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# Review of Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World, by UNDP.

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will either impose a heavy burden on family caregivers or cannot be delivered adequately at home.

Social networks of the elderly providing assistance to and receiving assistance from other elderly can play an important role, and in India are positively associated with income and education. In China, participation in social activities is correlated with socioeconomic status and may be causally related to improved cognitive function. Elderly Thais are generally satisfied with their lives but express dissatisfaction with their relationship with their spouse.

The final section of the book deals with health. In Indonesia, as in India, hypertension has emerged as a major health problem among the elderly. In China, a particularly welcome chapter explains who, in the wake of repeated pilot programs and reforms that can confuse the observer, has health insurance and who does not. The spread of health insurance, while it is far from generous and leaves many vulnerable to major medical expenditure, is documented in rural areas. A companion chapter on India makes it clear that country has further to go than China in ensuring access to basic care for the elderly.

This collection of generally high-quality papers will be of great use to those who, while familiar with the basics of aging in Asia, wish to catch up on the latest research emerging from new data available for countries in the region.—L.MacK.

#### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

##### *Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*

New York: United Nations Development Programme, 2013. 212 p. \$30.00 (pbk.) (Free pdf version: [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2013\\_EN\\_complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2013_EN_complete.pdf)).

The Human Development Index (HDI), the multi-dimensional development measure derived from life expectancy, education, and income indexes, is the *raison d'être* of the UNDP's annual *Human Development Report*. To discover that every country for which data are available had a higher HDI in 2012 than in 2000 is heartening, especially in light of the economic recession being experienced by the world's most developed economies. To discover that low and medium HDI countries are experiencing higher rates of HDI growth than high HDI countries also gives egalitarians a needed lift in a world in which only elites seem to be prospering. The first two chapters of this year's edition contend that the "rise of the South," a trend likely to be the hallmark of the twenty-first century, has not been the result of countries following the single development path of "unfettered liberalization espoused by the Washington Consensus" (p. 4). Rather, countries pursuing a wide range of development strategies have experienced exceptional increases in their HDI level. In Chapter 3 the authors identify the three "development drivers" that they contend are behind contemporary development success: having a strong proactive state; participating in global markets; and focusing social policy on promoting both economic growth and equity. Chapter 4 might hold the most interest for demographers. The authors identify four changes that need to occur in the future if Southern countries are to continue their comparative HDI ascent: equity, especially educational equity, needs

to be enhanced across gender and group boundaries; political participation needs to expand; environmental problems need to be confronted; and demographic change needs to be managed. Two projection models are used to make the case. For example, the Lutz and KC model illustrates potential reductions in deaths to children under age 5 in India if its education levels were to expand like those of South Korea over the past several decades: 3.1 million child deaths in 2045–2050 instead of 6.1 million (p. 90). And the International Futures model quantifies what might happen to the population living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa under an “environmental disaster” scenario compared to the “base case” scenario: 1.1 billion living on less than \$1.25 (ppp) per day by 2050 instead of 267 million (p. 96). Chapter 5 examines the new global political environment that is emerging as North–South disparities in economic, education, and health conditions lessen. The authors focus on the need to change international governance institutions in ways that recognize the new power dynamics of a world with an ascendant South. Informed as much by advocacy as objectivity, the 2013 *HDR* makes for stimulating reading. The standard 60-page HDI statistical annex completes the volume.—D.H.