

**The Future Size of the Elderly Populations of the East Asian
Countries of China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and North Korea:
Implications for Eldercare and the Marriage Market**

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In this paper I examine the current and projected size (to 2050 and to 2100) of the total and older populations of the East Asian countries of China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and North Korea. I compare these with those for the World and for the United States. I show that the absolute and relative numbers of the older populations in these five East Asian countries will increase dramatically by the year 2050. In 2050, it is projected that more than one-third of the populations of Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, and more than one-quarter of China, will be persons of age 65+; these are huge increases from the respective percentages in 2015. By 2050, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea will be significantly older than the U.S., and China will be about the same age. This is a big change since 2015 when the U.S. with an elderly population of over 15 percent was older than all the East Asian countries except for Japan. I examine the dependency ratios of these countries and show that the dependency burdens will become very heavy in the decades ahead. These matters have important implications for China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and North Korea.

