



HelpAge Network Asia/Pacific Regional Conference 2014

“Older People in Ageing Societies: Burden or Resource?”

Evaluation Report

From 1 to 4 September 2014 the HelpAge Network in Asia and the Pacific held its regional conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The theme was “Older People in Ageing Societies: Burden or Resource?”

We welcomed more than 200 participants from 29 countries, representing civil society, government agencies, academia and international bodies, donors and business. The Conference provided a unique opportunity to discuss the problems and possibilities that the large and rapid demographic transition presents to our region.

Results from the evaluation survey

How would you rate the conference overall?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
61%	38%	1%	nil

Conference content

Plenary sessions

Many evaluations reported that plenary sessions were valuable and informative, with high quality content.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Older people as a resource: Redesigning societies - Eduardo Klien	60%	38%	2%	nil
Older people as a resource: The precondition of healthy ageing - Keizo Takemi	46%	50%	4%	nil
The evolving role of older people in Indonesian families - Eva Sabdono	26%	53%	20%	1%
Rethinking older people as an economic resource in ageing societies - Philip O’Keefe	49%	47%	4%	nil
Perceptions of older people in society and the media - Nalaka Gunawardene	28%	59%	13%	nil
What is community care? Care context and care issues - Tine Rostgaard	31%	61%	8%	nil

Feedback from delegates on the plenary sessions focused on:

- Time - the length of the sessions, time management by the presenters, and time available for discussion
- Depth – more case studies required on ageing policies, and more information about implementation and lessons learnt

- Handouts/slides – slide projections were hard to see, printed handouts were difficult to read, and full-text of the presentations would have been useful
- Region of focus – more information/focus on South Asia and Pacific

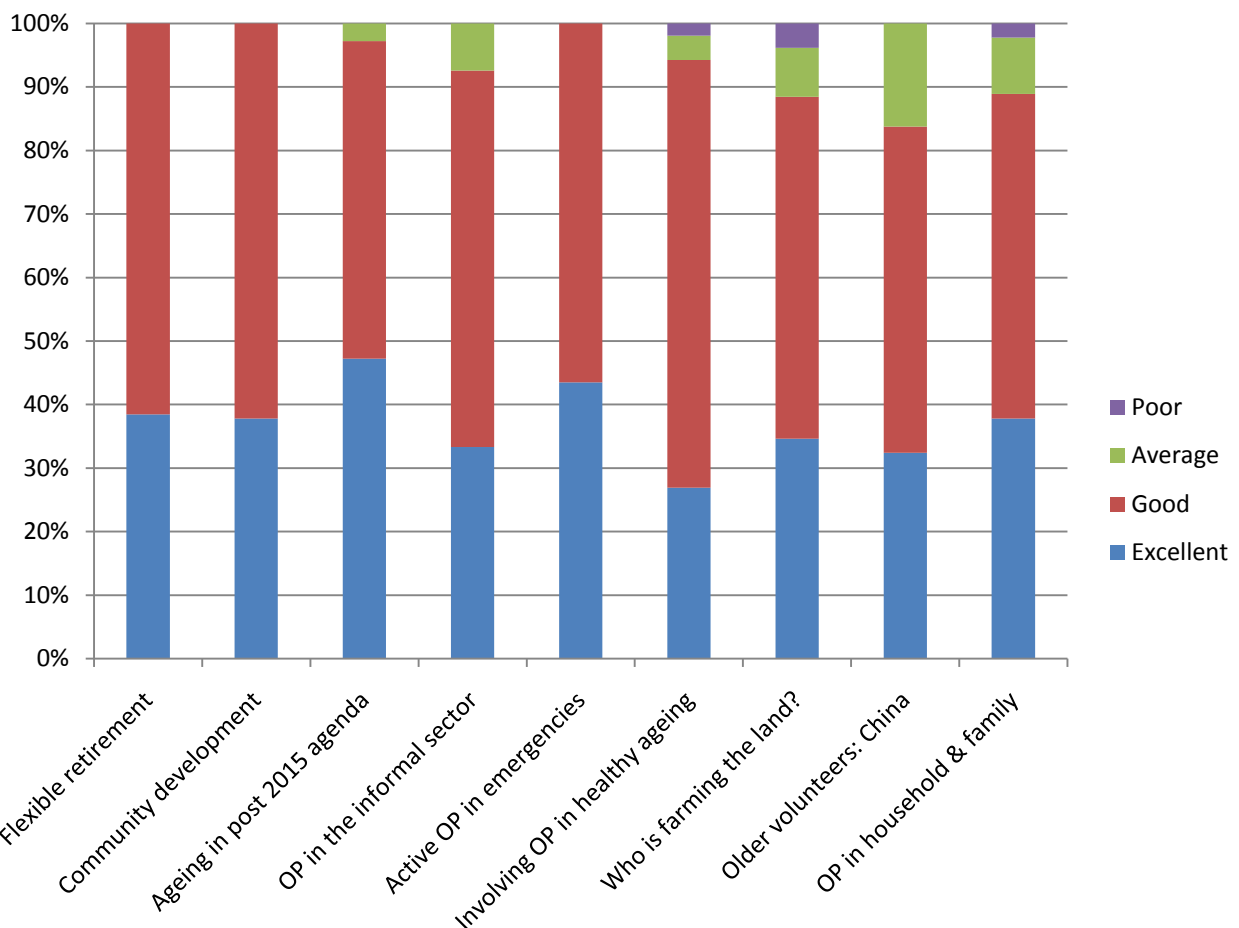
Open dialogue sessions

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Healthy older people in ageing societies	31%	69%	nil	nil
Older people as an economic resource	47%	47%	5%	nil
Perceptions of older people in society and the media	40%	50%	10%	nil

Overall, the open dialogue sessions were well-received.

- “More focused guidelines for presenters could have helped. The key outcomes could have been elaborated better”
- “The moderator and lecturer were good but it needs to have more useful experiences from the countries which are involved in comprehensive and global programs with cooperation of governments and NGOs (OPAs)”
- “This session was quite interesting and gave participants an opportunity to discuss, but not enough time to cover many issues.”
- “Valuable information and ideas. A lot of information.”

Parallel sessions

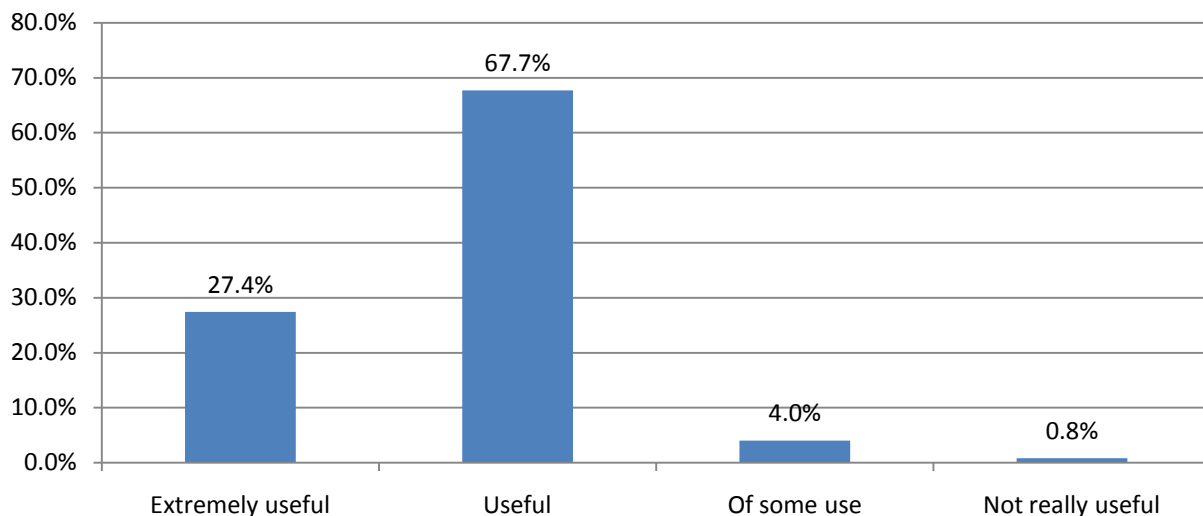


Graph: Evaluation responses to each parallel session

Feedback from delegates about the parallel sessions indicated that they were happy with the format of the sessions although more time for audience participation would have been appreciated.

Session: Summary of outcomes from parallel sessions

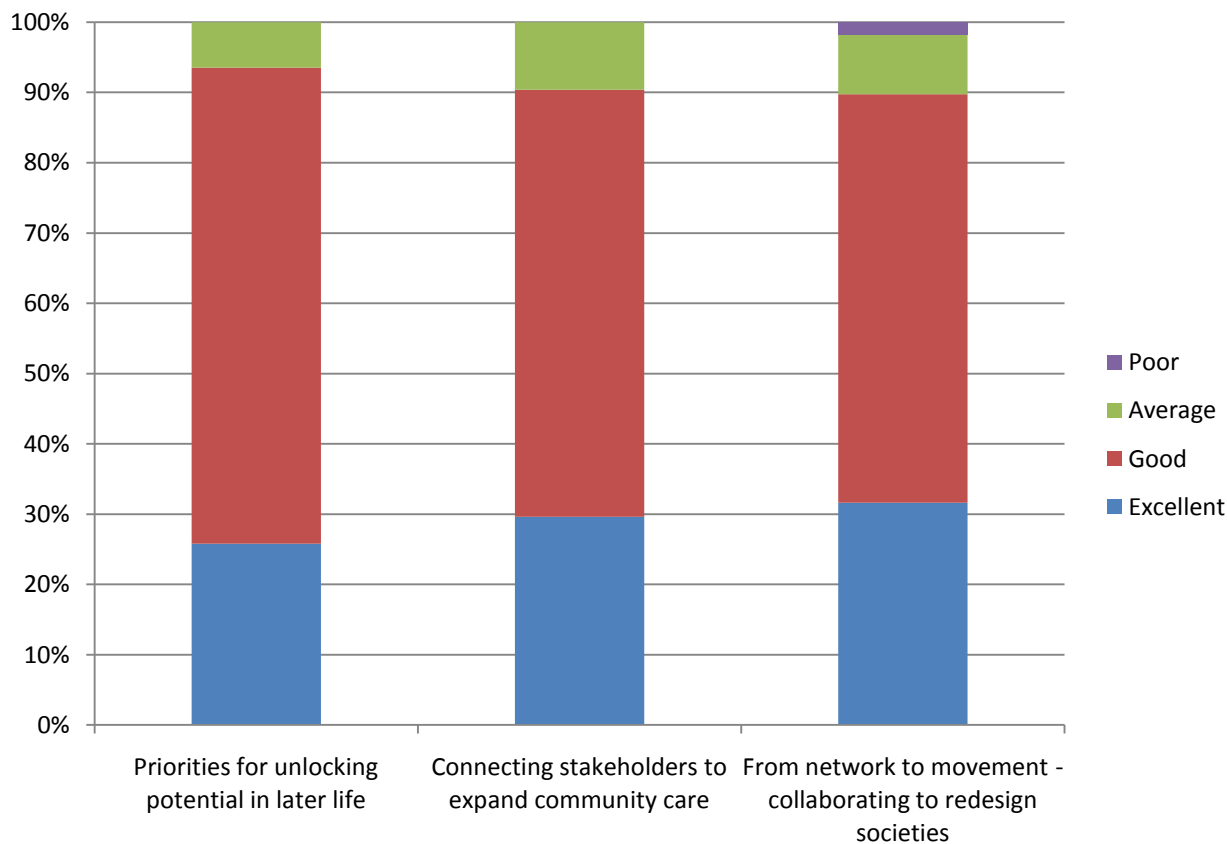
How useful did you find the session 'Summary of outcomes from parallel sessions'?



Some delegates responded that they found the PowerPoint slides in this presentation difficult to read, and didn't like the fact that it wasn't an interactive session so delegates were unable to discuss or exchange ideas based on the presented results of the parallel sessions. This session also ran significantly overtime and individual sessions were not kept to time.

Panel discussions

Feedback from delegates about the panel discussions showed overall satisfaction with all three sessions.



Graph: Evaluation responses to each panel session

Feedback from delegates on the panel sessions focused on:

- Time - time management by the panel members, and not enough time available for questions from the floor
- Focus – Some panel members did not stay on topic of the panel discussion, organisers could have collected questions and comments from delegates ahead of time and used these to inform the panel discussion – this would also have saved time on questions from the floor later
- Information – would have been useful to have name and background information on each panel member in the delegate book

Highlights

- "Presentation by Philip O'Keefe was extremely clear and interesting"
- "Excellent spirit of collaboration & sharing. I observed true friendships. I also like the right mindset that we may not have the right answer but what is important is to have the right questions"
- "The way this conference was organised facilitated much quality input and debate for all delegates"
- "Networking opportunities were extremely valuable"
- "I really enjoyed the open dialogue and parallel sessions as they are interactive and enabled participants to contribute"
- "Appreciate the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. Good to disseminate PowerPoints on USBs"
- "To see ageing issues with holistic approach"
- "Secretariat support, excellent panelists"
- "Logistics were extremely well coordinated and thoughtfully implemented – wonderful"

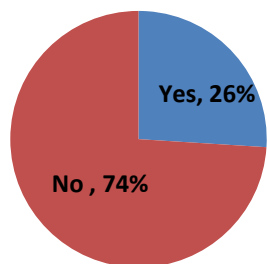
How could we improve?

- Fewer panelists on each panel to give more time for each to speak and to take questions from the floor
- More opportunities for smaller countries to share or contribute, and a little more focus on smaller countries and more isolated communities
- More involvement from youth and the youth sector
- To get better involvement and input from every participant, ask for some information/brainstorming, or conduct a survey before the conference to get ideas, topics, and questions.
- More field visits and interspersed with the conference sessions to allow discussion and reflection
- Better time management of speakers
- Introduce the perspective of private business as well
- Distribute delegate list with photos at the beginning of the conference for networking
- Less theory and more practical implementation information

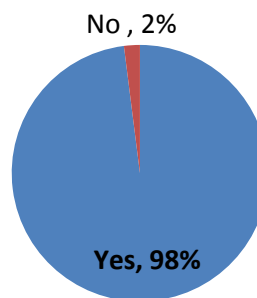
Suggested topics for future HelpAge Network Regional Conferences

- Government/NGO collaboration
- How to raise wider awareness of ageing
- Broader community involvement in OP activities
- Age-friendly cities, age-friendly communities
- Gender, ageing and development
- Ageing and economics
- How can technology help
- Flexible retirement
- Healthy and productive ageing
- Dementia
- Care in very small and/or isolated communities
- End of life care
- Spirituality and sexuality
- Disability and rehabilitation

Have you attended a HelpAge Network Regional Conference before?



Would you be interested in receiving information about the next Regional Conference?



Logistics

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Pre conference information & communications	59%	36%	4%	1%
Airport transfers	58%	39%	1%	2%
Registration process and registration packs	66%	33%	1%	nil
Hotel accommodation	51%	42%	6%	1%
Conference rooms	59%	38%	3%	nil
Visual and audio in the conference rooms	46%	45%	9%	nil
Meals at the conference venue	37%	45%	14%	4%
Welcome dinner	50%	42%	8%	nil
Closing dinner	54%	45%	1%	nil

Comments:

- "In the conference room it was a bit cold. Please adjust temperature for next conference"
- "Hotel WiFi internet is poor – weak & slow connection"
- "Well organized - well done HelpAge International"
- "Looking forward to 2016"
- "Congratulations to all for a job well done"
- "HelpAge staff in Chiang Mai are very professional, helpful and friendly"
- "Thank you very much for all the arrangements made for us. I've learnt a lot"

Field visits

Did you enjoy the field visit? Yes 98.6%
No 1.4%

Did you find the field visit relevant? Yes 98.6%
No 1.4%

Comments:

- "Showed us about good collaboration between OPA and government"
- "I have learnt new experiences from the older people club, the volunteers, and the health workers regarding the community based care for older people"
- "We gained a lot from talking individually and extensively with Ms Chanfong and the nurse who made the presentations, as well as talking with the family that we visited after the group meeting"
- "Learned more about community home based care initiated by very devoted local people and networking with government"
- "We've learned about health and social care at community level by staff and volunteers, which was excellent and very useful"

- “The visit is really valuable because we can see beneficiaries at their home visits with the volunteer working and helping”
- “The health of the elderly depends on not only their behaviour but also what they work so organic farming reflects on health, productivity and participation”
- “It was interesting, well-planned & not too tiring for us. Thoughtfully done, as always!”
- “It gave knowledge that was very relevant to our lives and society”
- “Yes, it was useful and we spent a joyful time seeing powerful elderly people but I prefer to hear more about the farmers and other elderly members of his group's experiences towards empowerment and healthy ageing”

Logistics

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Transport to and from field visit	86.1%	13.9%	nil	nil
Information given during the field visits	51.4%	45.8%	2.8%	nil
Translation	38.9%	51.4%	9.7%	nil
Snacks and lunch	55.6%	37.5%	5.6%	1.4%

Comments:

- “It would be better that the schedule for the visit is given to participants earlier”
- “The group was large so plenary Q&A was quite difficult”
- “Shorten the presentations a little bit to give more time for Q&A”
- “Field visits should be done before closing and sharing of experiences should be done during the conference”
- “It's better to take many places of field visit for 2 days”