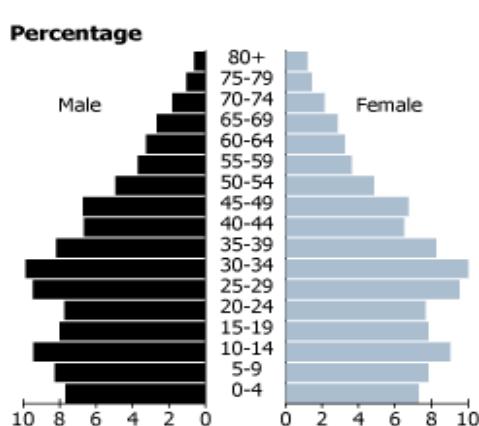


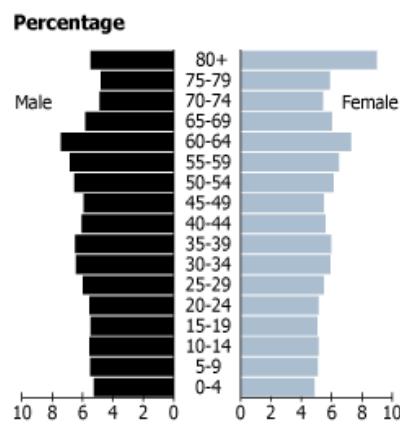
## Ageing in China:

*The impact on society, work & HAT*

Ageing populations are a serious threat to many countries' **gr\_\_\_\_\_** and **sta\_\_\_\_\_y**. Many developed European countries such as the U.K., Germany, Italy as well as **J\_\_\_\_\_** and the USA are developing policies to make sure that they have enough people of working **a\_\_\_\_** to support the **o\_\_\_\_\_r** people.



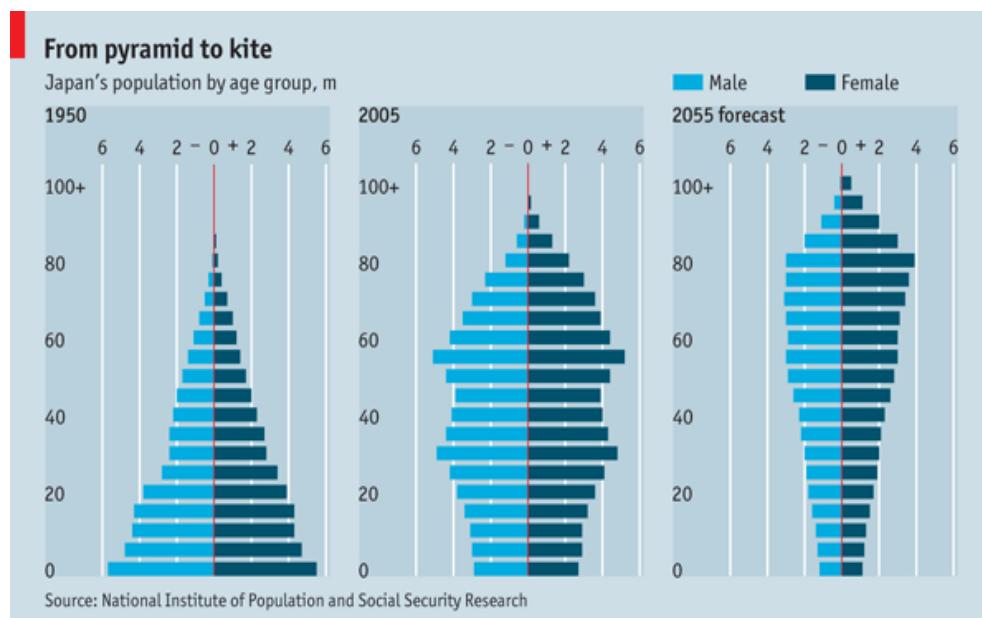
**China in 2000:** Source: World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision (2005).



**China's projected ageing trend for 2050.**  
Source: World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision (2005).

## Worksheet 3A

Let's look at **Japan**:



When discussing *age distribution*, a *pyramid* shape is a sign of a healthy economy and country. As we see, the projection for **Japan** is moving towards a *kite* shape, which shows that there are **more** people who are older than younger people.

China has made vast improvements in health over the past five decades, with **life expectancy** at birth increasing by **two-thirds** from 40.8 to 71.5 between 1955 and 2005. However, China has a problem with an ageing population too.

*What other reasons do you think have contributed to the ageing problem?*

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**Why?** Over the past two decades:

<b>Reason</b>	<b>How and why</b>
<i>Dramatic fertility decline</i>	
<i>Improved longevity (people live longer)</i>	
<i>Prevalence of chronic disease &amp; disability</i>	
<i>One-child policy</i>	

## Challenges of Ageing:

Meeting the **health** and **long-term care needs** of this growing elderly population will result in rapidly increasing *health care costs* and with a shrinking working-age population to help pay the bill (cost). **How?**

- Older people need more **c**\_\_\_\_\_ (and who so **c**\_\_\_\_s for them?)
  - Increased living **sta**\_\_\_\_\_ have increased epidemics of chronic diseases by exposure to major risk factors such as:
    - **Sm**\_\_\_\_\_ (it is estimated that \_\_\_\_\_ people die every minute in China because smoking related diseases).
    - **High-f**\_\_ and **high-cal**\_\_\_\_\_ diseases
    - More leisure time **wi**\_\_\_\_\_ **t** physical activity
    - Increased **str**\_\_\_\_\_ of both **work** and **personal** life
    - **Chronic diseases** accounted for almost \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all deaths in China in 2005

## Notes:

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Indeed, the challenge of paying for health care in China is immense:

- The Chinese health care system has already experienced large increases in **overall costs** and **greater private expenditure** since shifting to a market-oriented system in the early 1980s
- But while China is not prepared to meet the health needs of its growing elderly population, the government **has recognized** these challenges and is starting to develop a comprehensive response.

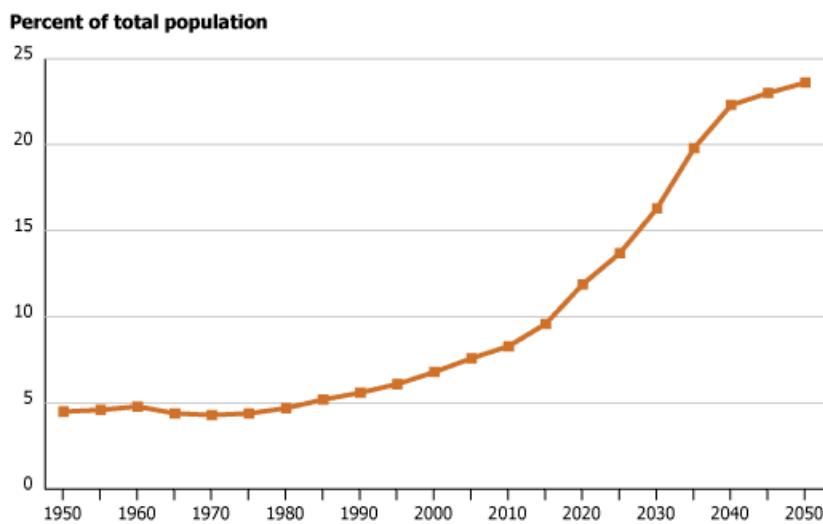
### **Ageing China: the response:**

1. As a first step, Chinese health officials have implemented **various chronic-disease prevention programs** at the national level: such as
- 
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2. They are also starting to set up long-term care delivery systems for the elderly
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- But while China's economy continues to grow rapidly, whether it will be able to allocate **enough income** to meet these rising health care costs remains as a major concern.

### Percentage of Older Adults (Age 65+) in China, 1950-2050



**China** already has about \_\_\_\_\_ **million** elderly (those aged 65 and over), or over one-fifth of the world's elderly population.

- And the percentage of elderly in China is projected to triple from 8 percent to 24 percent between 2006 and 2050, to a total number of \_\_\_\_\_ **million**

#### **Aging in China:** who cares for the old?

Long-term care for the elderly, traditionally provided at home in China by **adult children** (especially by **daughters-in-law**), will become increasingly less feasible in coming decades when **parents of the first generation** of the one-child policy start reaching old age and retiring

- These *singletons* will face the need to care for two parents and often four grandparents without siblings with whom to share the responsibility, a problem sometimes referred to in China as the "**4-2-1 problem**."
- While the number of elderly in the population who require care is **growing**, the size of the working-age population (who pay much of the health care costs) is **shrinking (decreasing)**
- *The elderly-support ratio-*
  - The working-age adult (ages 15 to 64) per number of elderly (age 65 and above)- is projected to **decline** drastically, from 9 persons to 2.5 persons by 2050.

## Strategies for long-term care:

- Though public funding for the long-term care of the elderly in China is still limited, the Chinese government has started to allocate more funding in this area
- At the same time, **new opp** for entrepreneurship in the health service industry have opened - a result of China's social-welfare reform in the 1990s, which decentralized government-funded welfare institutions and significantly reduced their government financing
- The lack of a **tr d workf** in care giving to elderly is an important issue facing China's long-term care delivery system
  - Some local government agencies (such as the *labor union* and the *department of health*) are training laid-off workers to work in long-term care - but these training programs are short and cover only limited basic care giving skills.
- The ministry is also working to develop the first long-term (from 2005 to 2015) **comprehensive national plan for chronic disease control** and prevention in cooperation with relevant sectors and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO):

*Reducing adult male smoking, hypertension, overweight and obesity, and building capacity for chronic disease control are among the plan's highest priorities.*

The challenges of population aging are daunting for any country, but especially so for **China**:

- ❖ Unlike developed countries where economic development **pre** population aging, China faces the massive demands of population **aging** at one of the fastest rates ever and while its economy is still not fully **dev** hence, **without the funds necessary to address the demands**
- ❖ China's dilemma is how to **allocate res** among competing needs of various sectors while continuing its economic growth.

### **Outlook and challenges for the future:**

- ❖ Additional issues for a society that traditionally has left elder care to its women, especially daughters-in-law.
- ❖ The labor-force **part** among young Chinese women is very high and could affect the informal provision of long-term care in the coming decades

- ❖ The **sex ratio at birth** for the young cohorts born after China's one-child policy is highly skewed **toward boys**, potentially creating a future **def**\_\_\_\_\_ of daughters-in-law as elder caregivers

**Task:**

In groups of 4-5, I would like you to put together a short presentation (5 minutes) for the class from **one of the issues** below and any **solutions** you have: No ppts. Use the material that I have provided. Extra PP5 for great presentations. Your goal is to **educate** your classmates.

1. **How it will affect your future**
2. **How it will affect HAT**
3. **How it will affect the workplace (HRM etc.)**
4. **How it will affect the business environment**
5. **How it will affect your family**

Worksheet 3A

Summary of worksheet	Summary of worksheet in Chinese

In your opinion, what is the most important thing to remember?

What are the keywords from this worksheet?

English:	Chinese translation: