

AGAC Hosts The 3rd ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons: Present and Future

“Ageing in Place”

1. ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC), together with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) and the Delegation of the European Union to The Republic of Korea, hosts the 3rd ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons’ under the theme of “Ageing in Place” from 11 to 12 July 2023 in a hybrid (Seoul/virtual) format.

* The First and Second Fora were held in 2021 and 2022, under the themes of ‘The Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons in Emergency Situations’ and ‘Human Rights and the Mental-Emotional Health of Older Persons’ respectively.

2. The ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons: Present and Future is an annual event that AGAC organizes with a view to creating a global platform to bring together civil society activists, academic researchers, human rights and government officials and international organization affiliates to discuss various issues relating to the human rights of older persons across Asia and Europe and to explore ways to improve them.

3. While there has been a growing awareness and consensus that global ageing is proceeding rapidly and the international community has to seek solutions to new challenges that ageing poses, there is still a lack of understanding of ‘human rights-based’ approach to ageing. AGAC is missioned to fight negative narratives and connotations attached to ageing and older persons, and advocate the importance of ‘human rights-based’ concepts and responses to ensure a dignified life not only for older persons but all age groups. The ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons: Present and Future is part of AGAC’s endeavor to fulfill these missions.

4. The theme that AGAC selected for the 3rd ASEM Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons: Present and Future is ‘Ageing in Place’. ‘Ageing in Place’ refers to ‘remaining living in the community, with some level of independence, rather than in residential care’ (Davey et al. 2004: 133). It has become both a popular and an important topic for human rights communities and policy makers as it is seen as enabling older people to maintain their independence and autonomy while being connected to social support/services.

5. ‘Ageing in Place’ is perceived as an alternative to ageing in facilities which have proven to be not only costly but resented by older people themselves. Much research has shown that in later life older people desire to stay in their own homes and communities, where they feel most safe, comfortable and connected to family and friends. However, there is a serious chasm between what is desired and what exists. For instance, in Korea, while it is reported that more than 60% of older persons wish to live and die in their homes 76.2% of them die in hospital. ‘Ageing in Place’ touches on one of the cores issues of the human rights of older persons.

6. The Forum takes place over four sessions, including a special session with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). In Session 1, titled 'Ageing in Place: Debates and (Policy) Responses' aims to explore how Ageing in Place is understood and implemented in practice in a selected number of ASEM partners such as Sweden, Australia, Singapore and Korea. Prof. Titti Mattsson from Lund University, Sweden; Dr. Yong-ik Kim, Chairperson of Dolbom-Mirae Foundation, Korea; Dr. Edgar Liu from the University of New South Wales, Australia; and Prof. Sabrina Luk Ching Yuen, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, will discuss the practices and issues relating to Ageing in Place in Sweden, Korea, Australia and Singapore respectively.

7. Session 2 is held under the title of 'Civil Society Talk Concert: Ageing in Place, Best Practices and Experiments in Civil Society'. The Civil Society Talk Concert, a regular feature of the Forum, aims to create an opportunity to hear voices from the grassroots. At this Session activists and practitioners of INGOs will share experiences and lessons learnt through their work in relation to attempts and experiments made and conducted to realize Ageing in Place. Session 2 will be addressed by five speakers: Dr. Alberto Infante, Secretary of HelpAge Spain; Ms. Janevit Wisojongkram, Deputy-Director of the Foundation for Older Persons' Development, Thailand; Mr. Mark Harrington, National Manager of Age Friendly Ireland; Dr. Ngai Ming Yip, Board Director of Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong; and Dr Jong-Hee Kim, Representative of Gangwon Medical Welfare Social Cooperative, Korea.

8. In Session 3, issues of Dying with Dignity ('Well-Dying') are discussed. Inasmuch as Ageing in Place means living one's own home and community until or as close as possible to the end of life, it is inevitably linked to the question of Dying with Dignity. Topics of Session 3 cover include the tension between the right to life and the right to die, its implications from a human rights law perspective, how to secure a dignified life and death in palliative care and what issues are at stake in ensuring dignified death. These issues are discussed with reference to the cases studies of European countries such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and the UK, as well as India, Japan and Korea, where euthanasia has become an increasingly important public debate among policy makers. Speakers in Session 3 include Dr. Derya Nur Kayacan, Lecturer at the Turkish-German University, Türkiye; Dr. Angelika Reichstein, Lecturer at the University of East Anglia, UK; Prof. Sufiya Ahmed, Bhimrao Ambedkar University, India; Prof. Atsushi Asai, Tohoku University, Japan and Prof. Yi-Jong Suh, Seoul National University, Korea.

9. The final session, the Special Session with UNESCAP is held under the title of Ageing, Rights of Older Persons and International Development in Asia. The Special Session aims to create a platform to discuss the connections between ageing, the rights of older persons, and international development in Asia. Mr. Marco Roncarati, Social Affairs Officer of UNESCAP, a principal contributor to the 'Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022', will make a presentation on key aspects of the Report; this will be followed by comments from three discussants: Mr. Eduardo Klien, East Asia/Pacific Regional Director, HelpAge International; Prof. Giang Thanh Long, National Economics University, Vietnam and a member of AGAC Global Advisory Group; and Prof. Yong-Ho Chon, Incheon National University, Korea.

10. The Opening ceremony of the Forum is held on July 11, with welcoming remarks delivered by AGAC Executive Director Eun-Hee Chi, the Chairperson of the NHRCK Do-

Hwan Song, and Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea María Castillo Fernández, and congratulatory remarks by a National Assembly member Sang-Hee Kim. The Closing ceremony of the Forum is held on July 12, with closing remarks delivered by AGAC Chairperson of the Board of Directors Hye-Kyeong Lee.

11. Two keynote speeches will be delivered by Dr Bev James, Director of Public Policy and Research Ltd. New Zealand and MS. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Dr James will address the background in which 'Ageing in Place' becomes an important issue across the world as a way to secure the human rights of older persons and introduce various successful housing projects for older people implemented in New Zealand, such as Kaumātua housing. Kawerau Ageing in Place by KADAP and Homeshare pilot by Age Concern Auckland. Dr Tata will address the trends of ageing in Asia and the Pacific, and specific challenges it poses what efforts have been and should be made to redress them.

12. Executive Director of AGAC, Eun-Hee Chi emphasized "through this Forum, AGAC aims to fulfill its mission of advocating the importance of human-rights based approach by exploring ways to assist and realize 'Ageing in Place' as it is directly related to the UN Principles for Older Persons: Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfillment and Dignity".

13. The Forum is open to the public - it can be attended online in real time by pre-registration (<http://www.asemgac.org/>). Its recordings will be accessible via the AGAC's youtube channel ([AGAC 아셈노인인권정책센터 - YouTube](#)).

For more information on the Forum, please visit the Website at <http://www.asemgac.org/>.

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The Third ASEM Forum on The Human Rights of Older Persons: Present and Future **Ageing in Place**

Tuesday 11 July - Wednesday 12 July 2023 Royal Hotel Seoul

Tuesday 11 July	Wednesday 12 July
Registration 09:30-10:30	
10:30 - 11:20 (KST)	
<p>Opening Remarks Eun-Hee Choi (Co-Chair, ASEM Global Aging Center) Han-Hwan Song (Co-Chair, ASEM Global Aging Center) Marie Cedros (Member of the Executive Board of the UNFPA)</p> <p>Congratulatory Remarks Sang-Hee Kim (Member, National Assembly of the ROK)</p> <p>Keynote Speeches Bo James (Director, Public Aging and Research Unit, New Zealand) Sabine Henning (Chair, ASEM Global Aging Center)</p>	<p>Registration 12:00-13:00</p>
13:00 - 15:30 (KST)	13:00 - 15:30 (KST)
<p>Session 1, Ageing in Place: Debates and (Policy) Responses Moderator Sojung Park (Professor, Washington University in St. Louis, USA)</p> <p>Speakers Th. Nilsson (Professor, Lund University, Sweden) Sabrina Lu (Ching-Yuen Tsai, Senior Professor, National Central University, Singapore) Jaganath (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Health Services Research and Policy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong) Yong-Hk Kim (Chairman, Eunhee Global Aging Center)</p>	<p>Session 3, Dying with Dignity: Debates and (Policy) Responses Moderator Younsuck Koh (Professor, Ulsan University)</p> <p>Speakers Deniz Nur Kayacan (Associate Professor, Middle East Technical University, Turkey) Angelika Rehm (Senior Lecturer, University of East Anglia, UK) Sultya Ahmed (Professor, Bharat Archaekar University, India) Akashi Kawai (Professor, Tohoku University, Japan) Yi Jung Sun (Professor, Seoul University)</p>
16:00 - 18:00 (KST)	16:00 - 18:00 (KST)
<p>Session 2, Civil Society Talk Corner Ageing in Place: Best Practices and Experiments in Civil Society Moderator Young-Sook Kim Ambassador for Gender Equality, Korea Women's Association United</p> <p>Speakers Mark Harrington (National Manager, Age Friendly Britain) Ngai-Wing Yip (Head, Director, Initiator for Community Long Song) Ahe-to Intente (Facilitator, He, Age Spirit) Jarevit W'asajungkam (Deputy Director, TOPDCV, Thailand) Jong-Han Kim (Executive Director, Korea Women's Association United)</p>	<p>Special Session with UNESCAP Ageing, Rights of Older Persons and Incomercial Development in Asia Moderator Hee-Young Song (General Secretary, ASEM Global Aging Center)</p> <p>Speaker Anne Roscard (Special Affairs Officer, UNFPA-AP)</p> <p>Discussants Giang Thanh Long (Special Representative, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Ecuarcio Nien-Herens (Representative, Asia Pacific Development Network) Yongha Chae (Professor, Ewha National University)</p>
18:00 - 18:30 (KST)	18:00 - 18:30 (KST)
	<p>Closing Closing Remarks Hye-Kyung Lee (Chairperson, Board of Directors, ASEM Global Aging Center)</p>