



LOYOLA  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

# FRONTIERS, DIALOGUE & DISCERNMENT IN ASIAN CONTEXTS

AN INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 16-17, 2017  
LEONG HALL  
ATENEO DE MANILA  
UNIVERSITY



# PLACES: BORDERS & BRIDGES

Filomeno Aguilar, Jr.

FRONTIERS, DIALOGUE  
& DISCERNMENT IN ASIAN CONTEXTS:  
AN INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

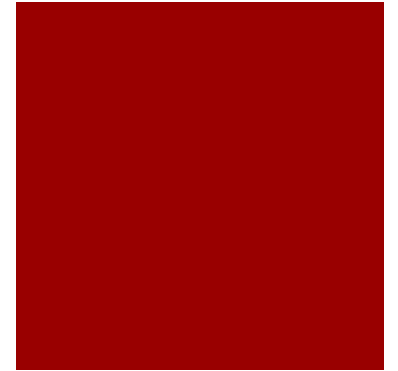


# Demography, Democracy, Modernity

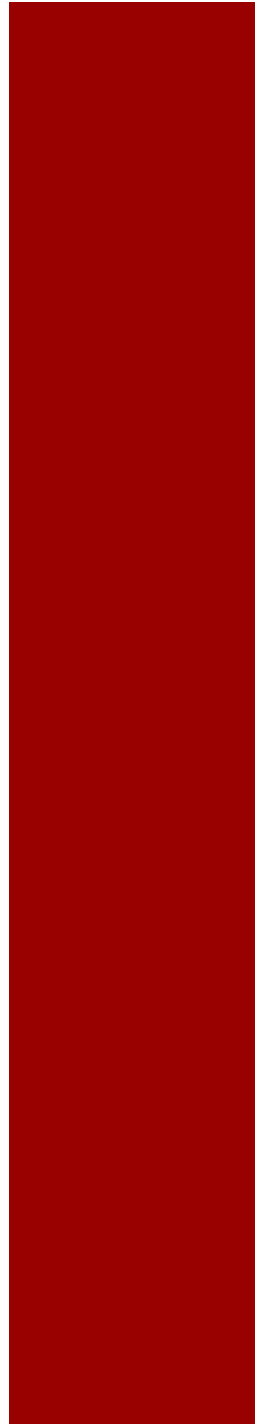
Filomeno V Aguilar Jr  
Department of History  
Ateneo de Manila University  
16 March 2017

# Outline

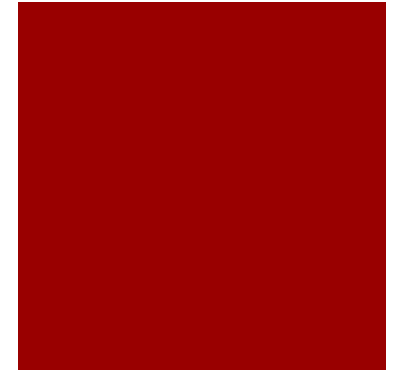
- Demographic transition in Asia
- Democratic consolidation?
- Coping with modernity



# The Demographic Transition in Asia

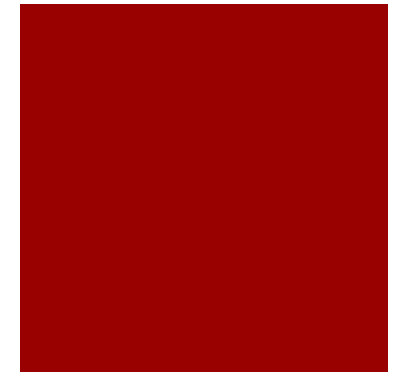


# Demographic Dynamics



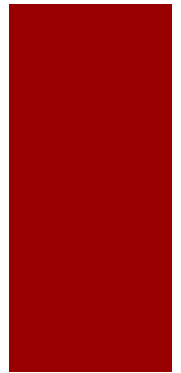
- Population changes
  - Caused by fundamental societal changes
  - Mirror changing individual aspirations and values
  - Link macro and micro levels
- Modernity
  - Forces of globalization

# Demographic Transition Theory

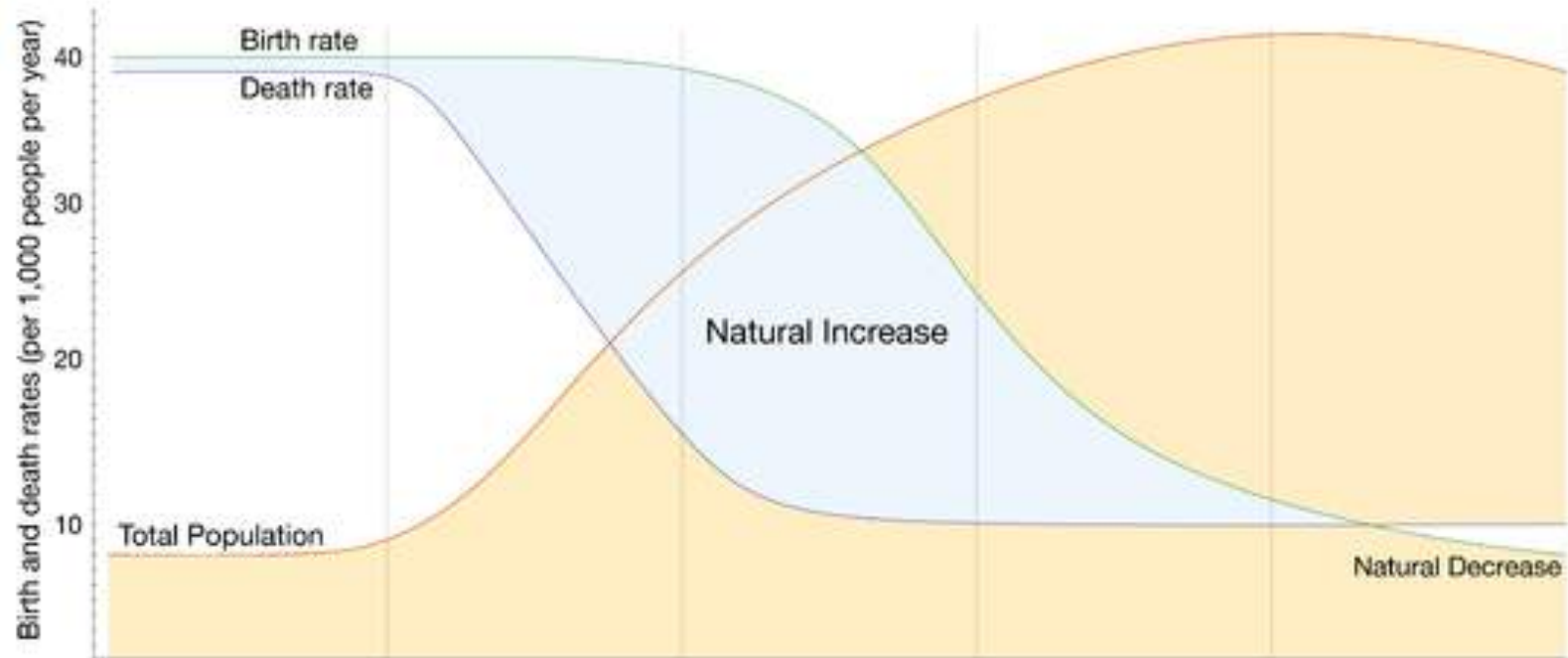


- A general model that describes population dynamics as societies move through historical processes that transform conditions of  
high fertility and high mortality  
to  
low fertility and low mortality

# Stages in Demographic Transition

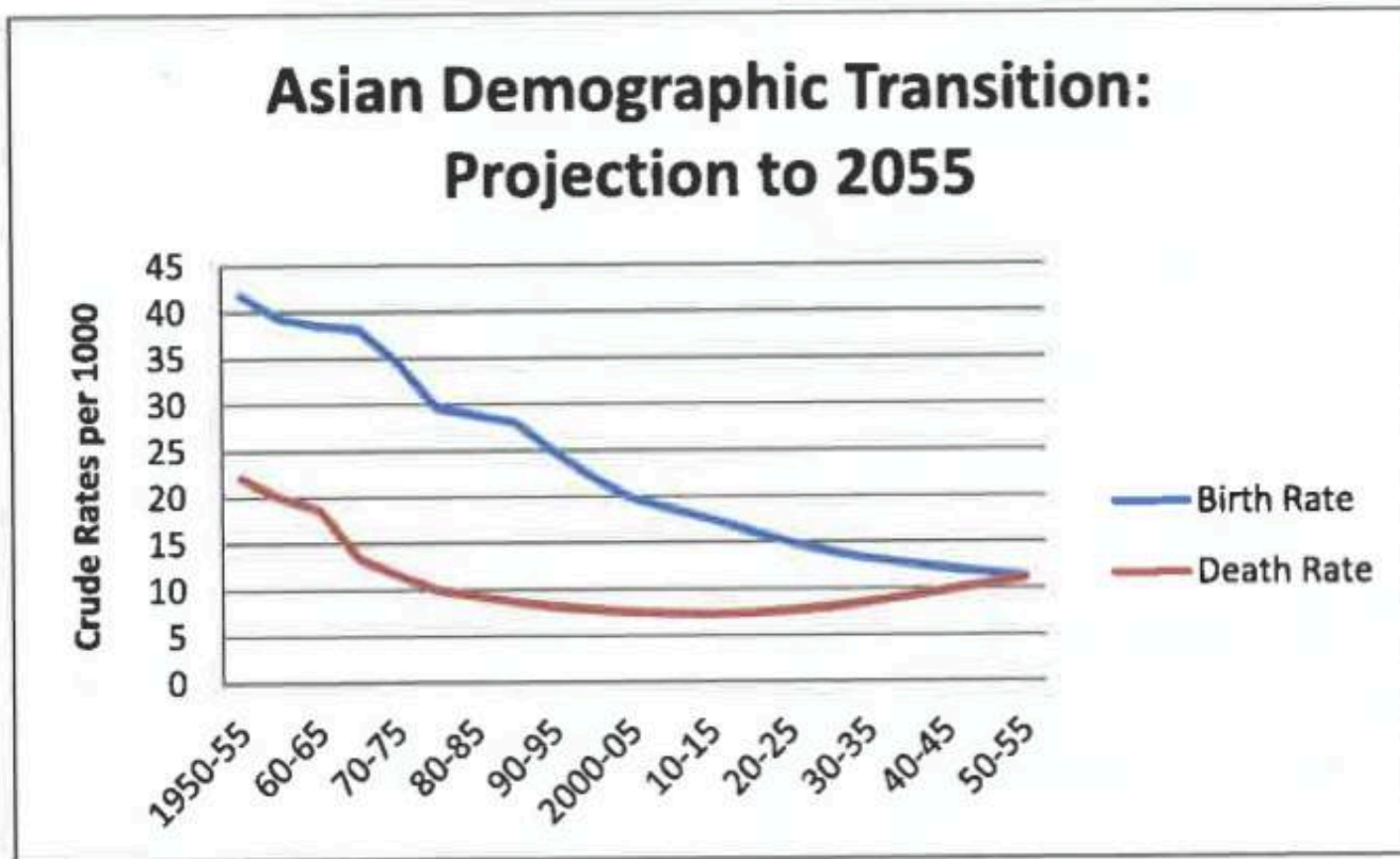


<b>Mortality</b>	<b>Fertility</b>	<b>Population Growth</b>
1. High and fluctuating	1. High	1. $\approx$ zero
2. Rapid decline	2. Slow decline	2. +++
3. Continued decline	3. Rapid decline	3. ++
4. Very low	4. Low and fluctuating	4. $\approx$ zero

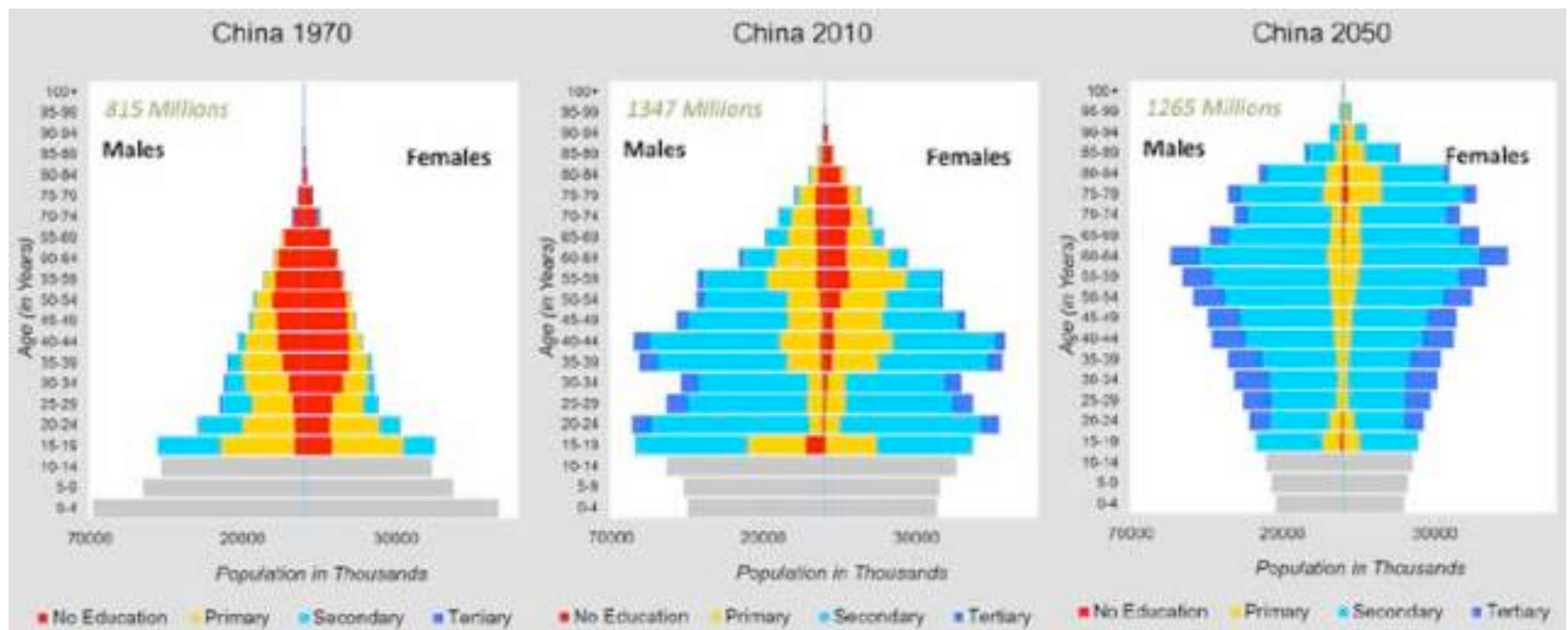


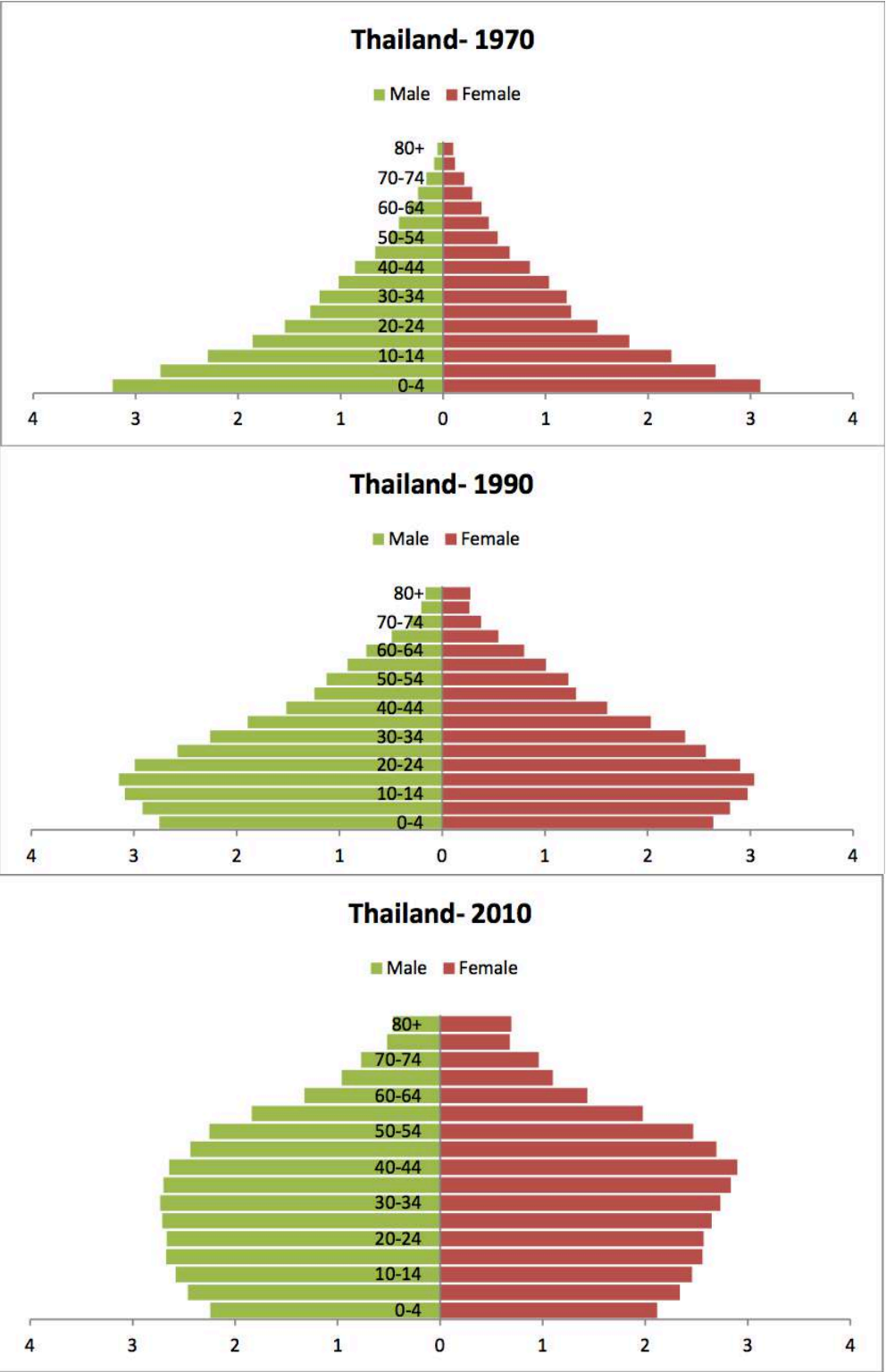
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Birth rate	High	High	Falling	Low	Very low
Death rate	High	Falls rapidly	Falls more slowly	Low	Low
Natural increase	Stable or slow increase	Very rapid increase	Increase slows down	Stable or slow increase	Stable or slow decrease

The author Max Roser licensed this visualisation under a CC BY-SA license. You are welcome to share but please refer to its source where you find more information: <http://www.OurWorldInData.org/data/population-growth-vital-statistics/world-population-growth>

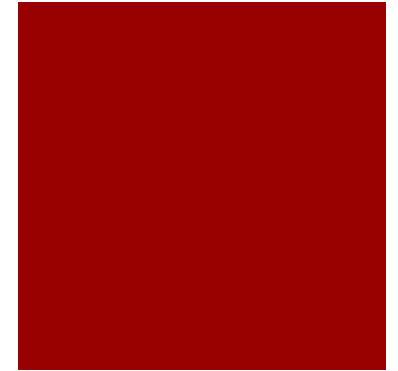


**Figure 1:** Asian Demographic Transition: Projection to 2055.



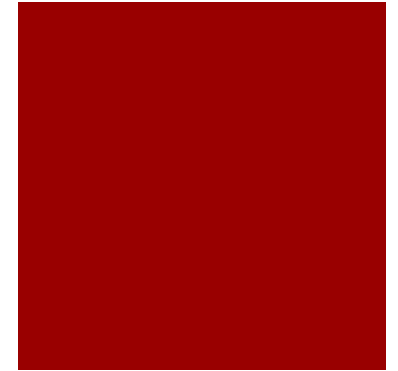


# World Population Distribution



	1950	2000	2050	2100
Asia	55	61	54	43
Europe	22	12	7	6
Americas	13	14	13	12
Africa	9	13	25	39
Oceania	1	1	1	1

# Asian Demographic History



- 1950–2050: Epochal transformation

Large families, short lifespan

1950: Stage 2      CDR  $\approx$  20 per 1000

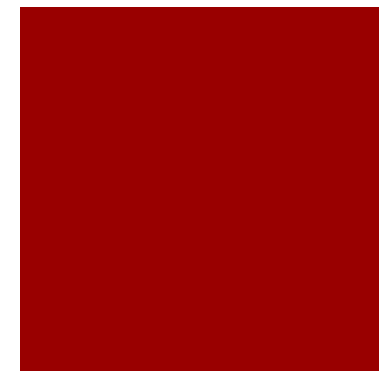
CBR  $>$  40 per 1000

1960s–1970s rapid decline in CDR

1980s–1990s rapid decline in CBR

Stage 3

# UN Population Estimates, 2010



	Population (millions)	% of Asia
ASIA	4,164	100.0%
East Asia	1,574	37.8
South Central Asia	1,765	42.4
Southeast Asia	593	14.3
West Asia	232	5.6

Life Expectancy at Birth in Asia and Regions of Asia  
In Five Year Intervals, 1950 to 2010.

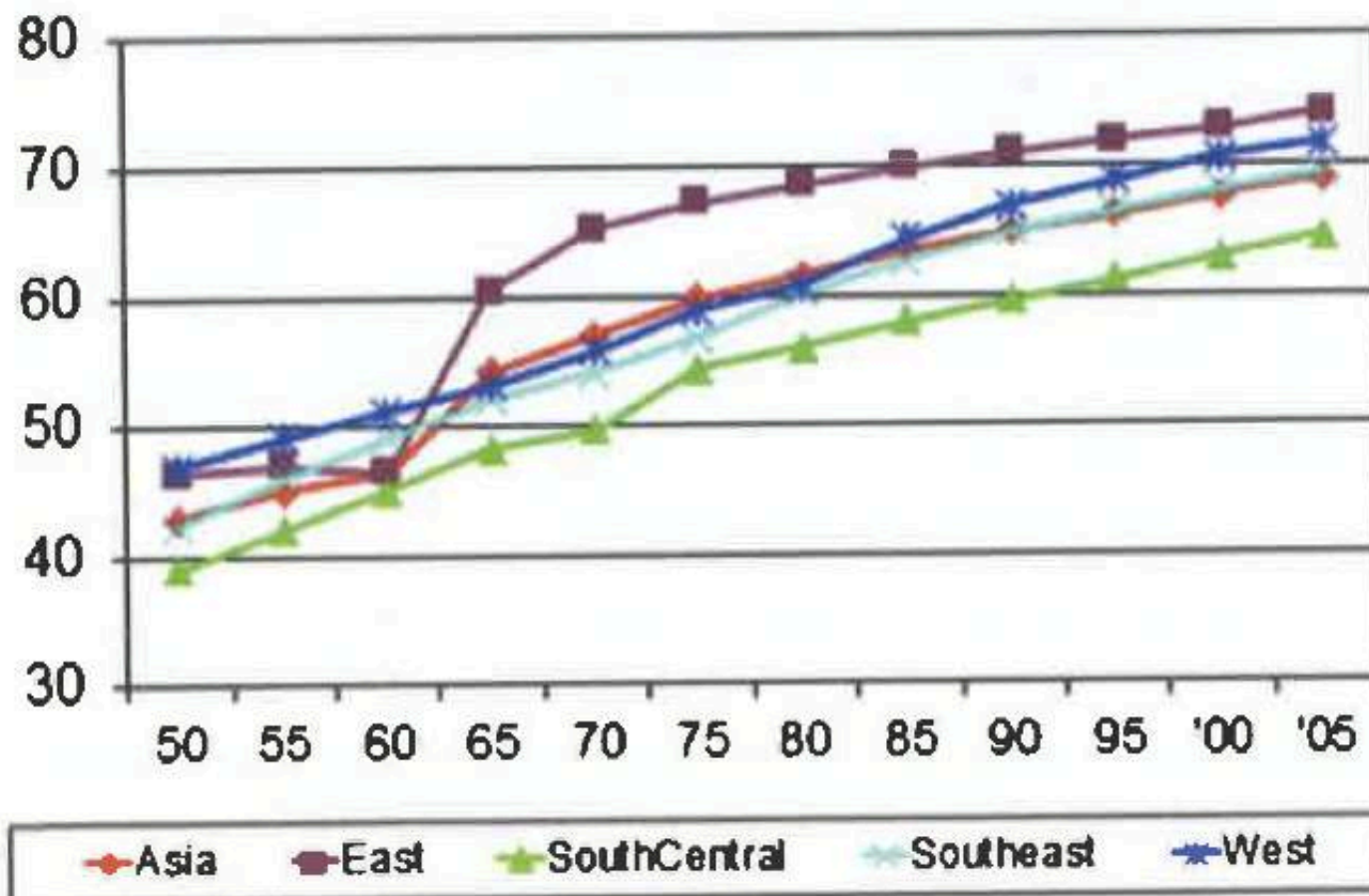
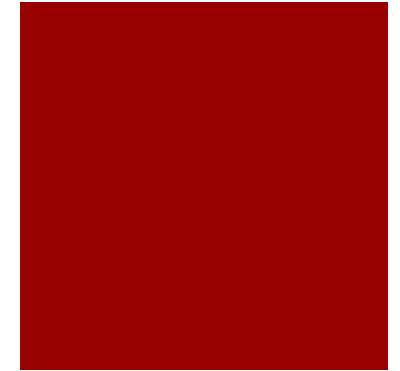


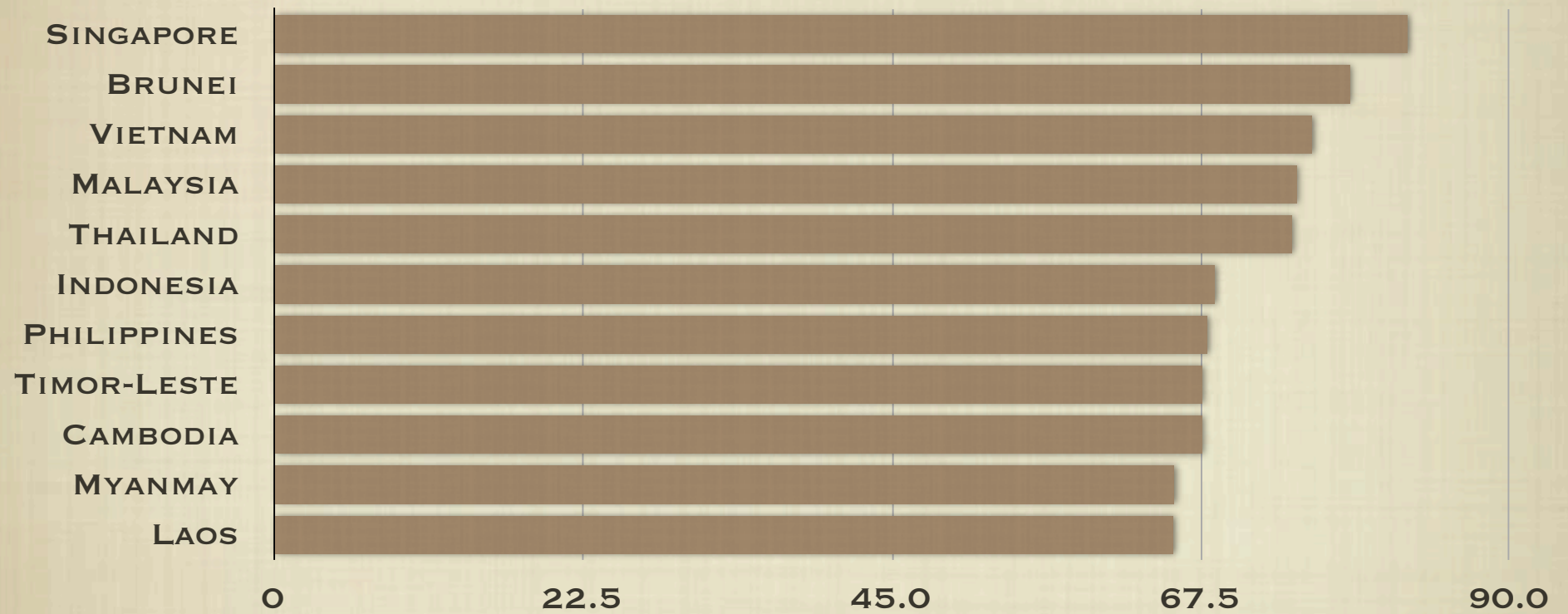
Figure 2: Life Expectancy at Birth in Asia and Regions of Asia In  
Five Year Intervals, 1950 to 2010.

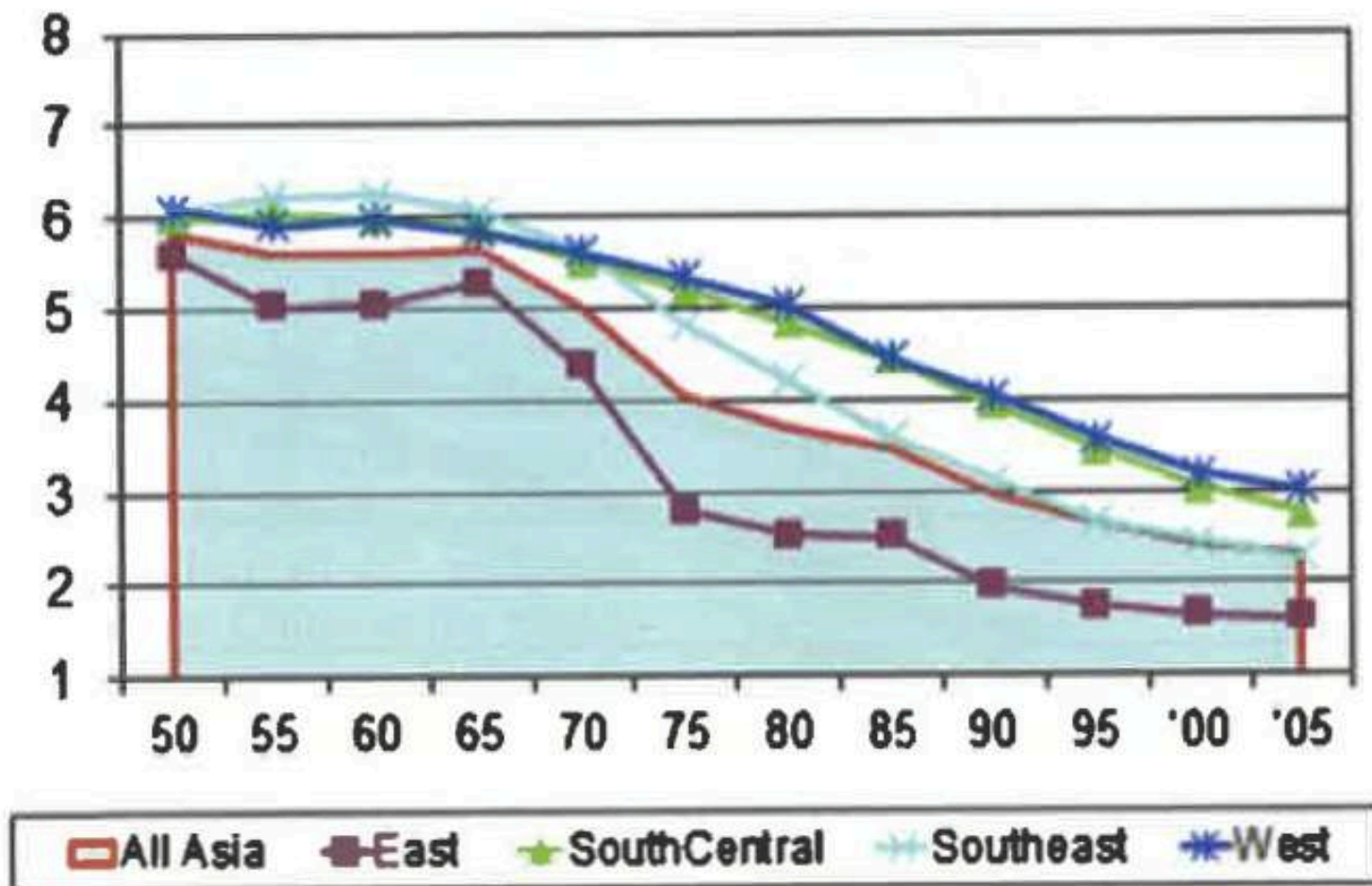
# Average Life Expectancy



- From 43 in 1950 to almost 70 in 2010
- Lower in South Asia than other parts of Asia, but impressive gains made from 40 in 1950 to over 60 in 2010
- Japan: over 83, lowest mortality rate in the world
- South Korea: most rapid gain in life expectancy: 48 in 1950s; 80 in early 2000s
- Vietnam: lowest in 1950s SEA, 75.6 by 2015

■ LIFE EXPENTANCY 2016



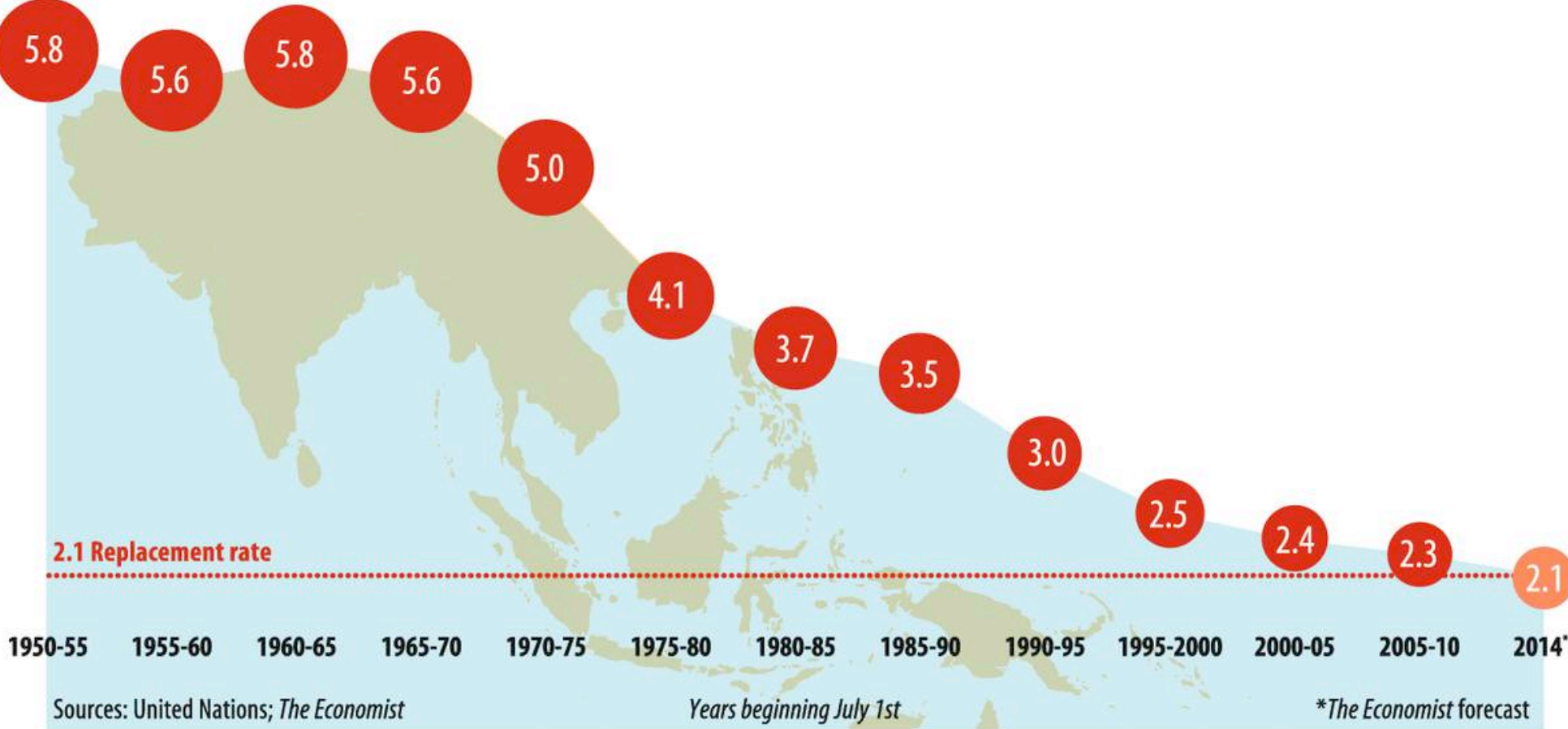


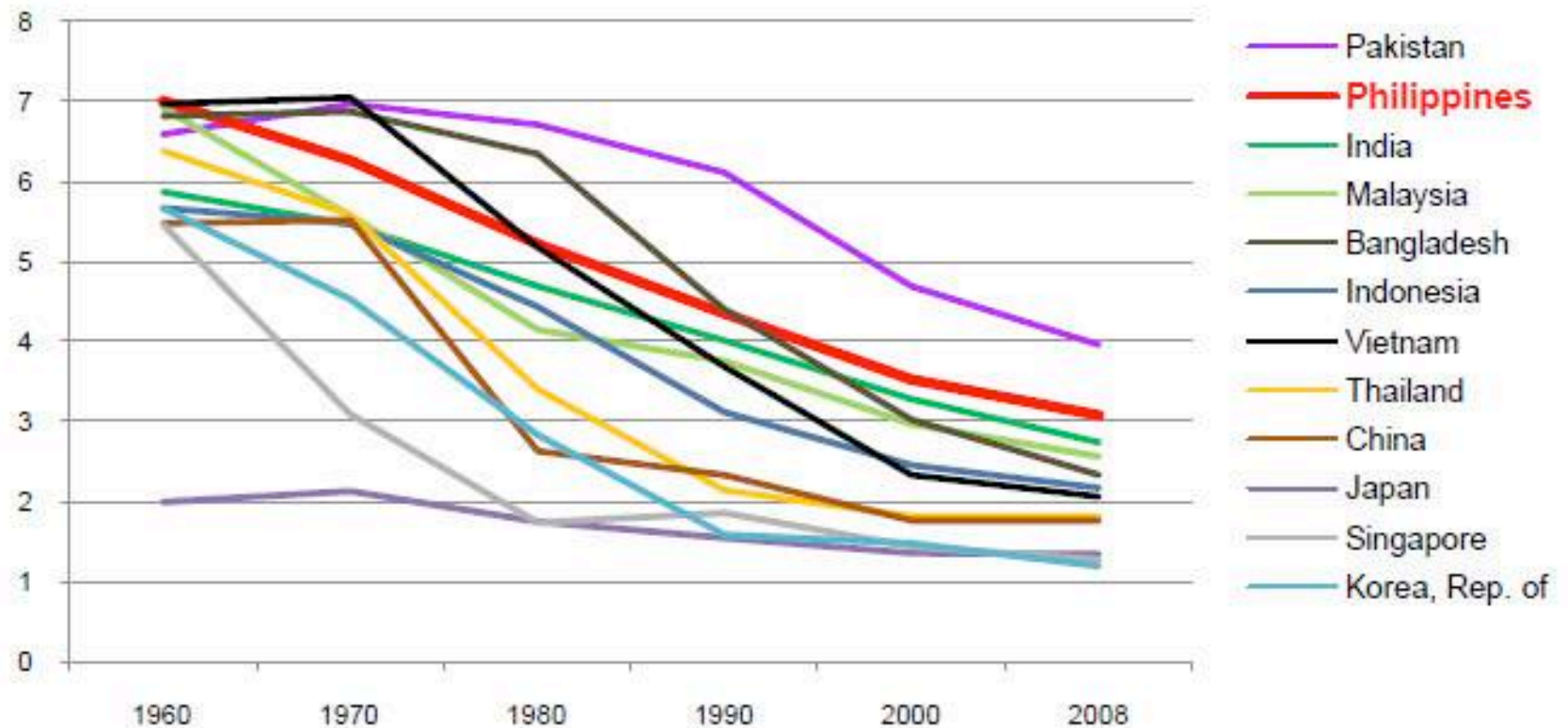
**Figure 3:** Total Fertility (Children per Woman) in Asia and Regions of Asia In Five Years Intervals, 1950 to 2010.



# A welcome descent of man

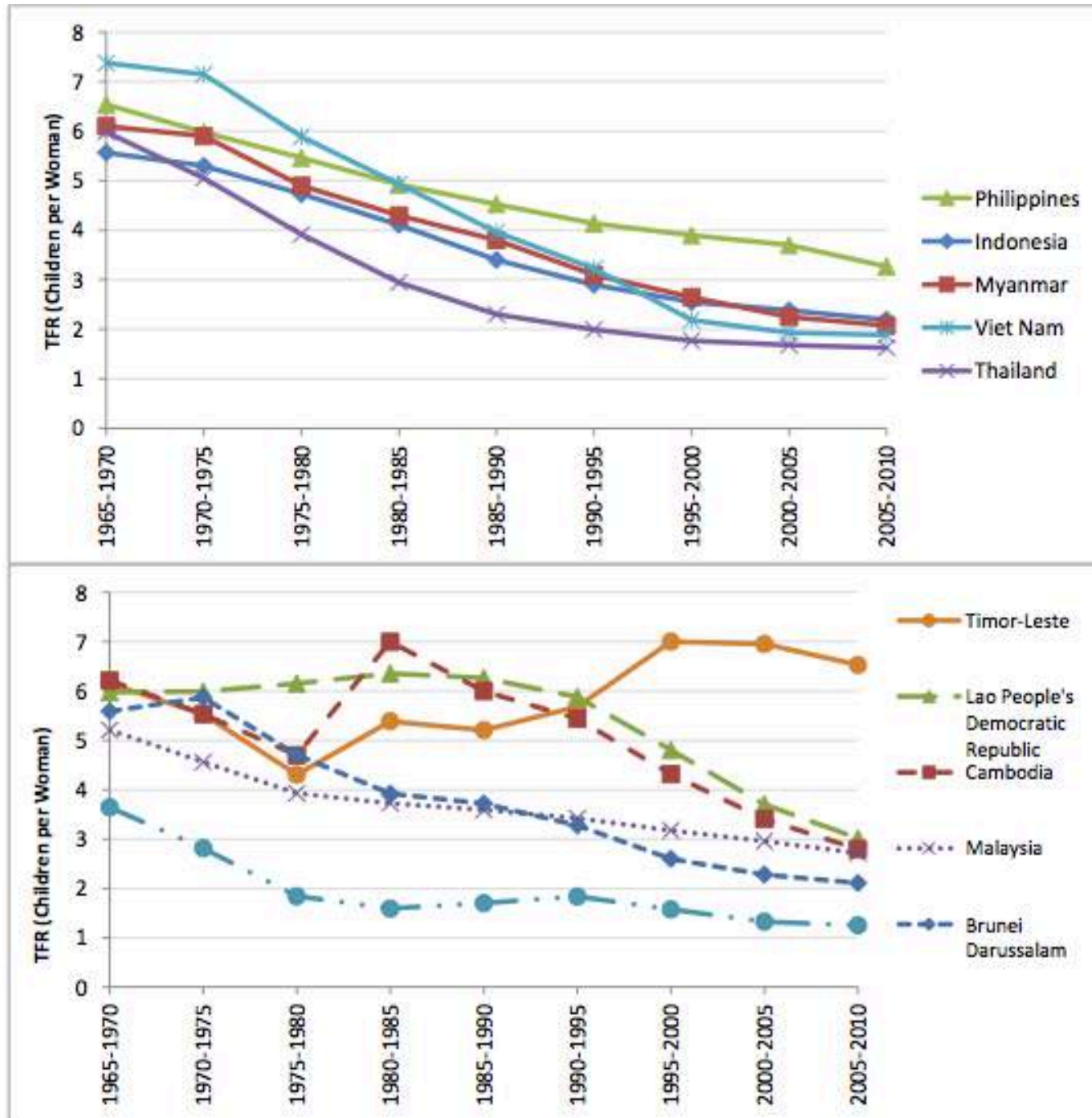
Asian total fertility rate



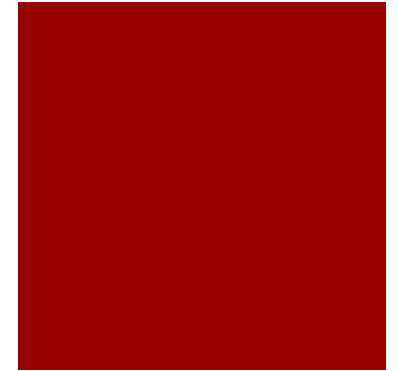


Source: World Bank; Total fertility rate represents the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with current age-specific fertility rates.



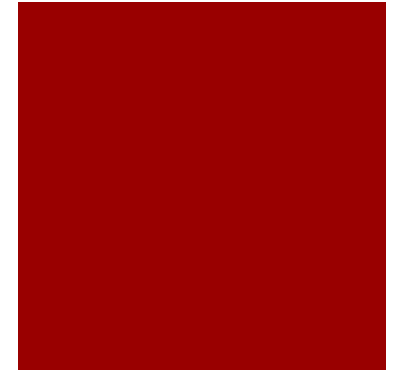


# Causal Factors



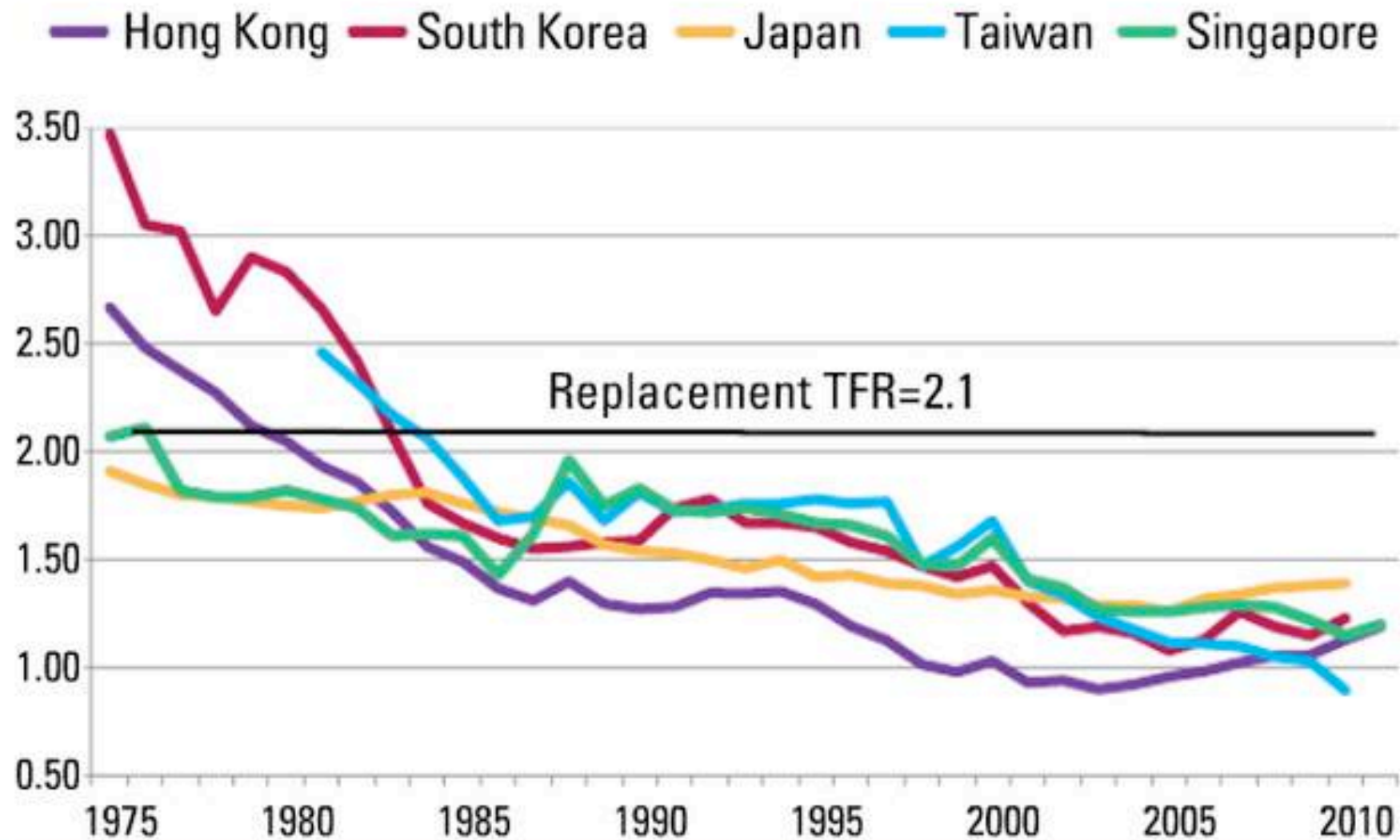
- Preventive health, medical treatment
- Socioeconomic development
- Mass education, esp. up to secondary
- Consumer aspirations
- Formal sector employment
- Effective family planning programs
- Postponement of marriage

# Second Demographic Transition



- Sub-replacement fertility linked to postponement of marriage and childbearing
- Ages at marriage reflect growing prominence of free partner choice and female autonomy
- Premarital cohabitation becomes more common and widely acceptable

# TOTAL FERTILITY RATES IN EAST ASIA



SOURCE: DOS, NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICES





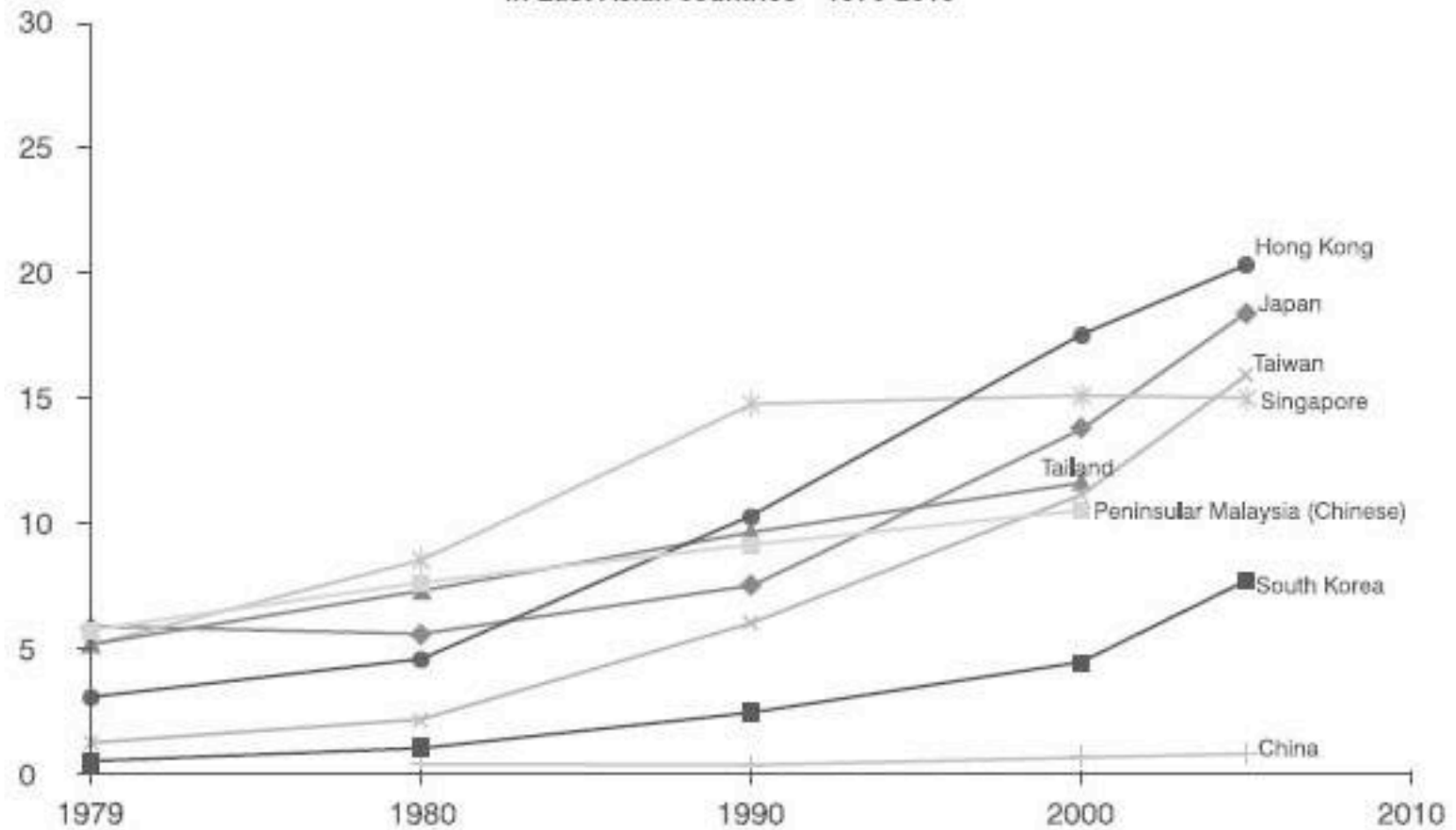
**TABLE 1** Increases in percentages of never-married women between 1970 and 2000, ages 30–34 and 40–44, selected Asian populations

Population	30–34		40–44	
	1970	2000	1970	2000
Japan	7.2	26.6	5.3	8.6
Myanmar	9.3	25.9	6.2	14.8
Thailand	8.1	16.1	3.9	9.3
Singapore—Chinese	11.1	21.6	3.6	15.0
Singapore—Malays	3.9	12.2	1.7	8.2
Malaysia—Chinese	9.5	18.2	3.4	8.4
Malaysia—Malays	3.3	9.7	1.1	4.4
Philippines	8.9	14.8	6.0	7.1
South Korea	1.4	10.7	0.2	2.6
Indonesia	2.2	6.9	1.2	2.4

SOURCE: Jones (2004: Appendix Table 1).



FIGURE 1  
Percentages of never-married women, aged 35-39,  
in East Asian countries – 1970-2010



Source: Population censuses of all countries in the figure.

Editor  
Thelma Sison San Juan



# Rus to loyalty

## FEMALE FINDINGS

### 58 PERCENT OF FILIPINO WOMEN DELAY MARRIAGE AND KIDS FOR CAREER

They believe  
there has never  
been a better  
time to be  
a woman,  
study reveals

By Cathy Cañares Yamsuan  
@KatyYam

## EFFO S

**M**ake everyday dressing easier with high-quality pieces you can reach for time and time again from quality Brand Marks & Spend. Take the staple shirt, for example, crafted from crisp cotton and available in white or blue channels—it's the ultimate Monday morning essential. Roll the sleeves up or down, raise the collar or lay it under a sweater or

## 58 PERCENT OF FILIPINO WOMEN DELAY MARRIAGE

### FROM D1

cent find female celebs "too superficial."

- Still, 15 percent credit a female role model in media for inspiring them to leave an abusive relationship.

- 94 percent want women in general to "step up and serve as mentors to young girls."

- 80 percent consider themselves "the main household purchaser," with 73 percent saying they make majority of financial decisions at home.

- 72 percent claim they "don't need anyone but themselves to achieve their goals."

- Among those who turned to role models, 41 percent "have taken risks in life that they otherwise would not have taken;" 40 percent "became more ambitious," while 33 percent were encouraged to go to school or pursue further education.

- 63 percent consider sexual fulfillment important as a lifelong concept, with 70 percent agreeing that sexual fulfillment is not just for the young; 50 percent expect to remain sexually active even in their advanced years.

- 58 percent would delay getting married and/or having children to pursue their chosen career.

- More than career advancement and the acquisition of material wealth, 47 percent measure success as "achieving a higher level of religious and spiritual awareness."

### Policy issues

guest panelists in the presentation agreed that mentoring young women would help them overcome challenges, especially in the workplace.

Taguig Rep. Pia Cayetano said this means it becomes more crucial now to confront policy issues such as maternity leave, age discrimination and reproductive health because "we still live in a time when women are very much discriminated against."

In the case of Olympic medalist Hidilyn Diaz, she recalled facing opposition from family members, particularly her mother, Emelita, after she decided to concentrate on weightlifting—a sport normally associated with "macho" men.

### Luminaries

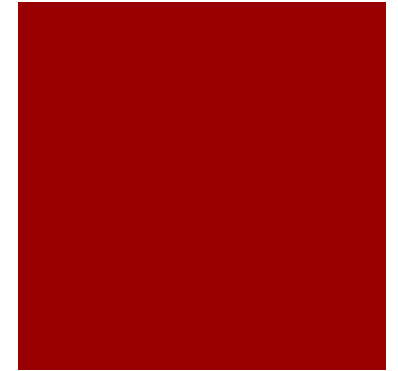
Other panelists attributed their success to strong women in the family who raised them, and mentors at work who encouraged them to find their place.

Trickie Lopa of Art Fair Philippines had grandmothers who were both luminaries in the faculty of University of Santo Tomas, and a mother who also worked.

"I never experienced women being Maria Clara (the weak female character in Rizal's 'Noli Me Tangere')." These days I work with women... I'm surrounded so it's never been an issue," Lopa said.

Armie Jarin-Bennett of CNN Philippines recalled asking too many questions ("Tanong ako

# Second Demographic Transition



- Sub-replacement fertility linked to postponement of marriage and childbearing
- Ages at marriage reflect growing prominence of free partner choice and female autonomy
- Premarital cohabitation becomes more common and widely acceptable



**TABLE 5** Percent of women aged 20–49 who have ever cohabited,  
Taiwan KAP surveys of 1998 and 2004, by current marital status

Current marital status	KAP 1998		KAP 2004	
	%	N	%	N
Unmarried	7.8	731	15.3	1,200
Married	12.6	2,262	21.6	2,752
Total	11.4	2,993	19.6	3,952

SOURCE: Li-Shou Yang, personal communication.

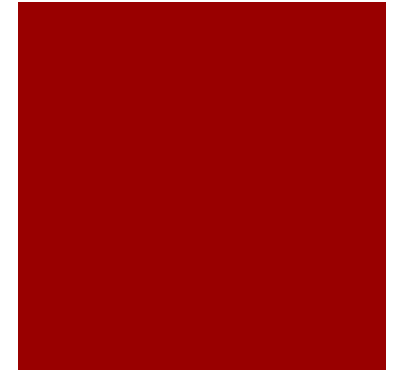


**TABLE 4** Percent of Japanese women who have ever cohabited by birth cohort, mean duration, and percent followed by marriage, Mainichi Shimbun Group 2004

Birth cohort	Prevalence of cohabitation (%)	Mean duration of cohabiting unions (months)	Percent of completed cohabiting unions resulting in marriage
1954–59	10	22	64
1960–64	10	21	70
1965–69	17	26	62
1970–74	21	20	61
1975–79	21	21	40
1980–84	10	16	44
Total	15	21	58

SOURCE: Raymo, Iwasawa, and Bumpass (2008).

# Demographic Dynamics



- Population changes
  - Caused by fundamental societal changes
  - Mirror changing individual aspirations and values
  - Link macro and micro levels
- Modernity
  - Forces of globalization



Individual autonomy  
Self-actualization

“East Asian  
Marriage  
Revolution”

# Second Demographic Transition



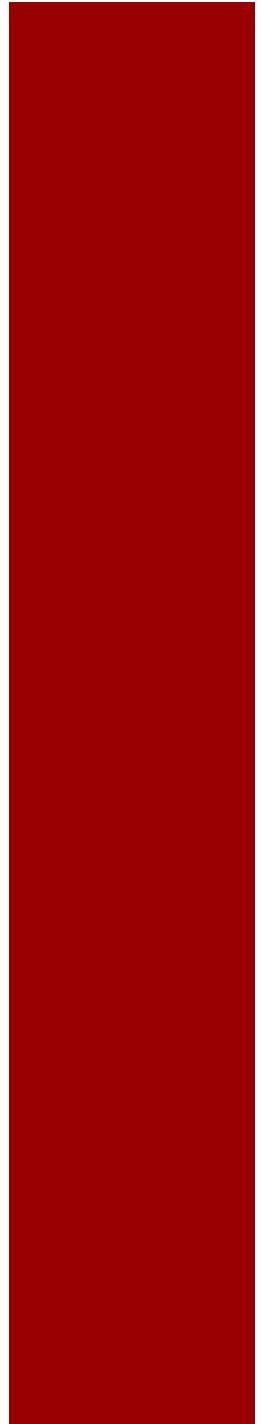
- Marriage
  - Individualized, not societal or institutional
- Sociocultural correlates
  - “Higher-order” needs; Self-expression
  - Grassroots democracy, participation, pluralism
  - “Social idealism”
  - Value orientation of post-materialism





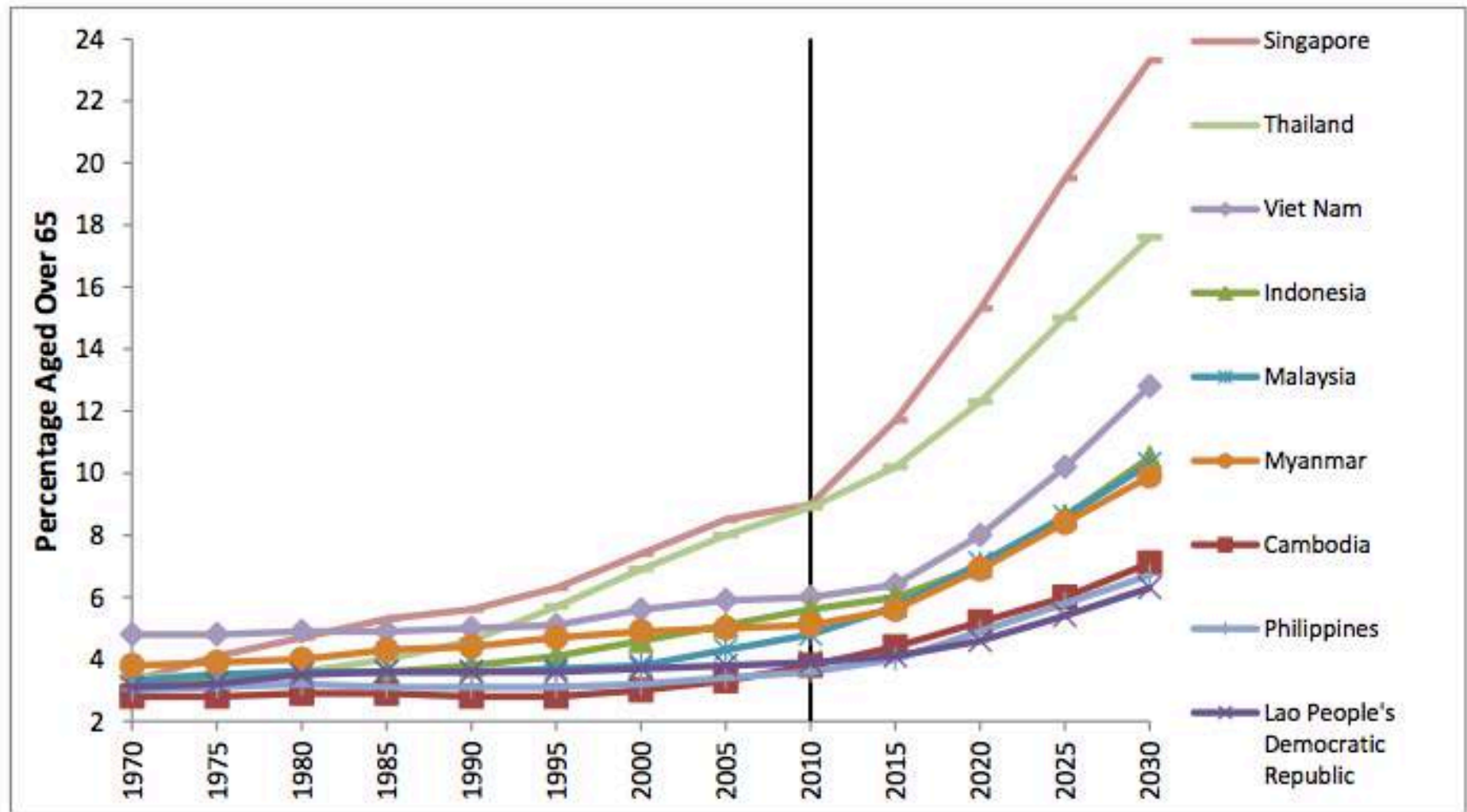


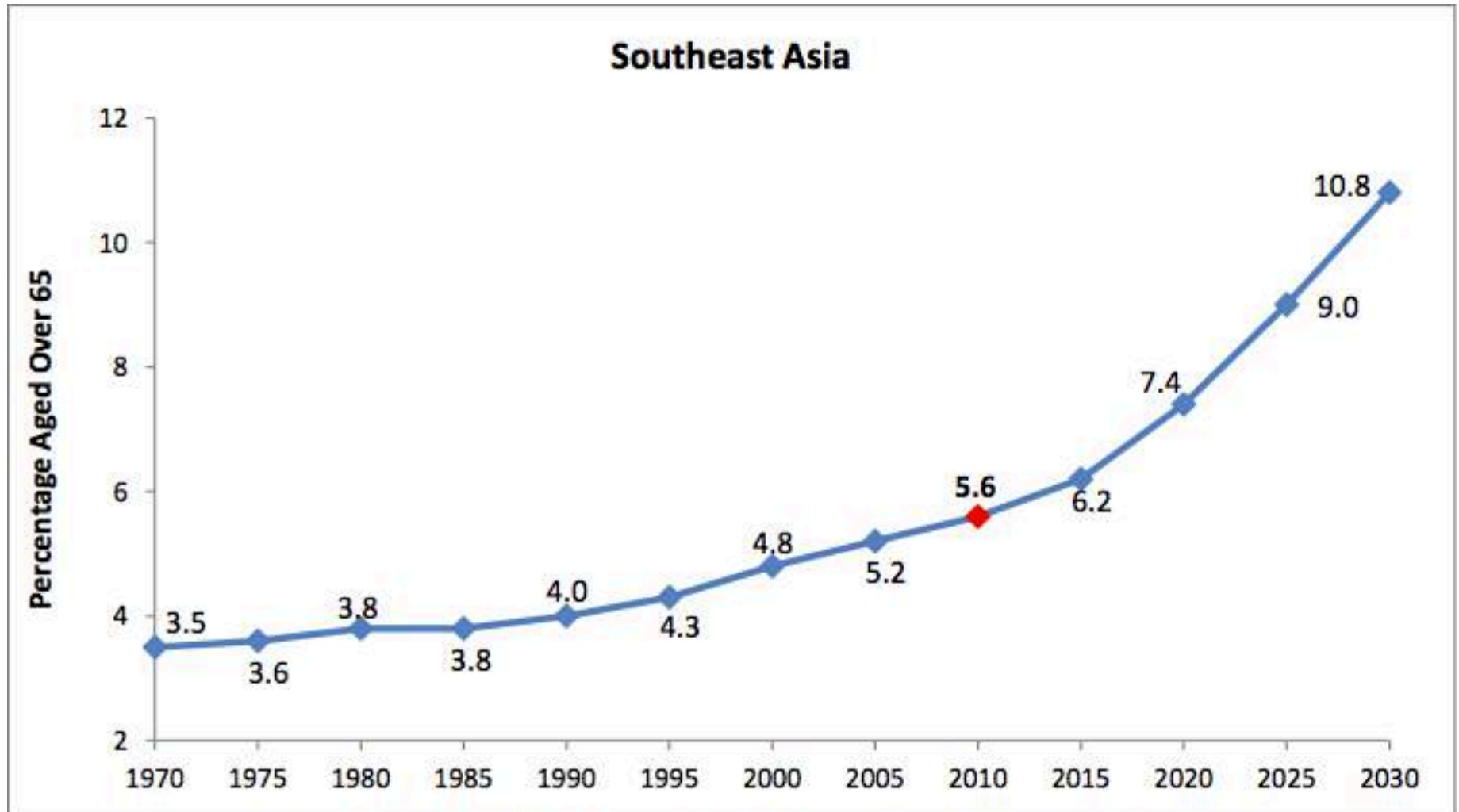
# Other Demographic Trends





**Figure 11. Percentage of Population Aged over 65, 1970-2030.**

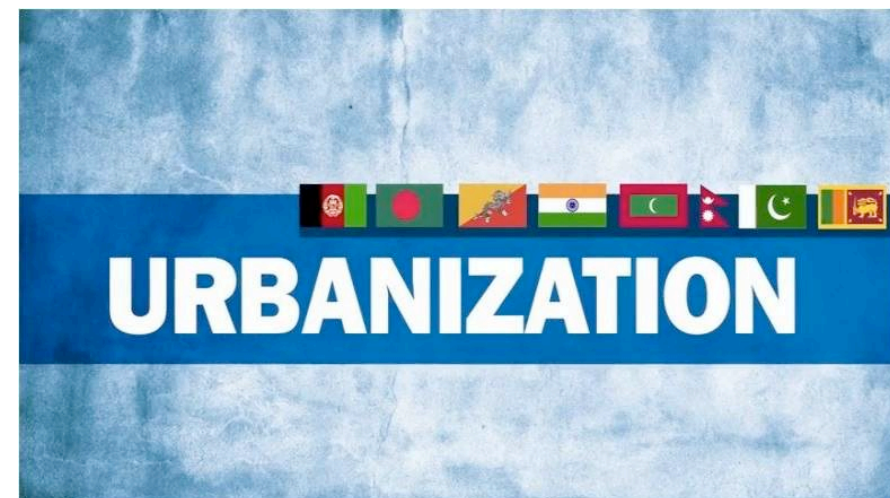




Source: United Nations Population Division, 2010, Medium Projection.

100

Sources: United Nations Human Settlements Programme ([www.unhabitat.org/units](http://www.unhabitat.org/units)). "State of the World's Cities 2008/2009" by UN-Habitat. Research and design by Mark Blackwell.

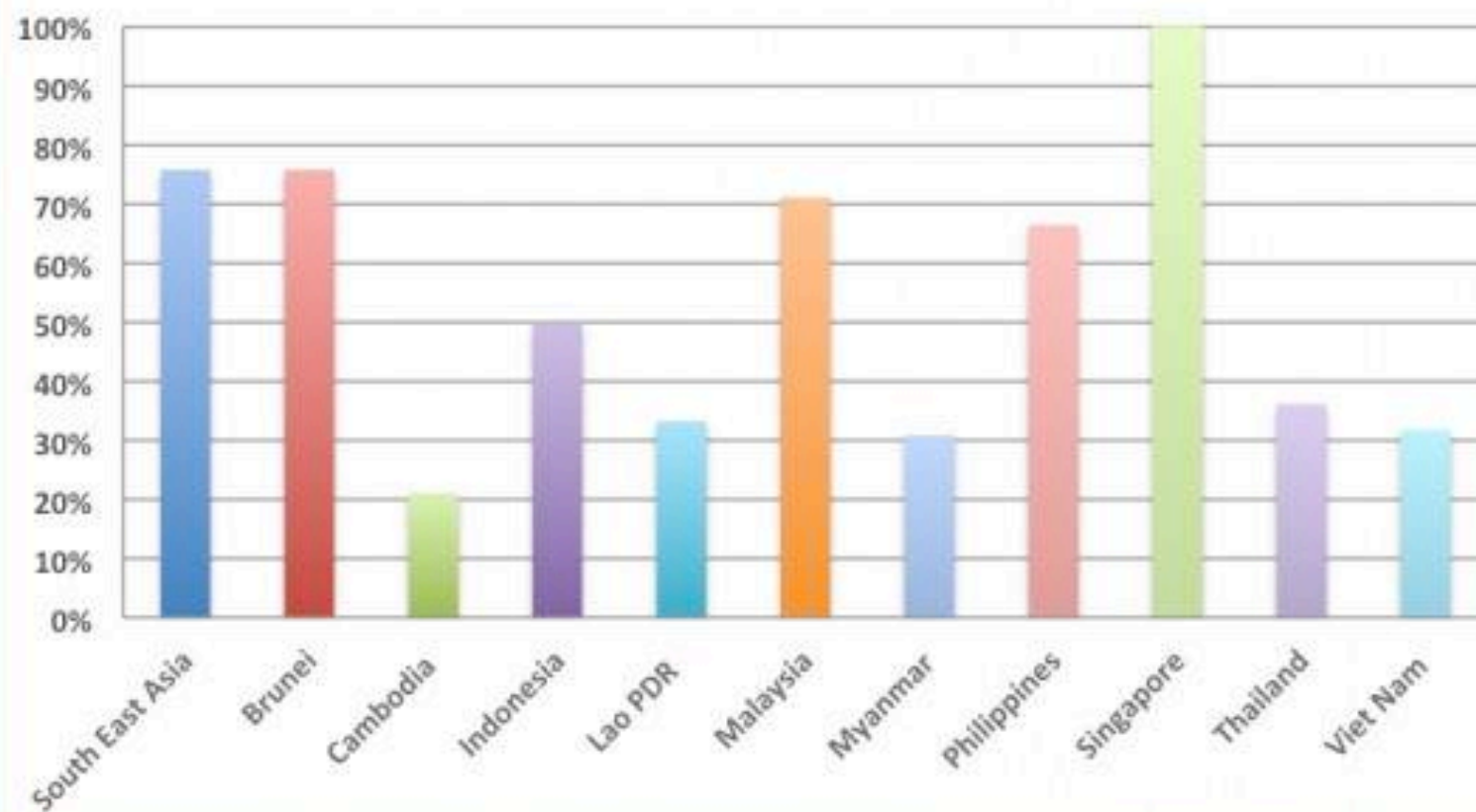


**Table 3. Urbanization levels in Southeast Asian countries, 1950-2030**

<b>Country</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010 (est.)</b>	<b>2020 (projected)</b>	<b>2030 (projected)</b>
Brunei	26.8	62.0	71.1	75.7	79.3	82.3
Cambodia	10.2	4.4	16.9	20.1	23.8	29.2
Indonesia	12.4	19.3	42.0	44.3	48.1	53.7
Lao PDR	7.2	11.1	22.0	33.2	44.2	53.1
Malaysia	20.4	37.7	62.0	72.2	78.5	82.2
Myanmar	16.2	23.9	27.8	33.6	40.7	48.1
Philippines	27.1	35.6	48.0	48.9	52.6	58.3
Singapore	100	100	100	100	100	100
Thailand	16.5	23.8	31.1	34.0	38.9	45.8
Vietnam	11.6	18.8	24.5	30.4	37.0	44.2
<b>SE ASIA</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>52.9</b>

Source: United Nations Population Division, 2009

**Urban Population - ASEAN countries  
(% of total population, 2011)**

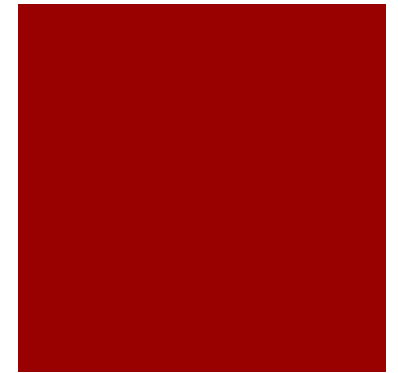


# Internal Migration, Vietnam, 1949–1999



■ Rural to rural	1.61 m	36%
■ Rural to urban	1.18	27
■ Urban to rural	0.42	9
■ Urban to urban	1.14	26

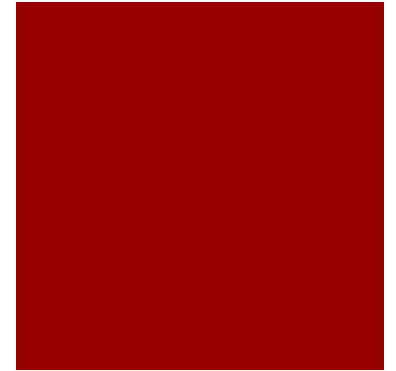
# Census-based Measure of Migration: Indonesia, 1971–2000



% who have ever lived in another province

YEAR	Males	Females
1971	6.29	5.06
2000	10.56	9.57

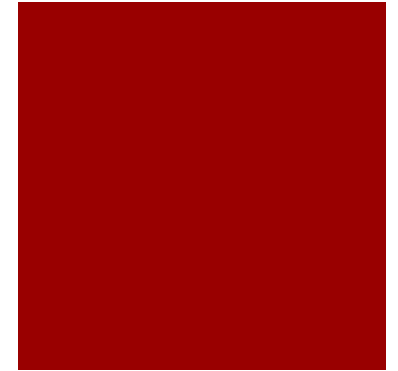
# Age of Individual Mobility



## ■ Number of persons per motor vehicle

1950	1,507
1961	263
1971	129
1980	38
1990	20
2000	11
2005	6

# International Labor Migration in SEA



- Mainly emigration

Philippines

Myanmar

Cambodia

Laos

Indonesia

Vietnam

- Mainly immigration

Singapore

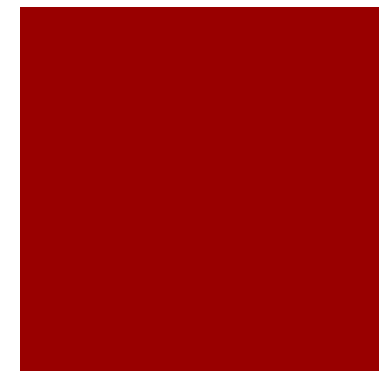
Brunei

- Both immigration and emigration

Malaysia

Thailand

# Number of Migrant Workers



	Total	% East, SE Asia	% West Asia	% Other Areas
Bangladesh	875,109	19	65	16
India	747,041	3	97	0
Indonesia	696,746	50	48	2
Nepal	298,094	38	58	4
Pakistan	403,508	1	97	2
Philippines	1,225,410	31	67	2
Sri Lanka	281,906	4	95	1
Thailand	130,511	62	20	19
Vietnam	85,546	63	13	24

## Foreign workers in Singapore: 1970-2010

**1970**

21 500 workers



**3%**

of the workforce

**1980**

118 000 workers



**7%**

of the workforce

**1990**

342 000 workers



**16%**

of the workforce

**2000**

612 000 workers



**28%**

of the workforce

**2010**

1 089 000 workers



**35%**

of the workforce

- [illegible]





# Southeast Asia Migration Routes



Compiled by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Migration Research Division (MRD) and Media and Communications Division (MCD) from various sources. Data on crossings are minimum estimates for the period January to June/15.  
Data on fatalities are minimum estimates for the Bay of Bengal area for the period October/14 to May/15.  
Names and boundaries indicated on map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. 10/06/15

# Migration crisis in the Bay of Bengal

**OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS**, a migration crisis has unfolded in the Bay of Bengal on a seasonal basis. When the rainy season ends in October, boats carrying refugees and irregular migrants cross the Andaman Sea toward Thailand and Malaysia. In most cases the boats land in Thailand then the passengers are taken by land across the border into Malaysia. The refugees and migrants are ethnic Rohingyas from Myanmar, refugees residing in Bangladesh, and Bangladeshis who hope to find employment in Malaysia. UNHCR (2015c and 2015d) estimates that about 94,000 migrants have followed that route since October 2014, with 25,000 of them moving in the first three months of 2015. As many as 1,100 may have died at sea since 2014 as a result of starvation, dehydration and beatings by boat crews.

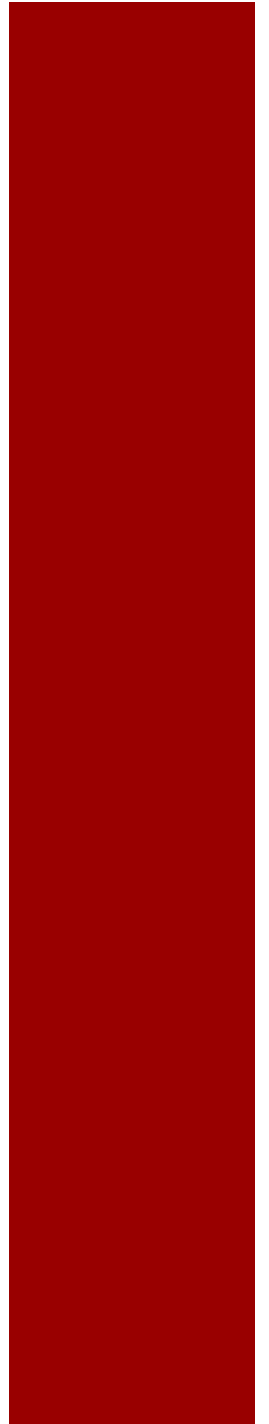
A recurring pattern is that refugees and migrants pay from \$90 to \$370 for embarkation to Thailand and Malaysia. Many do not expect that once in camps in Thailand they or their family will be extorted for up to \$2,000 more for passage into Malaysia. The extent of abuse was highlighted when holding camps for the migrants were discovered in both Thailand and Malaysia in early 2015. Faced with the crisis, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to

- Mixed motives
- Similar forces at work
- States unprepared

Trafficking in persons is of particular concern for the Asia-Pacific region. The *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* reported that in East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific, 64 per cent of victims of trafficking had been trafficked for forced labour, compared with only 40 per cent at the global level (UNODC, 2014:5). In Asia and the Pacific, another 26 per cent of victims had been trafficked for sexual exploitation, compared with 53 per cent of all victims world-wide. In Asia and the Pacific, 77 per cent of the identified victims of trafficking were women and girls and 36 per cent were children (UNODC:2014:6–7). It is further estimated that about 1.6 million people in North and Central Asia are trafficked for forced labour every year. Three fourths of those are women and most of them are trafficked for sexual exploitation (Ryazantsev, 2014).



# Religion: Demographics and Freedom





## Size, Projected Growth of Major Religious Groups in Asia-Pacific, 2010-2050

	2010 ESTIMATED POPULATION	% IN 2010	2050 PROJECTED POPULATION	% IN 2050	POPULATION GROWTH 2010-2050	% INCREASE 2010-2050	COMPOUND ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%)
Hindus	1,024,630,000	25.3%	1,369,600,000	27.7%	344,970,000	33.7%	0.7%
Muslims	986,420,000	24.3	1,457,720,000	29.5	471,290,000	47.8	1.0
Unaffiliated	858,490,000	21.2	837,790,000	17.0	-20,700,000	-2.4	0.1
Buddhists	481,480,000	11.9	475,840,000	9.6	-5,640,000	-1.2	0.0
Folk Religions	364,690,000	9.0	366,860,000	7.4	2,170,000	0.6	0.0
Christians	287,100,000	7.1	381,200,000	7.7	94,100,000	32.8	0.7
Other Religions	51,920,000	1.3	48,650,000	1.0	-3,280,000	-6.3	0.2
Jews	200,000	< 0.1	240,000	< 0.1	40,000	21.2	0.5
<b>Regional total</b>	<b>4,054,940,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,937,900,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>882,960,000</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050. Population estimates are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

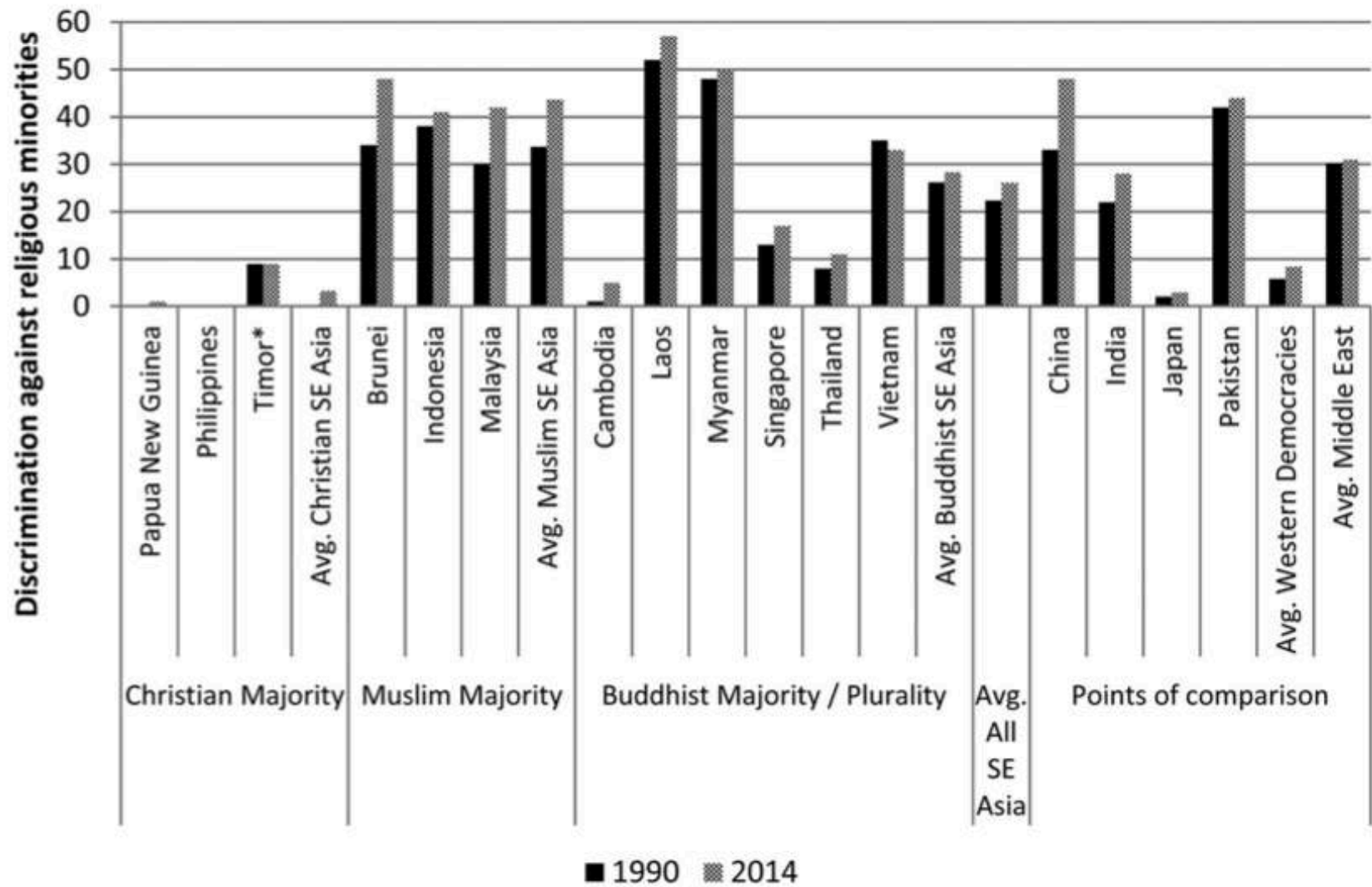
## Total Fertility Rates of Religious Groups in Asia-Pacific, 2010-2015

Muslims	2.6
Hindus	2.4
Christians	2.3
Buddhists	1.6
Unaffiliated	1.6
Other Religions	1.6
<b>Region</b>	<b>2.1</b>

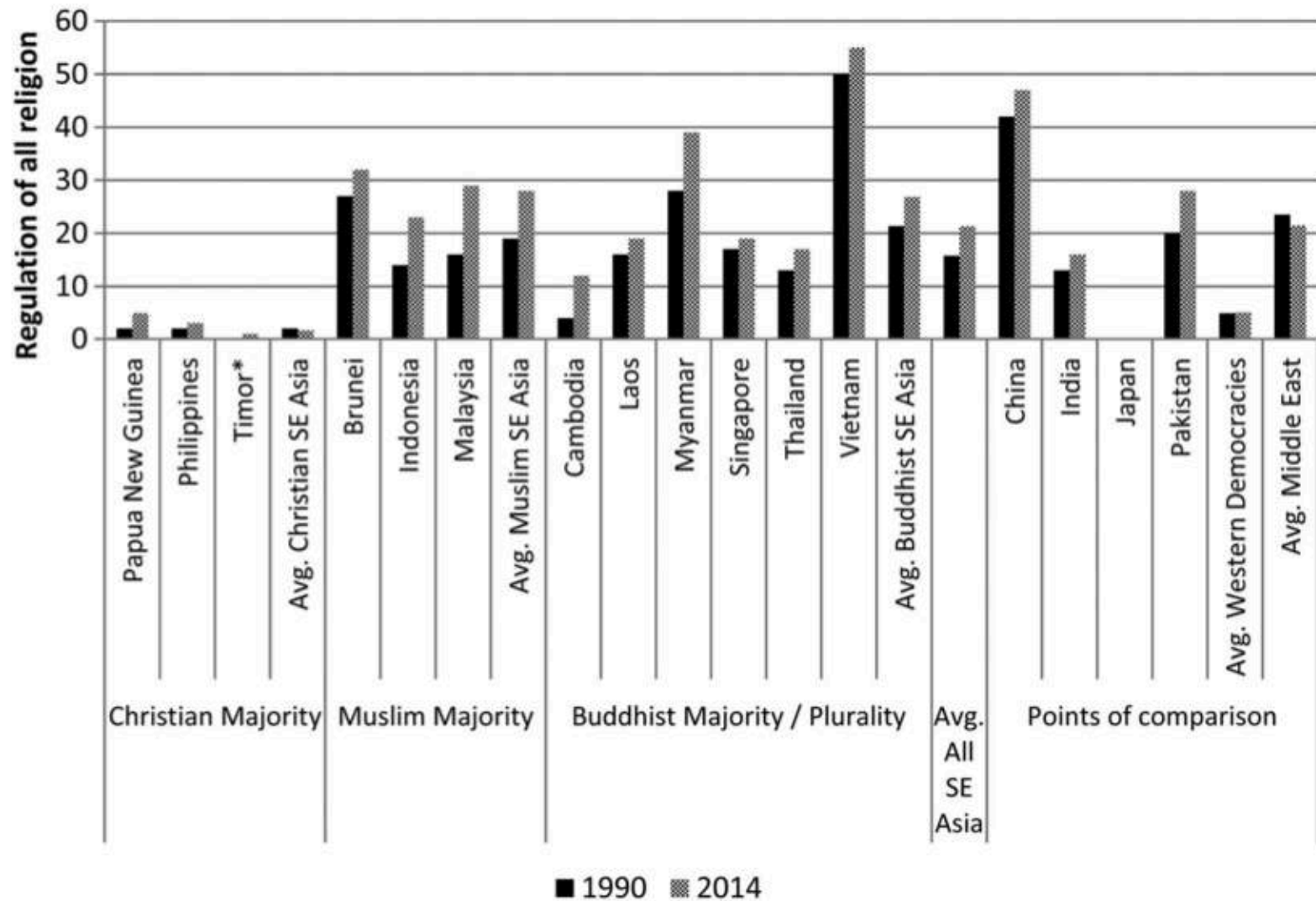
Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050. Only groups for which there are sufficient data are shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---



**Figure 1.** Religious discrimination. \*Timor's scores are for 2002 (Timor's year of independence) and 2014.



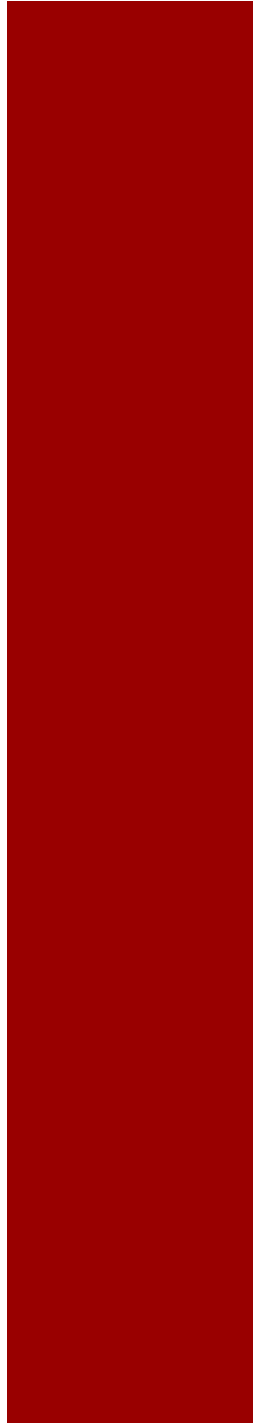
**Figure 2.** Religious regulation. \*Timor's scores are for 2002 (Timor's year of independence) and 2014.

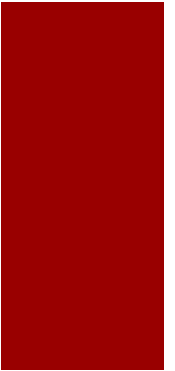
# A Highly Diverse Southeast Asia

- Among the most free and most unfree states in the world
- Christian-majority states similar to West
- Muslim-majority states akin to Saudi Arabia and Iran
- Buddhist majority: Cambodia vs Myanmar, Vietnam

# Democratic Consolidation?

SOUTHEAST ASIA IN FOCUS





## ***Freedom in the World Methodology***

*Freedom in the World 2017* evaluates the state of freedom in 195 countries and 14 territories during calendar year 2016. Each country and territory is assigned between 0 and 4 points on a series of 25 indicators, for an aggregate score of up to 100. These scores are used to determine two numerical ratings, for political rights and civil liberties, with a rating of 1 representing the most free conditions and 7 the least free. A country or territory's political rights and civil liberties ratings then determine whether it has an overall status of Free, Partly Free, or Not Free.

The methodology, which is derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is applied to all countries and territories, irrespective of geographic location, ethnic or religious composition, or level of economic development.

*Freedom in the World* assesses the real-world rights and freedoms enjoyed by individuals, rather than governments or government performance per se. Political rights and civil liberties can be affected by both state and nonstate actors, including insurgents and other armed groups.

For complete information on the methodology, visit <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world-2017/methodology>.



### FREEDOM IN THE BALANCE

After years of major gains, the share of Free countries has declined over the past decade, while the share of Not Free countries has risen.

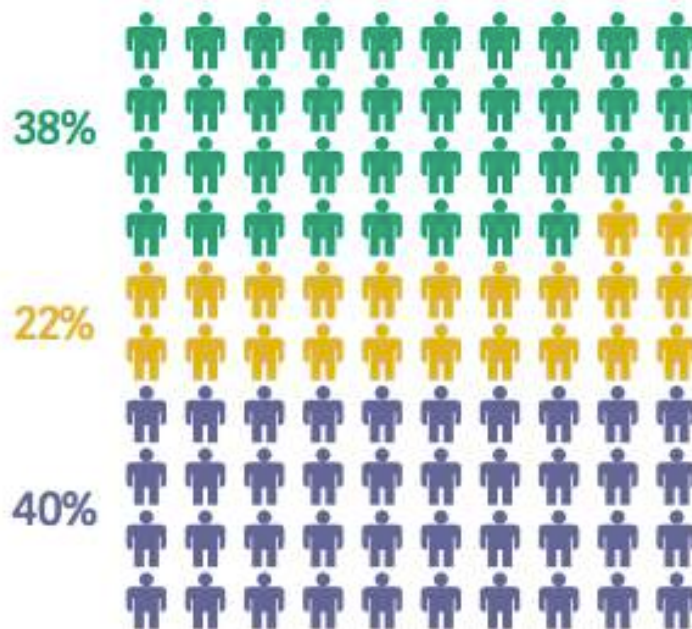




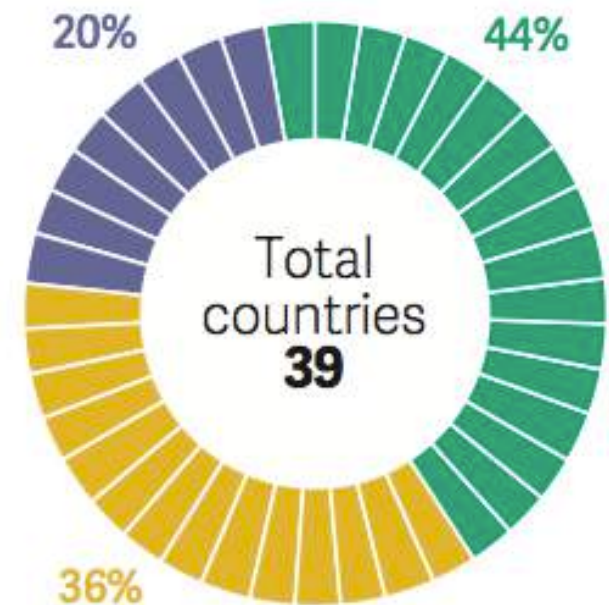
**Asia-Pacific** has the most diverse mix of Free, Partly Free, and Not Free countries in the world.

#### ASIA-PACIFIC: STATUS BY POPULATION

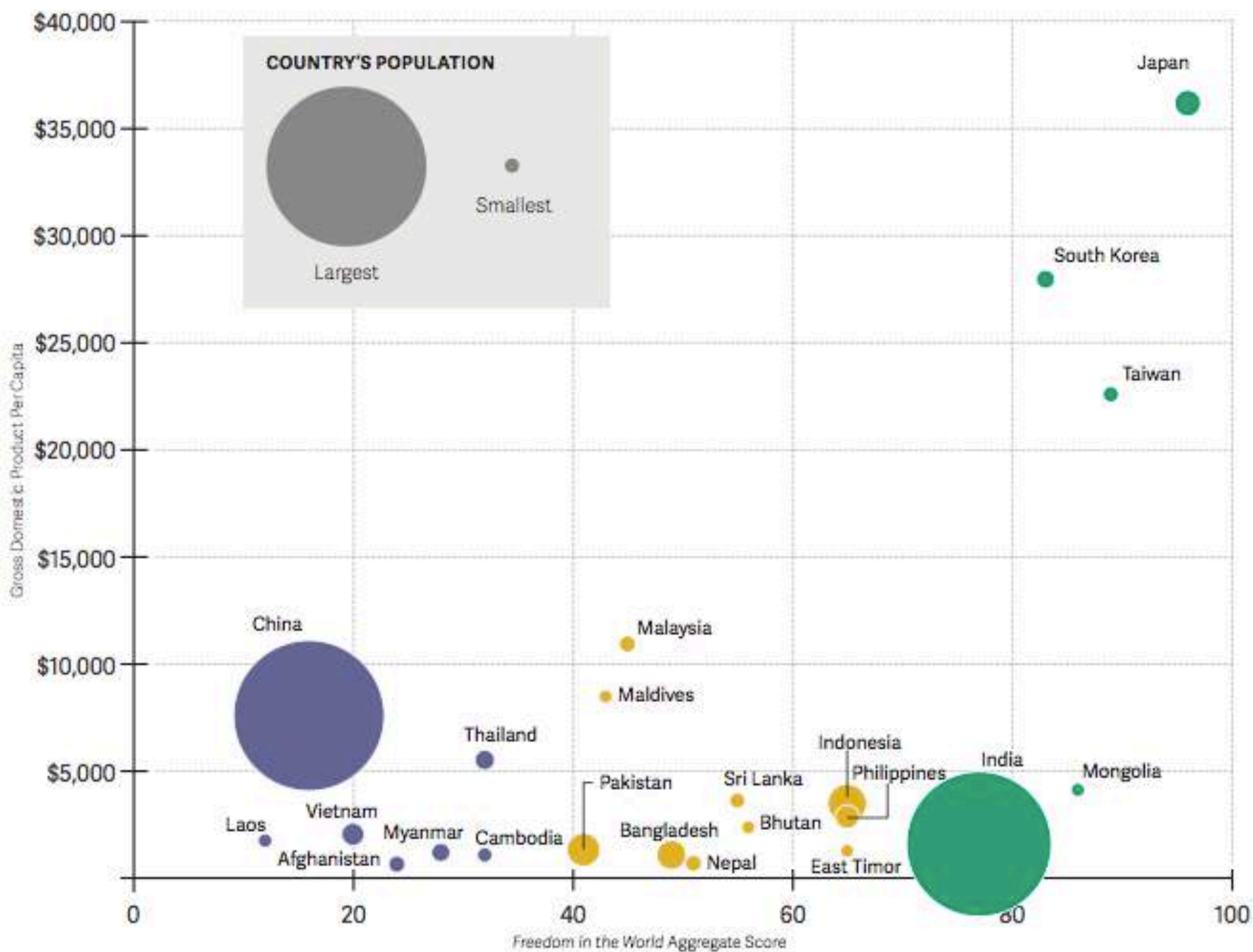
Total population  
**4.06 billion**



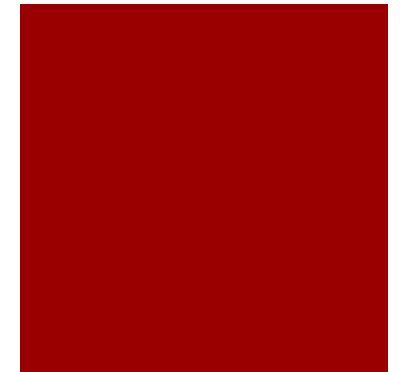
#### ASIA-PACIFIC: STATUS BY COUNTRY



## FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY IN ASIA

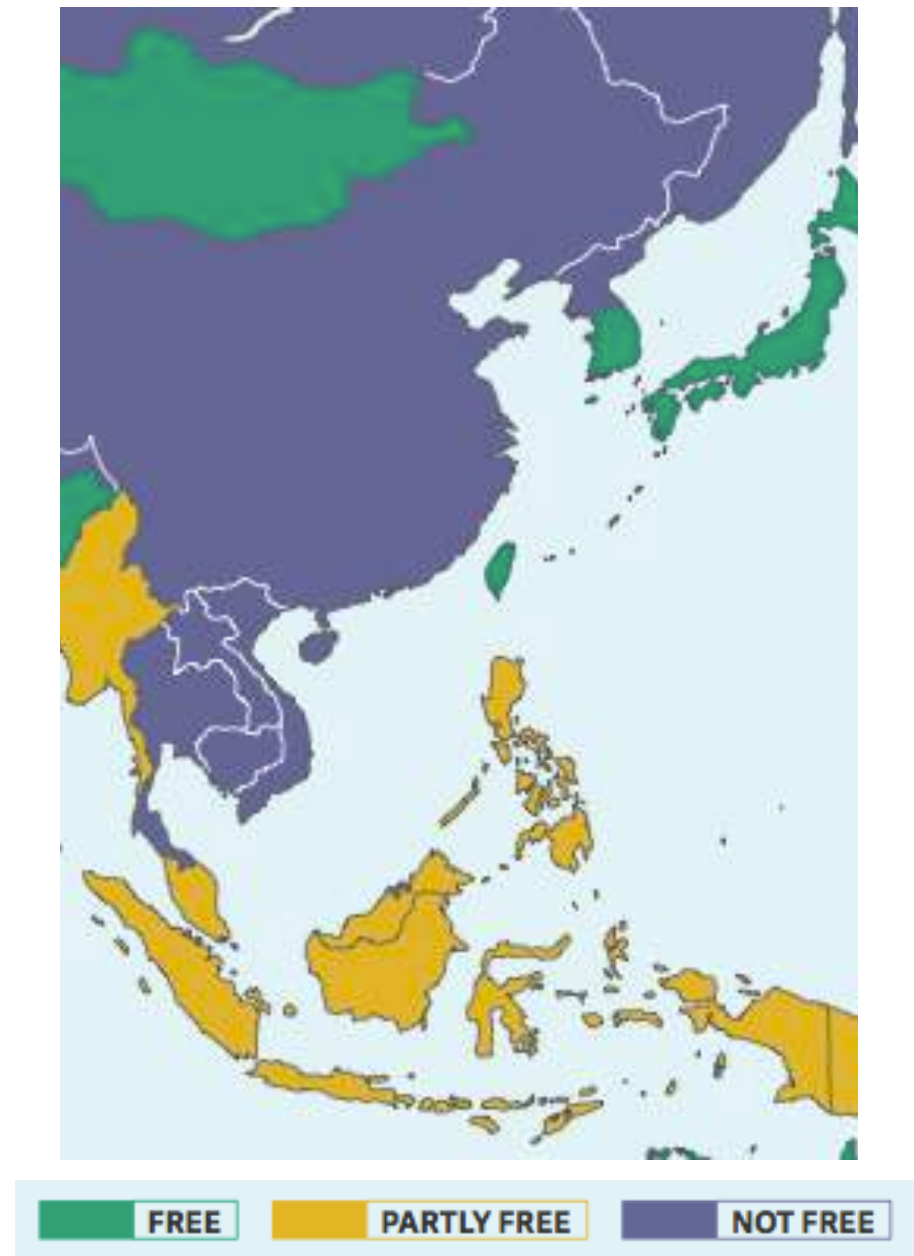


# Freedom House Rating

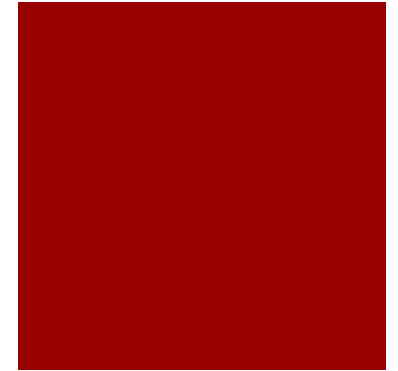


	1997	1998	2001	2005	2006	2010	2016	2017
Indonesia	NF	PF	PF	F	F	F	PF	PF
Philippines	F	F	F	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF
Malaysia	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF
Singapore	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF
Thailand	PF	F	F	PF	NF	PF	NF	NF
Cambodia	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF

Yet people in  
Southeast Asia  
say they live in  
a democracy,  
regardless of  
how Freedom  
House rates  
their countries



# Asia Barometer Survey 2006–2007



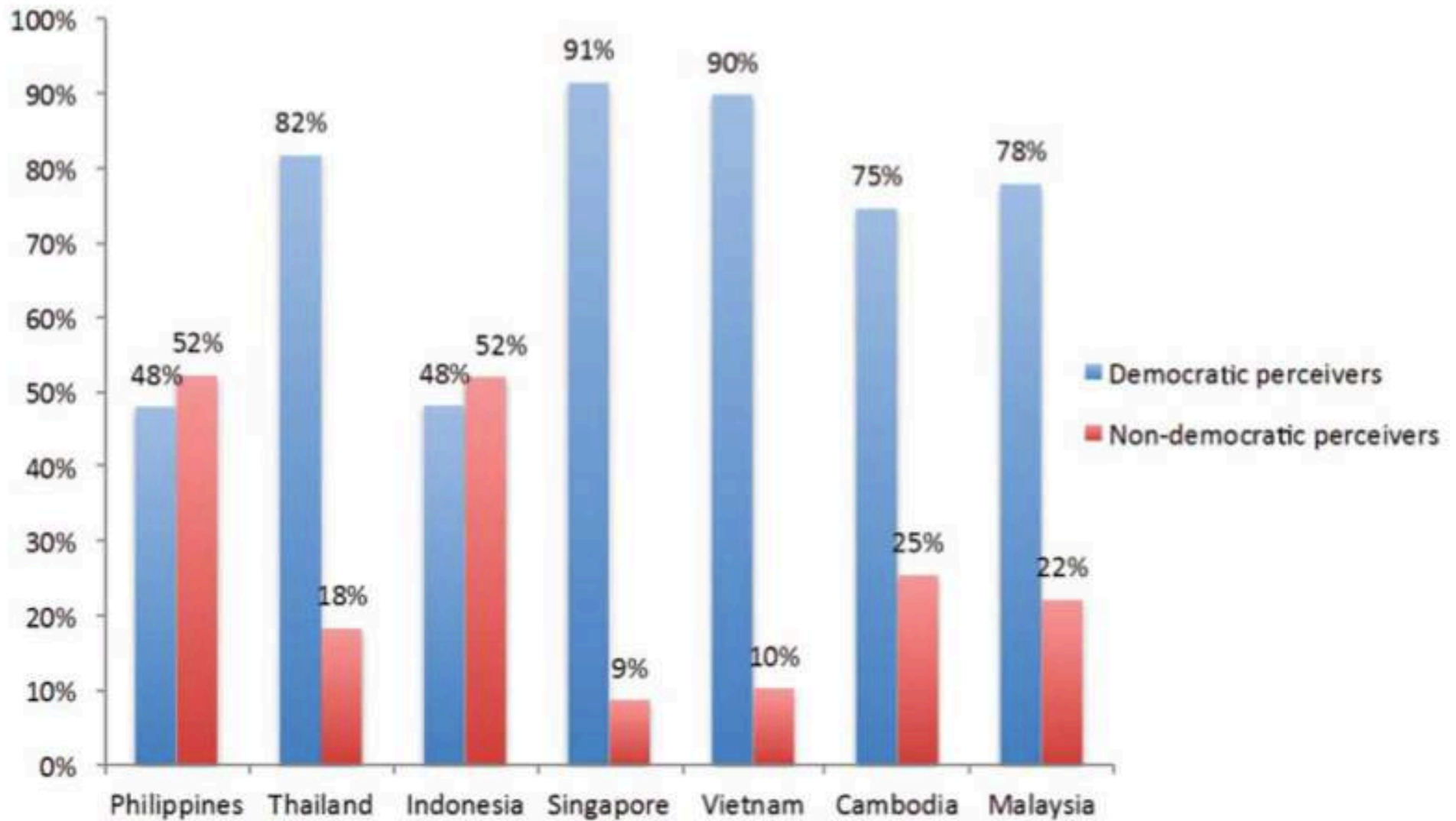
- Large majorities express support for democratic system
- Large majorities also do not reject rule by the military, rule by strong leaders, or rule by experts
- So, what does “democracy” mean to the peoples of Southeast Asia?

**Table 2** Socioeconomic Characteristics of Survey Countries

Country	Population 2005 (million)	HDI 2005 (rank)	GDP PC (PPP US\$)	GDP PC growth rate % 1990–2005	Population below income poverty line 1990–2004
Indonesia	226.1	107	3,843	2.1	27.1
Philippines	84.6	90	5,137	1.6	36.8
Malaysia	25.7	63	10,882	3.3	15.5
Singapore	4.3	25	29,663	3.6	-
Thailand	63.0	78	8,677	2.7	13.6
Cambodia	14.1	131	2,727	5.5	35.0

*Note:* Population below income poverty line figure not available for Singapore.

*Source:* UNDP 2007.



**Figure 1.** Difference between democratic perceivers and non-democratic perceivers, 2005–2007.

*Source:* Asian Barometer Surveys (2005–2008).

**Table 3** Support for Democratic System and Competing Regimes

	Democratic system	Powerful leader	Military government	Rule by experts
Indonesia	90.6 (5)	38.0 (2)	57.7 (1)	70.4 (2)
Philippines	66.6 (6)	51.0 (1)	39.5 (4)	57.8 (6)
Malaysia	94.7 (3)	30.5 (3)	32.0 (5)	69.5 (3)
Singapore	90.9 (4)	20.3 (5)	27.1 (6)	59.2 (5)
Thailand	96.4 (2)	26.2 (4)	53.1 (2)	60.5 (4)
Cambodia	97.5 (1)	12.0 (6)	41.1 (3)	93.0 (1)
<i>SE Asia</i>	89.5	29.7	41.8	68.4

*Notes:* Support for democratic system combines those who answered ‘very good’ or ‘fairly good’. The number in parentheses is the relative ranking of each country for each survey item. The percentages of don’t know and no answer responses are not reported.

*Sources:* ABS 2006 and 2007.

**Table 5** Satisfaction with Civil Liberties

	Freedom of speech	Criticize government	Participate in organizations	Gather and demonstrate	Average
Indonesia	76.3 (3)	53.7 (4)	82.2 (5)	76.2 (2)	72.1 (3)
Philippines	80.6 (2)	70.2 (1)	67.8 (6)	47.7 (T4)	66.6 (4)
Malaysia	62.2 (5)	52.1 (5)	88.4 (2)	52.8 (3)	63.9 (5)
Singapore	56.7 (6)	31.5 (6)	87.9 (3)	47.7 (T4)	56.0 (6)
Thailand	74.0 (4)	64.9 (2)	85.5 (4)	79.8 (1)	76.1 (1)
Cambodia	89.7 (1)	63.5 (3)	94.6 (1)	43.2 (5)	72.8 (2)
<i>SE Asia</i>	<i>73.3</i>	<i>56.0</i>	<i>84.4</i>	<i>57.9</i>	<i>67.9</i>

*Notes:* The percentages represent respondents who answered ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ for each of the specific rights. Average represents the percentage of respondents who expressed satisfaction with each set of civil liberties items. The number in parentheses represents the relative ranking of each country. “T” indicates a tie.

*Sources:* ABS 2006 and 2007.

**Table 6** Accountability and Responsiveness

	Corruption is everywhere	People elected don't care	Government officials pay no attention	People like me have no power	Average
Indonesia	61.8 (4)	58.3 (4)	65.3 (3)	47.0 (6)	58.1 (4)
Philippines	67.4 (3)	63.2 (3)	59.7 (5)	53.9 (5)	61.1 (3)
Malaysia	75.6 (2)	64.5 (2)	73.1 (1)	74.1 (1)	71.8 (1)
Singapore	15.7 (6)	29.5 (6)	40.3 (6)	56.4 (4)	35.5 (6)
Thailand	75.7 (1)	67.3 (1)	69.1 (2)	66.2 (2)	69.6 (2)
Cambodia	60.9 (5)	50.2 (5)	59.8 (4)	56.6 (3)	56.9 (5)
<i>SE Asia</i>	59.5	55.5	61.2	59.0	58.8

*Notes:* The percentages indicate the respondents who answered 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to each of the statements. The first two questions tap the notion of accountability, whereas the latter two tap responsiveness. Average is the combined score for all four questions. The number in parentheses represents the relative ranking of each country.

*Sources:* ABS 2006 and 2007.

**Table 2.** Attitudes towards economic development and democracy, 2005–2007

	Economy is more important	Democracy is more important	Both equally important	Total (%)	Total (n)
The Philippines	72.5	21.2	6.3	100	1080
Thailand	46.7	22.8	30.5	100	1391
Indonesia	78.9	10.2	10.9	100	154
Singapore	67.8	11.7	20.5	100	963
Vietnam	54.4	23.2	22.3	100	1119
Cambodia	58.8	26.9	14.3	100	941
Malaysia	62.2	25.0	12.8	100	1167

The question was, “If you had to choose between democracy and economic development, which would you choose?”.

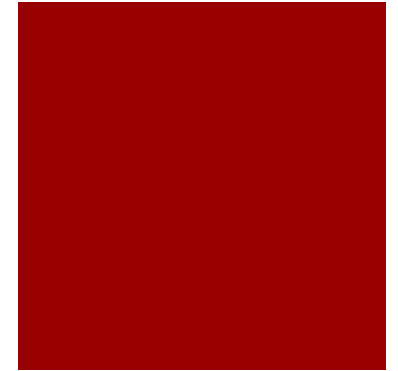
*Source:* Asian Barometer Surveys (2005–2008).

# Instrumental View of Democracy



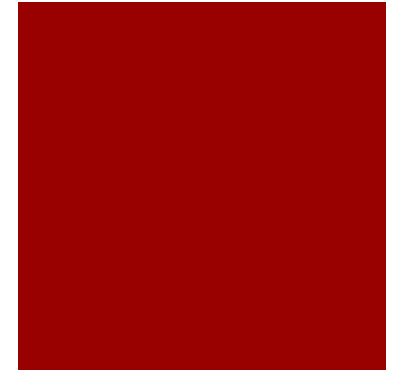
- Economic performance rated more highly than the abstract concept of democracy

# Democratic Legitimacy



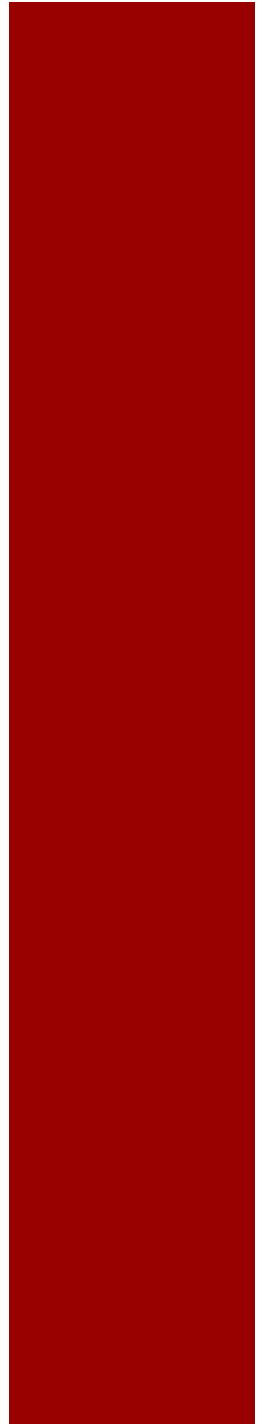
- Depends on whether effective governance delivers stability and decent living standards
- Democracy understood in terms of governance outputs, such as freedom from fear and freedom from want—the capacity to be free and lead a dignified life

# Democratic Consolidation



- Requires more people to embrace democracy as “the only game in town”

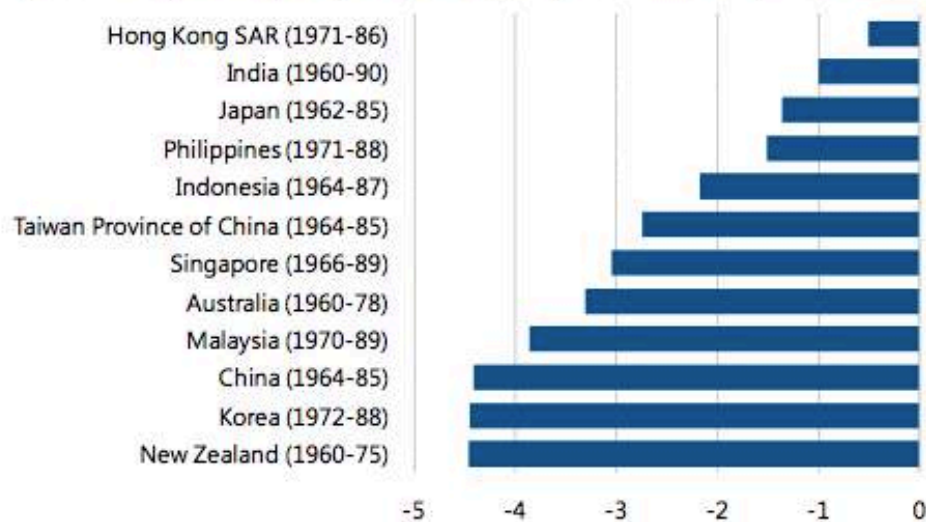
# Coping with Modernity



# Income Inequality

**Figure 1: Selected Asia: Income Inequality, Pre-1990**

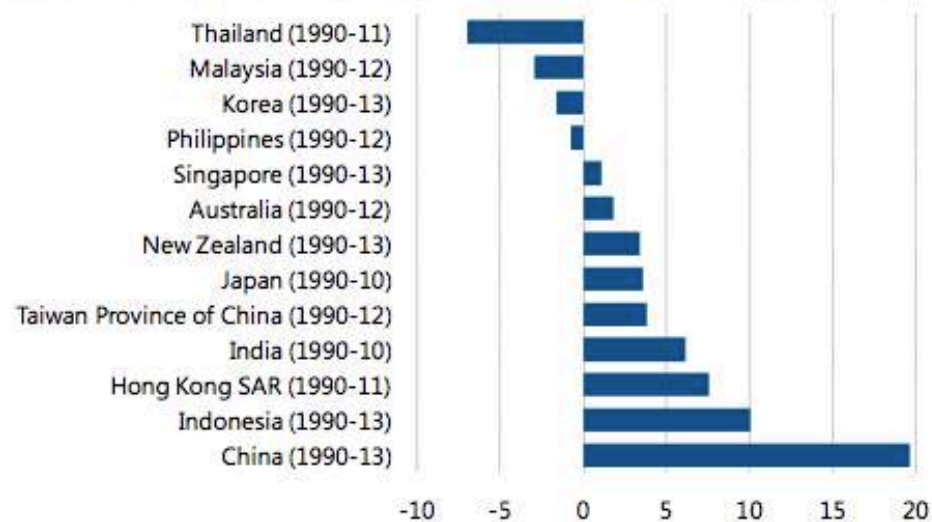
(Net Gini Index; in Gini points; change during the period indicated in parentheses)



Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; and IMF staff calculations.

**Figure 2: Selected Asia: Income Inequality, 1990-Latest**

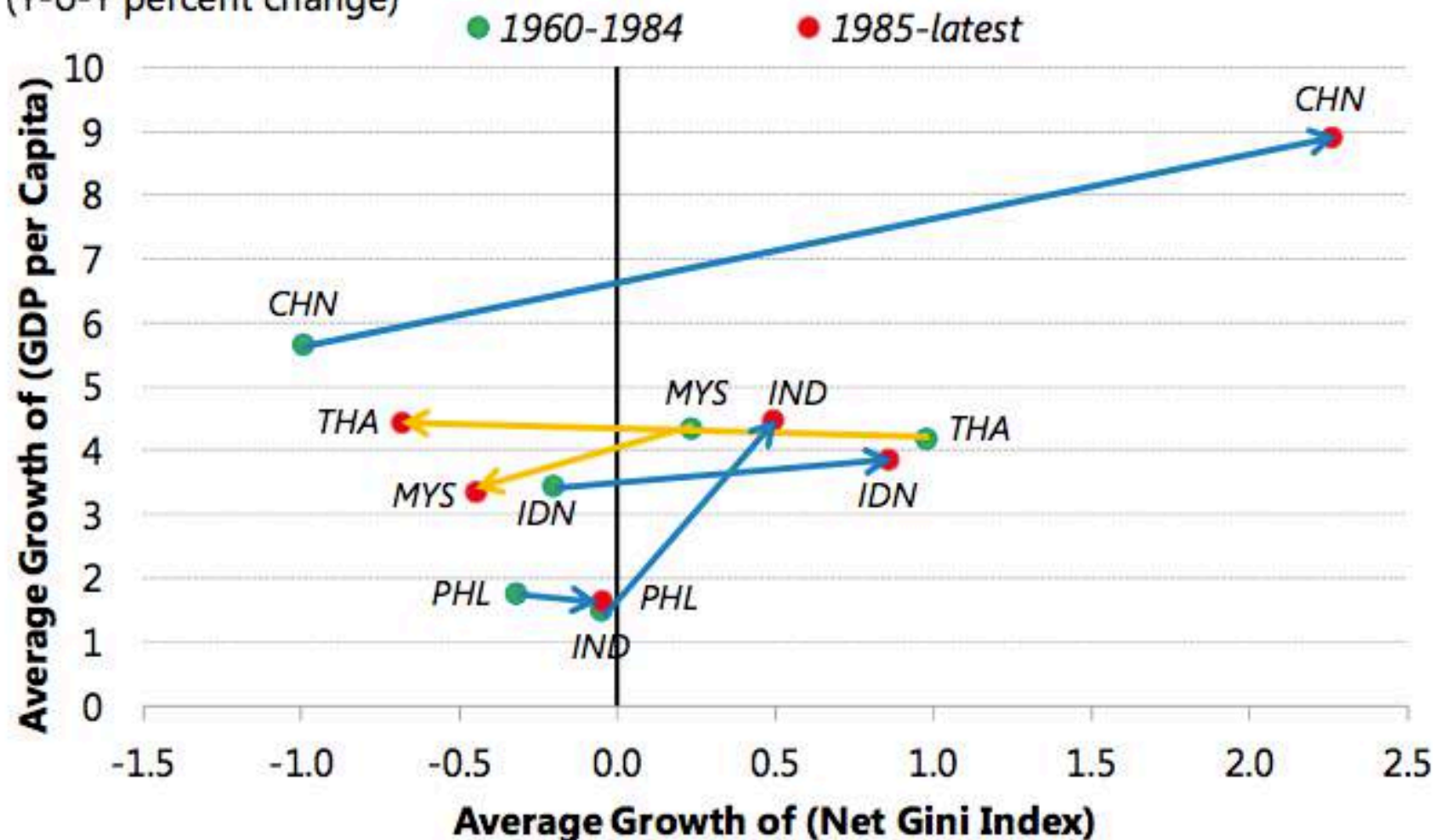
(Net Gini Index; in Gini points; change during the period indicated in parentheses)



Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; and IMF staff calculations.

## Figure 7: Selected Asia: GDP per Capita and Net Gini Index

(Y-o-Y percent change)

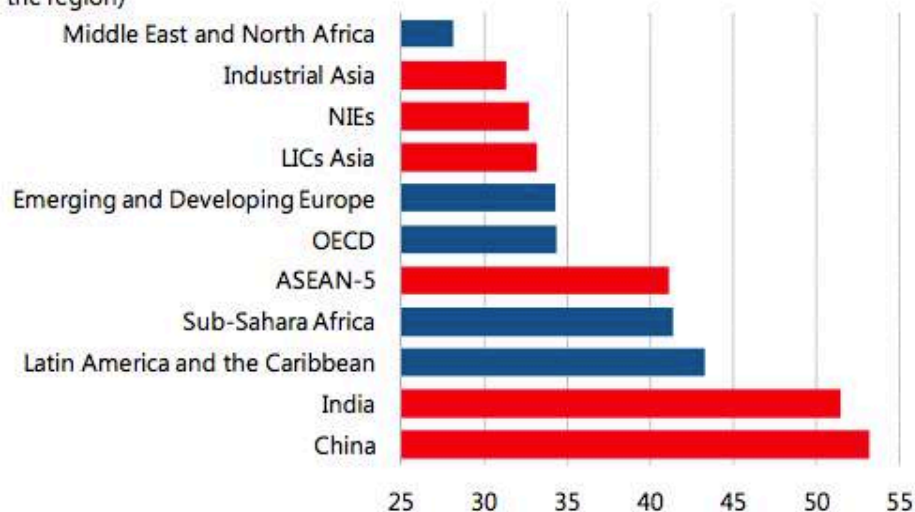


Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; IMF WEO database; and IMF staff calculations.

# Income Inequality

**Figure 5: Regional Comparison: Income Inequality**

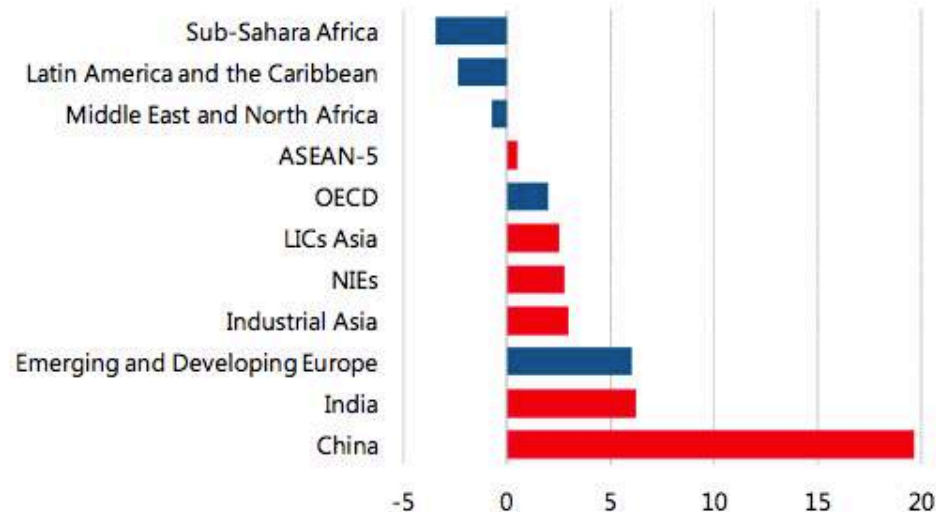
(Net Gini Index; in Gini points; year of 2013; population-weighted average across the region)



Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; IMF, WEO database; and IMF staff calculations.

**Figure 6: Regional Comparison: Income Inequality**

(Net Gini Index; in Gini points; change since 1990; average across the region)

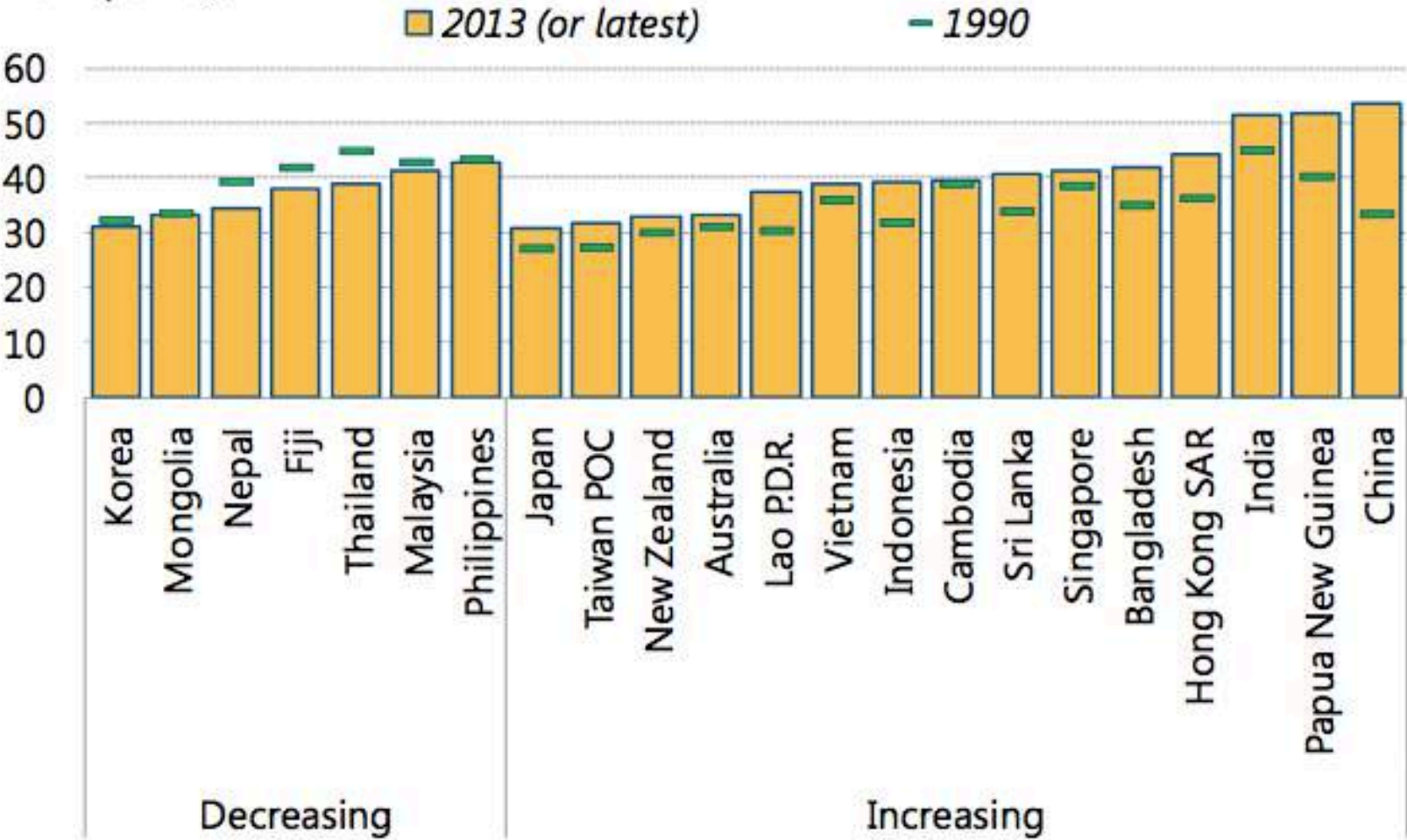


Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; IMF, WEO database; and IMF staff calculations.



**Figure 8: Selected Asia: Net Gini Index**

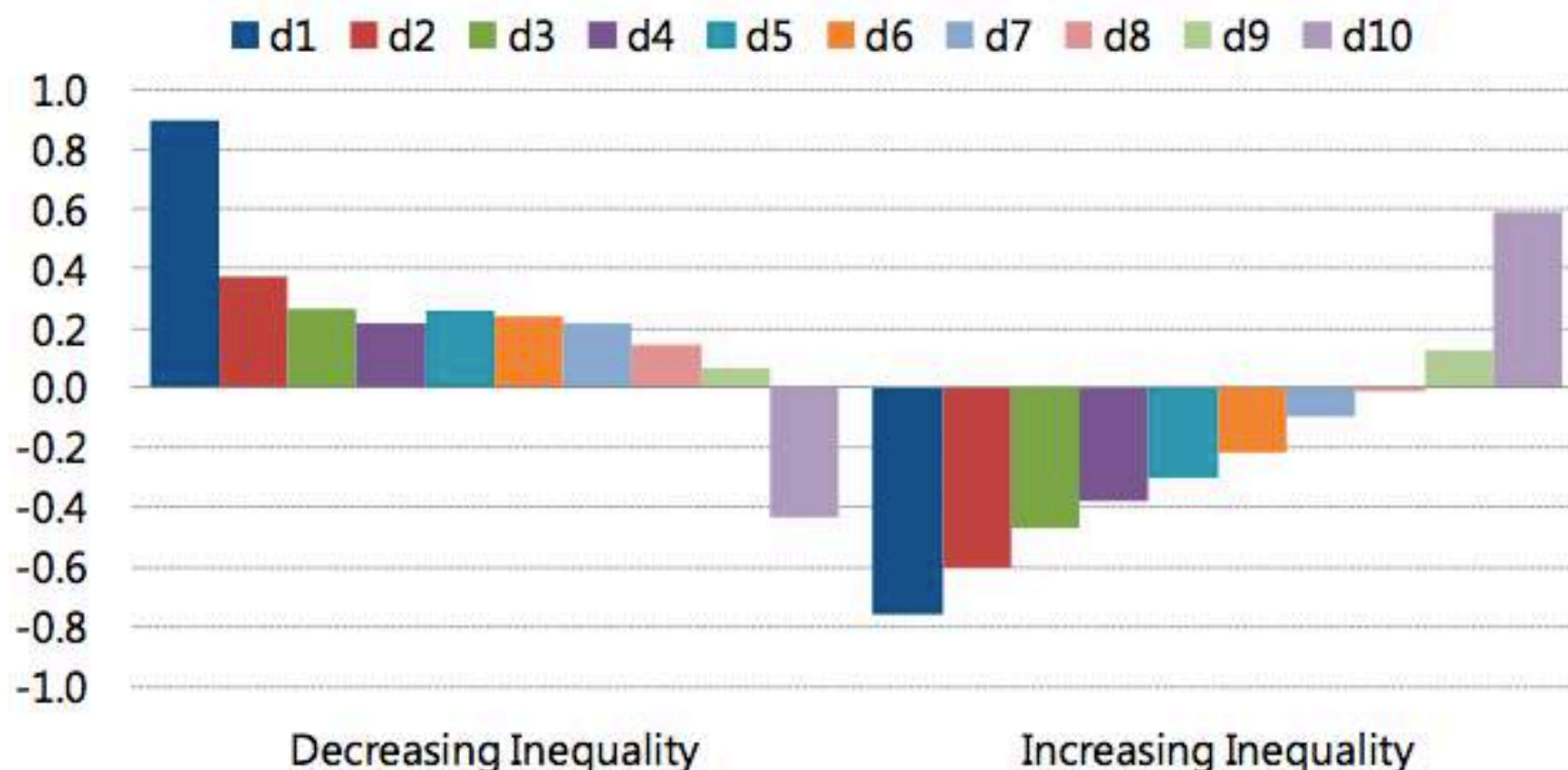
(In Gini points)



Sources: SWIID Version 5.0; and IMF staff calculations.

**Figure 11: Selected Asia: Growth of Income Share by Decile**

(Y-o-y percent change; change during 1990-2010)



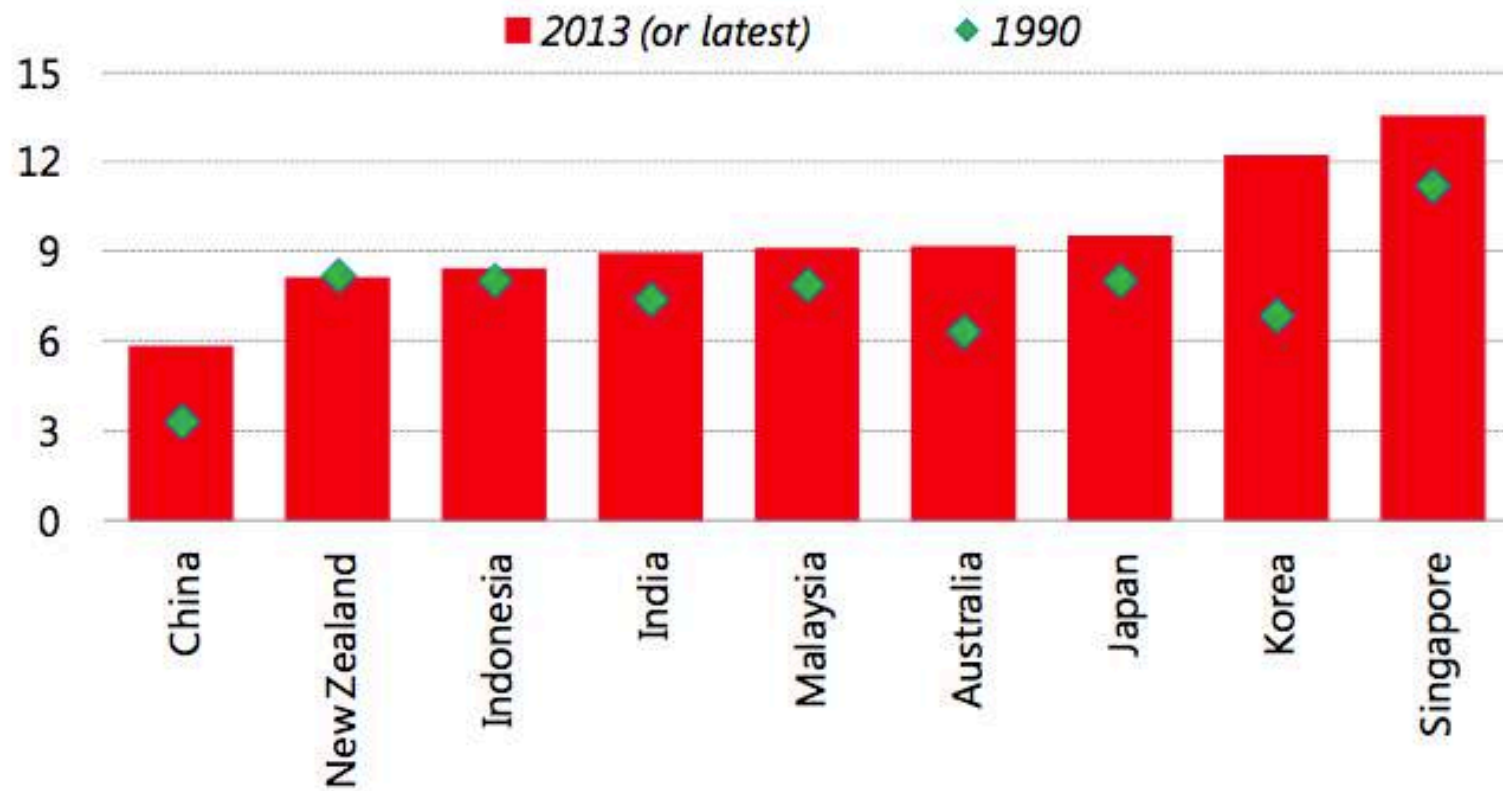
Sources: World Bank, PovcalNet database; WIID3.0A; and IMF staff calculations.

Note: Decreasing group includes Fiji, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand; Increasing group includes Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R., New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.



**Figure 13: Selected Asia: Top 1 Income Share**

(In percent)

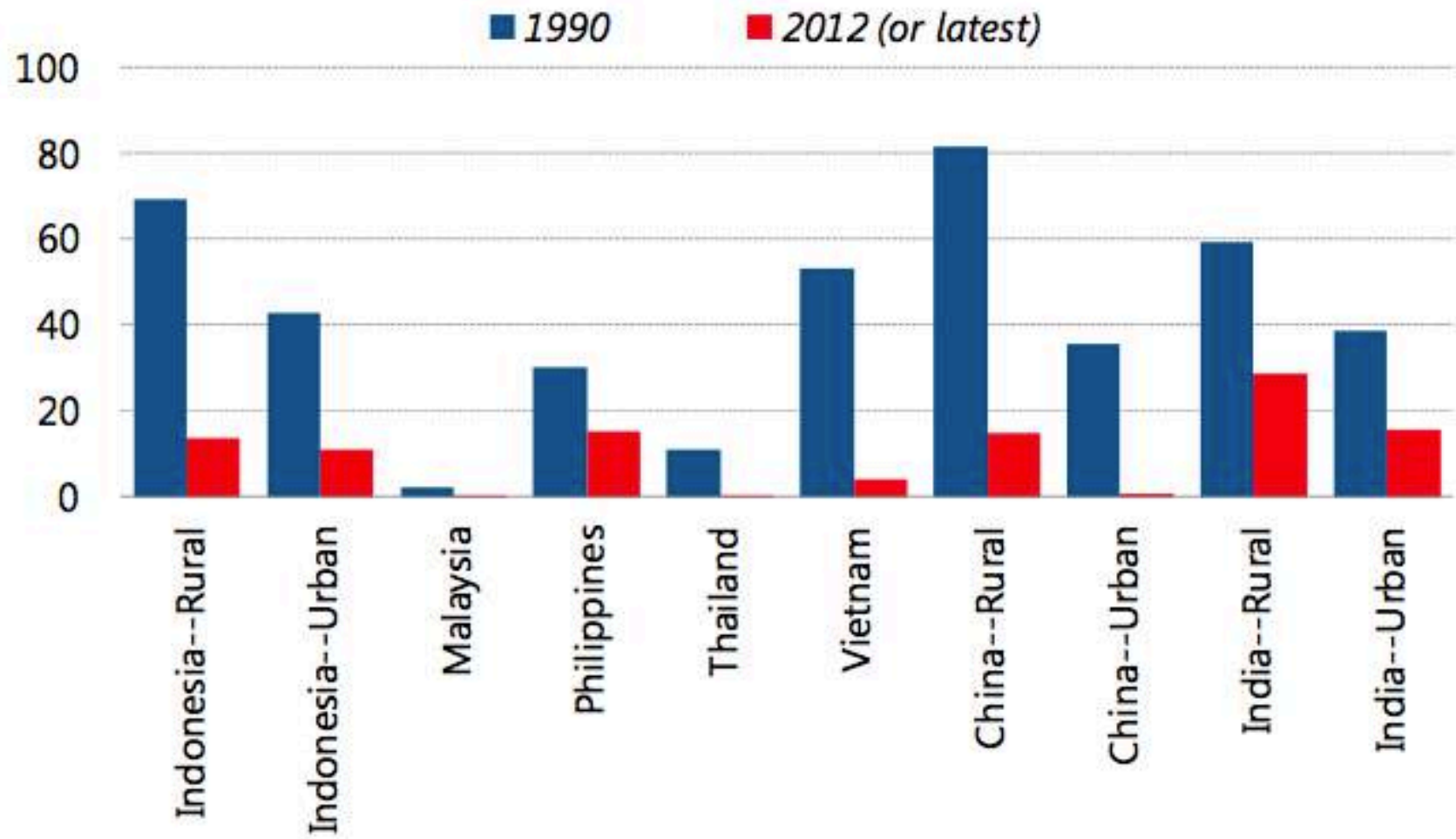


Sources: World Wealth and Income Database (WID); and IMF staff calculations.



## Figure 15: Poverty in Asia

(\$2 a day in 2011 PPP; in percent of total population)

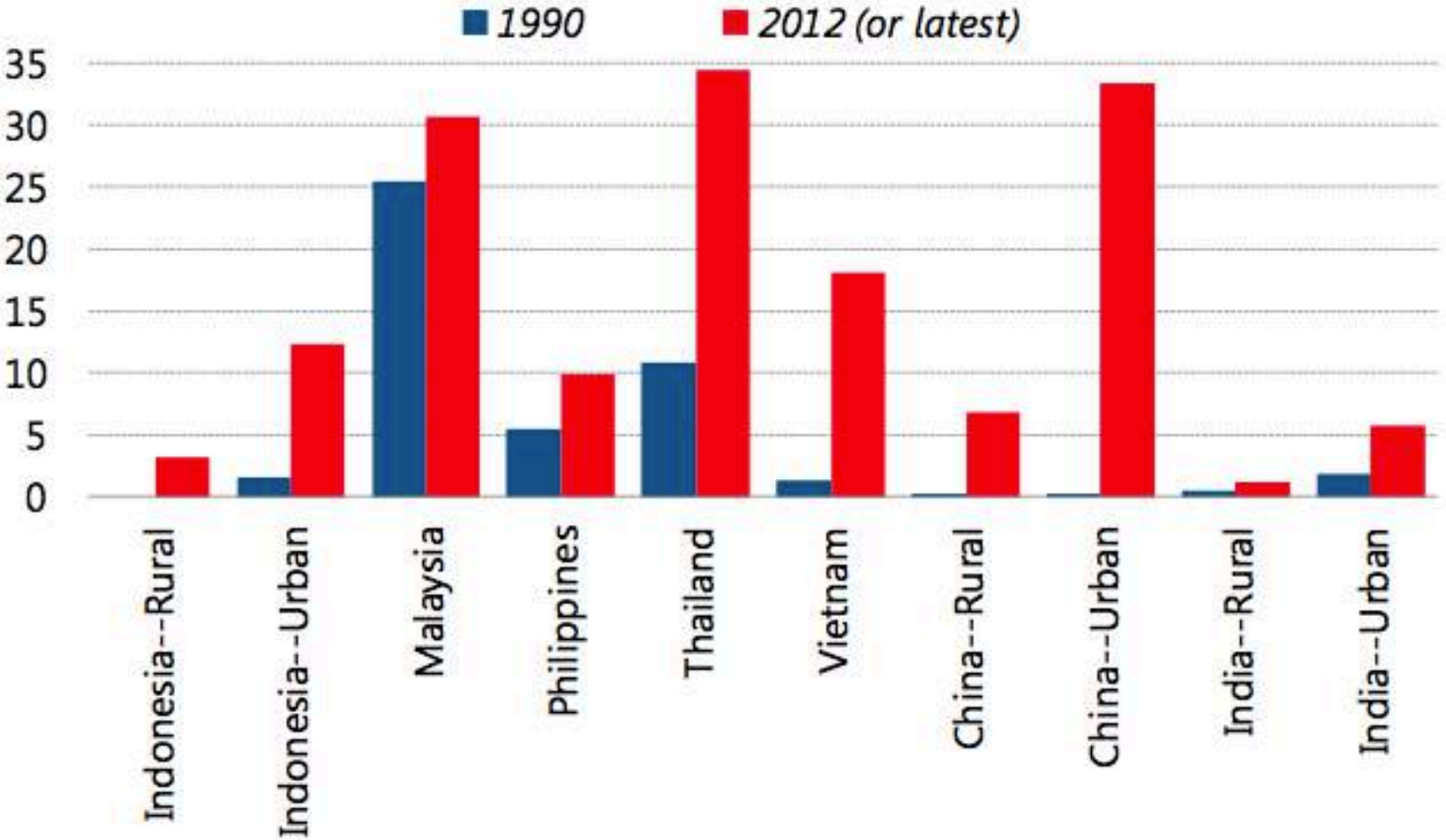


Source: World Bank, PovcalNet database.



# Figure 17: Middle Class in Asia

(\$10-\$20 a day in 2011 PPP; in percent of total population)



Source: World Bank, PovcalNet database.

# Drivers of Inequality



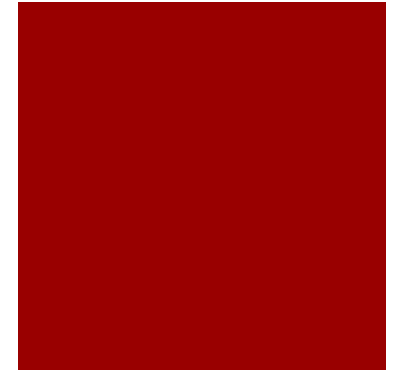
## **Lower Income Inequality**

- Human capital
- Trade openness
- Government social spending
- Progressive taxation
- Democratic accountability
- Higher employment in industry

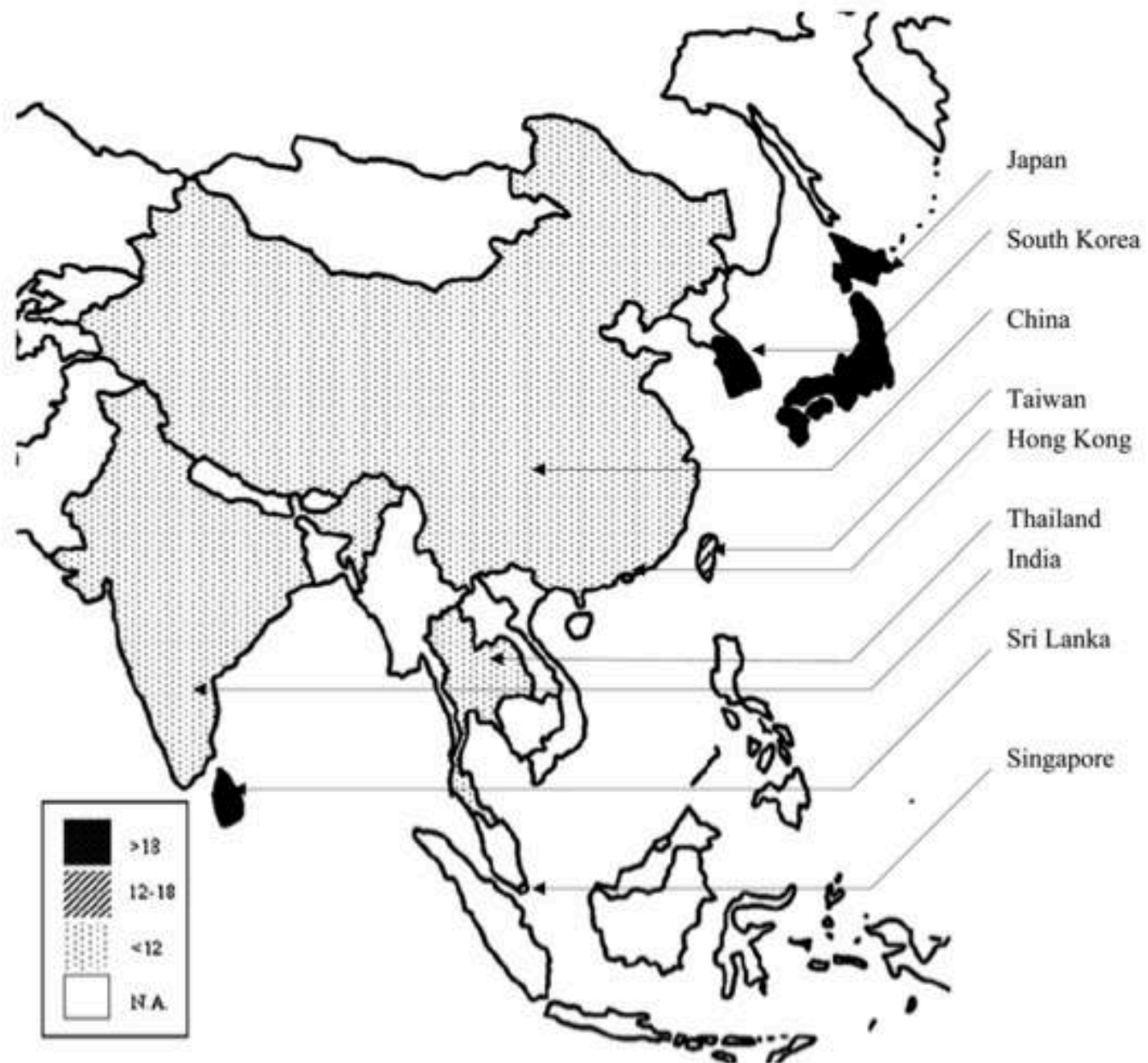
## **Higher Income Inequality**

- Financial openness
- Financial sector deepening
- Inflation
- Technology
- Higher employment in services

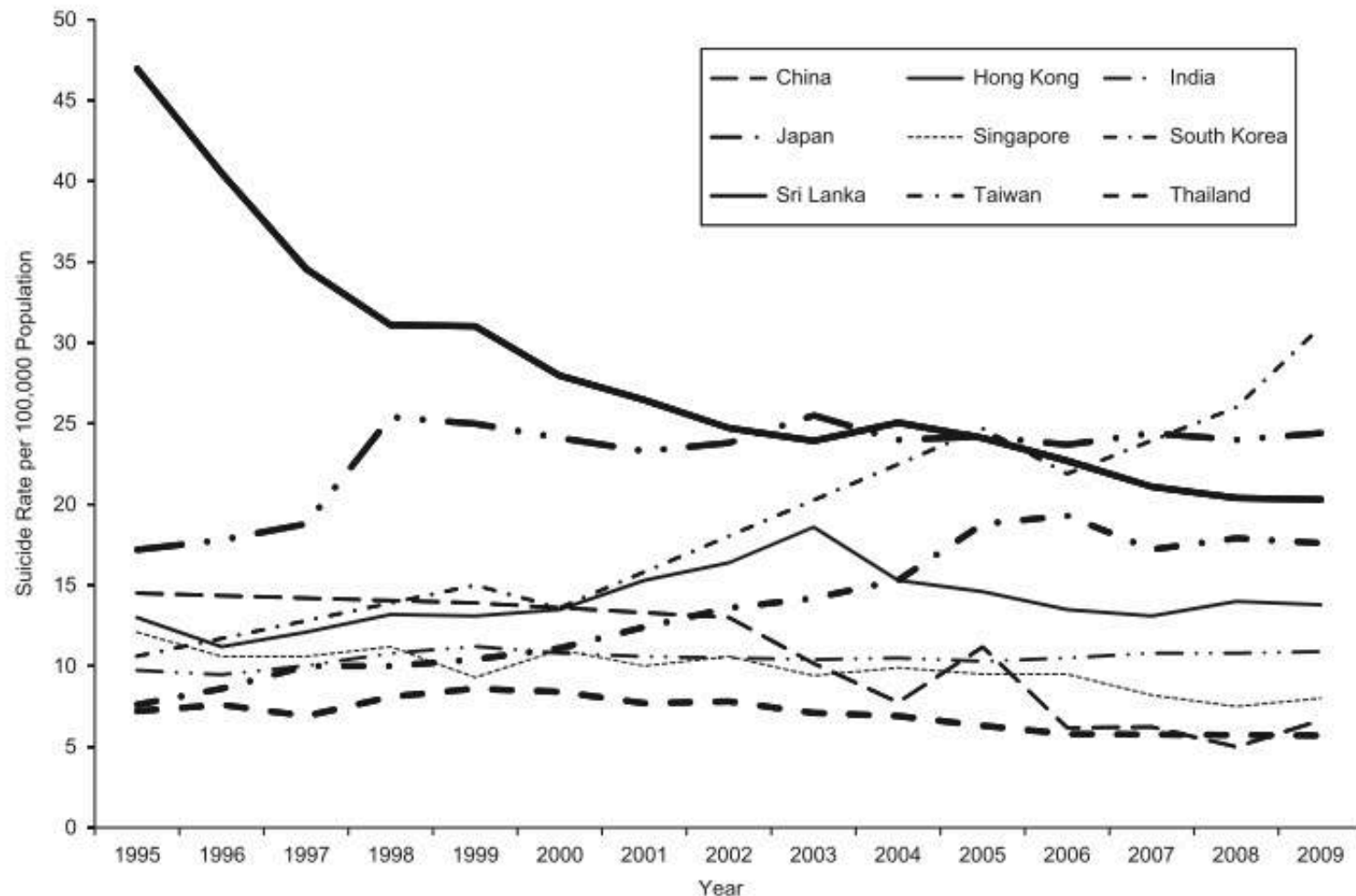
# Suicide: Overview



- About 1 m per year, 60% in Asia
- $\approx 19.3$  per 100,000, 30% higher than global rate of 16.0 per 100,000
- Receives minimal attention in Asia; data availability and data quality problems
- Expected to worsen in next two decades given rapid transitions

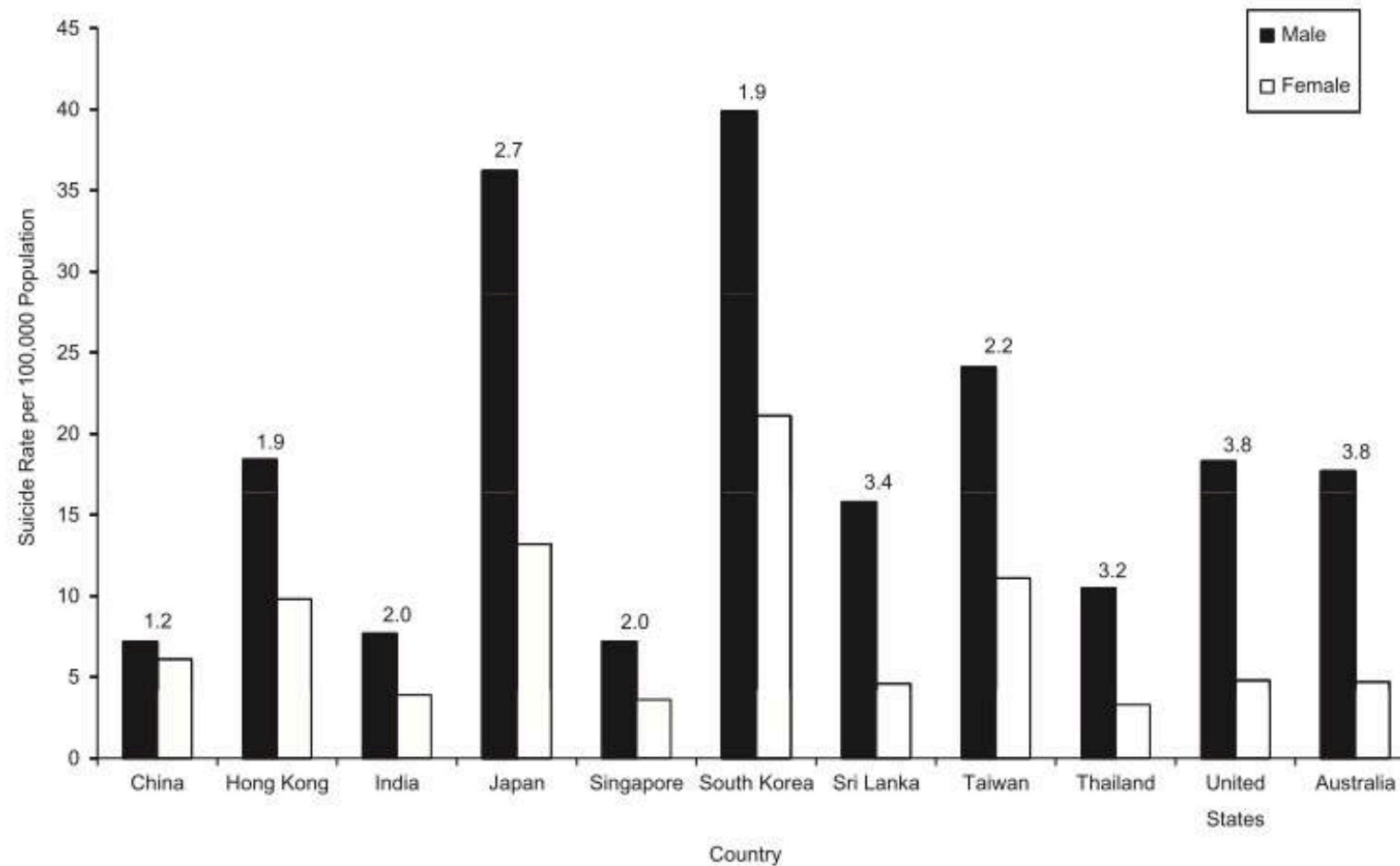


**Figure 1.** Suicide rates (per 100,000) in the 9 selected countries/regions of Asia, 2009. N.A., data not available.



**Figure 2.** Suicide rates (per 100,000) for males and females in 9 selected countries/regions of Asia, 1995–2009.

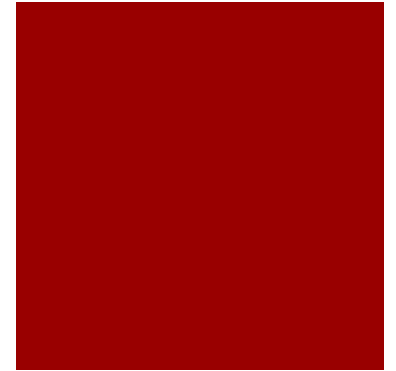
Declining in China, Sri Lanka, Singapore  
 High and rising in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan  
 No change in Thailand and India  
 Rose, then leveled off in Hong Kong



**Figure 3.** Gender-specific suicide rates and male-to-female suicide gender ratio in 9 selected Asian countries and 2 comparative Western countries (Australia and the United States), 2009.

Gender gap in Asia narrower than in the West  
 Increasing M-to-F suicide ratio in Taiwan, HK, Singapore

# Trends

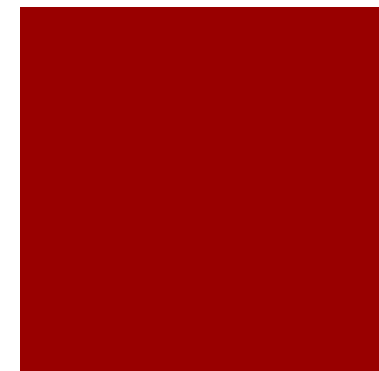


- High rates among elderly
- Japan: Asian financial crisis: rate for middle-aged men (50–59) surpassed rate for older men ( $\geq 65$ )
- Thailand: highest rates found among young men (25–34)
- Higher rural rates in India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, China

# Risk factors

- Reports of depression and psychiatric disorders lower than in the West
- Acute life stresses (e.g., job loss, gambling) are precipitants of suicide among men
- Financial problems: greater impact in Asia than in the West
- China: young rural women had highest rate of pesticide ingestion, lowest rate of mental illness, and highest rate of acute events
- India: 98.7% of women suicide due to dowry disputes





Many Fall through the Cracks

