We are very grateful to Peking University and its Hong Kong Polytechnic University-Peking University Social Work Research Centre, for hosting us so cordially and providing excellent conference facilities and support.
SUMMER 2011

PRODUCTIVE AGING CONFERENCE REPORT

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BACKGROUND

In the decades ahead, China, like other countries, will have a very large older population, with many older adults relatively healthy and interested in being actively engaged. Productive Aging refers to involvement in society through employment, volunteering, caregiving, education and skill building, or other pathways. Contributions of older adults will be necessary for social and economic development of families, communities, and society. The challenge is how to initiate and build this agenda. In August 2011, researchers, practitioners, government officials, and students came together to reflect on the best approaches to the challenges of population aging. The goal was to galvanize work on the productive engagement of older adults as a strategy to strengthen families and communities as well as to promote the health of older adults.

LEADERSHIP AND SPONSORS

Organizers and co-organizers of the conference included the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Peking University China Social Work Research Centre; Renmin University of China, Institute of Gerontology; China Association of Social Work Education; Columbia University, School of Social Work; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Department of Applied Social Sciences; Peking University, Department of Sociology; and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Institute of Active Ageing.

Support was provided by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation; ZeShan Foundation; Taiwan University, Social Policy Research Center; The University of Hong Kong, Department of Social Work and Social Administration;

National University of Singapore, Centre for Social Development Asia; Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan; China Association of Social Workers, Committee of Professional Social Workers; and Washington University in St. Louis, Chancellor’s Office.

THE PROGRAM

The conference took place at Peking University in Beijing, China, from August 9-11, 2011. Lectures and panel discussions on Productive Aging comprised the majority of the conference. Concurrent paper sessions held on the afternoon of August 10 addressed particular productive aging topics in greater detail. The final day of the conference was devoted to assessing the field and planning next steps. The conference program is presented at the end of this document.

The conference focused on older adults as caregivers, volunteers, workers, and life-long learners. Current research and the evidence-base underlying existing programs and policies related to these productive activities were explored. In addition, challenges, opportunities, and knowledge needs in regard to the productive engagement of older adults were identified. The approach of the conference was cross-cultural, recognizing that population aging is a major concern across the globe and that we have a lot to learn from each other. Scholars discussed the cultural context for the meaning of productive aging and the various forms productive aging might take in different countries. They shared programs and policies that promote productive engagement in later life.

Outcomes of this conference will include advancement of an applied research agenda, development of knowledge and skills among participants, and partnerships to advance research, programs, and policies.
AUDIENCE AND MATERIALS

Over 240 researchers, practitioners, government officials, and students from mainland China, Hong Kong, the United States, Singapore, and Korea joined the meeting. Participants also came from the China National Committee on Aging, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Asia Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council, China Social Assistance Foundation, and the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. Participants were very engaged and expressed interest in ongoing partnerships and meetings.

Presentations were simultaneously translated into Chinese and English. PowerPoint presentations and pictures from the meeting are posted on the web site.


Response has been very positive, from both presenters and the audience. Of the 114 conference participants who completed a brief survey, 100% rated conference presentations as “good” or “very good” and said that they were “likely” or “very likely” to use some of the ideas from the conference in their work. In addition, 95% said that they would be interested or very interested in attending a similar conference in the future.

NEXT STEPS

At the conference, interest was expressed in staying in contact for future collaboration. There was discussion of a meeting on productive engagement at the 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics that will be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2013.

Conference papers will be revised and edited over the next several months, and then published in both Chinese and English. The current plan is to pursue publication in English in a special issue of *Ageing International*, and in Chinese in a book published by Peking University Press.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

Welcome and Acknowledgments

Speakers: WANG Sibin, Professor, Peking University; Angie YUEN, Vice President, Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Michael SHERRADEN, Professor, Director of Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis; CHEN Chuan-shu, President of China National Committee on Ageing; Executive Deputy Director, Office of China National Committee on Ageing Administrator from Peking University

Opening Remarks, Background, and Purpose of Conference

Moderator: WANG Sibin, Professor, Peking University

09:30-09:40 Background of productive aging work in US/abroad, Nancy MORROW-HOWELL, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

09:40-09:50 Review of the conference in Jinan and introduction of keynote speaker, GAO Jianguo, Professor, Shandong University

09:50-10:20 Keynote Address I: 12th Five-Year and Population Aging in China, CHEN Chuan-shu, President of China National Committee on Ageing; Executive Deputy Director, Office of China National Committee on Ageing

10:20-10:30 Introductory comments on Productive Aging in the China context and introduction of keynote speaker, Ada MUI, Professor, Columbia University

10:30-11:00 Keynote Address II: Productive Aging in China: Development of Concepts and Policy Practice, DU Peng, Professor, Director of Institute of Gerontology, Renmin University of China

11:00-11:30 Discussants: WU Cang-ping, Professor, Renmin University of China; PENG Xizhe, Professor, Dean of School of Social Development & Public Policy, Fudan University; YUAN Xin, Professor, Nankai University

11:30-12:00 Q&A

12:00-13:45 Lunch at Shaoyuan Restaurant

Panel: Evidence-based Practices and Policies in China and Abroad: Working, Volunteering, and Education

Moderator: JIANG Xiangqun, Professor, Renmin University of China

14:00-14:15 Moving forward with health promotion and active ageing in Asia and the Pacific, Alfred CHAN, Professor, Lingnan University

14:15-14:30 Revitalizing roles of senior citizens: Successful stories of Project History Alive, YANG Peishan, Associate Professor, Taiwan University

14:30-14:45 Changing trend in the desire and behaviors of social participation among older adults in Beijing, CHEN Gong, Professor, Peking University
14:45-15:00 Seeking a Japanese model for senior volunteerism, CHEN Li-Mei, Associate Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University

15:00-15:30 Discussants: CHEN Yi, Vice President, Beijing Working Committee on Aging; CHEN Zhijun, Vice Director, Shandong Provincial Committee on Aging; GUI Shi-xun, Professor, East China Normal University

15:30-16:00 Q&A

16:00-17:00 Networking over tea and snacks

17:00 Conference concludes for the day

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Panel: Evidence-based Practices and Policies in China and Abroad: Caregiving and Grandparenting

Moderator: Teresa TSEIN, Co-Director, Institute of Active Aging, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

09:00-09:15 Caregiving and grandparenting: An evidence-based study on the elder population in rural Shandong, WANG Guang-zhou, Professor, China Academy of Social Sciences

09:15-09:30 Using an aging services agency/university partnership to study informal caregiver respite programs, Victoria RIZZO, Assistant Professor, Columbia University

09:30-09:45 Supporting grandparents as family caregivers, Denise BURNETTE, Professor, Columbia University

09:45-10:15 Q&A

Panel: National Models of Productive Aging

Program Moderator: GAO Jianguo, Professor, Shandong University

10:15-10:35 Research on the behaviors of older volunteers: Experience from Shanghai, XUE Feng, Director, Shanghai Research Center on Aging

10:35-10:55 OASIS: A community-based model of productive aging, Marcia KERZ, President, The OASIS Institute

10:55-11:15 Women’s Initiative for Ageing Successfully (WINGS): A new Asian model to help women age well, Kanwaljit SOIN, President, WINGS

11:15-12:00 Q&A

12:00-13:45 Lunch

Panel: Research Directions: Developing the Knowledge Base for Productive Aging Programs and Policies

Moderator: Alfred CHAN, Professor, Lingnan University

14:00-14:15 Developing an older adult volunteer program in a New York Chinese community: An evidence-based approach, Ada MUI, Professor, Columbia University

14:15-14:30 Advancing research/evaluation of productive aging program: Building the evidence base, Terry LUM, Associate Professor, Director of Sau Po Centre on Ageing, Hong Kong University

Sam TIN of the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, which provided funding for the conference, poses with Ada MUI and Nancy MORROW-HOWELL.
14:30-14:45 Productive engagement among older adult population in China, ZHANG Kai-ti, Director, China Research Center on Aging

14:45-15:00 Productive engagement of older adults: Elements of a cross-cultural research agenda, Nancy MORROW-HOWELL, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

15:00-15:20 Discussants: LU Jie-hua, Professor, Peking University; JIANG Xiang-qun, Professor, Renmin University of China

15:20-15:40 Q&A

15:40-16:00 Concurrent Paper Sessions

Session A: Productive Aging in China: City, State, and National Level Data

Moderator: CHEN Gong, Professor, Peking University

16:00-16:15 A study on “productive aging” in older adults with disabilities, CHEN Xu, Renmin University of China

16:15-16:30 Trajectories of productive roles and depression among Chinese rural elders: Analysis of individual growth curves, HSIAO Hsin-Yi, XU Ling, Iris CHI, & Merrill SILVERSTEIN, University of Southern California

16:30-16:45 Active engagement in life, health, and mortality: Evidence from older adults in China, LUO Ye, Clemson University

16:45-17:00 The obstacles of “productive aging” in an aging society and the countermeasures - An empirical study on 966 elderly people in nine regions of Zhejiang Province, YANG Chunzi, Zhejiang Gongshang University

17:00-17:15 The effects of productive aging in communities, ZHOU Junshan, Chinese People’s Public Security University

17:15-17:30 Q&A

Session B: Working and Volunteering

Moderator: Terry LUM, Associate Professor, Director of Sau Po Centre on Ageing, Hong Kong University

16:00-16:15 The service model of elder volunteers in naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC) and its effects - A case study of the Morningside Park Community, CHEN Huajuan, Washington University in St. Louis

16:15-16:30 Volunteerism and positive aging in Hong Kong: A life course perspective, CHONG Ming Lin Alice, Tina Louisa ROCHELLE, & LIU Su Su, City University of Hong Kong

16:30-16:45 Older adults’ contributions in gerontology education in medical faculty, A.Y.M. LEUNG, University of Hong Kong

16:45-17:00 Transition from work to retirement among older Americans, TANG Fengyan, University of Pittsburgh

17:00-17:15 The employment obstacles for the elder adults in Hong Kong and policy suggestions, WANG Shuo, Renmin University of China
17:15-17:30 Q&A

Session C: Caregiving and Education

Moderator: Teresa TSEIN, Co-Director, Institute of Active Aging, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

16:00-16:15 The creation of Red Sunset Group Work - Based on the professional internship of social work in Civil Affairs Bureau of Nanhui District, Jiaxing, FANG Shuida & LIN Xue, Zhejiang Gongshang University

16:15-16:30 The learning model of Young At Heart! Community College: An introduction, Samuel NG, Flora CHONG, & WANG Yu HSUAN, Singapore Marine Parade Family Service Centre

16:30-16:45 From care-receivers to caregivers: The role transition and value of the elder adults in China, SUN Juanjuan & CHU Shijing, Renmin University of China

16:45-17:00 Determinants of support exchange with grandchildren among rural Chinese grandparents, XU Ling & Iris CHI, University of Southern California

17:00-17:15 A discussion on the development of community distant education for elder adults - The launch of the “Happily Aging Class” in Chaoyang District, YANG Qingfang, Renmin University of China

17:15-17:30 Q&A

Session D: Psychological and Social Factors and Productive Aging

Moderator: Ada MUI, Professor, Columbia University

16:00-16:15 Implicit and explicit life goals and life satisfaction of Hong Kong older adults, Alma AU, Teresa TSIEN, & Ivy LAI, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

16:15-16:30 Being a happy autonomist in a collectivistic culture, Candy LAM, Alma AU, & Teresa TSIEN, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

16:30-16:45 Construction of the positive effects of communities in productive aging, LI Cuiping, Zhejiang Gongshang University

16:45-17:00 Productive aging of “Chinese baby boomers”: What we need to know, LIU Jinyu, University of Iowa

17:00-17:15 Productivity in later life: What have recent empirical studies told?, TONG Hongmei, University of Calgary, & Vivian W. Q. LOU, Sau Po Centre on Ageing, University of Hong Kong

Michael SHERRADEN speaks on future directions in productive aging research and policy.

17:15-17:30 Q&A

17:30 Conference concludes for the day

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Where Do We Go From Here?: A Research Agenda for Policy and Program Development

09:00-11:30 Closing Remarks and Discussion of Future Directions

Speaker/Moderator: DU Peng, Professor, Institute of Gerontology, Renmin University of China

Participants: Michael SHERRADEN, Professor, Director of Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis; CHEN Gong, Professor, Peking University; Nancy MORROW-HOWELL, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis; SUI Yujie, Associate Professor, Renmin University of China; Alfred CHAN, Professor, Lingnan University; CHEN Zhi Jun, Vice Director, Shandong Provincial Committee on Aging; WANG Sibin, Professor, Peking University

11:30 Conference concludes
MANY THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS AND ORGANIZERS!