2011 Workshop on Intergenerational Economics Beijing, China, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## China's Social Transition and Healthcare Reform Under Demographic Change

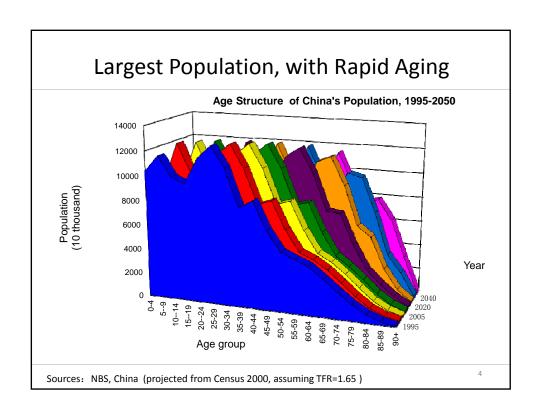
#### Ling Li

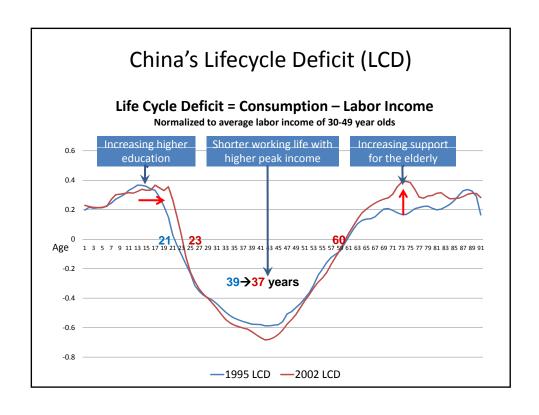
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#### I. China's Social Transition

- High economic growth rate
  - 9.8% annual GDP growth rate during 1978-2008
  - Second largest economy in the world since 2010 (only because of population size: >1.3 billion)
- Emerging and long-term challenges for China's development
  - Economic sustainability: Aging, Human capital investment
  - Social stability: public order disturbance
  - Other challenges: Urbanization, Globalization......

- China's Third Development Transition
  - 1st (1949-1952): Socialist transformation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> (Since 1978): Market reform
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> (Since 2003; especially with the current "twelfth fiveyear plan")
    - Balance economic development and social development
    - Improve people's lives and happiness





Lifecycle Deficit Changing in China and Some Asian Countries											
		1995				2002					
		Cuttin	Cutting Ages		Vorking Cutting Life		Ages Working Life				
Lifecycle Deficit		21	21 60		39	23	60	37	2 🗸		
Public Transfer	Public Transfer		59	36		23	56	33	3 ₩		
Family Transfer		26	67		41	26	63	37	4 🔻		
- Intra Household		26	70		44	26	67	41	3 ₩		
The working life was getting shorter as in some other Asian NTA countries, but it was still longer than in these other countries.											
Lifecycle Deficit	Cuttin	g ages	ages Working Life		Lifecycle Deficit		Cutti	ng ages	Working Life		
Japan 2004	26	60	34		Thailand 1996		25	59	34		
S. Korea 2000	24	56	32		Thailand 2004		26	58	32		
U.S. 2003	26	59	33		Philippines 99		27	60	33		
India 1999	27	63	36		Indonesia 99		28	59	31 🗸		
India 2004 ource: Data from NTA	27 website	59	32		Indonesia 05		29	58	29		

### Selected Recent Social Reforms and Policies

2011 Pilot project for Pension Insurance for Urban Residents

2010 National education reform and development of long-term planning programs

2009 Health Care Reform Plan

2009 New Rural Pension Insurance System

2008 Housing Security Project for Low Income

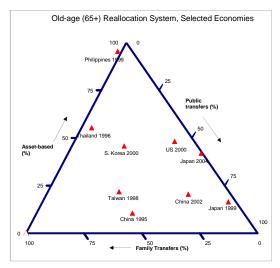
2007 Pilot project for Medical Insurance for Urban Residents

2007 "Two exemptions and one supplement" in rural compulsory education

2003 New Rural Cooperative Medicare System

1994-1998 Basic Pension Insurance for Urban Employees
Basic Medical Insurance System for Urban Employees
1986 Compulsory Education

# Old-Age Support Systems in China and Some Other Asian Economies



- •Family support is still a main living source of the elderly.
- •But China is moving quickly to a so called modern market economy with Increasing public transfers (with broader social welfare.

Source: data from NTA website

### II. China's Healthcare Reform

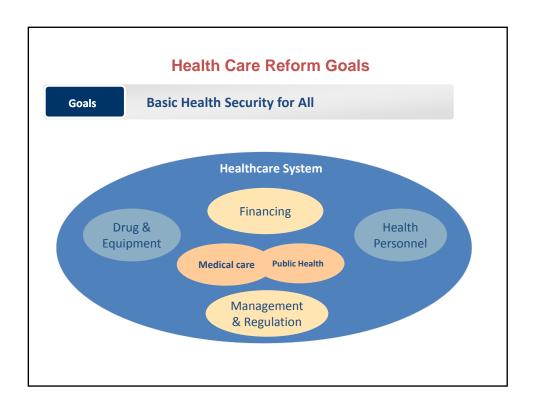
- 1<sup>st</sup> Transition: During the period from 1950 to 1978, China had many achievements in health sector to be proud of
  - rapid and large reductions in mortality rate, despite China's low income per capita at that time
  - create a low cost, wide coverage primary health care system
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Transition: After 30 years of economic reform, China's healthcare system has not improved as well as its economy did. Instead, it has deteriorated in many aspects
  - Accessibility and affordability are both decreased
  - Patients, providers and government are all unsatisfied

"Kan Bing Gui, Kan Bing Nan"(看病贵、看病难)



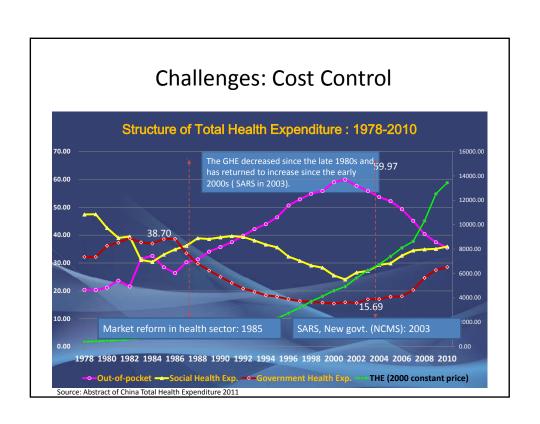
### **Health Care System Transition**

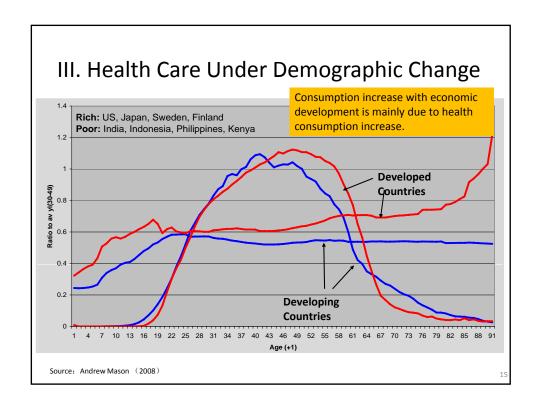
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Transition: Increasing government role in health sector: universal basic healthcare insurance. But
  - Hot debate: subsidize supply side or demand side? Bismarck or Beveridge?
  - Big challenge: Rising health care expenditure /cost.

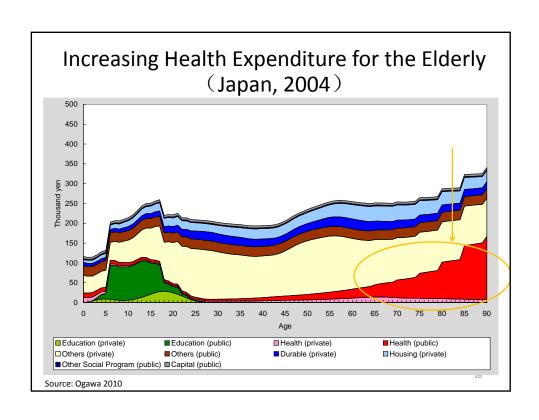


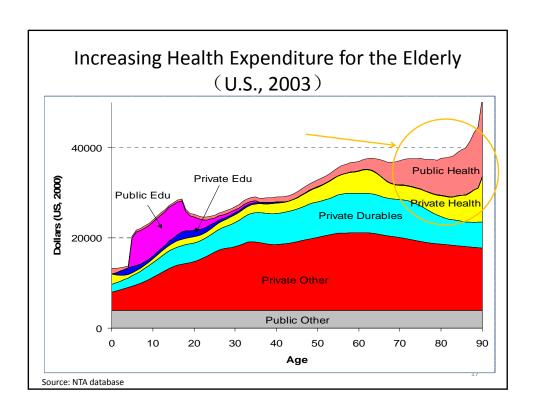
# Five Priorities of Health Reform Action Plan in 2009-2011

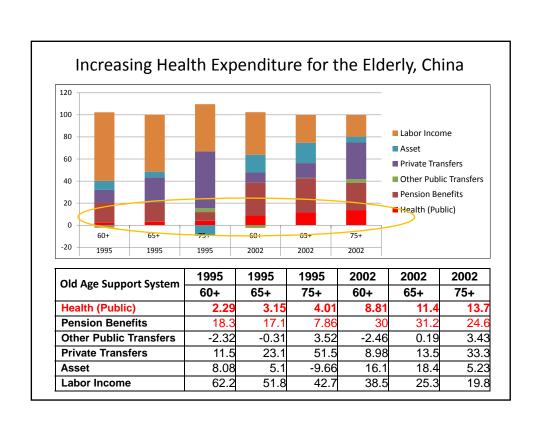
- 1. Expend basic medical insurance system
- 2. Establish National Essential Medicine system
- 3. Strengthen the healthcare delivery system at grassroots
- 4. Promote equitable access to essential package of public healthcare services
- 5. Public hospital reform pilot

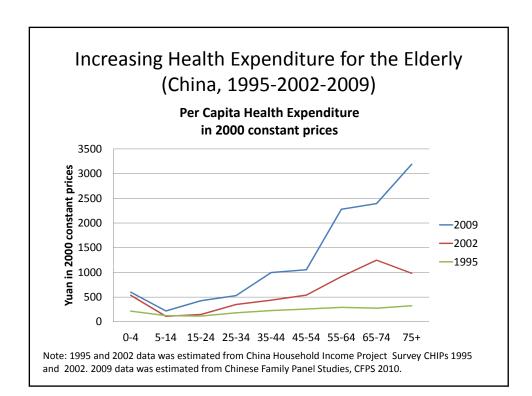






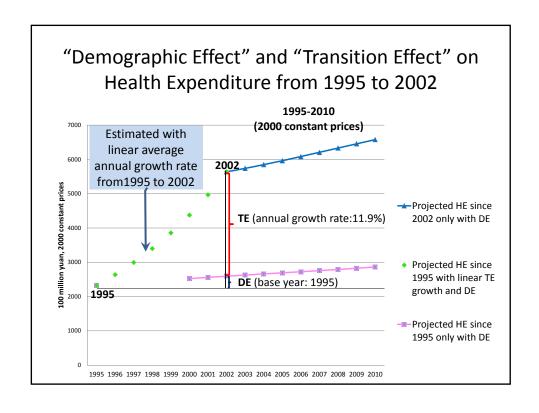


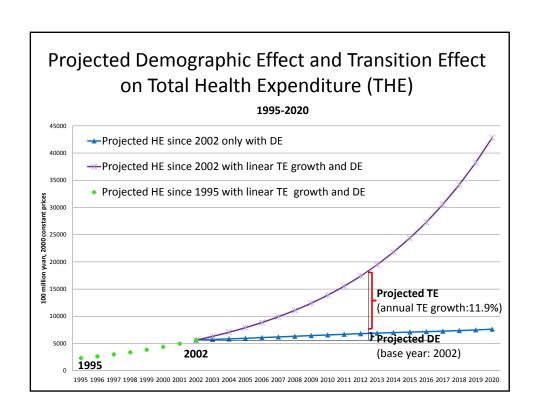


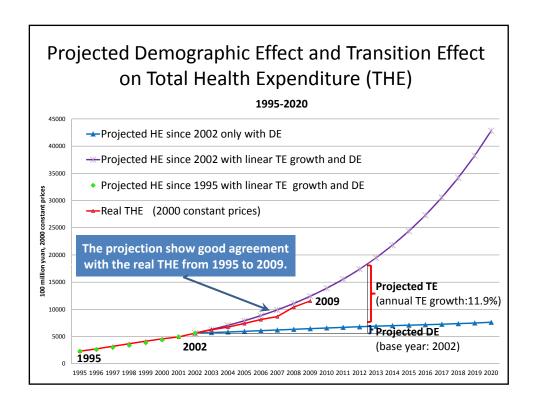


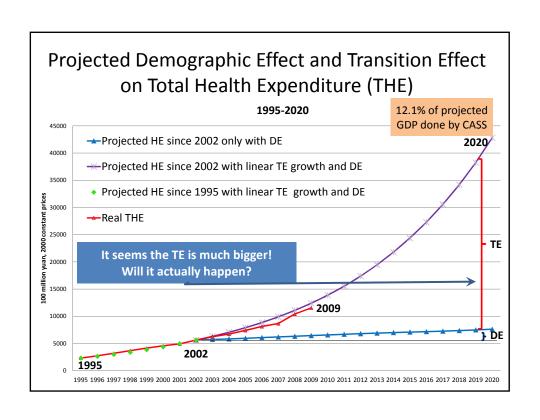
## Demographic Effect and Transition Effect in Developing Countries

- Demographic effect (DE)
  - How much will demographic change affect the burdens on families and public support systems, such as pensions and health care financing, assuming the current level of transfers for each age group?
- Transition effect (TE)
  - How will social transitions such as disease pattern, reform of social security systems, such as pensions and health care change the level of transfers for each age group? The case of health care reform
- In developed countries with a mature society, the effects of demographic change may be dominant. How about developing countries?



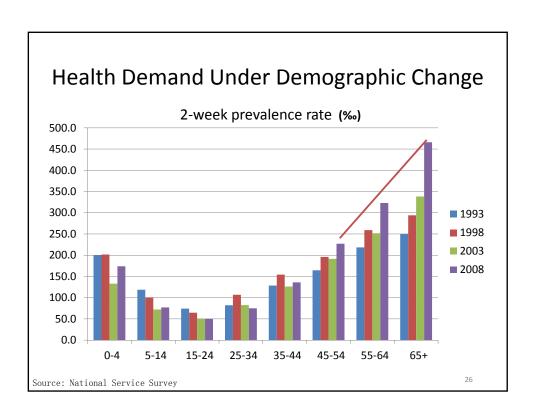






### Health Care System and Health Expenditure

- What will induce the fast growth of health expenditures?
  - 1. Disease pattern transition
  - 2. Health care system transition
    - What has happened to other countries and regions with Bismarckian social health insurance systems?



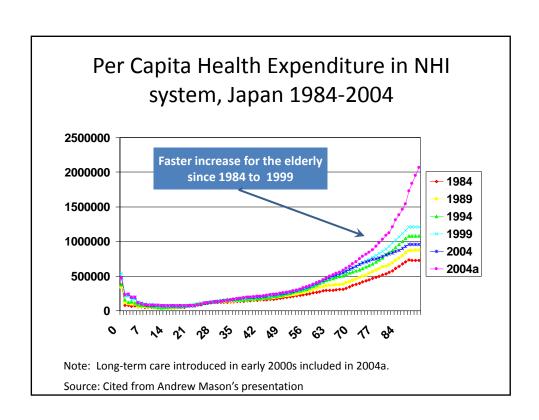
### Social Health Insurance Coverage in China

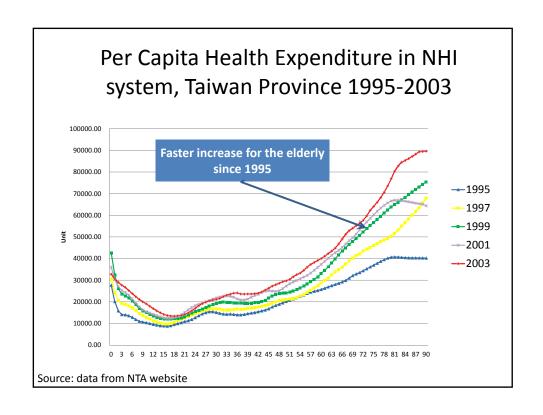
(Million people)

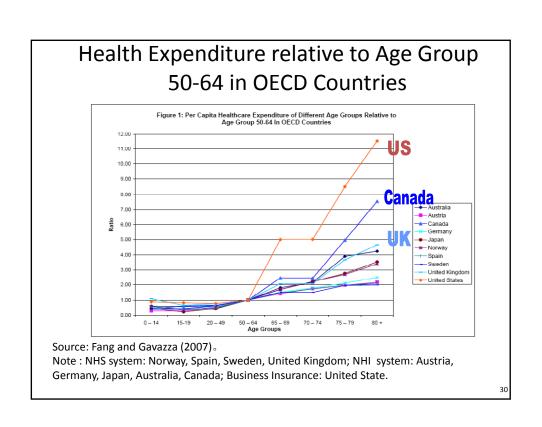
	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Basic Medical Insurance System for Urban Employees	20.653	72.859	109.017	124.036	137.829	157.318	180.203	199.956
Medical Insurance for Urban Residents							42.911	118.26
Rural Cooperative Medicare System				80	179	410	726	815

By the end of 2010, 1.260 billion people in China have been covered by at least one social health insurance program.

Source: China Labor Statistic Yearbook 1999, China Health Statistic Yearbook 2009.







#### **Conclusions**

- Increasing higher education, with no increase in retirement age, so shorter working life; increasing support for elderly; resulting in increasing total Life cycle deficit.
- China is moving quickly to a so called modern market economy with Increasing public transfers (with broader social welfare.
- China is carrying on a comprehensive health reform with the goal of universal primary heath care for all.
- Fast health expenditure increasing is a big challenge facing China.
- As in a developing country, demographic effect and transition effect are both important for the social security systems such as health care system.

### Thanks!