### **Developments in Employee Benefits and Health Care**

The Evolution of Group Insurance Programs

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24 March 2011

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### A starting point

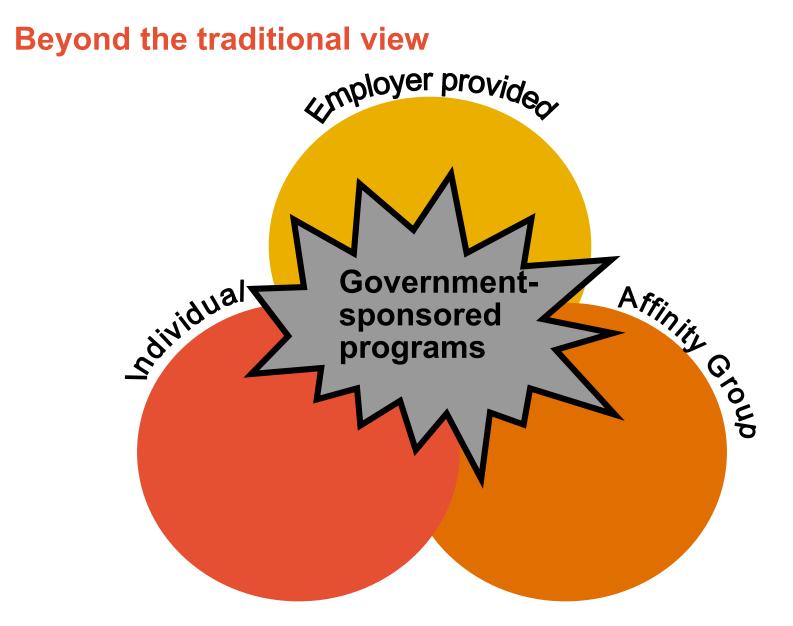
- Demographics, urbanization, social change
- An aging population and social change will ultimately stress the resources of a society
  - Retirement income needs
  - Long term care
  - Hospitalization and medical costs
- Developing effective approaches is critical for the long run success of any population
  - Breadth of coverage
  - Flexibility of coverage
  - Retention of coverage
  - Effectiveness of coverage

### **Traditional view – distinct pillars**

Social Security – government sponsored, (means tested, non-contributory) Supplemental "group insurance", including occupational schemes, provident funds

L

Individual savings and insurance



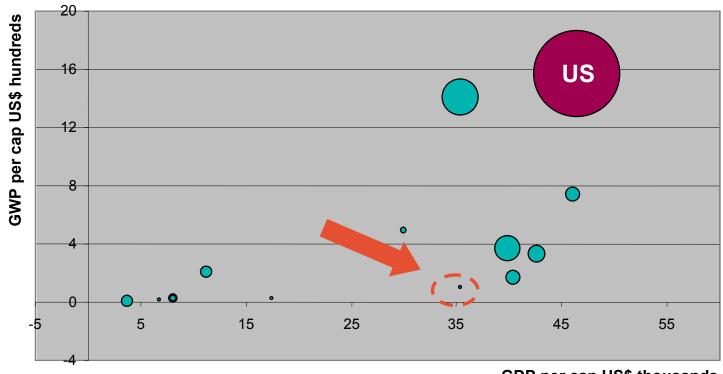
## Group insurance programs evolving to meet the needs of the new environment

- Recognizing the importance of flexibility and choice in coverage
- Balancing costs and benefits to meet the needs of both employer/sponsor and individual in providing insurance benefits and coverage
- Using new and innovative approaches to achieve better outcomes
- Effective communication to members



### **Employee Benefits Landscape**

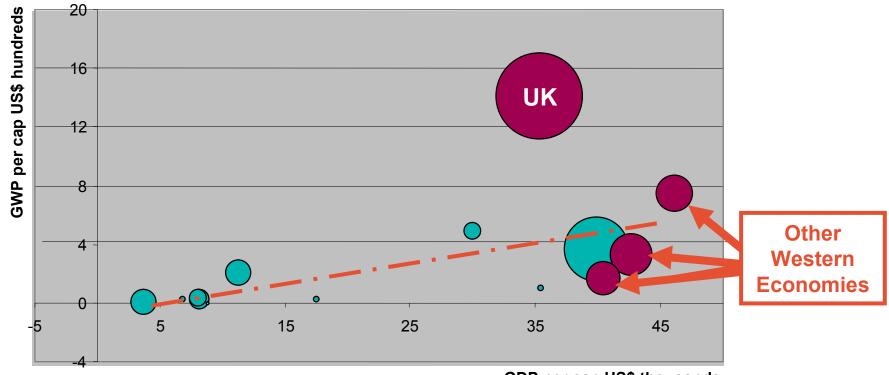
### **Global Group Insurance market** 1. The US dominates



GDP per cap US\$ thousands

Source: AXCO, Industry statistics

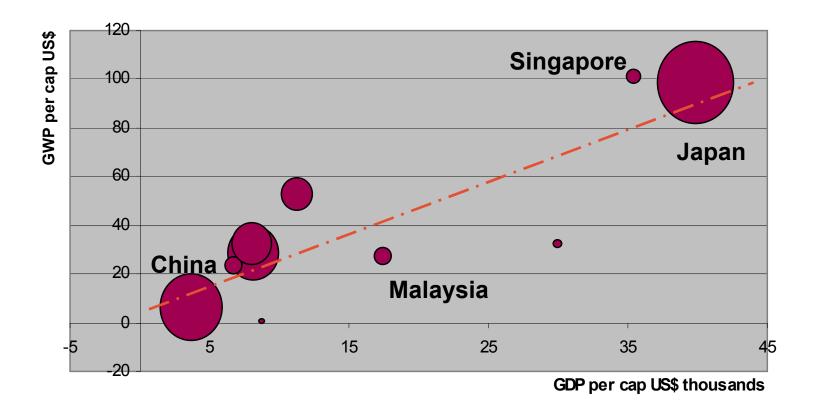
### **Global Group Insurance market** 2. The UK is an outlier



**GDP** per cap US\$ thousands

#### Source: AXCO, Industry statistics

### **Global Group Insurance market 3.** Asia Pacific Trend excluding Retirement



Source: AXCO, Industry statistics

### **Expenditure on benefits**

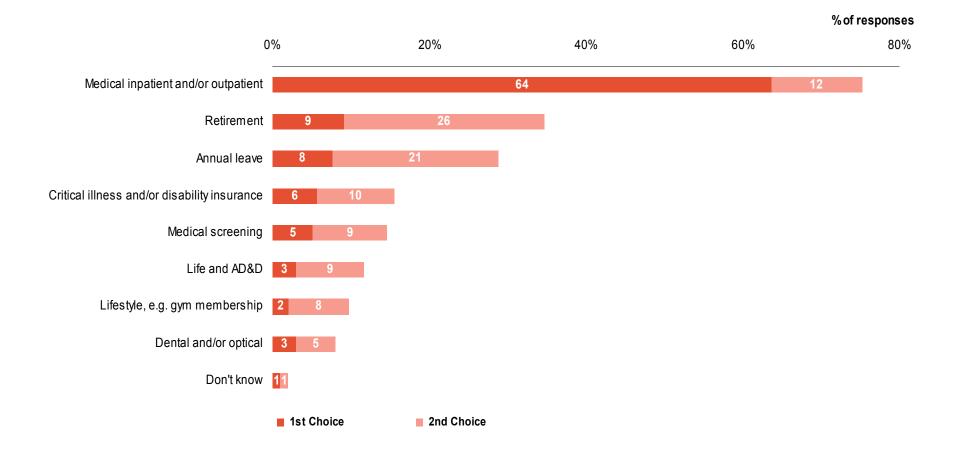
Over 50% of companies spend more than 20% of payroll on benefits



Source: Towers Watson HR Perspectives on Benefit Trends 2010

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### **Benefits preferred by employees in Asia-Pacific**



Source: Towers Watson HR Perspectives on Benefit Trends 2010

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### **Employee choice Benefits**

- Employee choice (Flexible Benefits) is a term most often used to describe an element of employee choice in the benefits package
- Prevalence of such plans increasing in Asia
- Why is it appropriate?

For the Employees	For the Organization
Better understand benefits	Budget benefit costs
Better appreciate benefits	Add new offerings with minimal (or no) cost
Design a program responsive to needs & financial situations	Promote total compensation
Take responsibility for their own needs	Share responsibility with employees
Benefits adapt to changing needs and lifecycle	Understand and adapt to changing employee preferences

### Health saving account Flexible healthcare benefits

- To be an 'Employer of Choice', employers have to find cost effective ways to attract and retain the best talent
- An employer can offer a choice of health-care plans and employees can choose from a range of 'core' to 'optional' coverages depending upon the individual needs
- The annual employer health-care contribution can be pre-defined and provided as a combination of group healthcare premiums and/or healthcare savings account credits (depending upon employees choice)
- The employees could contribute towards the healthcare savings account credits to increase coverage or migrate to an enhanced plan
- The contribution amount is then updated in future years to manage the employer's cost budgets and retain affordability for employees, thereby helping to keep healthcare benefit costs under control



### **Health and Productivity**

Healthcare programs in the workplace

### **Escalating healthcare costs in Asia**

Cost of healthcare in Asia was estimated at US\$880 billion in 2008 and will surpass US\$1trillion in 2010 \*

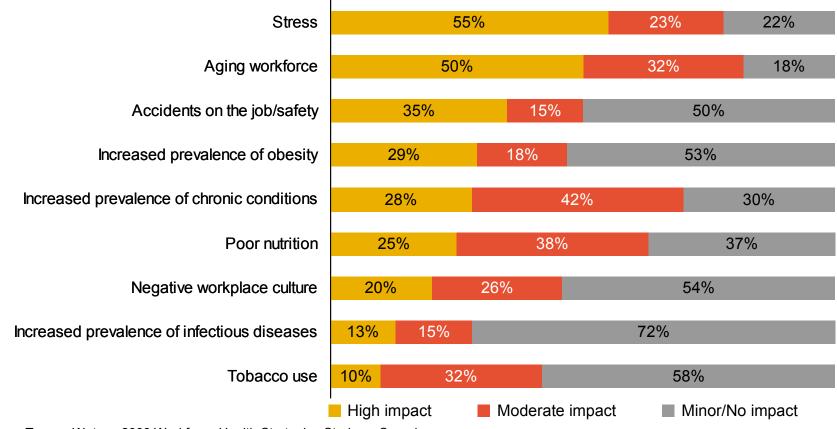
Country	2011 Increase
China	9.4%
India	12.3%
Indonesia	14.2%
Japan	4.0%
Malaysia	9.6%
Philippines	10.3%
Singapore	8.4%
South Korea	10.0%
Thailand	9.0%
Vietnam	10%
Taiwan	17.3%
AVERAGE	10.2%

\* Source: WHO World Health Statistics 2009

Source: Towers Watson Global Medical Trends 2011

# Stress, aging workforces and accidents on the job are top cost and productivity challenges for companies

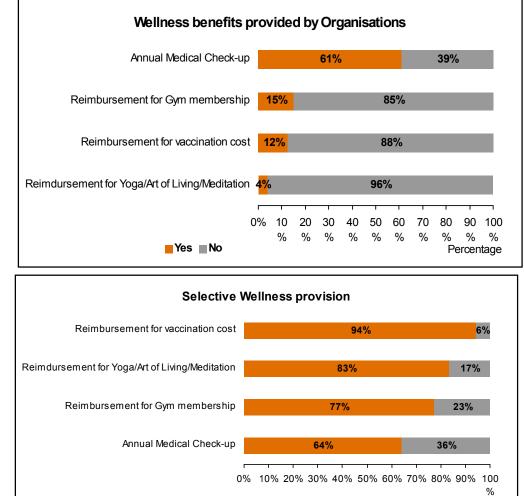
### Impact of Health Issues on Health Care Costs and Workforce Productivity



Source: Towers Watson 2009 Workforce Health Strategies Study - Canada

# Wellness benefits: A subtle push from protective to preventive care

- Given the objective of employee welfare, many employers are now providing wellness benefits
- Providing an annual medical check-up tops the list of current healthcare provision with 61 percent of the surveyed employees providing the benefit
- In addition to these, a few companies offer innovative wellness plans such as periodic wellness courses in office (43 percent), healthy menu (46 percent), food campaigns like tobacco free week (24 percent) and organize outdoor activities (26 percent) to name a few



#### Source: Towers Watson Health survey ,2010 17

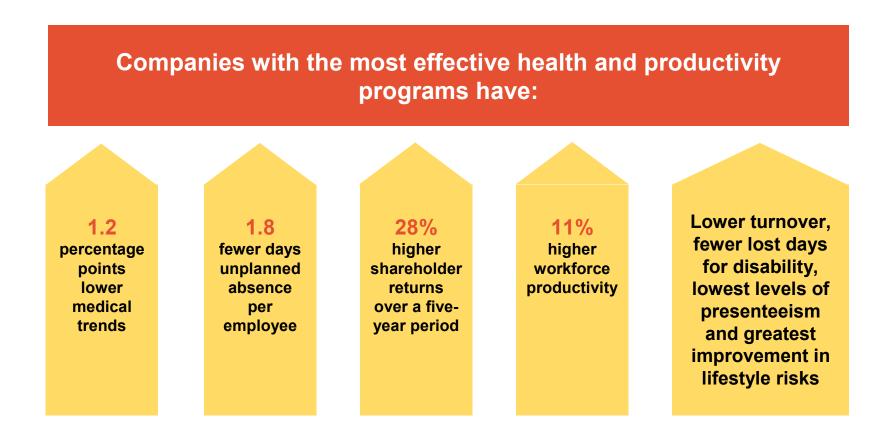
All employees

Percentage

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Only to some employees

## A growing body of evidence shows the results of employer investments in workforce health



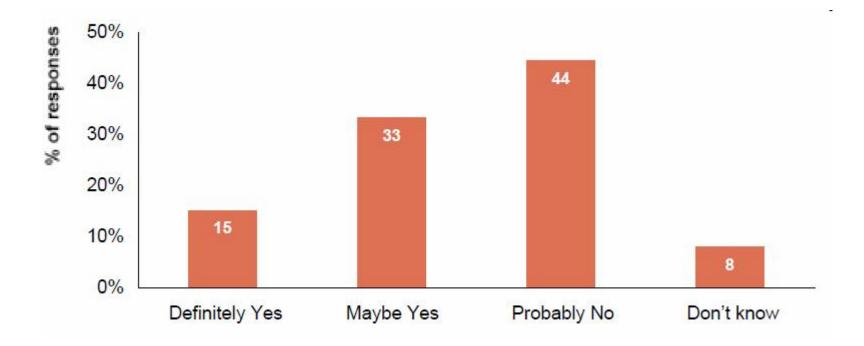
Source: 2009/2010 Staying@Work Report, published by Towers Watson towerswatson.com



### **Communication and Social Media**

### **Employee understanding of benefit costs**

Few companies could be sure that the value of benefits are well understood



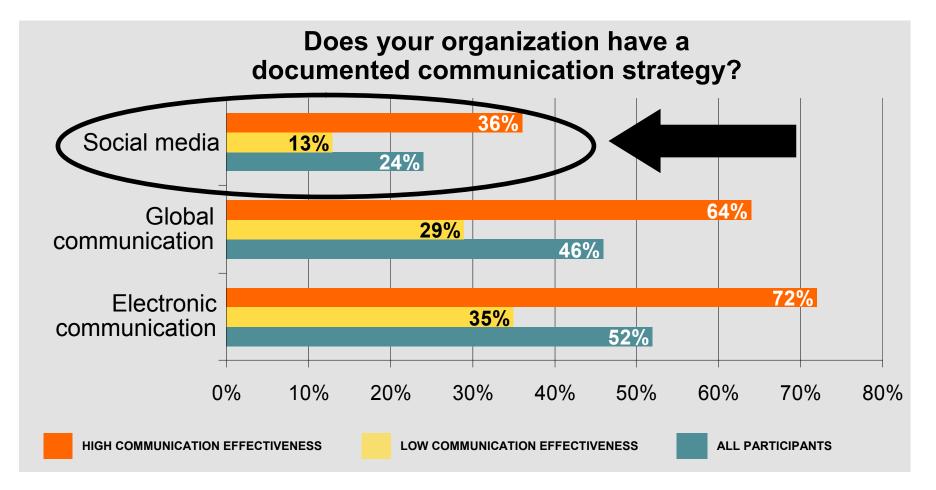
Source: Towers Watson HR Perspectives on Benefit Trends 2010

### Effective Communication Makes a Difference for Employees

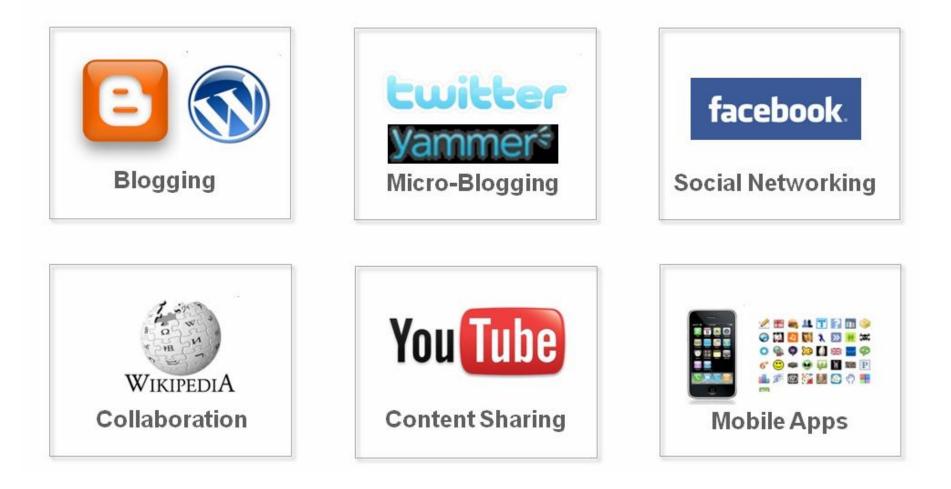
#### Employees at my organization understand ... 40% How pay levels are set 13% The best 20% organizations help employees The value of their 41% understand their 16% pension program 27% current programs How our bonus 56% program works 20% 36% The value of their 63% health care benefits 28% 43% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% **ALL PARTICIPANTS** HIGH COMMUNICATION EFFECTIVENESS LOW COMMUNICATION EFFECTIVENESS

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### The Need for a Communication Strategy



### What Exactly Is Social Media?



### What Social Media Is Really All About

- Leveraging relationships and connections
- Enabling communication, information and collaboration
- Facilitating community building
- Augmenting formal, semi-formal and informal organizational structures and interactions within and/or across organization structures
- Creating a common online location for sharing content and information
- Empowering users to share and consume content the way that they choose

### **Social Media**

### **Connects People to People**

### **Connects People to Teams**



# Social Media is online technology which...

### **Connects People to Ideas**

Promotes Two-Way Dialogue





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### Why Do Employees Like Social Media?

# Improved effectiveness and efficiency at work

Better connections with coworkers Better reuse of materials: stop reinventing the wheel Feel more connected and more valued at work Puts me in control

Working smarter and achieving more with less

### **Employee Expectations Have Changed...**

- Employees compare their intranet user experience against the Internet. They expect:
  - Search as easily as Google
  - Content updated frequently
  - Personalization (Amazon knows who I am, so should my company)
  - Log-in once for everything (like Google or Windows Live ID)
  - Easy-to-use user-generated content tools
  - Logical navigation (breadcrumbs, dynamic lists)
  - Presence see what others have viewed, said or are doing
  - Access anytime, anywhere (mobile or desktop)
  - Many tools, many options for ME to choose

### Social media in organizations today

- Organizations are piloting and testing
- Opportunity to apply learnings to improve the effectiveness of group insurance programs

**Myth:** "If you build it, they will come."

**Reality:** "If you make them feel **smarter**, make them feel **empowered**, make them feel **heard**, **solve** their problems or make them feel **entertained**, **they will come**." (Hint: do all five.)



**Contact Details** 

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