

Population research centre opens at NUS

A centre dedicated to researching family and population issues was officially launched by the National University of Singapore (NUS) yesterday.

The Centre for Family and Population Research can help tackle Singapore's low fertility, ageing population and changing family profiles – issues which other Asian societies also face, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Grace Fu said at the launch.

“Norms are changing and an Asia-oriented study into the changes will give useful inputs on policy solutions,” said Ms Fu, who is in charge of population issues.

She warned that, with a fertility rate of 1.2 and without immigration, Singapore's citizen population would start to shrink around 2025. By 2060, the population could fall to the same level as in the early 1990s, but older.

“Things will look very much better if we raise our birth rates, remain open to immigration at a calibrated pace, and enable seniors to make continued contributions to society,” she said.

The centre cost \$1.5 million and is helmed by Professor Jean Yeung, a faculty member from the NUS Sociology Department.