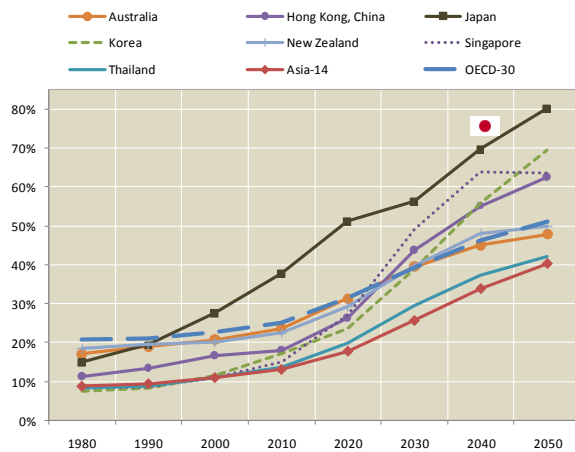


KEY FINDINGS: JAPAN

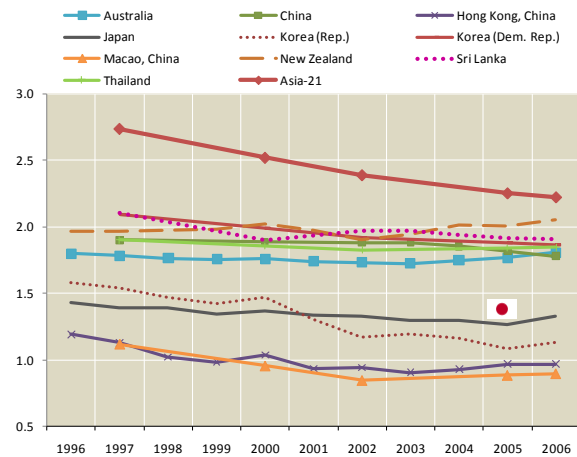
Age Dependency: Japan’s population is ageing faster than the 13 other Asian economies. Its old-age-dependency ratio, the ratio of individuals that are likely to be “dependent” on the support of others for their daily living to the number of those individuals who are capable of providing such support, is expected to reach 0.379 in 2010 and 0.802 in 2050, the two highest levels in the region. Both these levels are much higher than the average for 30 OECD countries (0.251 for 2010 and 0.512 for 2050).

Fertility: Japan is one of five ageing Asian economies, including Korea, Hong Kong-China, Macao-China and Singapore, that have fertility rates close to 1, well below the population replacement rate of 2.1.

Old-age dependency ratio, 1980-2050 (ratio of people aged over 65 over people aged 20-64)



Asian economies with total fertility rates below 2.0 in 2006



Sources: - Dependency ratios: United Nations (2007), *World Population Prospects* online database; except Australia, New Zealand, and OECD-30 from OECD Demographic and Labour Force database. – Fertility rates: World Bank (2008), *World Development Indicators* online database.

Life Expectancy: Among 14 Asian economies in 2006, life expectancy at birth for men was highest in Japan and Singapore, at 78-79 years, followed by Korea and Malaysia. For women, life expectancy at birth was also highest in Japan, at 85.8 years, followed by Korea, Singapore and Malaysia. In 2006 the average life expectancy at birth for 30 OECD countries was 76 years for men and 81 years for women.

Employment: In 2006 Japan had high employment rates for most age groups (66.1% for people aged 55 to 64 and 80.2% for the 25 to 54 year olds). The Employment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 was of 41.4%, slightly higher than other high-income Asian economies (Korea, Chinese Taipei, and Singapore), but much lower than two other OECD countries (New Zealand and Australia, respectively at 58.7% and 64.2%).

Income Inequality: Income inequality in Japan is relatively low. The gap between rich and poor is narrower in Australia, Korea and Japan than the OECD average, and widest in the Philippines, Cambodia and China.