The Role of Aging Education in China's Aging Policies

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the role of aging education in main aging policies adopted from 1980s to 2010 in China. The study was done in four steps. First, the present situation and the trends of the aging population in China were illustrated. Second, the process of aging policies issued from 1980s up to now were highlighted. Third, the educational contents contained in the main aging population policies were examined. Lastly, the role of aging education in aging policies was analyzed.

Keywords: aging population, aging education, aging policies, China

Introduction
Population aging, the process that older people account for a proportionally larger share of the total population, was a key demographic outcome of population trends during the 20th century and will surely be the distinctive trait of population during the 21st century. Starting first in the more developed countries, population aging has now become apparent in much of the developing regions and it will affect virtually all countries over the world.

In Japan, one of the more developed countries, population aging started from the 21st century. According to the Japanese National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, in Japan, the proportion of population aged 65 years or older was only 4.93% in 1950, which placed it at No. 57 in the world. But in 2010, the older people represented 22.57% of Japan's population, about 1 in every 4.4 Japanese. By the year of 2050, people 65 years or older are expected to be 37.84% of the population, and Japan will have the largest proportion of aged population in the world.\(^{(1)}\)

As mentioned above, population aging has now become apparent in much of the developing world and this includes China. After more than three decades of implementing birth control family planning, including the one-child policy, population aging has finally arrived as a demographic and social reality in China. The proportion of the population aged 65 years or older, though is not as large as Japan, is
estimated to increase from 6.97% in 2000 to 11.9% in 2026, 22.2% in 2040 and 27.1 in 2040. The number of people aged 65 or older is expected to increase from 88 million in the year 2000 to an estimated 6.34 billion by 2050. The most populous regions, like Shanghai and Beijing, have the largest number of older people. In the year 2009 Shanghai’s population aged 65 years or older was 15.8%, while the average of China was 8.5%.

In China, people live much longer and have more free time after their retirement than ever before, at the same time, fertility has declined rapidly due to the government birth control program that advocated only one child for one couple. The situation has caused an increase in the number of households with only an old couple or a single old person, who have to get on with life on their own. As people live longer, there is a greater need for care and attention, for example, pensions, health care and spiritual contentment. How to help them to enjoy their advanced year has become one of the most important issues in the 21st century.

After working many years, the aging should be able to enjoy their lives both in body and mind, as well as be appreciated as an integral part of society. Aging Education has always been considered to play an important role. Therefore, the high priority should be given to research related to aging issues. This study examined the aging educational trends in aging policies in China. The study was done in four steps. First, the present situation and the trends of the aging population in China were illustrated. Second, the process of aging policies issued from 1980s up to now were highlighted. Third, the educational contents contained in the main aging population policies were examined. Lastly, the role of aging education in aging policies was analyzed.

1 Population Growth and Aging Population in China

(1) China’s Population trend
With over 1340 million people (2010), China is the world’s largest and most populous country. As the world’s population at the same time is approximately 6900 million, China represents almost 20% of the world’s population, so one in every five people on the planet is a resident of China.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Population (million)</th>
<th>Population Increased (ten years) (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>552</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1134</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1266</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1 shows the rapid growth of China's
population. As recently as 1950, the year immediately after the founding of the People's Republic of China, China's population was a mere 552 million. The population grew dramatically through the following decades to 1340 million by the year 2010. China's population increased by 110 million in ten years from 552 million in 1950 to 662 million in 1960. The next decade had the most rapid growth, an increase of 168 million people that made China's population come up to 830 million in the year 1970. In 1980 China's population grew to 987 million. The population growth was slowed down to an increase of 157 million in this decade due to the family planning policy advocated, but not enforced at this time, after the end of the Great Cultural Revolution in the year 1967.

During the next two decades, China's population growth has been somewhat slowed down by the Chinese government's family planning policy, which officially restricts the number of children. Married urban couples may have only one child. This is well known as the one-child-policy. The population increase was respectively 147 million from 1980 to 1990 and 132 million from 1990 to 2000, and this made the total population 1134 million in 1990, and 1266 million in 2000. After the beginning of the 21st century, China's population growth has slowed down surprisingly, there was only an increase of 74 million population in the ten years from 2000 to 2010, almost half of the previous decades.

Recently this one-child-policy has become somewhat more relaxed. The policy allows exceptions for several cases in rural areas, and couples have been allowed to have a second child if the first was a girl and ethnic minority groups can now have up to three children. In urban areas, if a couple is both from a one-child family, they are allowed to have a second child, provided that it is at least four years later than the first child. The one-child-policy also does not apply to the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau. According to the UNPD's (United Nations Population Division) medium scenario, it is estimated that China's population will be 1420 million in 2020, 1460 million in 2030, 1450 million in 2040 and 1410 billion in 2050.

(2) China's Aging Population
While the fertility rate drops every year, the population is rapidly aging.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>population aged 65 or older</th>
<th>Population aged 15-64</th>
<th>Population aged 0-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
<td>59.31%</td>
<td>36.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>3.56%</td>
<td>55.75%</td>
<td>40.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>4.91%</td>
<td>61.50%</td>
<td>33.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>5.57%</td>
<td>66.74%</td>
<td>27.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6.69%</td>
<td>70.15%</td>
<td>22.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8.87%</td>
<td>74.53%</td>
<td>16.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 2 showed the data of six population censuses done after the founding of the
People's Republic of China in 1953, 1964, 1982, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The proportions of those aged 65 or older were respectively 4.41% in 1953, 3.56% in 1964, 4.91% in 1982, 5.57% in 1990, 6.96 in 2000 and 8.87% in 2010. Meanwhile, the proportions of those aged 15-64 were respectively 59.31% in 1953, 55.75% in 1964, 61.50% in 1982, 66.74% in 1990, 70.15% in 2000 and 74.53% in 2010. The percentages of the younger people aged 0-14 were 36.28% in 1953, 40.69% in 1964, 33.59% in 1982, 27.69% in 1990, 22.89% in 2000 and 16.60% in 2010. From the last half of the 20th century, the trend of China's population showed that the ratio of the younger people under 14 years old is decreasing from the peak of 40.69% in 1964 to 16.60% in 2010. Thus it has dropped 24.09% in a half century. On the other hand, the proportion of the older people aged 65 year or older grew from the lowest year of 3.56 in 1964 to 8.87%, and up 5.31% in 2010. The proportion of the people aged 15-64 also rose from the lowest of 55.75% in 1964 to 74.53% in 2010, an increase of 18.78%, and among those there are a lot who are considered to be the potential aging population.

According to National Bureau of Statistics of China\(^{(4)}\), by the year 2010, the population growth rate in China stands at less than half of the level three decades ago, but the share the aging population aged 60 above had risen to 13%. Now more than 169 million people in China are 60 years or older, a population size that exceeds the total population of Japan, Russia, Nigeria and Bangladesh whose populations are 130, 140, 150, 160 million respectively by the year 2009. If it ranked as a separate country, the aging population of China alone would make the seventh largest country after China, India (1190 million), the United States (310 million), Indonesia (230 million), Brazil (190 million) and Pakistan (170 million).

(3) China's Aging Population Scenario
Following the drastic decline in fertility in the second half of the 20th century, population aging is becoming a demographic and social reality in China after the beginning of the 21st century. Table 3 is about the aging population of China, the developed countries and the developing countries, according to the UN World Population Prospects medium scenario (2007) in the coming 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Developed Countries</th>
<th>Developing Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UN Population Prospects Medium Scenario (2007)

The percentages of those aged 65 years or older are expected to increase from 8.87% in 2010 to 11.9% in 2020, 16.2% in 2030, 22.2% in 2040 and 23.7% in 2050 in China.
Compared with the developed countries, the population percentages of persons aged 65 years or older are estimated to be respectively 19.0% in 2020, 22.4% in 2030, and 24.7% in 2040 and 26.1% in 2050; the developing countries are expected to have much lower shares of 7.5% in 2030, 9.8% in 2030, 12.5% in 2040 and 14.7% in 2050. China's proportion of aging population is much higher than other developing countries, although China is a developing country itself. Also the share is even higher than the worldwide average, and reached the same level as developed countries. China is the first developing country who is joining the ranks of aging society at a rapid pace without being a developed country.

Advanced in modern health care and nutrition contributed to the lower mortality rate and much longer life span of Chinese people, another factor in China's population aging is the one-child policy mentioned above. When the one-child-policy began in China thirty years ago, China's population was growing at about 1.5% annually and the share of China's population aged 65 or older constituted only 4.9% of the total population.\(^5\) China's population growth rate of 0.63% in 2010\(^6\) stands less than half of the level three decades ago. The one-child-policy not only resulted in a significant decrease in China's child birth rate, but also, at the same time, has led to an increase proportion of the aging and a bigger ratio gap between the aging and the young people. There is little doubt that China's aging process will accelerate. The demographic shift to the aging society has had a profound impact on and has affected every aspect of Chinese society. China's population aging has become one of the hardest challenges that China has to face in the 21st century. The challenge is how to develop and apply policies designed to enhance the lives of the aging as individuals, which will allow them to enjoy life fully both in body and in mind, as well as to spend their advancing years in peace, health and security.

2 The Process of the Formulation of Aging Policies

(1) The World Trends on Aging Policies

In order to call world-wide attention to the aging issues as the aging population increased, delegates met in Vienna in 1982 to draw up the historic first international agenda on aging to guide policies and programs on the aging. "The Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging" was adopted by the World Assembly on Aging held by the United Nations in Vienna from 26 July to 6 August 1982. Approximately ten years later in 1991, "United Nations Principles for Older Persons" was adopted to encourage countries to mainstream the aging in the policies. The next year in 1992, the General Assembly adopted eight global targets on aging and a brief guide for setting national targets. In a number of
important respects, these global targets serve to reinforce the obligations of states’ parties to the covenant. In 1995, "the Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights" was created by the member states’ parties and "Older Persons and the Covenant on Economic and Cultural Rights" was passed to improve its translation into acts by drawing governments' attention on the implementation insufficiencies. In 2002, the United Nations member states adopted "the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging" during the Second World Assembly that set the agenda for governments to respond to the growing number of the aging in every country.(7)

(2) The Formulation of Aging Policies in China

(a) Committees on Aging
Under the influence of the world trends, China began to recognize the need to pay serious attention to the growing aging population. In 1983, "China National Committee on Aging" was created as a special organization to lead and conduct actions on aging issues nationwide. The national committee's obligation was to make action-oriented policies and comprehensive strategies as well as conducting and supervising the local governments over the whole country. Following the national committee, local committees on aging issues were set up in all the provinces, cities and counties in China.

Based on China's social structures, cultural values and traditions, the national committee set up a basic principle on aging issues which is well known as "having five accesses". "Having five accesses" means the society must take great care of older people and that older people should have accesses to ① economic security, ② health care, ③ opportunity to pursue their life fulfillment, ④ right for education and ⑤ chance to enjoy themselves in their advancing years.

(b) Development Outlines on Aging in Seven Years (1994-2000)
As stated above, the committees on aging issues have been set up nationally and locally since 1983. These committees have greatly promoted national understanding of economic, social and cultural implications for the processes of population aging. The numbers and proportions of the aging had been rapidly increasing with the result that the population aged 60 years or older has reached up to 100 million, accounting for about 10% of the total population in 1994.(8) The population structure shows that China is slowly becoming an aging society. In order to further and stimulate action-oriented programs aimed at guaranteeing social and economic security for the aging, as well as providing opportunities for them to contribute to, and sharing in the benefits in the rapid economic growth and development of Chinese society, "Development Outlines on
Aging in Seven Years (1994-2000) was adopted by ten national ministries and commissions in 1994. In Outline 8 it stated that "the Law on Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly will be Issued in Three Years". (9)

(c) Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly

Only two years after the above statement was made, in order to implement aging policies and to protect the rights of the aging, “Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly” was issued in 1996. The Article 3 stated the ultimate goal of "governments and society should take measures to improve the social security system, to better the conditions consistently for the well-being of the aging and provide opportunities for them to participate in the process of social development, therefore to realize the goal of “having five accesses” of economic security, health care, life fulfillment, education and contentment." (10) This is the first law adopted to protect the sovereign rights and interests of the aging in the history of China.

(d) China’s Planning Outlines on Aging 2001-2005

After the entering of the 21st century, China's population growth has slowed down surprisingly. On the other hand, the proportion of people 60 years or older went up quickly and already exceeded 10% at the turning point of the 21st century. (11) Since China has the largest population in the world, the total number of the aging has grown on a massive scale, which has had a great influence on social and economic development of China. To satisfy the aging’s increasing needs both physically and culturally is considered to be essential in the development of the social equality and stability in modern China. Therefore, on the basis of “Development Outlines on Aging in Seven Years (1994-2000)” and "Law of the People's Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly" stated above, "China’s Planning Outlines on Aging 2001-2005" was adopted in 2001. In the outlines, the general goal and the principle were described as follows:" In order to make real the principle of "having five accesses to economic security, health care, life fulfillment, education and contentment, we must accelerate the pace of the development of the aging services and focus our concentration on the most important issues to push the aging enterprise into a new stage,". (12)

(e) China’s Planning Outlines on Aging 2006-2010

Compared with the passing five years, a more rapid increase of the aging was expected in the coming five-year period. The number of the people aged 60 years or older was expected to 174 million and the share of the total population would be 12.78% by the year 2010. (13) It is estimated that aging
population will reach the peak around the year 2030, which means there is only 25 years for China to prepare for it. Such population aging will exert profound impact on political, economic and social aspects not only on China, but also on the rest of the world, as China is playing an increasingly important role in the global society. There is a need to present an aging policy consistent with national values and goals, as well as internationally recognized principles, therefore "China’s Planning Outlines on Aging 2006-2010" was adopted in 2006. "In order to realize the goal of having five accesses, efforts should be intensified to consistent with the necessity of the older people, so that the aging are enabled to have an agreeable environment as well as a harmonious social surroundings" was emphasized in the outlines. In 1983, at the end of the same year of the setting up of "the National Committee on Aging Issues", the first aging college was set up in Shandong Province. More aging colleges were open at some big cities like Beijing, Guangzhou and Changsha in the following year in 1984. By the year 1988, more than 900 aging colleges had appeared and about 130 thousands students were studying in aging colleges. By the year 1993, aging colleges had set up not only in big cities, but also in many small cities, towns and even villages. This situation created a need for polices based on the principles of the aging education. The educational contents contained in the main aging policies stated above were summarized as follows.

In 1994, "Development Outlines on Aging in Seven Years (1994-2000)" was issued, as mentioned previously. Concerning the aging education, the following aspects were pointed out. (a) To enrich the lives of the aging in their advancing years and allow them to enjoy their lives in both body and mind. (b) To encourage the aging to learn and increase their knowledge to catch up with accelerated social change. (c) To provide education programs for the aging about how to keep health and prevent diseases. (d) To encourage the aging to serve as the transmitters of traditional values. (e) To provide more programs for the in the fields like TV, radios, movies and publications. (f) To
build facilities for the aging to participate in their educational activities. (g) To set up the research institutes and colleges to do the research and studies to support in planning, policy formulation and management of aging issues. Colleges for the aging were to "provide significant places for older people for their education, life fulfillment and enjoyment, as well as a very important way of aging education". (17)

Then in 1996, "Based on the Constitution of People’s Republic of China, for the purpose of protecting the legal rights of the aging, developing the aging enterprise and promoting Chinese traditional virtue of respecting the aging" (18), "Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly" was adopted. The rights and interests of the aging about education can be highlighted as follows. (a) Young people should be educated to respect, to take care of and to help the aging, as well as to learn skills, knowledge and experiences from the aging. (b) The aging have the right to receive continued education. The government must promote aging education and encourage social organizations to manage various types of schools well for them. The governments at all levels must take the leadership in aging education and make comprehensive plans for it. (c) The governments and organizations must support the cultural, sports and recreational activities for the aging, so as to enrich the aging’s cultural lives. (d) The aging should be encouraged to engage in the activities to educate young people and pass on traditional cultures. This is the first time that aging education is protected by law in China.

In “China’s Planning Outlines on Aging 2001-2005” which was adopted in 2001, four main tasks for the aging educational contents were presented: ① to create the agreeable surroundings of respecting, understanding, concerning and helping the aging, ② to enrich the leisure time of the aging and improve the quality of their cultural life, ③ to develop aging education in order to double the student enrollment of the aging colleges and ④ to inspire the aging to play an active role in contributing to society and using their time creatively. The following measures were pointed out in order to implement the above-mentioned tasks, (a) to educate the public with regard to the aging and add contents of respecting the aging in textbooks in primary and middle school education, (b) to build facilities for the aging to participate in social, cultural and educational activities, (c) to enrich the cultural life for the aging, TV channels and mass media should be used to develop programs for them, (d) to establish websites for the aging, (e) to encourage governments at all levels and non-government organizations to be involved in cultural and sports enterprises for the aging.
Recreation-oriented programs for the aging should be promoted in order to help them enjoy themselves. (19)

In 2006 "China's Planning Outlines on Aging 2006-2010" was adopted. In its outlines for the first time the aging education was outlined as an independent topic and more educational contents were included as follows. (a) Governments at all levels should increase funding for the aging colleges, at the same time encourage non-government organizations to be involved in the TV colleges, net schools and community colleges for the aging, for the purpose of increasing 10 million aging colleges by the year of 2010. (b) Governments at all levels should take necessary measures to develop skill training programs for the aging in rural areas, so as to help them economically as well by a dual approach of interesting them in education and skill learning. (c) The concerned organizations should provide cultural and sports-allied services for the aging to the fullest extent possible in the whole country. These services should include a broad range of fields such as: radio, TV, literature, movies, plays, newspapers, publications, net publications, liberal arts and music, where the aging can play an active role both as audience and participants. (d) There is also a need to educate the general public and younger generation to respect, support and help the aging. These efforts are necessary for achieving an age-integrated society. (20)

4 The Role of Aging Education in Main Aging Policies


(1) Aging Education as One of the Basic Human Rights

In the past, many people considered education and learning beyond age sixty of little value to society given the limited life span to use such knowledge. But aging education has been viewed differently since the older people account for a proportionally larger share of the total population and become one of the biggest issues from the last part of the 20th century. For the first time "life-long learning system should be set up and improved" was written in the "Educational Law of People's Republic of China" issued in 1995. (21) Education, as one of the human basic rights undoubtedly must be applied for the aging as well. So the next year "the Law of the People's Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly" was issued. "The aging have the right to receive continued education"(22)
education must be made available without discrimination against the aging was clearly pointed out for the first time in Chinese law history.

(2) To Catch up with the Changing Society
In order to realize the ultimate goal for the aging stated above, aging education is considered an important tool in this knowledge and information explosion period. The scientific and technologic revolutions of the 21st century have led to a knowledge explosion, and this explosion is resulting in information obsolescence. These changes suggest that the educational structures of society must be expanded to respond to the educational needs of an entire life-span. Such continuous education needs were suggested in the aging policies as “to encourage the aging to learn and increase their knowledge to catch up with accelerated social change” in Outlines 1994-2000, and “governments at all levels should take necessary measures to develop skill training programs to the aging in rural areas, so as to help them economically as well by a dual approach of interesting them in education and skill learning” in Outlines 2006-2010.

(3) To Enable the Aging Enjoying Their Advancing Year Both in Body and Mind
In aging policies the governments at all levels and organizations are requested to enhance lives of the aging as individuals and to take measures to allow them to enjoy in both body and mind (Outlines 1994-2000). It is recognized that the quality of life is no less important than longevity that the aging should therefore, as far as possible, be enabled to enjoy their lives and be appreciated as an integral part of society. Care should be taken to adapt educational structures, so that the aging may have access to participation in leisure activities, basic literacy education as well as continuing adult education at all levels. “The governments and organizations must support the cultural, sports and recreational activities for the aging, so as to enrich the aging's cultural lives” was stated in the Law on Protecting the Rights and Interests on Aging, and “to enrich the leisure time of the aging and improve the quality of their cultural life,” “to encourage government and non-government organizations to be involved in cultural and sports enterprises for the aging. Recreation-oriented programs for the aging should be promoted in order to help them to enjoy themselves” were suggested in Outlines 2001-2005.

(4) As the Educators and Transmitters of Traditions, Values and Skills
In the policies, it is emphasized that there is a need to educate the general public in understanding that aging is a natural process, where stereotypes of the aging should not exist. Efforts by educational institutions should be devoted to overcoming the stereotyping
of older people incapable of functioning independently and having neither roles nor status in society. Generally the aging have the rich life experiences and a co-oriented effort should be made to highlight the positive aspects of the aging that they still can serve the society as educators and transmitters of information, knowledge, traditions and spiritual values and this important tradition should not be lost. "Young people should be educated to respect, to take care of and to help the aging, as well as to learn skills, knowledge and experiences from the aging" and "the aging should be encouraged to engage in the activities to educate young people and pass the traditional cultures" were stated in the Law on Aging. Besides "to encourage the aging to serve as the transmitters of traditional values" in Outlines 1994-2000, and "to inspire the aging to play an active role in contributing to society and using their time creatively" in Outlines 2001-2005 were pointed out.

(5) Responsibilities of Governments and Organizations for Aging Education
As aging education issue which affects many aspects mentioned above, and which requires increasing supporting and assistance, therefore the governments at all levels are urged, in co-operation with all the concerned organizations to be responsible for aging education, to continue and to strengthen the supporting and assistance in the field. In the policies for aging education, "the governments at all levels must promote aging education and encourage social organizations to manage various types of schools well for the aging. Then the governments must take the leadership in aging education and make comprehensive plans for it" was stated in the Law on Aging. Also "the governments should take responsibility to build facilities for the aging to participate in social, educational and cultural activities" was pointed out in the Outlines 2001-2005. In the latest Outlines 2006-2010, "the concerned organizations should provide cultural and sports-allied services for the aging to the fullest extent possible in the whole country. These services should include a broad range of fields such as: radio, TV, literature, movies, plays, newspapers, publications, net publications, liberal arts and music, where the aging can play an active role both as audience and participants." was stated.

(6) Roles of Aging College Education
Since the first aging college was set up in China in 1983, more and more aging colleges were open nationwide. "The aging colleges are providing significant places for the aging for their education, life fulfillment and enjoyment and have always been an important way of aging education" was stated in the Law on
Elderly. Then in the Outlines 2006-2010, "governments at all levels should increase funding for aging colleges, at the same time encourage non-government organizations to be involved in the TV colleges, net schools and community colleges for the aging, for the purpose of increasing 10 million aging colleges by the year of 2010 " was pointed out.

Conclusion
In China only from the past four decades the attention of society has been paid to the aging socially, economically, politically, scientifically and culturally raised by the phenomenon of aging on a massive scale. Previously, while individuals may live into advanced stages of life, their numbers and proportion in the total population were not high. From the second half of the 20th century, China has witnessed drastic declines of fertility mainly due to the declines in birth rates by implementing the famous one-child-policy from the year 1979. This has also resulted in an increasing numbers and proportion of the aging. Only about six decades ago in 1953, four years after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the proportion of those aged 65 or older were merely 4.41%. By the year 2010, their proportion had doubled to 8.87%. These demographic trends are having significant effects on Chinese society.

Under the influence of the world trends, China began to recognize it is necessary to develop and apply policies designed to enhance the lives of the aging and allow them to enjoy in their advancing years in peace, health and security. In 1983, "China National Committee on Aging" was created by central government as a special organization to lead and conduct the actions on aging issues nationwide. Following the national committee, local committees on aging issues were set up at every provinces, cities and counties by local governments. These committees have greatly promoted national understanding of aging issues. In order to further and stimulate action-oriented programs aimed at guaranteeing social and economic security "Development Outlines on Aging in Seven Years (1994-2000)” was adopted by ten national ministries and commissions in 1994. Two years later in 1996, in order to implement aging policies and to protect the rights of the aging, the first law on aging ‘Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Elderly” was issued. After the entering the 21st century, China’s population growth has been greatly slowed down, on the other hand, the proportion of the aging went up quickly. Aging has been a social issue which affects many aspects and requires increasing support by presenting policy alternatives and options consistent with rapidly changing society. In request of this, China has issued the renewed outlines on aging in every five years. "China’s Planning Outlines on Aging

In 1983, when "The National Committee on Aging Issues" was created, "having five accesses" to ① economic security, ② health care, ③ opportunity to pursue their life fulfillment, ④ right for education and ⑤ chance to enjoy themselves in their advancing years was set up as the fundamental principle. This "having five accesses" has always been the principle as well as the ultimate goal in all the China aging main policies.

Education is considered as one of the important factors in the ultimate goal and the role of education was reflected in all the main aging policies. It has been recognized that quality of life is no less important than longevity and education, as one of the basic human rights, must be available without discrimination against the elderly. "The aging have the right to receive continued education" was stated by the law and this is the first time that aging education was protected in Chinese law history.

Aging education is also considered as an important tool in this knowledge and information explosion period, and the aging should be encouraged to learn and increase their knowledge to catch up with this accelerated social change. Meanwhile in order to enable the aging enjoying their advancing year both in body and mind, the care should be taken to adapt educational structures that the aging may have access to participate in leisure activities, basic literacy education as well as continuing adult education at all levels.

On the other hand, the aging have the rich life experiences, they can serve the society as educators and transmitters of traditions, values and skills to the younger generation, meanwhile the younger generation should be educated to respect, to help and to take care of the aging.

The governments at all levels and concerned organizations should take the responsibilities to promote aging education and make comprehensive plans for it. Also the governments should be responsible to build facilities for the aging to participate in social, educational and cultural activities.

Aging colleges are greatly encouraged. The aging colleges are considered to provide significant places for the older people for their education, and the governments are urged to increase funding for aging colleges, at the same time non-government organizations are encouraged to be involved in the TV colleges, net schools and community colleges for the aging.
References


(5) The previous reference book (2) p.37


(8) The previous reference paper (7) Outline 2

(9) The previous reference paper (7) Outline 8

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(12) The previous reference paper (11) Outline 8


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(15) China Association of the Universities for the Aged “China’s Aging Education in 30 years” http://www.chinau3a.com/Indx/html/?2122.html 2009.2.16

(16) The previous reference paper (15)

(17) The previous reference paper (11)

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