



ASPIRE demonstrates leadership and partnership responses to the global crisis of depopulation

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The Asia Pacific region is bearing the brunt of a dramatic decline in birth rates that will have severe socio-economic impacts in shrinking and ageing societies.

Countries including China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are among those hardest hit in the global fertility backslide while others including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia are also losing procreative power.

However, fertility health specialists across the Asia Pacific are spearheading efforts to arrest the slide into the uncharted future of depopulation as dependent older people outnumber the young.

The crisis is being tackled head on by the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE), a vast network of scientists, clinicians, nurses and counsellors working in assisted reproduction in APAC countries.

The collapse in total fertility rates below population replacement levels is a headline issue at the ASPIRE 2026 Congress in Beijing, a summit that has brought together over 3,300 experts from 60 countries.

ASPIRE President, Dr Haroon Latif, declared: “The societal impacts of depopulation are unprecedented, and it is challenge that requires leadership and partnerships.

“There are many contributing factors to the fall in fertility rates including socio-economic and environmental pressures.

“Those of us assisted reproductive technology need to work together with governments and policy makers, the corporate sector and communities to create greater awareness and measured responses to the crisis.

“ASPIRE has established a population sustainability task force harnessing experts in a range of disciplines to consider evidence-based insights and family building strategies.

“Thousands of specialists in assisted reproduction from across the world have come to the ASPIRE Congress in Beijing to address this issue and other fertility health challenges that impact on the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

“Language is not a barrier because we speak science. Throughout its relatively short history, assisted reproductive technology has faced many challenges, but it has overcome each of them to support those striving for parenthood.

“My philosophy is that our future lies in networking, and as we face the issue of declining fertility it is encouraging to see some major industry partners offering confidential family building incentives to their employees.”

Dr Latif said ASPIRE had grown over the past 25 years to become one of the world’s biggest and most influential societies in assisted reproduction and it has created dynamic education and awareness programs with communication technologies reaching participants across the globe.

“ASPIRE has established close links with other international bodies including the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the International Federation of Fertility Societies and the Global Andrology Forum,” he added.

“We are working collaboratively to achieve our objectives including raising awareness and understanding of infertility and to address vital issues of equitable and affordable access to care.”

The ASPIRE 2026 Congress is being held at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing. For further information, go to <https://www.aspire2026.com>

Interview

Dr Haroon Latif is available for interview.

To arrange, please contact Trevor Gill, ASPIRE Congress Media Relations.

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