## Case study: Japan

### General impacts of the ageing population
- 25% of government’s budget spent on elderly
- Working population is shrinking, with a negative impact on domestic growth
- A rise in home carers
- Increasing pressure on NGOs for health care

### Government responses
- Tax increases
- Increased retirement age to 70
- Pronatal population policies, e.g. tax reductions for each child
- Encouraged immigration of skilled foreign workers

### Physical environmental impacts on population
- A very mountainous country (70%) meaning that people are concentrated in dense urban areas
- Location on plate boundaries leads to rich volcanic soils; also volcanic activity and typhoons can destroy crops. Mainly agriculture provides well for the population

### Demography – reasons for ageing population
- Excellent health care and low-fat diets lead to high life expectancy
- Low birth rate and low fertility rates
- Contraception is accessible and widely used

### Cultural impact on population
- Strong family-oriented culture
- Well-educated females are an important part of the workplace and may have lowered fertility rates (1.4)
- Healthy lifestyle leads to long life expectancy – average 83
- By 2015 it is estimated that 33% of the population will be over 65

### Positives
- Private hospital care creates jobs
- Expansion of leisure and tourism for the elderly
- Expansion of robotic technology to assist elderly