

Designing Fiscally Sustainable and Equitable pension systems in Asia in the post crisis world

Bob Charles January 2013



Background

Issues across Asia

Demography	Rapidly ageing populations
Economic	Strong economic growth
Retirement age	Early retirement ages
Retirement savings	Low coverage of formal retirement savings
Other savings	Household savings rates typically high
Family support	Traditionally important, but possibly fading

What is the role for private pension saving?

Themes

Adequacy

 Are 'general' savings likely to be adequate to provide for retirement?

Efficiency

How efficient are these savings?

What can be done to encourage retirement savings

 How can retirement savings be delivered?

Discuss these questions in context of three key Asian economies

- China
- India
- Korea

We examine

- 1. Attitudes to saving
- Recent developments in private pension provision
- 3. Challenges for the future

Attitudes to saving

Towers Watson Savings Attitudes Survey

TW Savings Attitudes Survey (2011)

The survey

- Savings behaviour and retirement preferences of urban middleclass employees in China and India
- Typical respondent male, young, urban middle-class working in formal sector, wealthier than average

	China	India
Number of respondents	2261	2440
Average age	33.3	32.5
Average salary (\$USD)	\$15,208	\$18,119

Household savings

Is there an adequacy problem?

Savings

High rates of saving in both China (avg. 27%) and India (22%)

Assets

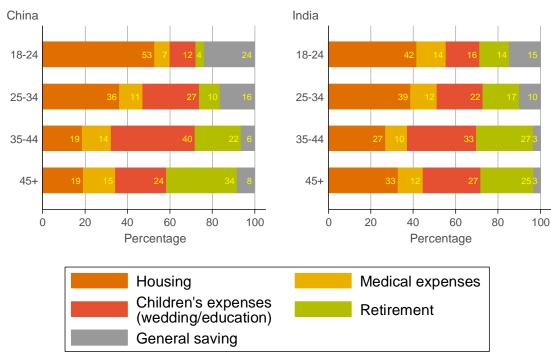
 Significant assets holdings – much of which is invested in housing

	С	hina	Inc	dia
Age group	Average value assets (USD)	Average house value (USD)	Average value assets (USD)	Average house value (USD)
18-24	49,400	140,200	47,700	149,500
25-34	97,700	169,300	74,700	166,600
35-44	159,000	196,400	112,000	153,100
45+	176,700	220,200	88,600	143,100

Motivations for saving

Most important reasons for saving

What factors are most important in motivating you to save



Towers Watson Savings Attitude Survey, 2011

Without thinking much about retirement many have adequate savings

Saving for retirement

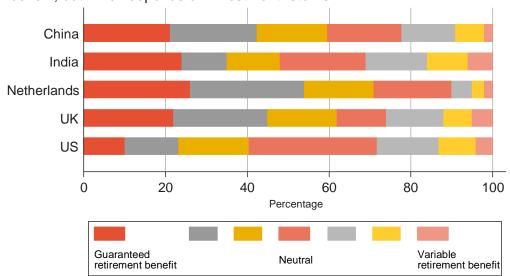
Employee preferences for retirement saving

Attitudes

- Employees do not exhibit a strong preference for forgoing pay for retirement provision
- But typical employee risk averse

Choice between ...

A guaranteed retirement benefit and a potentially greater retirement benefit, but which depends on investment returns



Towers Watson Retirement Attitudes Surveys 2011

Encouraging retirement savings

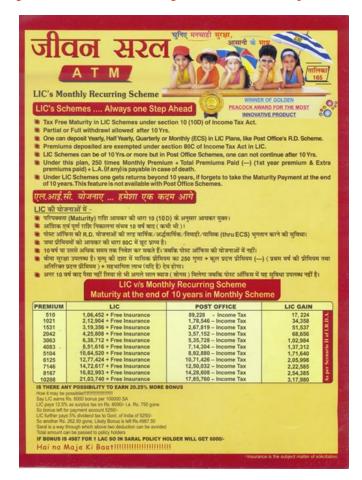
The challenges of complexity, choice and distribution

Complexity

What a Potential Saver in India sees....

The name of the product means essentially that it makes your life simpler





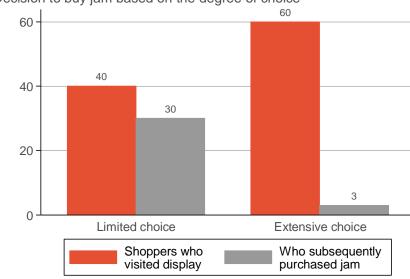
Choice

Excess choice can be demotivating

- The number and complexity of choice can be overwhelming for many
- Consumers are more likely to purchase items and be more satisfied with their choices when fewer options are available
- Although people enjoy the idea of having greater options, in reality they find the process of choosing more difficult

How choice can be demotivating





Source: Lepper and Iyengar (2000)

Distribution

Distribution channels

Needs

- Many employees lack financial knowledge need help to make financial decisions
- Products are complicated and technical

Advisory sector

- Independent advisers scarce in most developing markets
- Prevalence of agency and intermediary distribution channels across the region
- Incentives for advisers are often focused too heavily on maximizing assets (and hence fees) and not enough on suitable outcomes for individuals

Role for workplace pensions?

Recent developments

China, India and Korea

China

Current picture

Employer provision

Only about 30% of companies provide employer-sponsored retirement plans

Enterprise annuities (EA)

- At the end of year 2010, 13 million employees from 30,000 companies participated in EA plans.
- Pickup in adoption of plans in 2011
 - Wave of SOEs setting up EA plans
- But still small part of private sector urban workforce.
 - MNCs continued to prefer alternative arrangements due to lack of flexibility in design

Tax incentives

Pilot program on tax-deferred individual pension insurance renewed attention

India

Growth of National Pension Scheme (NPS)

Key developments

- Reform initiated from mid 2000's DC pension plan
- NPS Corporate Model released January 2012 positive interest from the corporate sector

Expect growth in the short-term

- Attractive to due to simplicity and its oversight by the government
- Preferential tax treatment for NPS contributions and investment returns

Regulatory uncertainty

 The Pension Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill is still under discussion in Parliament 7 years after it was tabled

India

NPS Corporate Sector model

Design

Employees would have individual (portable) NPS accounts

Limited administration for employer

Investment choice

Default lifestyle fund with some limited investment choice across 3 types of funds

- 1. Government bonds
- 2. Corporate bonds / fixed income
- 3. Equity based (50% limit)

Charges

Low charges (ceiling of 0.25% AUM) after initial fees

Incentives to save

Some matching for those on lower income

Since April 2012, employer contributions tax deductible (up to 10% of salary), but proceeds taxable

But initial evidence is that employee take-up is limited

Korea

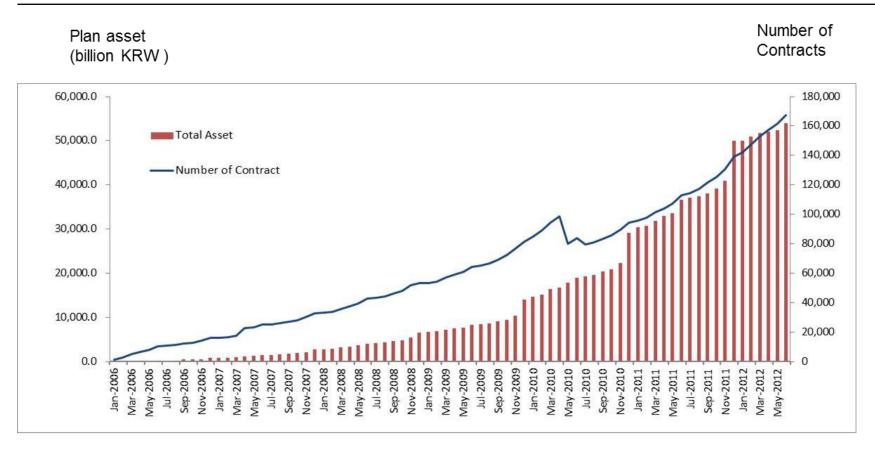
Employers can offer severance pay schemes or retirement plan (DB or DC)

	Severance	DB	DC
Benefit Level	Min of one-month average salary per year of service	Min of one-month average salary per year of service	Amount is unknown
Employer Contribution	Amount is unknown Pay benefits to terminating employees	Amount is unknown Meet funding requirement	Minimum of 1/12 (8.33%) of annual salary
Employee Contribution	Not allowed	Not allowed	Additionally at employee's discretion
Employer Tax Consequences	Tax deductibility is being deferred	Tax deductible	Tax deductible
	Possible	Not allowed / borrowing is possible	Allowed under certain conditions / borrowing is possible

Requires majority support of labour

Korea

Sustained growth in retirement provision

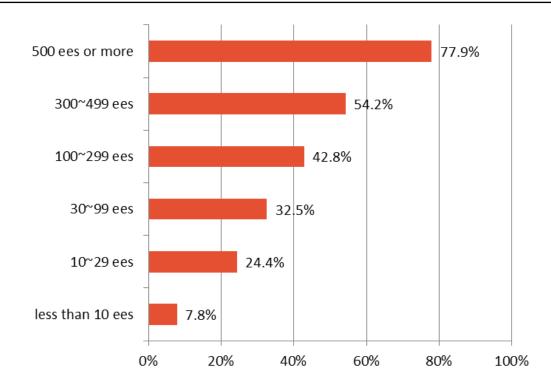


Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor (As of June 2012)

Korea

But coverage is variable

Employers offering retirement plans



- Large employers prefer DB, while medium and small size firms prefer DC.
- A number of employers have adopted DB and DC, to give employees flexibility toward the type of retirement plan.

Discussion

Conclusions

Retirement savings in Asia

Adequacy	 A retirement crisis in China and India seems unlikely – at least for the educated middle classes
Expectations	 But few employees have taken on board ramifications of the ageing population in terms of retirement ages or reduced state support
Public policy	 We observe some positive steps to attempt to facilitate private pensions savings, but in infancy
Key challenge	 Changing the culture of saving – to encourage long-term saving

How can we better design products to encourage retirement saving

Encouraging private retirement savings in Asia

Common approaches

- Portable benefits
- Tax incentives to save
- (limited) investment choice
- Gradual implementation

Challenges

- Changing the culture to encourage long-term saving (rather than short-term compensation)
- Are the incentives to save sufficient to overcome the focus on short-term savings
- Lack of employee understanding of, or trust, in 'new' approaches (and who is supplying them)