

Aging Society



“Aging society” is not a crisis but an opportunity to encourage knowledge-based economic growth. Since “aging” affects a wide range of policies, it needs an interdisciplinary approach, thus provoking creative work by various experts. Their new ideas all pursue knowledge-based economic prosperity in aging society whether they are young or old. In our cover story for this issue, a distinguished Japanese economist, Dr. Naohiro Yashiro, highlights in his article a new growth-oriented strategy taking full advantage of the “elderly services market” through regulatory reform. Dr. Kazumasa Oguro, a young promising economist, argues on a possible balanced approach to increase jobs for elderly people while avoiding a rise in youth unemployment.

A pension scheme in aging society is one of the most important fiscal policy issues. Prof. Pierre Concialdi's essay on pension schemes in the EU gives us a good review of European precedents.

Elderly people can make a good contribution to innovation, a locomotive for growth, while enjoying innovative lives. This is illustrated well in an interview with a distinguished Silicon Valley mentor for young entrepreneurs.

Another approach to cope with the impact of aging upon business is the promotion of “healthy management” placing emphasis on the health of employees. We should pursue not only prosperity but also “happiness” as well, and a Japanese new star in the film business, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, stresses the role of humor that bridges generations, referring to his latest romantic comedy film “Cast me if you can” that shows how to achieve “happiness” in aging society.

Finally, aging is to be seen from “geopolitics” in foreign policy as well, as a distinguished political scientist, Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, talks about aging in China in his article.

These articles showcase a wide range of creative ideas that can convert “aging” into opportunities for cultivating new sources of innovative growth in the future.

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