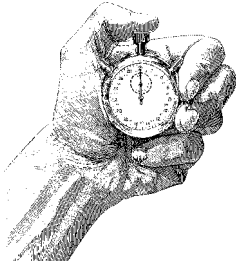


## ACTIVITY 5A: TEACHER HANDOUT



### *East Asia Aging the Fastest*

It will take only one-quarter of a century from 1970 to 1996, for the percentage of population aged 65 and over in Japan to increase from 7 to 14 percent. Similar increases are expected in China, beginning in the year 2000, and elsewhere in East Asia (e.g., South Korea and Taiwan). These rapid gains will be fueled by dramatic drops in past fertility levels. The rapidity of change in East Asia stands in stark contrast to some European countries, where the comparable change occurred over a period of 80 to 115 years. Such rapidly aging societies are likely to face the often-fractious issues related to health care costs, social security and intergenerational equity that have emerged in Europe and North America.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Population Reports, P25, 92-3, *An Aging World II*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1992, pp. 11-12.