Population Trends, Economic and Human Development

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Part of Lecture Series: Demographic Dividend and the Future of Asia by Kua Wongboonsin and Patcharawalai Wongboonsin

Course: Demographic Dividend and the Future of Asia

- This course purports to provide an overview and insights into the nexus between demographic change and economic growth.
- The course covers:
 - Conceptual framework and the conditions for the first and second demographic dividend,
 - Challenges and needed key strategies at the national and regional levels.

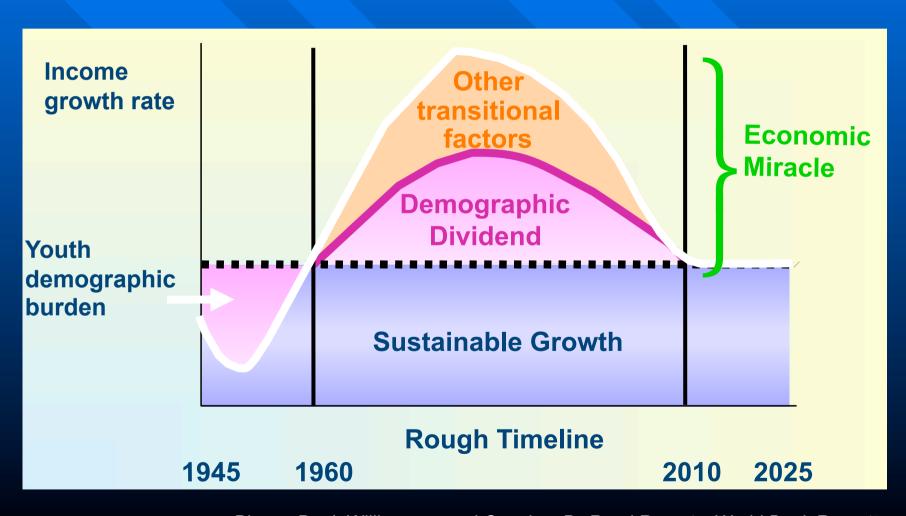
A relation between demography, aging and GDP

Source: Golini, 2006

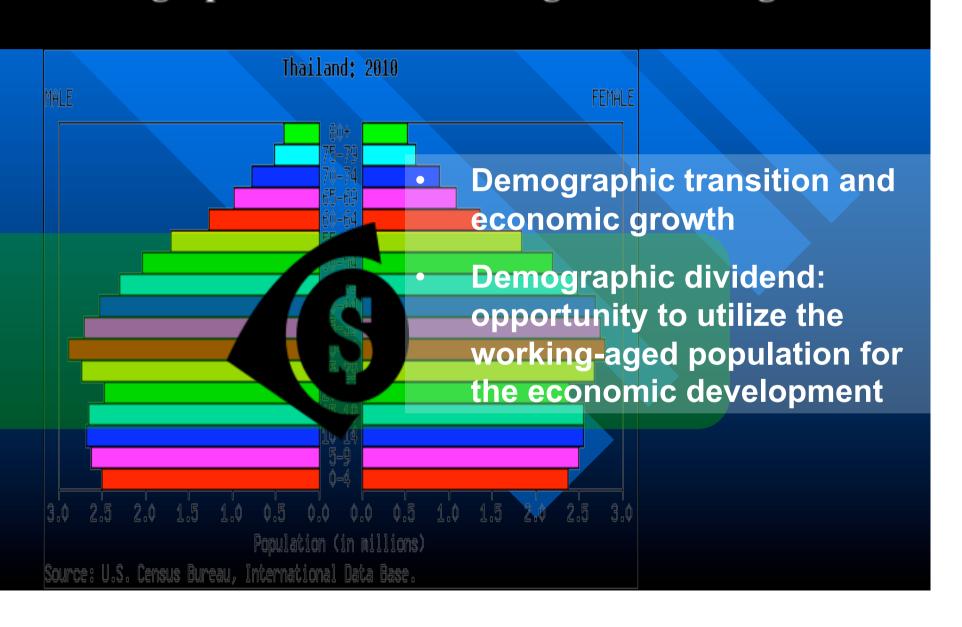
Demographic Dividend

- The concept of 'Demographic Dividend' is rooted in the Theory of Demographic Transition.
- First Demographic Dividend:
 - Occurs when a falling birth rate changes the age distribution of a population: Fertility decline; Decline in population growth; Decline in the dependency ratio (ratio of persons under age 15 and over 65 to those in the economically productive age group 15-65).
 - As a result: Up surge in labour force or working population aged 15-49yrs relative to the dependants
 - If workforce is skilled, and adequate jobs available, there is potential for workforce to increase income, save, invest and thus, stimulate economic growth

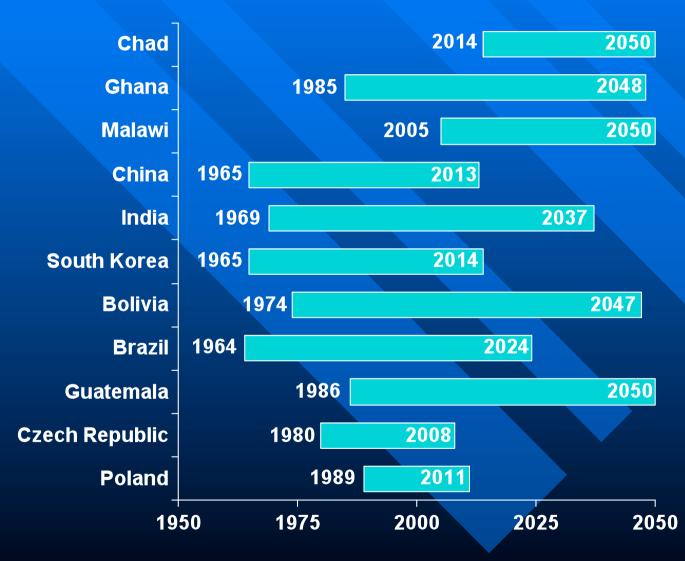
Stylized Model of Economic Growth and the Demographic Transition



Demographic dividend and migration management



Period of Potential First Demographic Dividend



Source: Population Reference Bureau, Population & Economic Development Linkages 2007 Data Sheet.

Second Demographic Dividend

- With more wealth per worker, productivity and asset income increase, leading to a long-lasting "second demographic dividend".
- The higher the proportion of older persons, the higher wealth per capita.

Conditions leading to the Second Dividend

- To realize the second dividend, wealth must be accumulated as savings or assets.
 - A precondition: Adequate jobs
 availability; Productive workforce in the
 working age → potential for workforce
 to increase income, save, invest
- To the extent that older persons depend on family transfers or public pensions, the second dividend is reduced.

To Capitalize on First and Second Demographic Dividend

- Demographic Dividend is not automatic.
- Countries need to act to capitalize on it through appropriate policies and programmes
 - Among others: size and productivity of workforce
 - » The latter: Much depends on the extent on investments in education, health, labour force skills and female participation