# Changes in Demographic landscape in East Asia: Thailand

By

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*Present at ASEAN+3 Symposium on Strengthening Demographic Policy Cooperation*, 1-3 April 2019,
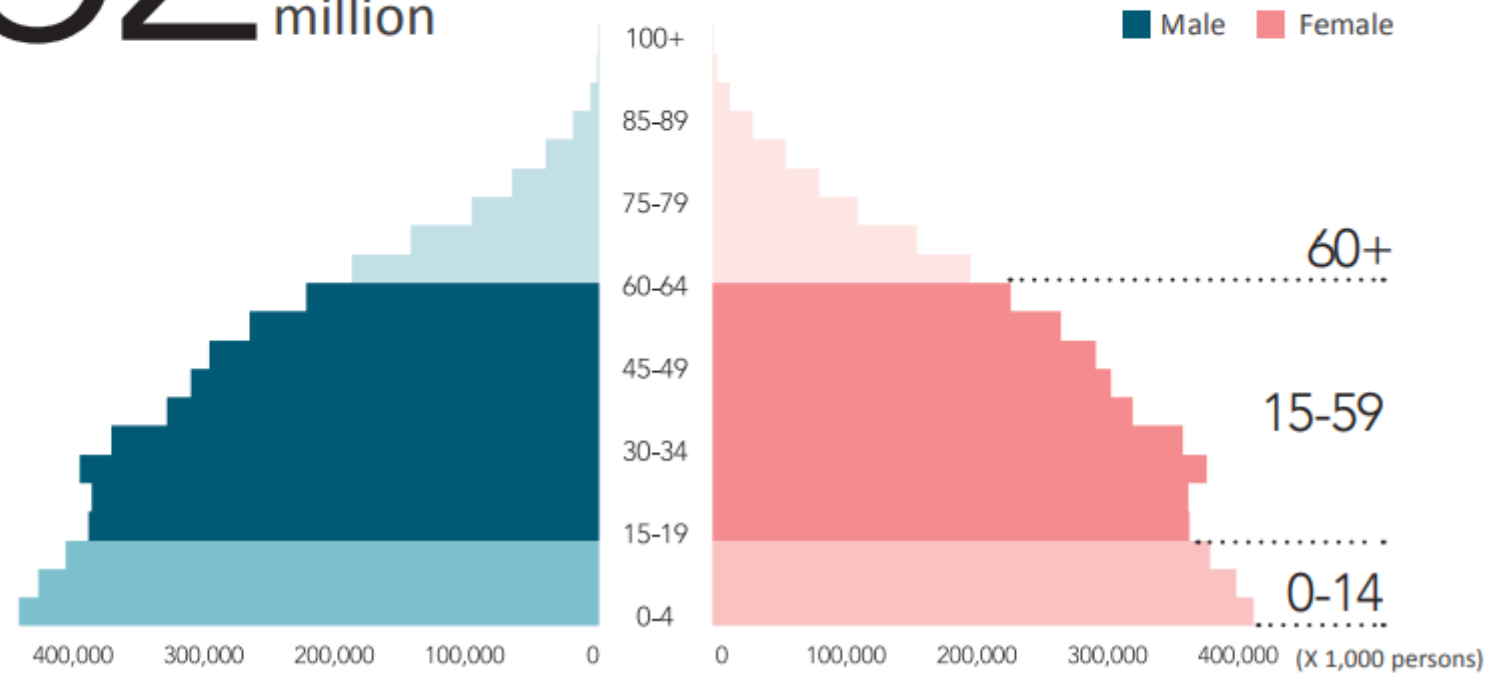
*The Sukosol Bangkok Hotel, Thailand*

# Outlines

- **Ageing of the global population**
- **Ageing of population in ASEAN countries**
- **Ageing of Population in Thailand: causes and effects**
  - **Challenges: low fertility, declining labour force, increasing older people**
- **Policy concerning older persons in response to population ageing**
- **Situation of older people in relation to active ageing concept**
- **Challenge: Preparation for old age**

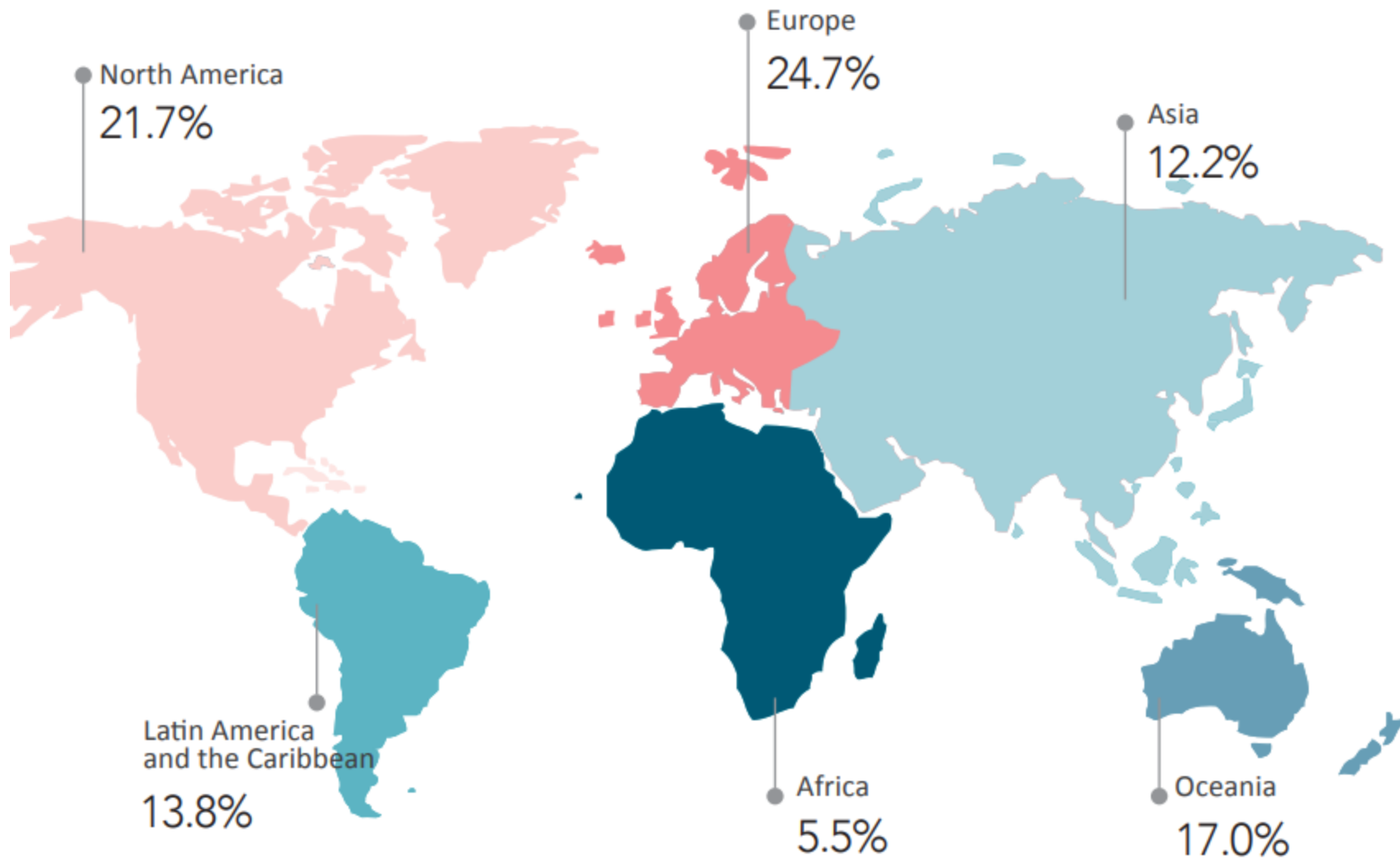# Ageing of the global population

In 2017,
Population age
60 years or older

# 962 million



Male    Female

12.7 %

60+

61.3 %

15-59

26.0 %

0-14

(X 1,000 persons)

4

North America
21.7%

Europe
24.7%

Asia
12.2%

Latin America
and the Caribbean
13.8%

Africa
5.5%

Oceania
17.0%

Source of data: UN, 2017

Source: Foundation of Thai Gerontology Research and Development Institute and Institute for Population and Social research, 2019 5

## Top ten countries by highest proportion of the elderly:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Japan | 33.4 % |
| 2 | Italy | 29.4 % |
| 3 | Germany | 28.0 % |
| 4 | Portugal | 27.9 % |
| 5 | Finland | 27.8 % |
| 6 | Bulgaria | 27.7 % |
| 7 | Croatia | 26.8 % |
| 8 | Greece | 26.5 % |
| 9 | Slovenia | 26.3 % |
| 10 | Latvia | 26.2 % |

## Bottom ten countries by lowest proportion of the elderly:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | United Arab Emirates | 2.4 % |
| 2 | Qatar | 2.8 % |
| 3 | Uganda | 3.3 % |
| 4 | Zambia | 3.7 % |
| 5 | Gambia | 3.8 % |
| 6 | Burkina Faso | 3.9 % |
| 7 | Mali | 4.0 % |
| 8 | Chad | 4.0 % |
| 9 | Oman | 4.0 % |
| 10 | Angola | 4.0 % |

Source: Foundation of Thai Gerontology Research and Development Institute and Institute for Population and Social research, 2019

# Ageing of ASEAN population

In 2017,
ASEAN population of persons
age 60 years or older

# 63.9
million

100+
85-89
75-79
60-64
45-49
30-34
15-19
0-4

Male   Female

30,000  20,000  10,000  0        0  10,000  20,000  30,000  (x 1,000 persons)

60+

15-59

0-14
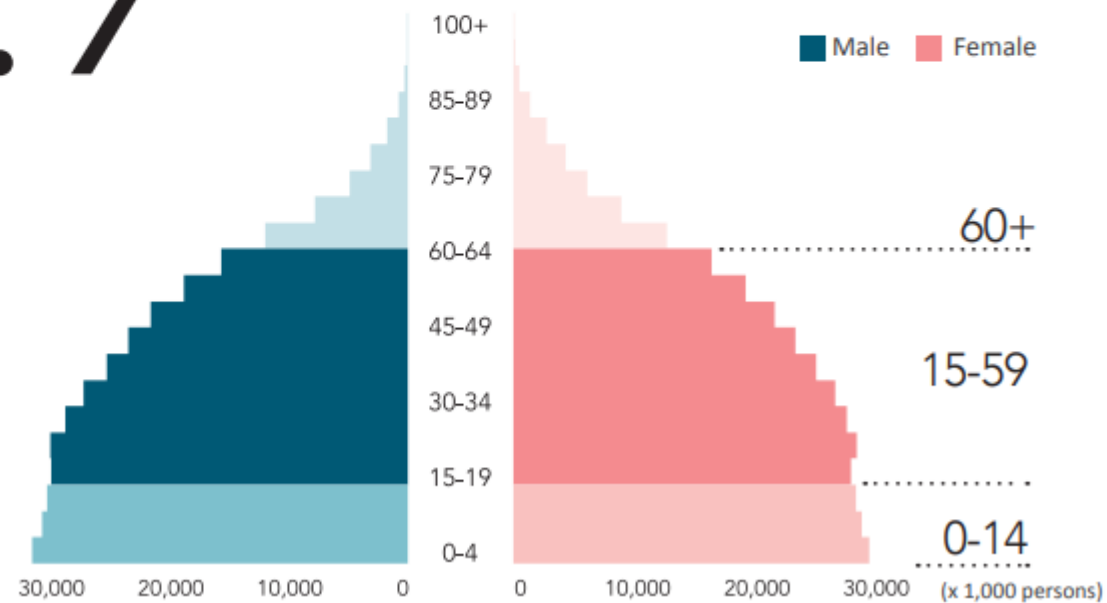
9.9 %

63.9 %

26.2 %

# ASEAN Member COUNTRY ELDERLY POPULATION

| Country | 1999 | | 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N population (million) | % age 60+ years | N population (million) | % age 60+ years |
| Singapore | 3.8 | 10.5 | 5.7 | 19.5 |
| Thailand* | 62.0 | 9.6 | 69.0 | 17.1 |
| Viet Nam | 79.4 | 8.6 | 95.5 | 11.1 |
| Malaysia | 22.9 | 6.1 | 31.6 | 9.7 |
| Myanmar | 47.1 | 7.1 | 53.4 | 9.5 |
| Indonesia | 208.6 | 7.2 | 264.0 | 8.6 |
| Brunei Darussalam | 0.3 | 4.0 | 0.4 | 8.0 |
| Philippines | 76.3 | 5.0 | 104.9 | 7.7 |
| Cambodia | 11.9 | 4.9 | 16.0 | 7.0 |
| Lao PDR | 5.3 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 6.3 |
| TOTAL | 517.6 | | 647.4 | |

Source: : UN, 2017

Remarks: Number of Thai population is the UN estimate of the entire resident population, including those without Thai nationality or names not in the Civil Registration System.

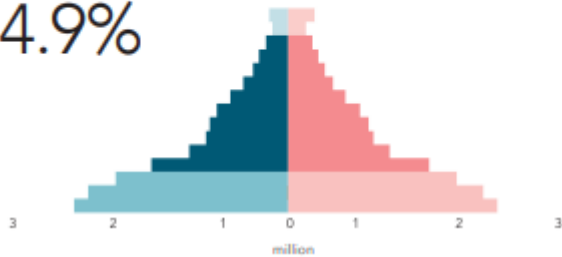# Ageing population in Thailand

# Speed of population ageing in Thailand
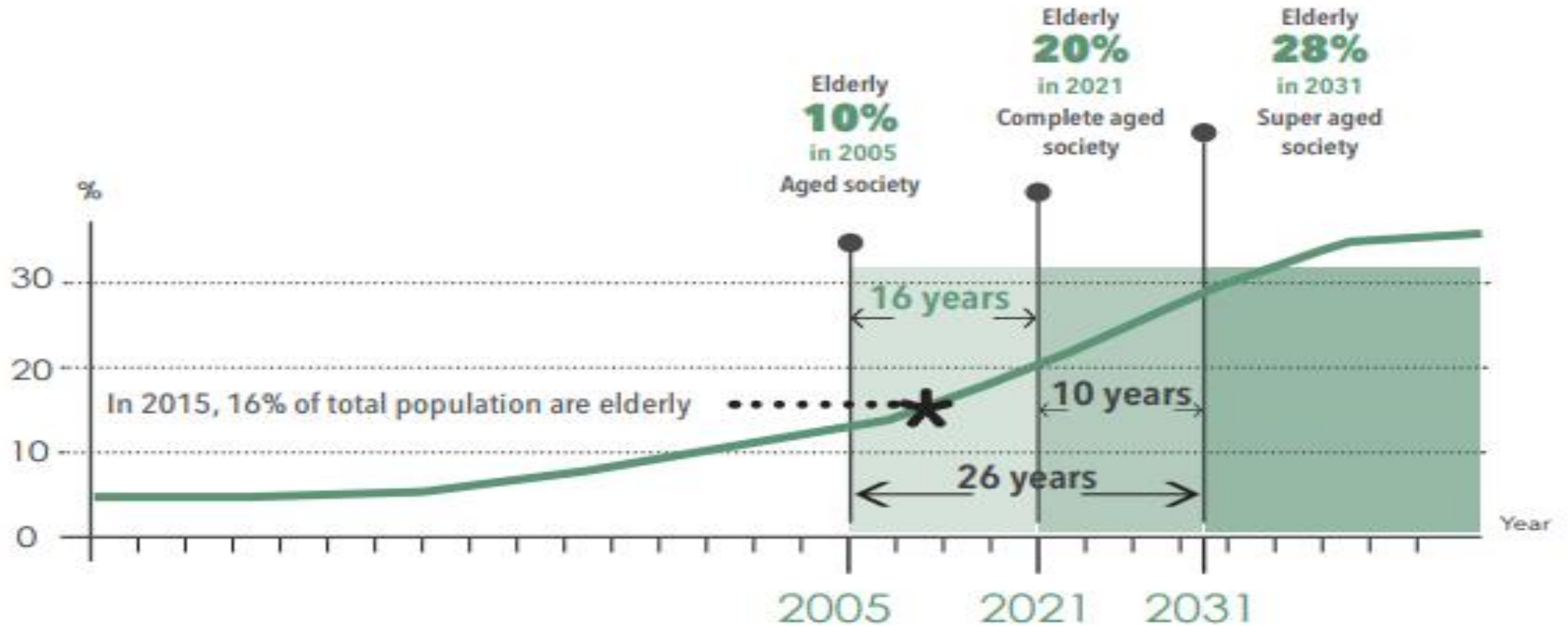
# Changing age structure of population



**1970**
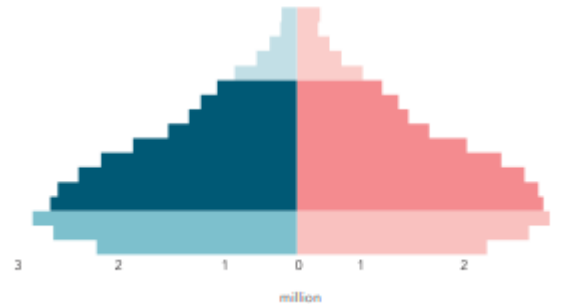1.7 million persons
were age 60+ years, or

**4.9%**

**1990**
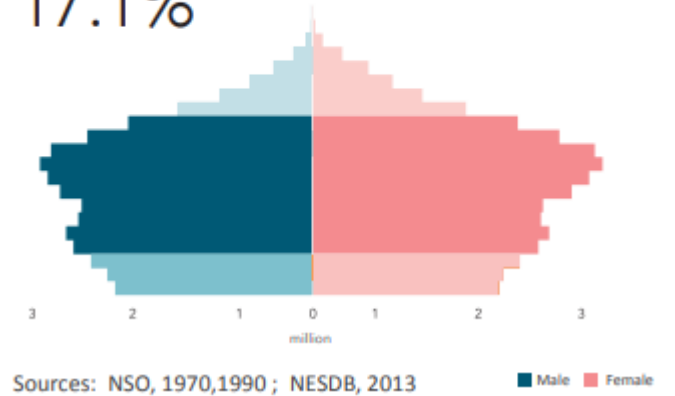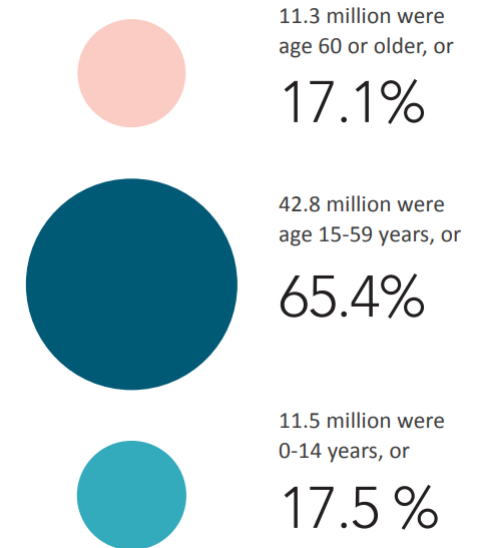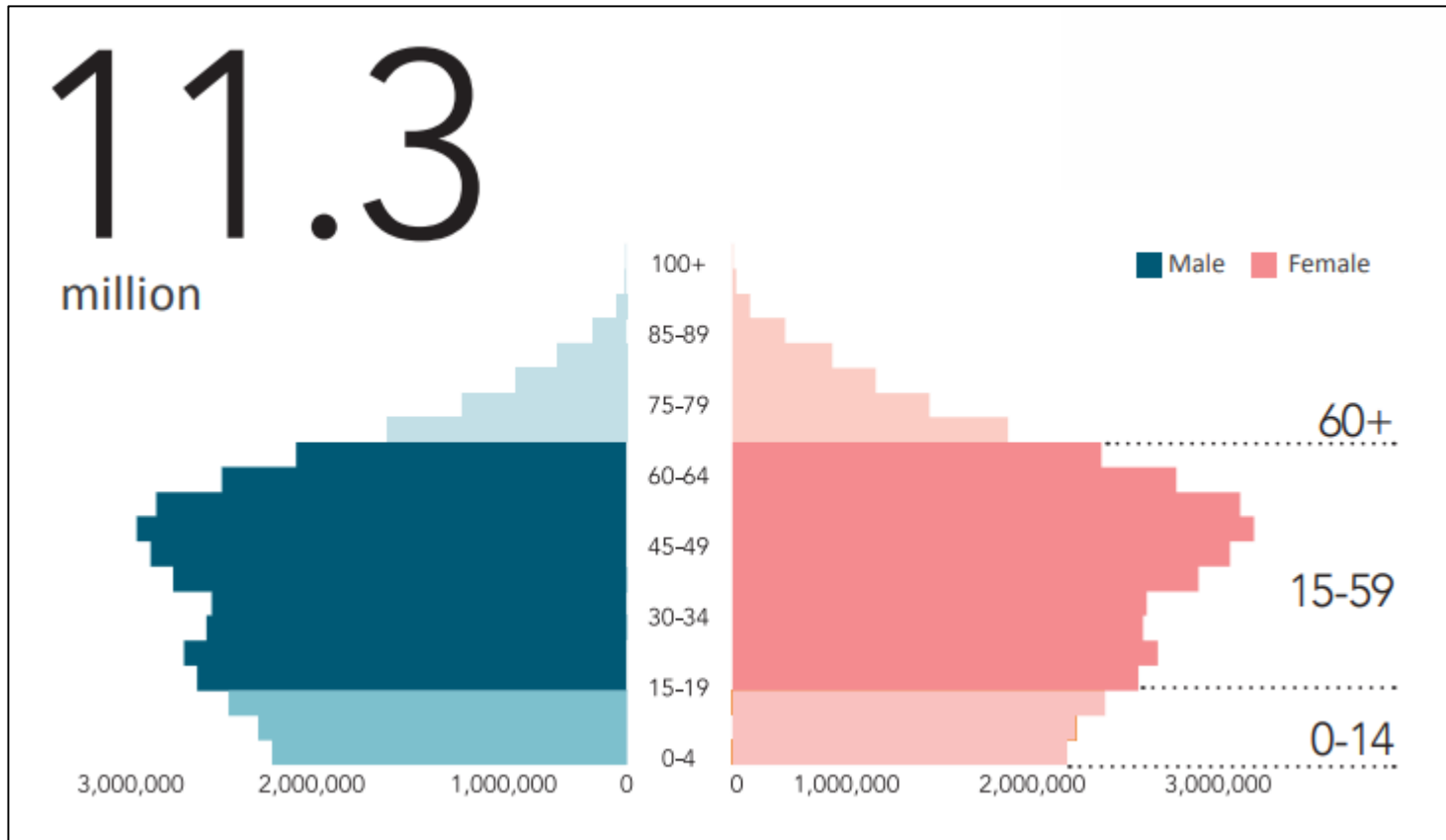4 million persons
were age 60+ years, or

**7.4%**

**2017**
Population age 60+ years
= 11 million or

**17.1%**

Sources: NSO, 1970,1990 ; NESDB, 2013     ■ Male  ■ Female

# In 2017, Population age 60+ years

| | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15-59 years | 66.7 | 67.4 | 67.0 | 66.0 | 64.1 |
| 0-14 years | 23.0 | 20.7 | 19.0 | 17.2 | 16.0 |
| 60 years | 10.3 | 11.8 | 14.0 | 16.8 | 19.8 |

Legend: 0-14 years ◆ — 15-59 years ■ -- 60 years ▲ --
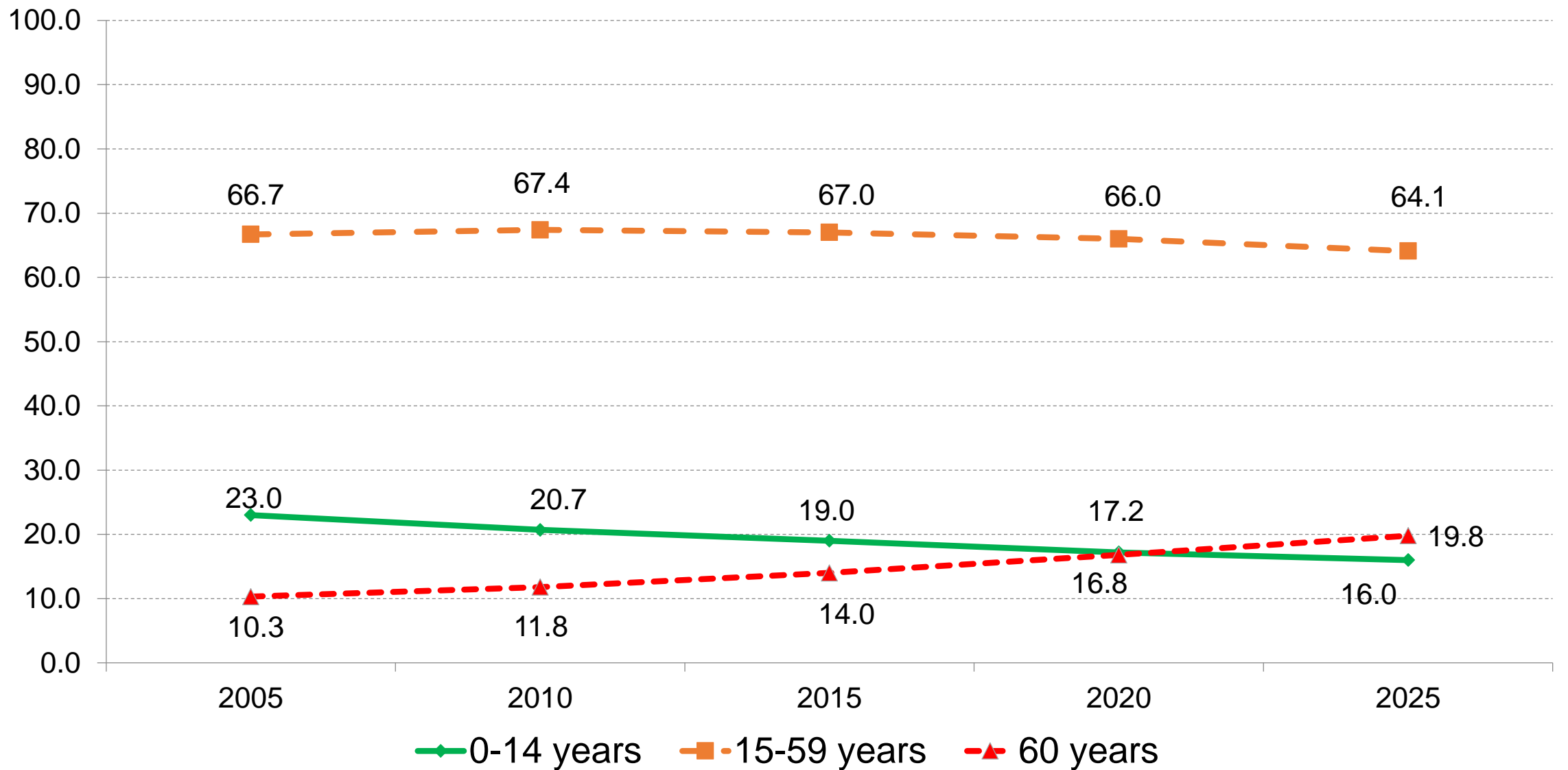
Source: Gray, Rossarin Soottipong and Aphichat Chamratrithirong. 2009. Thailand in *the International handbook on aging current research and developments*. Erdman B. Palmore, Frank Whittington and Suzanne Kunkel edts. Pp.563-578. ABC-CLIO,LLC.

| Year | Aging index 60+/0-14 | Potential support ratio 15-59/60+ |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1960 | 10.6 | 11.3 |
| 1970 | 10.9 | 10.2 |
| 1980 | 14.4 | 10.2 |
| 1990 | 25.3 | 8.6 |
| 2000 | 38.9 | 7.0 |
| 2005 | 44.8 | 6.5 |
| 2010 | 57.0 | 5.7 |
| 2015 | 73.7 | 4.8 |
| 2020 | 97.7 | 3.9 |
| 2025 | 123.8 | 3.2 |

Source: Calculated from Gray, Rossarin Soottipong and Aphichat Chamratrithirong. 2009. Thailand in *the International handbook on aging current research and developments*. Erdman B. Palmore, Frank Whittington and Suzanne Kunkel edts. Pp.563-578. ABC-CLIO,LLC.

# Feminization of the Thai aged society

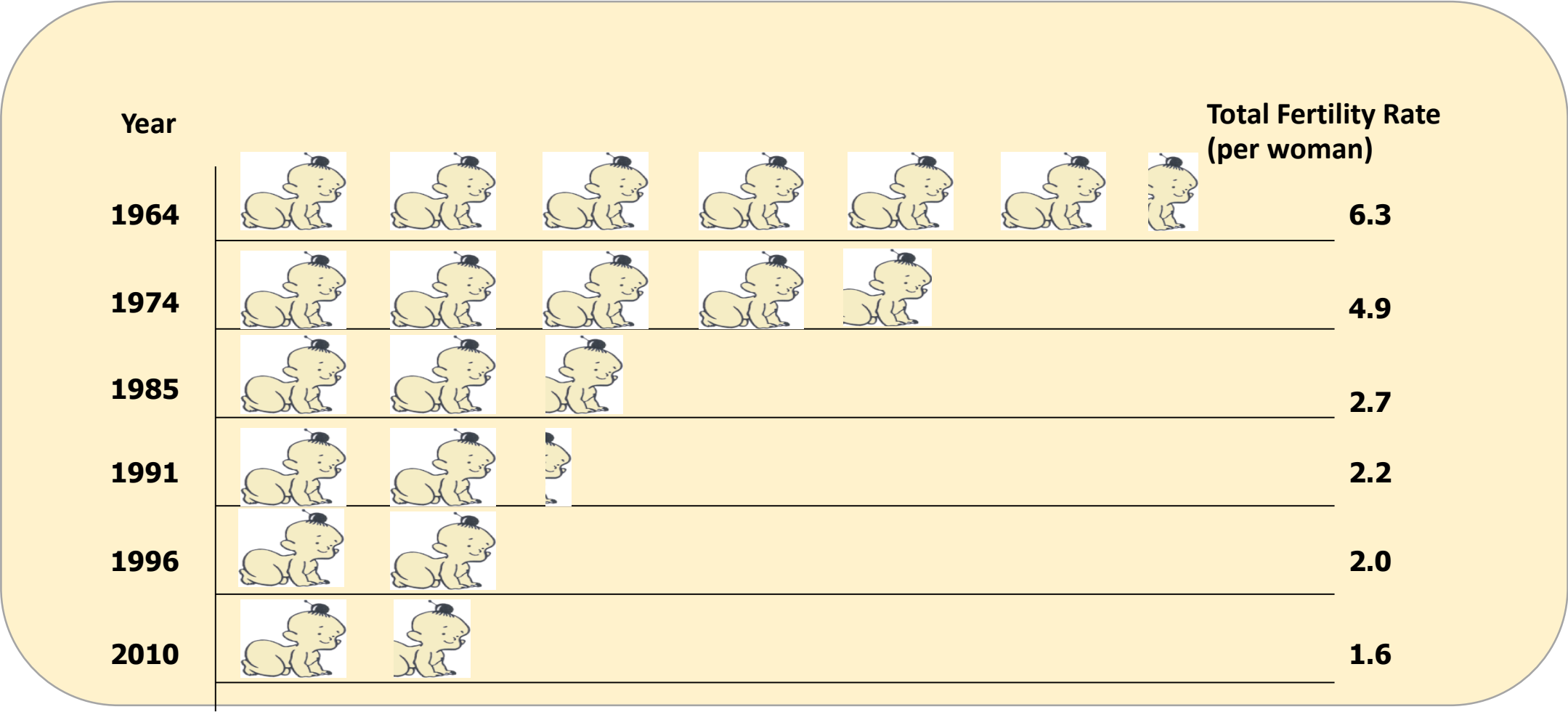| Age | 2010 | | | 2025 | | | 2040 | | |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | Male (thousand) | Female (thousand) | **Sex Ratio** | Male (thousand) | Female (thousand) | **Sex Ratio** | Male (thousand) | Female (thousand) | **Sex Ratio** |
| 65-69 | 930 | 1,083 | 86 | 1,732 | 2,060 | 84 | 2,023 | 2,411 | 84 |
| 70-74 | 687 | 845 | 81 | 1,289 | 1,605 | 80 | 1,876 | 2,374 | 79 |
| 75-79 | 503 | 673 | 75 | 787 | 1,051 | 75 | 1,426 | 1,963 | 73 |
| 80-84 | 272 | 387 | 70 | 452 | 673 | 67 | 880 | 1,372 | 64 |
| 85-89 | 107 | 171 | 63 | 213 | 366 | 58 | 414 | 765 | 54 |
| 90+ | 47 | 86 | 55 | 94 | 197 | 47 | 145 | 346 | 42 |
| 65+ | 2,546 | 3,245 | 78 | 4,567 | 5,953 | 77 | 6,764 | 9,231 | 73 |
| **All Ages** | 31,084 | 32,705 | 95 | 32,084 | 34,286 | 94 | 30,580 | 33,284 | 92 |

**Sex Ratio = Number of males per 100 females**

- **The higher the age, the less males per 100 females.**
- **Among population age 65 years and over, there are less than 80 males per 100 females.**
- **Among the oldest old at 90 years old and over, the sex ratio is about 1 male to 2 females.**

**Source: Pramote Prasartkul 2012**

# Life expectancy at birth ($e_0$), Thailand

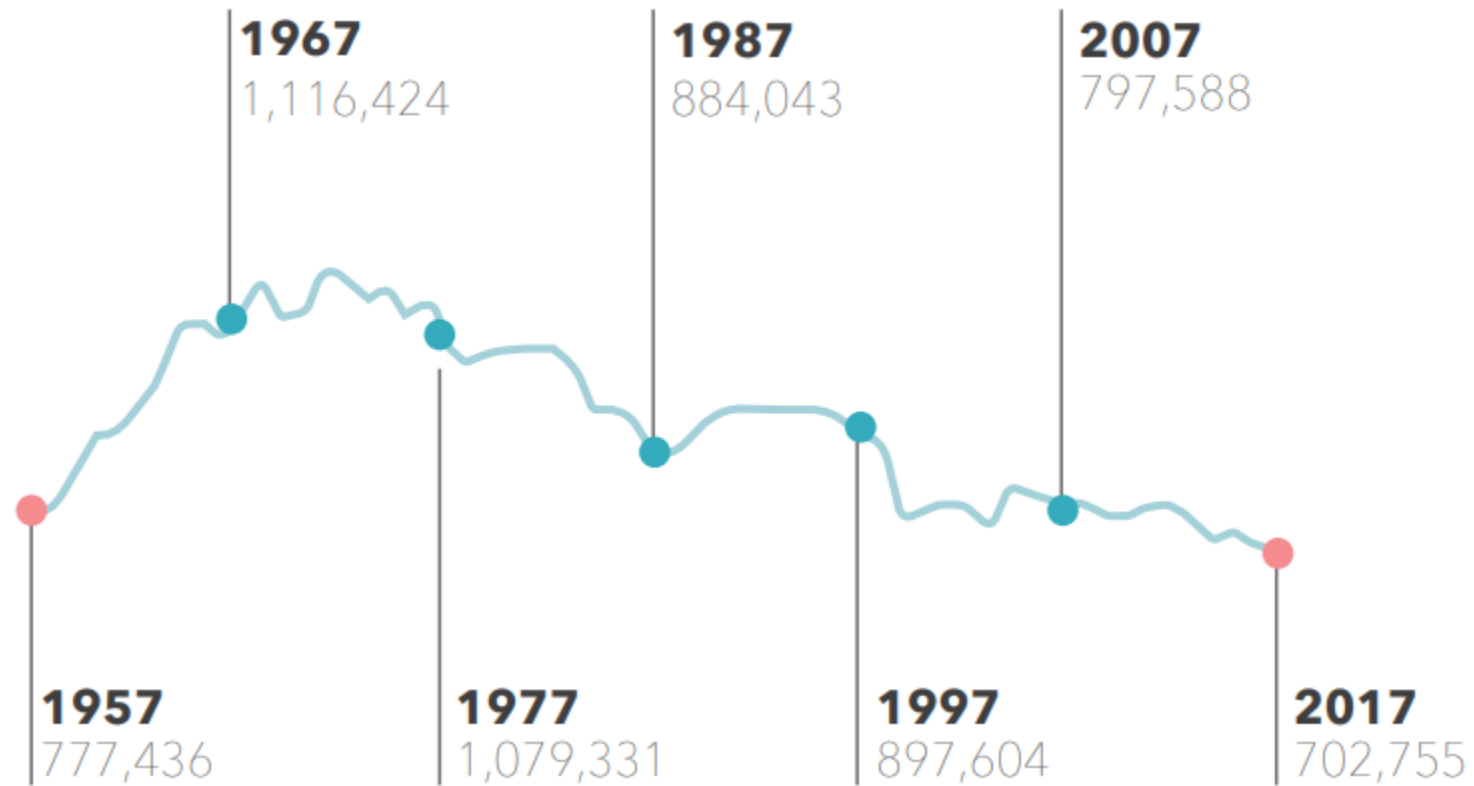| Year | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1950-1955 | 50.7 | 48.7 | 52.9 |
| 1970-1975 | 61.0 | 58.5 | 63.6 |
| 1990-1995 | 72.3 | 68.9 | 75.9 |
| 2010-2015 | 74.4 | 71.1 | 75.7 |
| 2030-2035 | 77.6 | 74.5 | 80.6 |
| 2045-2050 | 79.5 | 76.6 | 82.4 |

Source: UN Population Division World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision (Estimates in 1950-2010 and Medium-Fertility variant in 2020-2050)

The TFR (average number of children a woman would have throughout her child-bearing period) dropped from **more than 6 before 1970 to 2 in 1990**, to **1.6 at present, and is expected to decline to 1.3 in 2050**.



| Year | Total Fertility Rate (per woman) |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1964 | 6.3 |
| 1974 | 4.9 |
| 1985 | 2.7 |
| 1991 | 2.2 |
| 1996 | 2.0 |
| 2010 | 1.6 |

Sources: year1964 1974 1985 and 1991: The report on the survey of population change in Thailand
year 1996: The survey of contraception in Thailand 1996
year 2010: Estimated by Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University
Pramote Prasartkul, 2013

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# Number of births during 1957-2017



**1967**
1,116,424

**1987**
884,043

**2007**
797,588

**1957**
777,436

**1977**
1,079,331

**1997**
897,604

**2017**
702,755

Source: The Bureau of Registration Administration, Ministry of Interior

# Challenge: low fertility
# Incentives to have more children

- The baby bonus tax allowance
  - Tax deduction for the first and second child

- Child care allowance under SSS
  - 600  Bath up to age 6 (3 children per family)
  - Legal migrant workers under SSS

- A tax intensive for operators setting ups day care centers for employee's children at their workplaces.

# Challenge: declining working age population

- Education policy (Human capital development)
- Upskilled Thai workers
- Migration policy

# Policy concerning older persons in response to population ageing

# Policy concerning older persons in response to population ageing

- **National five year plans by NESDB**
  - Starting with the Eight Plan (1997-2001)
    - Including a section on "isolated indigent elderly"
- **National long-term plans for elderly**
  - First (1986-2002)
  - In 1991, National Commission on the Elderly was established.
  - Second (2002-2021)
- **2003 Act on Older Persons**

# 2003 Act on Older Persons

- Persons aged 60 and over shall be entitled to protection, promotion and support in the following areas:

- For example
  - Convenient and expedient health services;
  - provision of monthly allowance where necessary;

# Health programs

- 1989 –a free medical care program for disadvantaged older persons
- 1992 to all older persons
  - registered " elderly card"
- 2001 universal minimal cost government health (30 baht)
- 2007 free universal government health regardless of age

# Monthly old age allowances

- 1993 -200 baht to indigent persons aged 60 and over

- 2009: 500 baht (a uniform rate)relaxing eligibility

- 2012: Multiple rate system

     60 – 69: 600 Baht
     70 – 79: 700 Baht
     80 – 89: 800 Baht
     90 and over: 1,000 Baht

# Situation of Older People in Relation to Active Ageing Concept

# Challenge: Active ageing; Right based approach

Three pillars:

- Health
- Economic Security
- Social participation

# Pillar 1: Health

Percent of the elderly assessed themselves as "not good/bad" health, 2002-2017

| YEAR | 60-69 years old | 70-79 years old | 80 + years old | TOTAL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| 2002 | 19.7 | 29.6 | 40.0 | 24.5 |
| 2007 | 18.5 | 30.0 | 41.4 | 24.4 |
| 2011 | 11.3 | 19.7 | 29.9 | 15.9 |
| 2017 | 9.5 | 18.4 | 32.1 | 15.2 |

Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand:
2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 1: Health

## Percent of ability of the elderly to perform daily essential tasks by oneself

| YEAR | 60-69 years old | 70-79 years old | 80 + years old | TOTAL |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2002 | 98.7 | 96.9 | 88.1 | 97.2 |
| 2007 | 98.2 | 96.0 | 85.2 | 96.3 |
| 2011 | 98.6 | 96.9 | 85.9 | 96.8 |
| 2017 | 97.8 | 95.2 | 81.3 | 94.8 |

Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand:
2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 1: Health

**Percent of elderly with diabetes by age: 2002-17**

| YEAR | 60-69 years old | 70-79 years old | 80 + years old | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 8.3 |
| 2007 | 13.5 | 13.9 | 10.5 | 13.3 |
| 2011 | 14.7 | 16.0 | 13.8 | 15.0 |
| 2017 | 15.2 | 19.3 | 16.3 | 16.5 |

Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand: 2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 1: Health

| Percent of elderly | 2002 | 2011 | 2017 |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| With diabetes | 8.3 | 15.0 | 16.5 |
| With hypertension | 20.0 | 33.7 | 33.6 |
| Regular cigarette smokers | | | |
| Males | | 16.8 | 15.1 |
| Females | | 1.7 | 0.9 |
| Regularly consuming alcohol | | | |
| Males | | 5.8 | 4.0 |
| Females | | 1.4 | 0.9 |
| Exercise regularly | 16.0 | 37.8 | 26.3 |

Source: Analysis of data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand, 2002,2011 and 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 2: Economic security

**Percent of elderly who had college education or higher education by age, 2002-17**
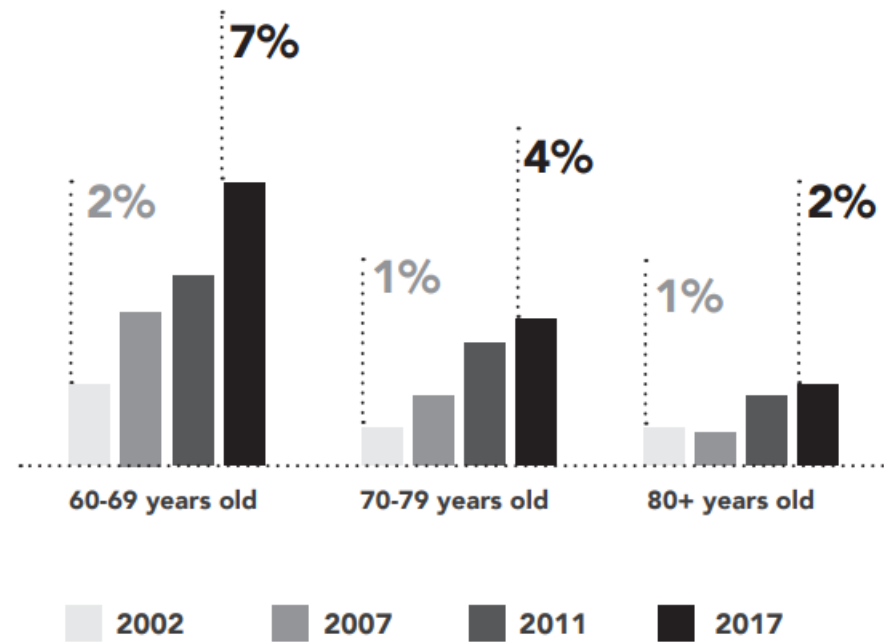


Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand: 2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 2: Economic security employment

## Percent of elderly employment by age, 2012-17

| YEAR | 60-69 years old | 70-79 years old | 80 + years old | TOTAL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| 2002 | 42.8 | 17.5 | 4.5 | 32.2 |
| 2007 | 47.6 | 22.3 | 7.4 | 35.7 |
| 2011 | 53.1 | 22.1 | 5.7 | 38.3 |
| 2017 | 51.4 | 18.9 | 4.0 | 35.5 |

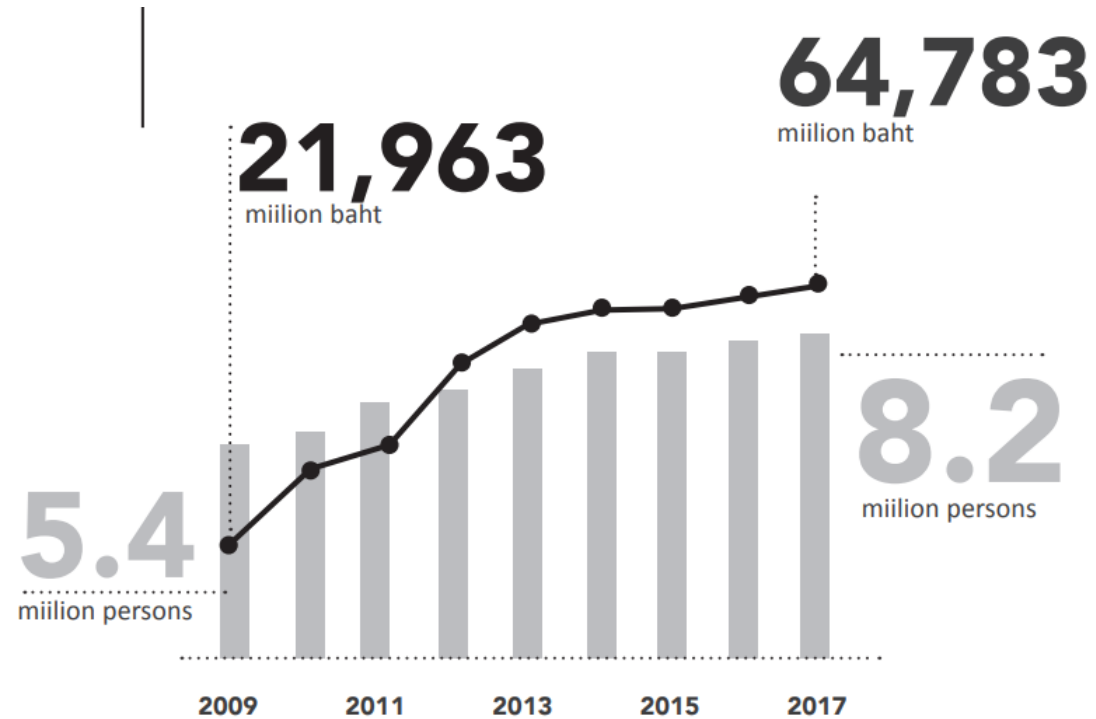Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand: 2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 2: Economic security principal source of income

## Percent of Source of Income of elderly, 2007-17

| Source of Income | 2007 | 2011 | 2017 |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Child(ren)       | 52.3 | 40.1 | 34.9 |
| Employment       | 28.9 | 35.1 | 30.9 |
| Spouse           | 6.1  | 11.4 | 19.9 |
| Saving           | 2.9  | 2.6  | 2.3  |

Source: Analysis of Data from the Survey of Older Persons in Thailand:
2002, 2007, 2011, 2017 (weighted)

# Pillar 2: Economic security monthly allowance



**21,963** miilion baht

**64,783** miilion baht

**5.4** miilion persons
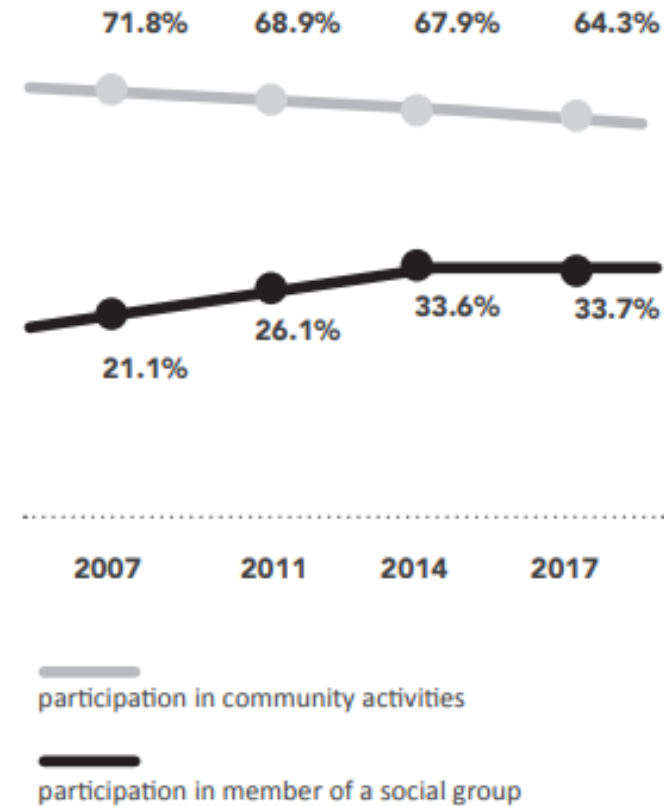
**8.2** miilion persons

2009  2011  2013  2015  2017

Source of data: Elderly 2009-17; amount of elderly welfare subsidy payments based on data from local administrative organizations, the BMA, and Pattaya Municipality

— Amout (Baht)

N. of person

# Pillar 3: Social participation

**Percent elderly membership in a club : 2007-17**



71.8%    68.9%    67.9%    64.3%

33.6%    33.7%

26.1%

21.1%

2007    2011    2014    2017

participation in community activities

participation in member of a social group

Source: The Survey of Older Persons in Thailand:
2007, 2011, 2014, 2017

# Pillar 3: Social participation schools for Elderly

**Senior Citizens Learning Centers by Region**

| Region | Before Sept. 2016 | Sept. 2016- Sept. 2017 | Oct. 2017- Dec.2017 | Total (Centers) | N Students |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central | 59 | 148 | 0 | 207 | 9,537 |
| North | 217 | 205 | 5 | 427 | 24,628 |
| North East | 201 | 217 | 0 | 418 | 25,062 |
| South | 11 | 88 | 0 | 99 | 4,923 |
| Bangkok | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 160 |
| **Total** | **488** | **670** | **5** | **1,163** | **64,310** |

Source: The Survey of Founding of Schools for Elderly,
31 December 2017, Department of Older Person

# Challenges: Preparation for old age

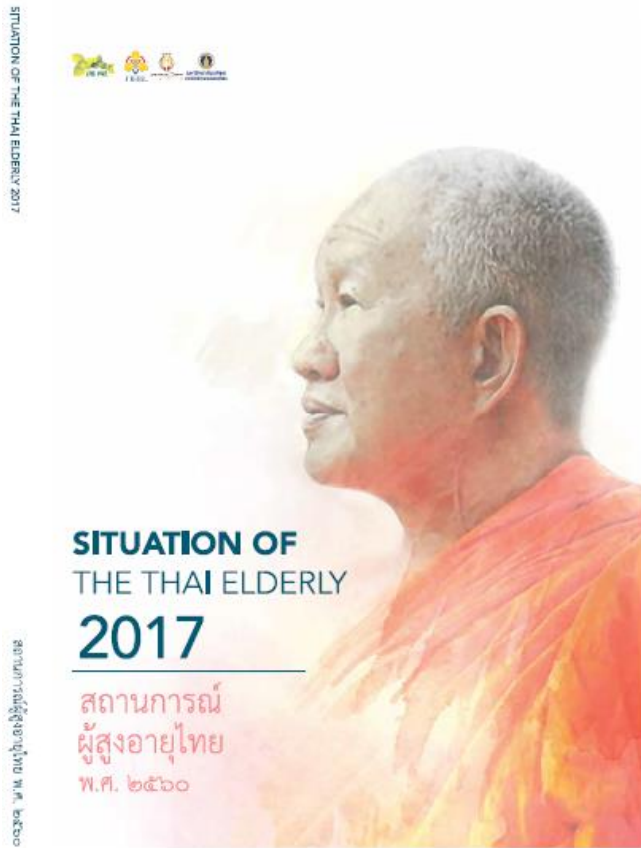**Maintaining capacity over the life course**
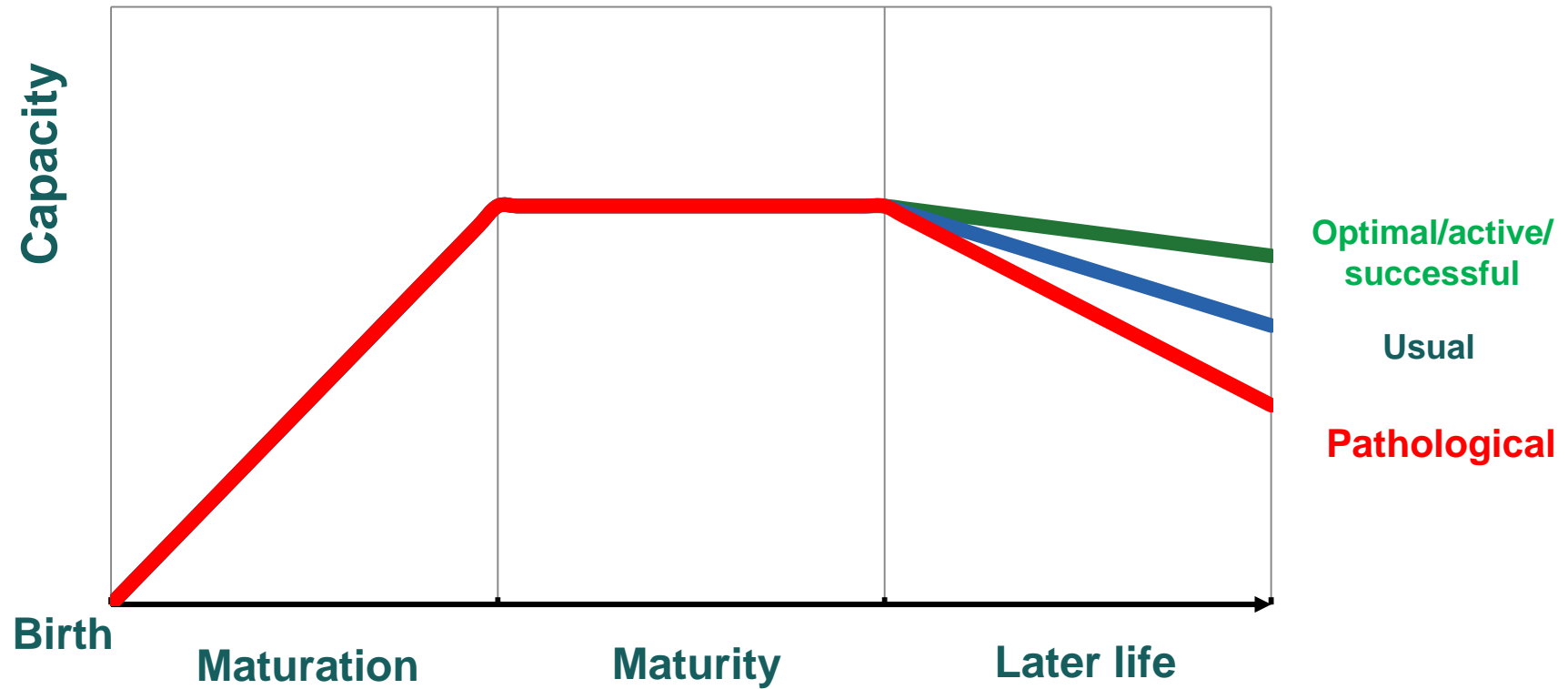


Source: Abou-Saleh & Katona, 2011

# Acknowledgement:

Main data source is from

The Situation of the Thai Elderly Report 2017 is a product of the National Committee for the Elderly(NCE) as mandated in the 2003 Act on the Elderly, Article 9(10) to provide an annual update for the Cabinet.

Foundation of Thai Gerontology Research and Development Institute and Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Chief editor: Emeritus Prof. Dr. Pramote Prasartkul