PRODUCTIVE AGEING – ROLE OF NGO

By

Jayalatchumy Cumaraswamy
President USIAMAS Malaysia
CONTENTS

• Introduction
• Productive Ageing – What Does it Mean?
• Why is Productive Ageing Important
• NGOs’ Role in contributing and advocating productive ageing
• Conclusion
INTRODUCTION

• The term Productive Ageing has appeared since 20 years
• The many variables associated with the choices people make regarding work, learning, leisure in later life need to be understood
• We should start as young as possible so as to stay ‘young’ in our twilight years
PRODUCTIVE AGEING WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

• National Seniors Australia Productive Ageing Center defines productive ageing as: “the promotion and organization of a lifestyle which enables seniors to participate actively in the economic and social advancement of the nation in a manner that they will ensure they are contributors rather than dependents while having the added benefit of enhancing their own health and wellbeing”

• Butler and Gleason (1985) define productive ageing as “the capacity of an individual or a population to serve in the paid workforce, to serve in volunteer activities, to assist in the family and to maintain himself or herself as independent as possible”
WHY IS PRODUCTIVE AGEING IMPORTANT?

• **Individual** – self-esteem, relevant, delay in psycho-social problems, earn an income

• **Family** – less stressful, less financial burden, favours intergenerational activities

• **Nation** – benefit from experience from senior citizens, less budget needs for healthcare or old folks home/nursing homes, respite care. Focus more on building age friendly cities, intergenerational strategies
ROLE OF NGOs

- Advocacy, networking and knowledge sharing. Capitalize on the vast experience of members to be a voice to government and corporate bodies on the needs of senior citizens.
- Smart partnerships with government to manage activity centers for senior citizens within their community.
- Home Help Programs.
- Organize capacity training for members and volunteers.
- Organize seminars on latest issues so members are informed on latest developments.
- Outreach programs.
- Fund Raising.
CONCLUSION

• “We don’t stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing” (George Bernard Shaw)

• “…And in the, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” (Abraham Lincoln)

• “In Africa it is said when an old man dies a library vanished. Older persons are intermediaries between the past, present and future.” (Kofi Anan)
CONCLUSION
THANK-YOU