

Workshop to Launch the Report “Towards a Comprehensive National Policy for an Ageing Society in Vietnam”

On March 29th 2019 in Hanoi, a workshop to launch the report “Towards a Comprehensive National Policy for an Ageing Society in Vietnam” was held by the Vietnam National Committee for Ageing. Mrs. Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, President of the Vietnam Association of the Elderly, and Mrs. Astrid Bant, UNFPA Representative in Vietnam delivered the opening speech.

Mr. Rintaro Mori, Technical Advisor on Population Ageing and Sustainable Development, UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office, presented the report "Adapting to Population Ageing: Life-Cycle Approach and International Experience". In his presentation, Mr. Rintaro Mori said that population ageing was happening rapidly in the Asia-Pacific region and then took the example of two countries, Australia and Japan, for policy issues to match the population ageing situation in those two countries. According to the presentation, lifecycle approach was the most efficient solution to population aging.

Representatives of the Department of Social Protection, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, presented policy orientations on the revision of the Law on the Elderly and the National Action Program for the Elderly in the period 2021-2025. Accordingly, seven key points were proposed, including: 1) completion of favorable policies for the elderly to participate in work and promote their experience, in order to realize the United Nations' message of "retired but did not take time off from work"; 2) endurance of uncourageous policies for enterprises, families and communities to participate in (short and long term) health care for the elderly; 3) completion of supportive policies and mechanisms for the elderly, organizations and individuals to promote the role of the elderly for the state and society; 4) accomplishment of social protection policies, in which the age of beneficiaries should be reduced to under 75 with priority to the elderly in mountainous and remote areas, islands and people of especially difficult circumstances. In addition, there is also a need to flexibly adjust the level of social support for the elderly of specific economic and social conditions in each specific period; 5) supplement of development policies for social work for the elderly, which took a focus on the role and responsibility of social work for the elderly with specific criteria and services; 6) renovation of administrative procedures with the application of information technology in solving social protection policies for the elderly, contributing to the implementation of e-Government; 7) fulfillment of the mechanisms for strengthening the responsibilities of state management agencies at all levels and the Elderly Association in the implementation of the elderly work.

In the last session of the workshop, Mr. Nguyen Van Tien, former Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly's Committee on Social Affairs, introduced the content of the report "Towards a Comprehensive National Policy for Population Ageing in Vietnam in 2020-2030, Vision to 2035". This policy report addressed population ageing in Vietnam and related issues such as the elderly's finance, health and disability, societal and environmental care, abuse and violence, and responsibilities of stakeholders as a basis for analysis and recommendations on the need for a comprehensive national policy to response to the problem of population ageing. At the same time, the report also provided evidence to support the Government in the fulfillment of its set tasks. ■

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