

East Asia
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Abstract

Throughout this research one will discover the uniqueness, the strength and weaknesses of the countries in East Asia. They each have played a tremendous role in Asia's history which consists of China, China (Hong Kong), China-Macao, Taiwan, North Korea, Japan, Mongolia, North and South Korea. All these nations bring a lot of similarities yet multiple differences within the demographics, culture, economy, trade regulations, and geography. South Korea and Japan face all four seasons whereas Mongolia, Taiwan and Hong Kong have subtropical weather. Agriculture has played a huge role in East Asia and the research conducted depicts how one survives in East Asia and the role of economic and social class.

Geography

Mongolia is located between China and Russia and is filled with several mountains, deserts, forests, hundreds of lakes and lastly alpine steppes. For instance the Gobi desert, which is composed of rocks, cliffs and sand dunes near the Southern border and covers one-third of the surface of Mongolia. Along with three major mountains which are the Altai Mountains, being the highest, spreads from the west to the south-west. The main peaks are concentrated in this region, with an average altitude of over 2,000 meters while some peaks are covered with glaciers.

The Khangai Mountains which are more ancient and with lower altitudes are covered with forests and alpine pastures. They occupy much of central and northern Mongolia. Lastly, The Khentii Mountains, northeast of Ulaanbaatar, near the Russian border, are even lower (Land of Steppe and Sky, n.d). Hong Kong is located in South Mainland China and borders the city of Shenzhen. Although it is known to be a place of fashion shops and a skyscraper city, it has its mountain peaks, natural reserves and over 260 islands (Hoffmann, 2019). It consists of four major geographical areas which are Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, The New Territories, and Outlying Islands. Out of all the mountains and peaks, the tallest is Tai Mo Shan and the most known would be Victoria Peak which features iconic views of the city. Lantau Island has three important features that play a role in the economy, it consists of Disneyland, Tian Tan Buddha, the International airport (Springer, 2017). Japan is located above the North Pacific ocean and is an archipelago made up of four major islands. The four regions are Tokyo, Osaka, Honshu, and lastly Kyoto. Japan still has cities that are still very traditional because of the mountains and monasteries surrounding them. It is made up of more farmland in cities such as Osaka and Kyoto, Tokyo is a more urbanized area that is already a developed area (Hays, 2009). Moving on

to South Korea it is a region that is made up of nine provinces and covered by 70 percent mountains and 30 percent of it is modernized. Just like Japan, it faces a mix of traditional and modern because of the historic monasteries that have been built years ago. Taiwan and Macao are similar with a few differences, some of the similarities are that both are an Island and the weather is subtropical. Differences would be that Taiwan is mostly covered with mountains and it's home to one of the highest peaks which is "Mountain Jade". Taiwan is surrounded by the East China Sea and the Taiwanese Strait is what divides China (Mainland) from Taiwan (Pkl, 2018). Mainland China has one of the third's largest rivers which is actually along the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and historically played a major role in transportation and has been used for rice plantation. North Korea is very isolated from the world and although there isn't many resources on them. It is made up of mostly mountains and it is highly restricted and guarded to the point where only the most loyal natives can reside in the Capital "Pyongyang".

Climate

East Asia consists of a mixture of climate temperatures and weather interference. Hong Kong and China, Macao, Taiwan, face a more tropical year-round weather and are hit with moonsuns, cyclone typhoons, and heavy hail storms. Whereas South Korea, North Korea, and Japan and Mongolia face a harsh winter and humid summer. Japan is mostly known for its beautiful spring season because of the Cherry blossoms that appear in all parts of Japan. Taiwan's typhoons leave a heavy impact on the nation because of the damage it does to crops (Copper, 2019). Taiwan and South Korea have already left a print on the environment and due to numerous manufacturing

and industrial activity, the carbon monoxide emissions pollute the air and bring health consequences (Pkl, 2018).

Natural Resources

East Asia consists of a huge agriculture life in most regions but most of these cities lack natural resources and most times need to import resources from big nations such as China mainland. Mongolia's natural resources are based on oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, fluorspar, gold, silver, iron (CIA, 2018). Because of these resources, Mongolia has revolutionized the economy from common agriculture and herding. As stated in The Washington Post, Mongolians are people deeply connected to nature, who call their country the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky. But their capital has become the land of choking smog, as ger dwellers burn coal to ward off the cold (Denyer, 2018). Recent studies have shown that lands are becoming drier, there's a low percentage of water and burning coal for the winter has become a necessity for all. However, Hong Kong lacks natural resources mostly due to the shortage of land and therefore imports most of its agriculture such as rice and meat (Sawe, 2019). Other East Asian countries such as Japan follow the same issue and must have their resources imported. Japanese islands lack the resources to sustain and industrialized the economy. East Asian countries such as South Korea, North Korea and Macau have little to none resources because of the land, however they do rely on the sea as a resource for food. Taiwan's coal reserves were extremely important during the start of the 21st century. It produces petroleum and natural gas can be found in Taiwan (Copper, 2019).

Population and demographics

A major policy that affected China mainland was the one-child policy, which was put in place during 1979 by the leader Deng Xiaoping to restrict population grows. Reading about the population on Mongolia was outstanding especially on how the population dramatically increased from ten years ago which was about two million. Researchers have found that in the next five years Mongolia will have a population of over four million people. Moving on to more specific parts of Mongolia and its population, approximately 45% of the country's population resides in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, boasting a population of 1.34 million according. This city is the only one in the country that has a population of more than 100,000. Erdenet, Mongolia's 2nd-largest city, has a population of just around 95,000 (Mongolia Population, n.d).

Hong Kong is known to be one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The majority of the 95 percent are native Chinese and the 5 remaining percent are foreigners that have relocated to Hong Kong. Fertility rates are one of the lowest in Hong Kong coming in at 1.19 percent (Weller, 2017). Hong Kong is a relatively populated nation the main ethnic group consists of 92% Chinese (Had, 2006). The Census in 2016 depicted that about 500k non-Chinese residents also permanently settled in Hong Kong. Currently, it holds the record of having a huge wealth rate that surpasses New York. Population rate in Hong Kong and Japan seems to be dropping and economists describe it as where the birth rate is low and people seem to have fewer kids (Weller, 2017). Taiwan currently holds a population of 23 million people within the three major areas.

Income wages in North Korea can be relatable to under-developed nations such as Nepal, Bangladesh, countries such as South Korea and Japan have a similar lifestyle and wage to the United States. North Korea's population was measured at 22 million people (Hong, n.d). The

information states only a few Japanese people and ethnic Chinese communities exist. Japan's population is estimated at 127 million people but due to the shortage of jobs, it is predicted that by 2049 it will drop to under 100 million (Ingber, 2018). The birth rate and death rate seem to be rapidly increasing and can affect the economy heavily. South Korea faces the same issue as Japan is depicted to have a low fertility rate which affects the economy in the long run. It has come to extreme cases as to where the government has funded 135 trillion won to increase the birth rate by providing campaigns. The government wants young couples to get married and have children (Presse, 2019).

Technology

Japan has advanced from producing top named brands such as Sony, Panasonic, Canon and Toshiba. Not Just digital advancements but they have innovated transportation and less use of cars. Young citizens of Mongolia have had high demands of technology such as internet and mobile use which had skyrocketed along with communication and networking. Over the last five years, Mongolian demand for information technology goods and services has boomed as Mongolia's young and adaptable population has embraced IT products for personal and professional uses. Citizens want to sign into Facebook to stay connected to family and friends, make calls worldwide, stay connected and read the latest headlines in the news. Countries such as China, Macao, Hong Kong and Taiwan face restrictions on what can be browsed on the internet as some sites are government controlled and have imposed some restrictions. North Korea is not allowed any type of electronic and information on this topic is very low. The usage of cellphones and videotapes have to be smuggled in. If one is caught with VHS tapes from the South it can lead to death or imprisonment. Unlike Mongolia, Hong Kong has numerous

technological advances and things that can benefit the natives such as easy payments through the phone and paying for the Train directly through your iPhone. Japan is known as the most fascinating and tech advanced city (Singh, 2018). Some interesting technological advancements are the Robot Hotel Staff, which is completely operated by robots and it was innovative because it reduced labor costs and they believed unlike a human the robot would not become sick or request days off (Singh, 2018). Some of the Chinese inventions are such as the world's thinnest phone glass and the use of police robots in parts of China that monitor air quality and has an interesting technology that tracks individuals that are on the police's wanted list. Macau doesn't have huge technology advancements considering it follows the basis of Hong Kong's phone services. The latest advancement that Macau is working on is a microchip that will allow all gadgets to recharge from their cellular devices (Cheung, 2018). Taiwan seems to have a big university dedicated to technology but innovations and ideas get tossed to the side because of huge competitors such as Mainland China. Technology in South Korea is considered one of the most advanced in the world. South Korea has produced tech-savvy companies such as Samsung which is currently competing with Apple. Recent data indicates that it has become one of the most innovative tech advanced nations in East Asia. South Korea's top product would be the Samsung Galaxy which features AI technology (Cagape, 2017).

Culture

Mongolia is well known for its culture and nomadic traditions throughout the country. The nomadic way of lifestyle is still practiced today in the rural areas of the country. Nomads follow a seasonal routine raising and breeding the five main types of stock – goat, sheep, cattle (including yaks), camel and horse, migrating from place to place following the most favorable

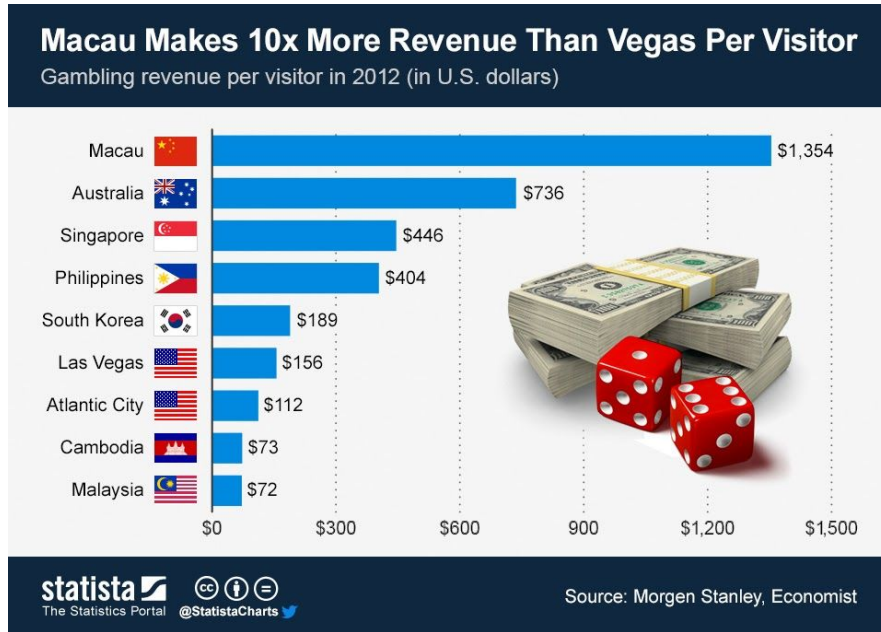
pastures and campsites (Culture, 2017). Since they are nomads, they love folk music based on a huge variety of instruments and only human voice. Mongolian's are big on their sports which consist of wrestling, archery and horseback riding. Just like China; Macao, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, and South Korea, and Japan, the Lunar New Year is celebrated in February and the norm is giving a red envelope with money to friends and family. Another cultural tradition that is celebrated is the Cheung Chau Bun Festival which is held on Buddha's birthday, traditional sweet buns are served and brought to honor the tradition (ExpatLiving, 2018). In Hong Kong, the language used mostly would be Cantonese and English as a second language because of the emerging foreigners (Staff, 2018). Social Etiquette is highly crucial in the majority of the East Asian countries, and it is normal to not show affection such as hugging someone, kissing another person in public which is seen as showing too much affection (InterNation, 2019). North Koreans speak the same language as the South but have a different dialogue (Hong, n.d). Since they are a communist-ruled country, the birthday of the past leaders are an official holiday such as Jeongil Kim's birthday and Ilseong Kim's Birthday (Hong, n.d). The North's cuisine is also similar to other East Asian countries and consists of cooked rice, Kuksu which is a noodle with soup and lastly Tok (rice cake) which is eaten often (Hong, n.d). South Korea has a very vibrant and huge pop culture community that has become a phenomenon known as K-pop culture. Due to the historic temples and monasteries, the three main religions practiced are Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity (Ommisceo Global Consulting Ltd, 2019). The status of the class is highly regarded as where family, upbringing, wealth, and education and one's occupation depicts class. Culture can also be expressed through food and South Korea has a huge food cuisine and is incorporated towards ceremonies and birthdays as offerings to their ancestors. The

language widely used in South Korea is Hangul and consists of five dialects among the different regions. South Korea's culture mainly consists of following ethical manners and family tradition (Nour, 2017). Koreans believe that they should help their parents and always show respect to elderly folks. Korean's, unlike Westerners, stay at home with their parents after they become adults to show appreciation to their parents (Nour, 2017). Moving onto Japan, it consists of three types of written languages Kanji, Hiragana, Katakana. Japan at one point closed its nation to outsiders and was very conservative. Two religions that play a big role are Shinto and Buddhism, studies indicated that 39 percent of the natives identified themselves as Buddhist and 2.3 percent identify with Christianity (Tsutsumi, 2017). Japanese culture also consists of sports such as Judo, Sumo, Karate and is practiced throughout Japan. The cuisine consists of fish because of its landscape and leads Japan as the top importer for fish. A dish known globally would be sushi which is derived from Japan and consists of rice, seaweed, and fresh fish (Tsutsumi, 2017).

Economy

Asia has become a sort of the new hub and economies are growing rapidly with the increase of wealth (Frank, 2018). It is predicted to expect tremendous growth by 2022. Japan being another leading nation, comes as the third largest economy (Dooley, 2019). After Japan's lost in WWII, they were facing an economic problem and it took time for them to now become the second largest economy globally. Japan has strived with multiple car companies such as Toyota. Hong Kong's wealthy class has raised its economy and brought the stock market to \$31.5trillion (Frank, 2018). South Korea is responsible for global brands such as Samsung, Kia Motors, Hyundai, and these brands have affected the economy of South Korea. Government fundings in South Korea are working on building more green-efficient resolutions to update the economy.

North Korea faces a huge shortage problem on agriculture due to natural disasters which made it difficult to farm and provide food for the nation. South Korea's economy stays stable also due to the increase of Korean pop music, they depicted a 17.9% increase in revenue growth (Keiley, 2019). The leader of North Korea allows imported food but needs it checked and must go through all levels of security. Mainland China's economy has played a huge role in the export market to East Asia, the biggest industry would be the country's trade volume and that it reached \$1.4 trillion. Mongolia's economy has recently been on the decline and faces difficulty sustaining its economy. It was once a rapidly expanding economy but has fallen out. The mining industry is what drives Mongolia and has been acknowledged by the World Bank was a middle-income country (Batdelger, 2014). Macau depicts Asia's wealth considering it is the only country that gambling is legal, the casinos have driven the economy to where it stands now. Reports also indicate that by next year it will pass nations such as Qatar. Macao's GDP is expected to rise around \$143,000 per person (Uptin, 2018). Gambling has been the main source of income for Macau and brings in more profit than Las Vegas. Taiwan's economy falls short compared to other Asian tiger nations such as South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Although living and services are not costly, buying imported goods such as iPhones, foreign cars, and designer brand clothing can cost more than retail because of the import cost (Grant, 2019). Although compared to other European nations it is striving.



(Figure1 McCarthy, 2013)

Labor and employment practices

East Asia has been developing and rapidly growing as a whole economy especially focusing on labor and employment. For instance focusing on Mongolia, the country continues to change and citizens began to join the workforce which results in employment increasing from 2006 to current times. The average age of workers range from 15 and older. For an example, the percentage of population ages 15-19 with no education is 3.42 % and the percentage of population ages 25-29 who are employed with no education is 6.05% (Mongolia Labor Force, n.d). Since the democratization has been more free and open, this creates room for opportunities such as political space and focusing on strengths and rights for these workers. Moving on to Hong Kong, there policies differ and require legal requirements almost similar to the United States. Such as employment contracts, specific working times, leaves, pay and social security.

For an example, discrimination or harassment on the grounds of sex, pregnancy, marital status, disability, family status and race are prohibited (Leung and Pla, 2019). Most Taiwan practices are based off of LSA which merely stands for The Labor Standards Act and primarily are protected by it. Just like Hong Kong, Taiwan's practices are quite similar to one another. As some practices are different in East Asia such as Japan. Japanese employment practice is traditionally founded on lifetime employment. The employee usually remains with one company for his/her entire working life (Labor Law, 2017). North and South Korea labor and employment work extremely long hours, in poor working conditions nor have high paid salaries. Although both North and South Korea are highly populated with people, labor and employment is tough, let alone making a living. Testimonies show that North Korea laborers are forced to work for extended periods of time with only insignificant amount of sleep between shifts, which is not only a human rights violation but also a serious threat to their health and safety (Gyupchanova, 2018). Macau has pretty basic and straightforward employment practices with six working days, annual vacation days after one year of service and maternity leave. Lastly, Chinese employment law provides comprehensive and stringent rules covering everything from hiring to termination, and there is little room for the parties in an employment relationship to create new mechanisms (Yang, 2018). In addition, labor costs continue to be a concern, as salary and other inputs of production have continued to rise, as well as Chinese labor law does not protect rights such as freedom of association and the right of workers to strike (China, 2017).

Fiber, fabric, soft goods and apparel production

East Asia is filled with such vibrant patterns of fabrics, extremely diversified with different materials and qualities as well as various compositions, like weights, designs and styles. For instance, China is increasingly playing a very important role in the apparel production. Although in recent case studies, China's textile and apparel makers are going through a painful industrial restructuring. While the country is still the world's largest clothing exporter with enormous production capacity, oversupply at home, high labour costs, and rising global protectionism have all eroded its competitiveness (Leng, 2018). China is a huge country which is the world's biggest clothing exporter and the mainland for all things especially production. China has been dominating the industry for more than three decades as far as production and exports of fibers, fabrics and garments are concerned (Battle for textiles and apparel industry, 2017). They have large quantities of productivity capacity and oversupply, yet are very strategic even when competition is going on. Macao, who has several apparel productions, work with all kinds of fibers and look for overseas consumers, yet each have been in the business for quite some time, as for about 30 years. As Mongolia is filled with such mountains and forest, animals are always found on the grasslands such as goats which produce fine soft cashmere. People from all over consider Mongolian cashmere to be the finest and most worthy. A company who merely produces cashmere Mongolian fibers along with camel and yak wool, is called Munkh which translates to eternity in Mongolian. They produce ponchos, shawls and trousers for women, to be worn during these harsh climates in Mongolia (Munkh, 2019). East Asia as a whole appears to be a main stream for manufacturers, with that being said, Taiwan is the world's third-largest producer of manmade fiber, next to mainland China and the United States. It produces more

polyester processed silk than any other country, and is second in nylon and polyester fiber production (Taiwan today, 2002). Reinvention all comes from Hong Kong, which has become and adopted to vibrant apparel productions, especially around recycling along with innovating the supply chains. Recently a number of new projects have aroused Hong Kong which had brought significant attention. There's a recycled yarn mill- the first mill to be set up in Hong Kong in 50 years; a 'hydro-thermal' blended fibre separation process being scaled up to an industrial level; and a new space that will demonstrate to consumers the entire garment to garment recycling loop (Barrie, 2018). As far as North and South Korea, they are quite successful in the garment industry and innovating with technology and implementing it towards the apparel production and fabrics. The kind of garments manufactured in North Korean factories range from knitwear, sportswear, formalwear and childrenswear, intimates, coats, suits, and uniforms. North Korea also has scientific and technical institutions to update and make use of the latest textile technology (Fibre2fashion, 2019). As for Japan, there are huge number of manufacturers who are providing high quality apparel production for companies all over the world. For instance, at UNIQLO we view our 70 contract manufacturing companies as business partners. Therefore, our UNIQLO team of experts (Takumi Team) offers consistent and positive technical support. The Takumi Team is a group of engineers with over 30 years experience in the Japanese textile industry. The Team transfers expertise to the factories on overall factory management including spinning, knitting, weaving, dying, sewing, finishing and shipping (Manufacturing, n.d). Japanese fabrics are very traditional which include cherry blossom, all types of prints and designs with such bright colors. For an example, Nunoya is based in Japan and is world textiles, retail and wholesaler. The range of Japanese fabrics encompasses a huge

range of styles from traditional geometric and floral prints to contemporary designs by independent designers. Many of these independent designers are now attracting a global following (Japanese Fabrics, n.d).

Distribution and consumption

East Asia has more imports than exports as read in previous articles. Victoria Harbor is a major trading hub in Hong Kong, they play a huge role as one of the few main seaports that provide for Southeast and East Asia. It's one of the busiest ports and plays a huge part in Mainland China and it comes in as the 7th largest trading territory (Swae, 2019). Just like Hong Kong, Taiwan has specific ports where they mainly distribute items. Taiwan has four major ports: Kaohsiung, Keelung, Taichung, and Hualien. These ports also serve as the island's major distribution centers. The most common distribution route in Taiwan moves products from suppliers to distributors, from distributors to retailers, and then from retailers to consumers. Some suppliers shorten distribution channels by distributing products directly through retailers. Multi-level marketing is accepted in Taiwan and some direct-selling organizations are well established here (Taiwan, 2018). Mongolia has many goods and services offered on the land, that are initially created for Mongolians to use for better living conditions and many other factors, which can include colonization and innovation. There are also some downfalls as stated in this case study that says, grassland ecosystems, as the basic natural resources in the inner Mongolia region, are becoming increasingly sensitive to human intervention, leading to deterioration in fragile ecosystems (Changing Patterns, 2014). These consumptions are adapting to change more so focused on household needs which are food, fuel and water. Furthermore, to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth and to reduce poverty, Mongolia will need to strengthen governance; build

institutional capacity to manage public revenues efficiently; allocate its resources effectively among spending, investing, and saving; and ensure equal opportunities to all its citizens in urban and rural areas (Overview, 2018). Mongolia has the time and space to improve its economy, focusing on distribution and consumption. Even though Macou is such a small island in East Asia, it consumes lots of machinery and technology for casinos. Since opening up its locally-controlled casino industry to foreign competition in 2001, Macau has attracted tens of billions of dollars in foreign investment, transforming the territory into one of the world's largest gaming centers. Macau's gaming and tourism businesses were fueled by China's decision to relax travel restrictions on Chinese citizens wishing to visit Macau. In 2016, Macau's gaming-related taxes accounted for more than 76% of total government revenue (Macau Economy, 2018). Japan on the other hand is dealing with many market strategies, distributing and consuming much of the population. Japan boasts the world's second largest retail market, with a value exceeding U.S. \$1,124 billion. The system is made up entirely of wholesalers and retailers -- about 335,000 of the former and 1,138,000 of the latter. Japan's wholesalers have more influence than in any other country. All those wholesalers are needed to service the enormous number of retailers (Delaney, 2018). As for China they are trying to approve their consumption. Based on this article it states that, China will boost domestic consumption and further opening-up for a better economic environment in 2019, according to Ning Jizhe, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (Liubing, 2019). North and South Korea have similar policies, distribution methods and the function of intermediaries vary widely by product in this mature market. Traditional retail distribution networks of small family-run stores, stalls in markets, and street vendors are being replaced by large discount stores. In South Korea, most freight forwarders

use an extensive network of first-class railways, Incheon, Gimpo, and Busan's first-class airports and ports are the points of entry for most products. The Port of Busan is the world's fifth largest cargo port (Korea, 2018).

Import/ export trade policies and practices

East Asia is constantly importing and exporting goods back and forth and can be a handful. Focusing more on China and North Korea, they often trade but have very separate practices to one another. For an example, China became a member of the *World Trade Organisation* on 11 December 2001, China has gradually reduced administrative barriers to trade and liberalised its foreign trading system (Trade Regulations of China, 2018). This results in policies and practices always being changed throughout East Asia. Moving on to China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, they manufacture huge amounts of textiles, electronics, automotive products, heavy equipment, and consumer durable goods (Asia Pacific Trade, Exports and Imports, 2010). These regions are importing materials that are used quite a lot throughout the world even. After researching more about East Asia's imports this article stated, that the Asia Pacific region also imports oil and raw materials from the Middle East and Latin America. Major import commodities include food, energy products, defense equipment and aviation equipment (Asia Pacific Trade, Exports and Imports, 2010). Other parts of East Asia, Mongolia imposes a five percent import tax on most imported goods which imposes a five percent import tax on most imported goods like, potatoes, onions, and cabbage (Import Tariffs, 2017). Lastly, Macao and Hong Kong share some similarities between practices and policies. For instance, both countries are free ports with no tariff on general and custom imports, Macau, however, does impose a consumption tax on alcohol, tobacco, and fuels (Hong-Kong-Macao, 2019). China ranks top in

global exports while it is the second largest country in imports. China exports represent 13.2% of global export value while China Imports represents 9.9% of global import value.

Issues facing population

The main issue East Asia has been facing is the aging population. “East Asia Pacific has undergone the most dramatic demographic transition we have ever seen, and all developing countries in the region risk getting old before getting rich,” said Axel van Trotsenburg, regional vice president of the World Bank’s East Asia and Pacific region (Choudhury, 2015). Aside from high population of people and issues with aging, East Asia has problems with their economy. Population growth and economic development contribute to many environmental problems in Asia. These include pressure on land, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity, water scarcity and water pollution, air pollution, and global warming and climate change (Mishra, 2002). This results in a lot to worry about such as future issues in the environment, less resources and lastly poorly economic development as a whole. Another issue facing the population is a huge necessity, which is clean drinking water. Huge strides in the region have been made in recent years, but over 500 million people still do not have access to proper sanitation facilities. Around 130 million are unable to access safe water. Pneumonia and diarrhoea remain the biggest killers of children under five-years-old in this region (Water, sanitation and hygiene, n.d).

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