

# **Dr. Dharmapriya Wesumperuma**

**Head of Programmes - Asia/Pacific at HelpAge International**

London, , GB

Dr. Wesum is a key member of the HelpAge team in developing regional strategies on ageing relating to health and income security.

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## **Biography**

Dharmapriya Wesumperuma (PhD London) is the Regional Head of Programmes, East Asia/Pacific, HelpAge International. Previously Wesum was the Director of the Asia Training Centre on Ageing (ATCOA) of HelpAge International from 1997 to 2002. A former university academic (1965-1977) from Sri Lanka, he was the Executive Director of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (1978-1995) in Colombo before joining HelpAge.

As the Regional Head of Programmes for HelpAge, Wesum leads and provides strategic guidance to a team of four professionals (Regional Programme Managers) who focus on development and implementation of programmes on ageing in East Asia and the Pacific, currently with projects in China, Vietnam, Cambodia Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Wesum is a key member of the HelpAge team in developing regional strategies on ageing relating to health, income security and social pensions as well as social inclusion of older persons through building capacity of older people's associations.

Wesum is also directly engaged in developing the HelpAge Asia Pacific Network comprising affiliates and partners from 18 countries in the region. Wesum led the recent HelpAge Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Melbourne in collaboration with the Council on the Ageing, Victoria (COTA, Vic.) from 1 - 3 May 2010 attended by 70 participants from 21 countries including new partners from three Pacific Island Countries. Wesum was an active contributor to the 10th Global Conference of the International Federation on Ageing, 4 - 6 May, Melbourne, including as a speaker at the UNFPA Symposium on 'Towards a Global Capacity Building Plan for an Ageing World'. He was an invited Roundtable speaker at the UN DPI/NGO Global Conference on 'Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs', 30 August - 1 Sept, Melbourne, Australia.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Elder Care, Public Policy

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Pensions, Public Policy, Work, Elder Financial Abuse, Aging and Social Policy, Elder Abuse Prevention, Capacity Building, Non Profit Advocacy, Global Health Policy

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## **Education**

University of London

Ph.D. Economics

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