.

The Australian Government has recognized the need to meet community expectations and address the economic impacts of its aging population. Service providers are now expected to comply with the [Aged Care Quality Standards](#) which provide a framework of core requirements for quality and safety.

In response, the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) developed the evidence-based [Carers Manual](#) and [Practice Manual](#) to support Australian aged care services to address Quality Standards requirements.