

Old-Age Income Security and Universal Basic Income in South Asia

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Symposium on Old-Age Income Security and Universal Basic Income in South Asia on 27 February, 2017 at NIPFP Auditorium, New Delhi. This day-long symposium is organized by the Social Development Division of UNESCAP in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), with the support of the ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi.

The objectives of the Symposium are (a) to disseminate the results of study on income security for older persons in India; (b) to share experience in providing income security for older persons in South Asia; and (c) to develop recommendations on providing income security for older persons in the sub-region. The event will be attended by experts from Government, civil society, academia and development practitioners involved in the design of or research on the provision of social protection.

The keynote address will be delivered by Mr. Hemant Contractor, Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, Government of India. The symposium will also discuss the issue of the Universal Basic Income in India with a high-level panel in the afternoon on that topic.

Symposium

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Date: Monday, 27 February, 2017

Time: 09:30AM to 05:30PM

Venue: Auditorium, Academic building, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 18/2, Satsang Vihar Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi

[Directions](#)

RSVP required

Please confirm your attendance by email with your name, organization and contact details and send it to sswa.escap@un.org or contact Ms. Uma Rao on Tel: +91 (0)11 3097-3701.



National Institute of Public Finance and Policy,
18/2, Satsang Vihar Marg,
Special Institutional Area,
New Delhi - 110067

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9:30 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10.45 **Opening Session:**

- Opening remarks by **Dr. Rathin Roy**, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi
- Opening remarks by **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok
- Keynote address by **Mr. Hemant Contractor**, Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, Government of India, New Delhi

10:45 – 11:15 **Tea Break**

11:15 – 13.00 **Session 2:** Income security for older persons in India: status and outlook [Followed by Open Discussion]

Chair: **Dr. Sudipto Mundle**, Emeritus Professor, NIPFP

Presentations

- Overview of contributory pension systems in Asia and the Pacific and lessons learnt by **Ms. Vanessa Steinmayer**, UN ESCAP
- Income security for older persons in India by **Dr. Mukesh Anand**, NIPFP

Panellists:

- **Prof. Ravi Srivastava**, JNU
- **Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala**, Pehle India Foundation
- **Mr. Mathew Cherian**, HelpAge India
- **(tbc)**, World Bank
- **Ms. Aabha Chaudhary**, President, Anugraha

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:15 **Session 3:** Income security for older persons in South Asia – overview and lessons learnt [Followed by Open Discussion]

Moderator: **Mr Matthew Hammill**, UNESCAP-SSWA

- Sri Lanka's experience in providing income security for older persons by **Ms Ganga Tilakaratna**, Institute for Policy Studies for Sri Lanka
- Experience with social pensions and their contribution to poverty reduction for older people in Nepal by **Dr Dilli Raj Khanal**, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
- The role of social pensions and challenges in expanding coverage of contributory pensions in Bangladesh by **Mr Gulam Mustafa Dulal**, Executive Director, Gono Swasthya Kendra
- Income security for older people in Bhutan by **Mr Phuntsho Wangyel**, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan
- The role of social pensions for older persons in South Asia, **Mr. Mathew Cherian**, HelpAge India

15:15 – 15.30 **Tea break**

15.30 - 17:15 **Session 4:** High Level Panel on Universal Basic Income in India: Relevance, Affordability and Implementation Challenges [Followed by Open Discussion]

Chair: **Dr. Nagesh Kumar**, UNESCAP

Presentation: **Dr. Sudipto Mundle**, NIPFP

Panellists:

- **Prof Jayati Ghosh**, JNU
- **Mr. Sarath Davala**, Indian Network for Basic Income (INBI) India
- **UNICEF Representative**, India
- **Dr. Alakh Sharma**, Director, IHD
- **Dr Sher Verick**, Deputy Director, ILO
- **Ms. Megha Pradhan**, Policy Manager, J-PAL South Asia

17.15-17.30 **Closing session** by **Dr Rathin Roy**, NIPFP and **Dr Nagesh Kumar**, UNESCAP

Symposium

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