Social Security and Pension Reform
International Perspectives

Marek Szczepański, Poznań University of Technology
John A. Turner, Pension Policy Center
Editors

February 4, 2014

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Reforms to social security and pension systems are being undertaken in a variety of nations around the world, not just in Europe and North America. Many of these nations are motivated by aging population and declining birth rates, but reforms are also occurring because of economic development, particularly in areas such as China, the Americas, and parts of Africa.

A new book from the Upjohn Press provides a detailed overview of many such reforms occurring in nations around the world. Social Security and Pension Reform: International Perspectives, Marek Szczepański and John A. Turner, editors, should prove to be an often-used resource for anyone interested in how social security and voluntary and employer-provided pension systems are evolving in differing regions and economic systems. Contributors to the book highlight trends among some countries, such as the adoption of fluctuating automatic mechanisms for maintaining social security solvency, raising the minimum age for eligibility, and implementation of policies to postpone retirement, and they show how developing countries such as China and Kenya are initiating programs that, for the first time, offer workers social security or pensions. The contributors also discuss a range of financing mechanisms, benefit levels, privatization, governance, the various types of employer-provided plans, mandatory accounts for social security, and financial literacy.

This book is partly sourced from papers presented at a conference held at Poznań University of Technology, Poznań, Poland, in September 2012. The conference was focused on Central and Eastern European reforms. For this book, additional papers were added to enhance its international perspective. Included are:

PART 1: Overview

- Social Security and Pension Reform: The Views of 16 Authors, Marek Szczepański and John A. Turner

- Social Security and Pension Trends around the World, John A. Turner and David Rajnes

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PART 2: Reforms in Europe

- Have Personal Retirement Savings Accounts Achieved Their Objectives in Ireland?, Gerard Hughes
- Social Security and Pension Income in Sweden, Gabriella Sjögren Lindquist and Eskil Wadensjö
- The Reform of Social Security Pensions in Portugal: A Critical Assessment, Maria Clara Murteira
- The Norwegian Government Pension Fund as an Investor in Global Markets, Magdalena Mosionek-Schweda
- Pension Reforms in Central and Eastern European Countries, 1998–2012, Maciej Żukowski
- Pension Reform and the Measurement of Risk in Occupational Pension Plans in Poland, Marek Szczepański and Tomasz Brzęczek

PART 3: Reforms in Australia, Asia, Africa, and the Americas

- Australian Pensions: An Equitable Solution in a Postcrisis World?, Ross Clare
- Social Security Reform in China, Tianhong Chen and John A. Turner
- Social Security and Pensions in East Africa, John A. Turner
- The Efficiency of Defined Contribution Pension Plans in the Americas, Denise Gómez-Hernández and Alberto M. Ramirez de Jurado Frias

PART 4: Reform Issues

- Pension Fund Governance, Adam Samborski
- Financial Literacy, Education, and Advice, John A. Turner and Dana M. Muir


SPECIAL NOTE: Because individual chapters may be of particular interest to readers due to their location-specific nature, the Upjohn Press is making PDF versions of each chapter available individually for the price of $2.99 each. Purchases of individual chapters may be made by contacting publications@upjohn.org.

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