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## Attitudes towards the use of ICT Training Curriculum for Thai Elderly People

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### Abstract

Learning and using information and communication technologies (ICT) such as computer technologies and internet by the elderly is seen as an important demand for their integration in daily life and as a factor related to active aging. The aim of this research is to explore the attitudes of the elderly towards ICT literacy in the context of a training curriculum about the utilization of a personal computer platform such as introduction to computer, using Windows, internet: web browser usage, e-mail management, searching information, and Facebook. It is the result of an empirical study with a sample of 32 older people (65 years and older), consisted of retired employee from the schools and universities that took place in the centers for the elderly in the province of Chiang Mai in Thailand. They registered in the special short course training for the elderly at information technology center, Maejo University, Thailand. The data were collected through questionnaire. The data were analyzed by frequency, percentage and mean. They have more skill in ICT after learning course. The research findings indicate that the elderly who use ICT learning show more positive attitudes towards new technologies. They thought of training as a means of social participation and lifelong learning.

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Keywords: Curriculum, ICT Literacy, Elderly People, Lifelong learning.

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### Nomenclature

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|---|---------------------|
| A | Curriculum Training |
| B | ICT Literacy        |
| C | Elderly People      |

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## Introduction

In Thailand, population ageing is defined as the increasing proportion of elderly people (60 years and above) in the total population. Thailand's population is rapidly ageing. In 1950, with 5 per cent of its population aged 60 years and over, Thailand ranked as the seventh most aged country among the eleven countries in South-East Asia. It has now moved up to be the second most aged country in the region (next to Singapore), with elderly people constituting more than 10 per cent of the population. This is a result of a relatively higher rate of increase in older population as a consequence of decline in fertility and improvement in longevity (UNFPA, 2006). The proportion of elderly people in total population will increase to 14.0 per cent in 2015, 19.8 per cent in 2025 and nearly 30 per cent by 2050. The population of elderly people will increase from the current 6.4 million to 9.0 million in 2015, 12.9 million in 2025 and exceed 20 million in 2050. (Figure 1)

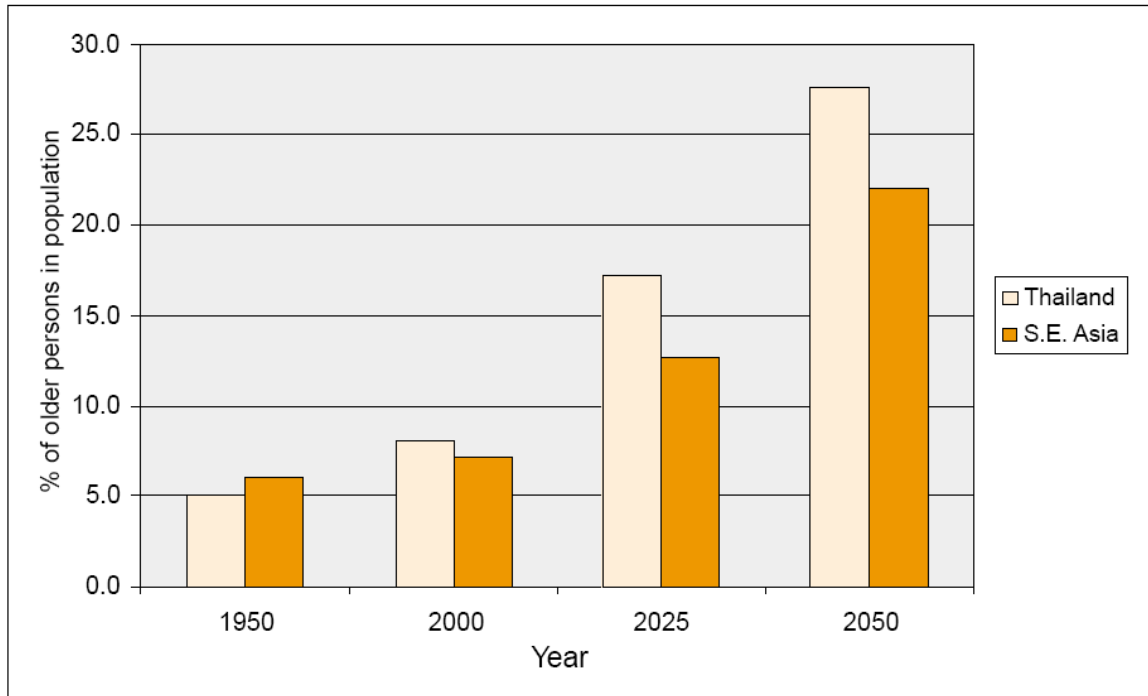


Figure 1: Thailand is ageing faster than others in South-East Asia.

**Sources:** Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Population Projections for Thailand, 2005-2025, 2006; and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division, World Population Ageing 1950-2050, Population Division, New York. 2002.

Moreover, ICT can help elderly people to improve their quality of live, promoting them to stay healthier, live independently for longer and if it this possible counteract reduced capabilities which are more prevalent with age that may allow them to remain active at work and/or in their society. Today ICT offers several solutions for elderly people for their independent living by managing their preferred environment by maintaining their

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