

Aging policies in Taiwan: recent achievement and unresolved challenges

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This paper discusses and reviews recent development of ageing policies in Taiwan. Population aging has pressed severe challenges to the government in terms of allocating resources and advancing aging policies. It has become an important issues to develop adequate policies to meet the needs of older people since the early 1980s, when the proportion of people aged 65 and over has exceeded seven per cent. The development of democratization and partisan competition has accelerated the formation of new aging policies. The old age pension system has gone through several radical changes since the early 1990s. A large-scale long-term care system was established in the late 1990s, and policy debates on how to improve its quality and finance have been intensified recently. In addition, many policy measures have been developed to encourage active aging.

Aging policy has now accounted for the largest expenditure in social security in Taiwan. There has been good progress in this field in Taiwan in the past two decades. However, there remains more to be achieved to build comprehensive public policies in response to population ageing. This paper pays special attention to the development of income maintenance, long-term care system and active aging policies in Taiwan in the last 20 years. The success and unresolved challenges arising from recent policy development in Taiwan are also addressed.