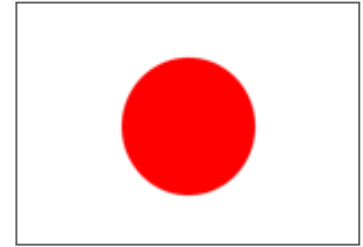


# Asia: A Study in Contrasts

## Japan



- Oldest of the major nations of the world
  - Expected to lose 25MM people by 2050 – nearly 20%
  - By 2050 median age of 55+, 80+ persons will outnumber <14 by 1.4 to 1.0
- Promoting fertility (at 1.27 now), but no one seems to be listening
  - Government spent \$9 billion in 2003 for child care leave to promote procreation
  - But, large share of 25-44 live at home further suppressing development & spending – parasaito shinguru
- In 2001 12% of schoolgirls agreed that “everyone should get married” -- 78% agree in the U.S.