

Critical Period in the Evolution of Population of Thailand

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Due to the introduction of family planning program in Thailand since the 1960's, there has been rapid fertility decline: from over 6 to approximately 2-2.3 children per woman in the second half of the 1980's. This shows an enormous impact on the current age structure of the population. The paper, based on population projections for Thailand, further examines the growth and the structure of the Thai population between 1990 and 2115. The projections are prepared on the basis of the sex and age distribution of the 1990 population, using the population census results, with the following assumptions: (a) no immigration and emigration; (b) no further decline in mortality; expectation of life at birth being 66 years for men and 71 years for women; and (c) no change in fertility since 1990. Five sets of the population projections have been prepared: fertility being set at 2.3 for projection P1, 2.2 for P2, 2.1 for P3, 2.0 for P4, and 1.47 for P5. The study concludes that in order to maintain the economic and social prosperity, security and preventing the eradication of the Thai race, the government will have to raise fertility of the population at least up-to the replacement level.