



Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons (15-16 June 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea)

Concept Paper (draft)

1. Background

The world is rapidly ageing with low birth rate and increased life expectancy. In particular, Europe is the most aged region in the world with people aged 60 and above accounting for 24% of its total population as of 2015, and Asia is home to the biggest number of the elderly population.

It is expected that in 2050, in every region except for Africa, people aged 60 and above will account for more than 25% of the total population. With such demographic change, health, poverty, and social exclusion of and abuse against older persons are emerging as major social issues, and countries are making efforts to establish detailed policies to guarantee basic rights of the elderly as human being including guarantee of social participation and quality life as well as prevention of violence and abuse.

Response from the International Community, Europe, and Asia

Against this backdrop, the international community announced the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing(VIPAA) and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing(MIPAA) in the first and second World Assembly on Ageing

held in 1982 and 2002, respectively. In addition, the UN decided to establish the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing in 2010 and appointed the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons in 2014. Moreover, the UN Secretary General submitted a report on the situation of the human rights of older persons in all regions of the world (A/66/173) to the UN General Assembly in 2011. As such, the issue of human rights of older persons has emerged as an important agenda on the global stage.

The MIPAA, the most effective response of the international community, proposes a policy direction to enhance and guarantee quality life and comprehensive human rights of older persons including personal development, eradication of poverty, guarantee of income and promotion of health, and it also serves as a directing point for policies for older persons in various nations. However, it has a limit in that it is not legally binding.

Europe has experienced population ageing earlier than other regions and, hence, it preemptively carried out diverse policies in response. In 2014, the Council of Europe adopted the Recommendation CM/REC(2014)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the promotion of human rights of older persons, and the UNECE revised measures to assess implementation status of the MIPAA to enhance efficiency of the assessment, but there is a gap between planning and implementation of policies from country to country.

Asia is less aged than Europe, but it is rapidly ageing, needing for preparation for the aged society. However, social situation surrounding older persons and policy goal for them is different from country to country, and like in Europe, there is a gap between establishment of a policy and its implementation.

Major Issues on Human Rights of Older Persons

The 2015 ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons, 2002 MIPPA and 2012 Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on situation of human rights of older persons(E/2012/51) state eradication of elderly poverty and guarantee of their health as major issues on human rights of older persons. Elderly poverty caused by retirement from the labor market should be addressed to enhance human rights of older persons, and the increase of the elderly population aged 75 and above in needs of long-term care gave a rise to a new policy approach regarding older person's right to health including care service, access to long-term care facilities and Active Ageing.

ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons

The 2015 ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons was a monumental event during which issues on human rights of older persons were discussed from the entire European and Asian level. Participants of the Conference agreed on the need for exchange of and discussion on exemplary policies of each nation and hoped for the ASEM to become a forum for public discussion for human rights of older persons.

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea would like to host the ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons in June 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea, building on the results of the 2015 ASEM Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons, to deepen and further continue the discussion.

2. Objective

Objectives of the ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons are as follows.

- a. Share exemplary policies for human rights of older persons in European and Asian nations and discuss measures to spread such policies
- b. Share activities of major international institutions for human rights of older persons
- c. Share current status on monitoring of implementation of the MIPAA in Europe and Asia and discuss measures for further development
- d. Discuss measures for cooperation between the Europe and Asia as well as among international institutions for promotion of human rights of older persons

3. Organization of the Expert Forum*

* Please refer to the Administrative Circular for the detailed information

Host

National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Co-Sponsors

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

All interested ASEM Members

Participants

ASEM Members, International Institutions including the WHO, ILO and UN, National Human Rights Institutions, Academic Expert, Domestic and Foreign Personnel including international NGO

Costs

The host will bear the costs of the venue, forum meals and forum-related expenses. Participants need to be responsible for their own travel and accommodation cost during their stay, while the host may cover entire or partial cost for travel in economy class and accommodation, depending on budget.

Date and Venue

Date: 15 – 16 June, 2016

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Languages

The official language of the Forum will be Korean and English.

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