

**Lingnan University**

The Public Lecture of  
Vincent Woo Distinguished Visiting Scholars Programme 2005

by  
Professor Alan Walker

on  
**“Active Ageing: A Global Strategy for Sustainable Social Protection”**

Wednesday 27 April 2005  
5:00 – 6:15 pm

at Lee Ying Lam Lecture Theatre  
Lingnan University  
(Presentation in English)

### ***Synopsis***

All established social protection systems – covering pensions, health and social care – must confront the twin pressures created by population ageing and globalisation. The less developed countries have to deal with these pressures at the same time as they try to establish basic forms of social protection. The main purpose of this lecture is to propose a strategy by which social protection can be sustained or built up without endangering either economic viability or intergenerational solidarity. The strategy is active age management or active ageing and consists of a life course approach to individual and societal ageing. Thus, rather than concentrating on the supply side of social protection, such as pension system and health care system design, this lecture shifts the focus to the demand side because it is often neglected in discussions of social protection.

The lecture first of all cautions against some common and erroneous assumptions made about both population ageing and globalisation. Then it outlines the principles upon which a new strategy of active ageing should be based. Next it summarises the policy changes necessary to implement such a strategy and, finally, it illustrates the potential of the strategy to underpin sustainable social protection in the fields of pensions, health and social care.

### **Professor Alan Walker**

*Professor of Social Policy  
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Professor Walker’s research interests span a wide range in social analysis, social policy and social planning. He is a specialist in social gerontology and, with two colleagues in the Netherlands, is responsible for developing the concept of social quality and Chairs the European Foundation on Social Quality, which is based in Amsterdam. He has published more than 20 books, over 100 reports and more than 200 papers in scholarly journals and edited volumes. His work has been published in more than 20 languages.