Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis

May 12 – May 24, 2009
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The Japan East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) East Asia Future Leaders Program has been organized by the Japan Foundation from 2007; inviting promising young leaders from various backgrounds in the Asia and Oceania region to Japan; in order to discuss and share the knowledge and experience of common issues, form a network of friendship among the participants and construct firm solidarity among the region.

When this program was held in May 2009 the severe impact of the global financial crisis was evident through the massive layoffs, high unemployment and sharp rise in poverty. The global economic downturn not only affected the migrants and the host countries but also the families of the migrants depending on the remittance in the countries of origin. Blue collar and undocumented migrants and their families tend to be more vulnerable than the high skilled migrants or citizens of the host countries. First hand support are usually heavily dependent on the various local communities as the government may not be able to respond quickly enough or do not have enough resources. Therefore, it is important to study the potentials of the various communities in parallel with understanding the dynamics of migration to find effective ways to overcome this time of crisis.

The participants shared how the migrants and refugees were affected in their respective countries and the measures taken or not yet taken by the government. They also contemplated and presented a group paper on what the migrant communities and host communities (local citizens, central & local government, NGO, mass media, etc) can do to empower the communities to be sustainable and achieve harmonious multicultural co-existence.

Through the site visits and lectures, the participants were exposed to the wide spectrum of the realities of being a migrant in Japan amid the crisis. We hope that the experience gave a face to the migrants as well as to the various host communities; as migrants and the host communities are about people. Understanding the mentality, needs, frustrations, difficulties, and efforts on both sides are essential to sustain dialogue and cooperation which are imperative in producing effective policies and support. This publication is created so that these ideas may be disseminated and implemented within the Asia/Oceania region.

We would like to thank Dr. Yasushi Iguchi for his continuous contribution and dedication to our program for which we are most grateful, as well as to all the lecturers, NGO/NPOs, private organizations, municipalities, ministries, and community members who have kindly agreed to welcome our delegation and shared their invaluable knowledge and experience through the site visits and lectures.

Lastly, some may ask why we need to help migrants and refugees when there are so many citizens in our own countries struggling. Perhaps the following remark by one of our participants is worth considering. “In my country there are many that are suffering. However, I believe that improving the life and human rights of those in the bottom of society will contribute to the overall improvement of the life and human rights of its citizens as well.”

The Japan Foundation
About JENESYS

At the Second East Asia Summit (EAS), held in January 2007, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, announced a large-scale youth exchange initiative of JPY 35 billion, inviting around 6,000 youths every year to Japan mainly from the EAS member states, which consists of ASEAN countries, China, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand for the next five years. Based on this initiative, the Government of Japan has launched the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme, which aims to deepen understanding of the different facets of the Japanese society including politics, diplomacy, economics and culture and to form the basis of future vision and construct firm solidarity among the East Asia Community through the promotion of mutual understanding among the younger generations in the region.

The Japan Foundation has been organizing a series of “East Asia Future Leaders Programme” as part of the JENESYS Programme, to promote intellectual exchange among young intellectuals in various fields who have high potentials to become the future leaders in Asia and Oceania.

<JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programmes conducted by the Asia Oceania Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department, Japan Foundation>

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<th>Public Symposium</th>
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<th>December 10-18, 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>Migration in Asia and Oceania: Towards a Win-Win and WIN scheme for the origin-destination countries and for the migrants themselves</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>Overcoming Poverty through a Social Inclusion Approach: the status quo of Asia and Oceania</td>
<td>December 9-19, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>Environmental Conservation through Biodiversity: In search of sustainable development</td>
<td>Mar 3-14, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group E</td>
<td>Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis</td>
<td>May 12-24, 2009</td>
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* To view/download the reports (PDF) for the past programmes, please go to the following website and click on the cover of the report you will like to see. It will jump to the page where you can download each report.
http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/publish/intel/index.html
Programme Overview
Programme Overview
Migration and the Role of Community amid
the Global Financial Crisis

The Japan Foundation organized an East Asia Future Leader Programme to Japan in May 2009 under the Japan–East Asia
Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme. It is funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration fund,
and aims to deepen understanding of the different facets of the Japanese society including politics, diplomacy, economics
and culture and to form the basis of future vision and construct firm solidarity among Asian countries which will promote
mutual understanding of the future generation of the East Asia Community.

<Concept of this Programme>

The global financial crisis has led to a severe economic downturn around the world. Stabilizing the financial market,
stimulating the economy and creating employment are the top agenda for most countries, as massive layoffs are announced
across the globe. In such times, migrants are often the first ones face the negative impact and loose their jobs.

Migrants, especially the blue collar and undocumented migrants tend to be more vulnerable than the citizens of their
destination countries, since they are less likely to receive the social welfare benefits, and are not aware of their rights and
support that are available due to the lack of language ability or education. Some migrants have returned to their country/region of origin, and others have chosen to stay. However, the support for the unemployed migrants is heavily dependent
on the various local communities (ethnic, regional, religious, etc.) as the governments may not be able to respond quickly
enough or do not have enough resources.

This program will first study the impact of the global financial crisis on migrants and the economy, and learn how the
central gov., local gov., NGO’s and communities are trying to tackle the problem taking Japan as a case study. It will then
focus on the roles of the community, and discuss how the various communities can bridge the gaps between the migrants
and locals in the destination country, and support migrants and their families in both the origin and destination countries. It
will also contemplate on how the definition of community has expanded, from the traditional community (ethnic, regional,
religious, etc.) to a contemporary community (information, virtual/international networks, etc.) and discuss how the various
communities can develop and collaborate within the Asia and Oceania region to overcome this common crisis.

This program is composed of lectures, discussions, visits to public and private organizations in Tokyo and other
localities, field work and writing and presenting a group paper on the said topic.

<Key Words>
- Global Financial Crisis
- Community (Ethnic, Region, Workplace, Information, Religion, etc.)
- Multicultural/Intercultural Coexistence
- Regional Development
- Employment Support
- Safety Net (Social Welfare)
- Refugee and Resettlement
### <Expected Participants>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politics and Public Administration:</strong></td>
<td>Central and local government officials or officials in international organization engaged in the social integration, community development, and resettlement of migrants and refugees, or in fields such as international economic policy, and labor policy. Educators or officials working for the education of children of migrants and refugees, or politicians who understands diversity as an asset and are working to promote it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business:</strong></td>
<td>HR or CSR Managers from private corporations, hospitals, etc. that hires and/or works with migrants. Entrepreneurs from migrant communities or social entrepreneurs working with migrants. Officials from Economic Associations and Labor Unions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGO/NPO:</strong></td>
<td>NGO workers who are engaged in community development, dealing with conflict and multicultural dialogue, promoting human rights and education for migrants, refugees and international marriage families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media or Academia:</strong></td>
<td>Journalist and Researchers who specialize in the above topic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### <Requirements for the Participants>

Candidates for this programme will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be 35 years or under as of May 1, 2009, and currently engaged with intentions to continue to play a leading role in such fields as academics, politics, government services, business, journalism, and NGOs.
- Nationality in one of the following countries (currently residing within the country is desirable): ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Republic of Korea, New Zealand (15 countries in total).
- Fluency in English to make individual/group presentations, contribute to the discussion and write a individual/group paper on the topic.
- Utilize the knowledge and network gained from this programme for their career and future activities.

### <Obligation of the Participants>

- Submit the following to Japan Foundation by the designated time.
  1. Write an essay (two A4-size pages) on their motives to participate, with reference to their specialty and occupation.
  2. Prepare and give a short presentation on the first day of the programme, which will introduce the participant's career background related to the topic and on the current situation of their country. (Country Report, 10 minutes each. Details will be sent out once the participation is confirmed).
- Give a group presentation and write a group paper regarding the findings at the end of the programme. (The volume, deadline and theme will be indicated during the programme)
- Actively participate in the entire programme as a member of a team.
- Cooperate in answering questionnaires, completion report and follow up programmes, etc that the Japan Foundation may ask for after the programme.
Participants

Australia

Linda PETRONE  
Community Strengthening Officer, Victorian Multicultural Commission

Rasika Ramburuth JAYASURIYA  
Senior Policy Officer, Victorian Multicultural Commission

Brunei

DK Elina Zuraidah Pg. Kamaluddin  
Acting Marketing Manager, Group Marketing, QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd

China

Xiao Fang LIU  
Program Officer, Beijing Vantone Foundation

Shuyang ZHANG  
Producer and Journalist, CCTV-4  
International Broadcast Center, News Division

Indonesia

Leolita MASNUN  
Junior Researcher, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)  
Research Center for Society and Culture (PMB)

Japan

Hitomi TAKAKI  
Specially Appointed Associate Professor  
Nagoya University

Ralph Ittonen HOSOKI  
3rd year Ph.D. Program student, Tokyo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,  
Department of Advanced Social and International Studies

Sayaka KIKUCHI  
Public Relations Staff, Japan Association for Refugees

Yukiko ABE  
M.A Candidate, Graduate School of Waseda University,  
Asia Pacific Studies

Republic of Korea

Oi Hyun KIM  
Staff Reporter, The Hankyoreh

Laos

Amphaphone SAYASENH  
Research Officer, National Economic Research Institute

Malaysia

Renuka T BALASUBRAMANIAM  
Advocate & Solicitor, Messrs T. Balasubramaniam,  
Chair Migrant and Refugee Working Group,  
Bar Council Human rights Committee
Myanmar
  Maw Maw TUN
  Head of Admin and Finance Unit,
  International Organization for Migration (IOM)

New Zealand
  Hannah MALLOCH
  Policy Analyst,
  NZ Government, Department of Labour, Immigration Policy Team

Philippines
  Minette Angeles RIMANDO
  Senior Communication and Public Information Assistant
  International Labour Organization (ILO)

Singapore
  Chun Tian NG
  Senior Manager, Ministry of Manpower (MOM)

Thailand
  Saranya CHITTANGWONG
  Field Coordinator, Labour Migration Unit,
  International Organization for Migration (IOM)
  Phang Nga and Ranong Office, Thailand

Vietnam
  Nguyen Viet DUNG
  Vice Director, People and Nature Reconciliation (Pan Nature)

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The Japan Foundation

Tadashi OGAWA
Managing Director, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.

Satoshi HASEGAWA
Director, Asia and Oceania Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.

Mika MUKAI
Program Coordinator for JENESYS Programme, Asia and Oceania Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.

Yosuke KUSAKABE
Deputy Director, Asia and Oceania Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.

Yojiro TANAKA
Senior Officer, Asia and Oceania Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept.
Programme Schedule

Day 1  ▪  May 12, 2009 (Tuesday)

Arrival in Japan
19:30 - 21:30 Welcome Dinner

Stay in Tokyo

Day 2  ▪  May 13, 2009 (Wednesday)

9:00 - 9:30 Orientation
9:30 - 11:30 Introductory Lecture by Programme Advisor
   Dr. Y asushi Iguchi, Professor at Kwansei Gakuin University
11:40 - 13:00 Country Report from the Participants
14:10 - 18:30 Country Report from the Participants (continued)
19:00 - 21:00 Welcome Reception

Stay in Tokyo

Day 3  ▪  May 14, 2009 (Thursday)

10:00 - 12:00 Visit to the Office of the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents, Cabinet Office
13:30 - 14:50 Lecture by Dr. Yoshiko Inaba, Lecturer at Hosei University
15:00 - 15:40 Lecture by Shigeyuki Yamamoto, the Representative of NPO Kyojukon
16:30 - 17:45 Guided Field Walk at Okubo
19:30 - 20:45 Visit to NPO Minna no Ouchi and Exchange with migrant children

Stay in Tokyo

Day 4  ▪  May 15, 2009 (Friday)

9:30 - 10:30 Lecture by NPO Japan Association for Refugees
10:30 - 12:00 Lecture by Tin Win, the President of Federation of Workers’ Union of the Burmese Citizens in Japan (FWUBC) and Zaw Min Htut, the Secretary General of Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan (BRAJ) and meet with refugees
13:30 - 15:30 Visit to Japan-Brazil Academy (Brazilian School)
   Lecture by Ms. Shoko Takano President of Ohizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center
17:10 - 18:40 Discussion and Report on Field Survey with Prof. Chizuko Kawamura, Professor at Daito Bunka University

Stay in Tokyo

Day 5  ▪  May 16, 2009 (Saturday)

9:10 - 10:30 Visit to Sun and Sand Advisors Co. Ltd and Discussion with Indian expatriates

Evening  Leave Tokyo for Kanazawa

Stay in Kanazawa
Day 6 ▪ May 17, 2009 (Sunday)
9:50 - 10:40 Visit to Higashi Chaya Old Town
10:50 - 11:40 Visit to Oumi-cho Market
12:00 - 12:50 Visit to Myouryu Temple (Ninja Temple)
13:50 - 14:40 Visit to Kenrokuen (Japanese Garden)
15:00 - 16:00 Visit to Kanazawa Castle Park
Evening Leave Kanazawa for Nagoya

Day 7 ▪ May 18, 2009 (Monday)
9:30 - 11:30 Visit to Nagoya Immigration Bureau
14:00 - 14:25 Visit to Bara Kyoshitsu (Rose Classroom)
14:40 - 16:15 Visit to Multi Cultural Center (FREVIA) of Kani City
16:30 - 17:00 Visit to Part time Bank

Day 8 ▪ May 19, 2009 (Tuesday)
9:00 - 11:00 Mid-program wrap up and Discussion / Brainstorming for Group Presentation with the Program Advisor
12:30 - 15:30 Visit Meiji-Mura
Due to the Influenza A (H1N1) epidemic, the visit to Kobe had to be unfortunately cancelled.
• Visit to Kobe Overseas Chinese Museum
  Lecture by Mr. Lan Pu, Director of Kobe Chinese Association and Mr. Huang Ren Qun, Director General of Kobe Chinese Association
• Visit to Takatori Community Center
  ✓ Lecture by Ms. Shizuyo Yoshitomi, Director of Takatori Community Center
  ✓ Lecture by FM Wai Wai
  ✓ Lecture by NPO Vietnam in KOBE

Day 9 ▪ May 20, 2009 (Wednesday)
9:00 - 10:30 Feedback from Program Advisor on the Group Presentation and Discussions
Evening Individual Sight Visit in Nagoya
Leave Nagoya for Fuji

Day 10 ▪ May 21, 2009 (Thursday)
9:30 - 10:30 Visit Myoushouji Temple and a lecture on the “Machi no Eki (Neighborhood Station)” project of Fuji City
10:45 - 12:00 Field Walk (Visit several “Machi no Eki” in Fuji city)
12:00 - 12:30 Visit Yoshiwara Honjuku (Inn) / Town Management Yoshiwara and lecture on the history of the Inn, the Tokaido Road and community activities
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch with the community members
13:45 - 15:00 Factory Visit to Tokai Seishi Kogyo Co. Ltd and talk to some of their migrant workers
Evening Leave Fuji for Tokyo

Day 11 ▪ May 22, 2009 (Friday)
9:00 - 15:30 Work on Group Presentation
16:00 - 16:30 Courtesy Call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17:00 - 18:00 Work on Group Presentation (Continued)
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<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>14:00 - 15:30</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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Stay in Tokyo

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<td></td>
<td>Departure from Japan</td>
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Site Visits and Objectives

Introductory lecture and Discussions with Advisor
Lecturer/Advisor: Dr. Yasushi IGUCHI
Objective:
- To receive an overview on how the current economic crisis has affected the companies, labour market, migrants and the local government in Japan.
- To understand the “holes” and obstacles in the current foreign labourer policy and infrastructure (safety net) of Japan, and what needs to be done about it.
- To introduce possible seeds of collaborations between the countries of Asia and Oceania to promote economic growth and circular migration in the region.

Country Report from the Participants
Objective:
- To understand the status quo of the impact of the financial crisis in the participating countries as a whole. (On the economy, unemployment, crime, suicide, etc) What is similar and what is different.
- To understand how the crisis has affected the migrants in the receiving countries as well as the families of migrants in the sending countries. (Unemployment, poverty, reverse migration, remittance, etc)
- To learn about the good/bad policy of the government and the good practices of the civil society/community and migrants themselves are doing to overcome this situation in their respective countries.
- To see how the participants work relates to the above policies or practices.

Cabinet Office: Office of the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents
Objective:
- To learn about the immediate (short-term) measures for foreign residents in Japan.
- How the central government is implementing and coordinating national policies among different ministries and agencies.

Lecture: “Okubo the Dynamism of the multi-ethnic town”
Lecturer: Dr. Yoshiko INABA
Objective:
- This lecture will give us a rare glimpse into how actually the most multi ethnic town in Japan “Okubo” has emerged and developed
- Understanding the dynamism of multi cultural urban space
- (Preliminary lecture before the field walk)

Lecture: “Learning to live together with foreign residents: the activities of NPO Kyojukon”
Lecturer: Mr. Shigeyuki YAMAMOTO (NPO Kyojukon)
Objective:
- An NPO organized by the Japanese residents around the Okubo area to understand the foreigners and what is going on in their community
- (Preliminary lecture before the field walk)
Field Walk
Guide: Staffs of NPO Kyojukon, and later free time
Objective:
• An opportunity to see and observe the multi-ethnic town Okubo after the lectures.
• To walk and exchange ideas with the migrants (especially those with the same background as the participants) to hear their voice and experience of their life in Okubo, Tokyo.

NPO Minna no Ouchi (Everyone’s House)
Lecturer: Ms. Hiroko KOBAYASHI
Objective:
• An NPO providing migrant children in elementary and junior high schools free educational support (all subjects) in order for them to catch up with the public education system in Japan and provide them a space where they can belong.
• To learn about the background and education available for migrant children in the Okubo area, and what this NPO is doing to support the children who want to learn.
• Meet and talk with the migrant children who are now getting ready to take the high school exam and those children who have succeeded in getting into high school, to let the participants share their experience in their respective countries to stimulate and motivate the children.

Site Visit to a Refugee Community in Tatebayashi city, Gunma
Objective:
• To learn about the overall refugee policy in Japan and the different conditions and issues that the refugees/asylum seekers and their children face in Japan. Also on the third country resettlement of refugees in Japan. (Lecturer: Ms. Hitomi BAN, NPO Japan Association for Refugees)
• To hear and talk with the refugee community and union leaders and how this crisis has affected them. (Lecturer: Mr. Tin Win, President, Federation of Workers Union of the Burmese Citizens in Japan, Mr. Zaw Min Htut, President, Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan)

Site Visit to a Japanese-Brazilian Community Leader and School
Lecturer: Ms. Shoko TAKANO, Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center
Objective:
• To learn from the experience of a community builder in Oizumi town, where at first migrants were promoted and welcomed but then turned to conflict and mistrust by the local Japanese community.
Note: Oizumi International education and Skills Diffusion Center resides in Oizumi Town, Gunma Prefecture, where about one out of ten citizens is Brazilian. The Center hosts the Japanese-Brazilian youth festivals for children at the Brazilian schools to present their learning outcome, play their music, or show their performances to build their self-confidence. The Center also organizes programs for promotion of exchange and mutual understanding, such as Brazilians teach their culture to Japanese citizens and vice versa. In addition, the Center provides Japanese-language education support programs for Brazilian children to learn language, customs and culture of Japan that are required for their sound development in Japan. The goal of the Center’s activities is to realize the community that cherishes co-existence of multiple cultures. The center won the Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship for its activity in 2008.
• Visit Nippaku Gakuen <Japan-Brazil Academy>, a private Brazilian school to hear about the issues that the children face, their career options after they graduate, and the latest impact on the financial crisis on the children and the school.
Lecture and exchange of opinions with Newcomer and Old comer Indian Migrants

- Lecturer: Mr. Sanjeev Singha, President, Sun and Sands Advisors Co. Ltd /President, IIT Alumni Association Japan
- Commenter: Dr. Ravinder Malik (Executive Officer (Rtd), United Nations University), Mr. Abhinav Thapliyal (Senior Consultant, Ascendant Business Solutions), Ms. Mugdha Yardi (Interpreter, Translator & Corporate Trainings Consultant), Ms. Anita Pratap (Journalist, former CNN Bureau Chief for South Asia)

Objective:
- Visit a consulting company set up by newcomer Indian resident promoting strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, and hear about the issues and the mismatch faced by potential students/high skilled migrants in India and the university/company in Japan.
- How the current financial crisis has affected the high skilled migrants, and their experience of living in Japan.

Nagoya Immigration Bureau

Objective:
- Understand the functions and services provided by the bureau.
- To hear about the impact of the financial crisis on the migrants that could be observed within their jurisdiction.
- Guidelines and conditions to apply for permanent residency in Japan.
- The current situation of Deportation of migrants and their siblings.

Site visit to Kani City, Gifu Prefecture

Objective:
- To see what the local government is doing to support the migrants in their region, especially in terms of education, public assistance, community building and finding work. Note: Kani city is a small city with a population of approx. 100,000. Foreign residents mainly Brazilians and Phillipinos, make up approx. 7% of the population as of April 2008.
- Visit to a Brazilian supermarket, Rose Classroom (Bara Kyoshitsu) , Kani FREVIA, and Kani Part-Time Bank.

Meiji Mura

- To learn and see how the Japanese migrants lived in Hawaii, mainland USA, and Brazil.
- To learn about how Japan adapted and integrated the new culture, knowledge, and way of living from the West in the Meiji era.

Site Visit to Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture

Note: This day the sight visit may not be directly connected with migration, however it is a day to deepen your understanding of the Japanese community, hospitality, and culture as well as the city of Fuji.

Objective:
- To understand how the Japanese in Fuji city are trying to rebuild their community and a sense of cohesion between people and people, through the “Machi no Eki” Project.
- Visit various “Machi no Eki (neighbourhood station)” to see and talk to the station masters and have lunch with them to exchange ideas on community building and Japanese culture.
- Visit Tokai Seishi Kogyo Co. Ltd, a paper recycling factory that hires Japanese-Brazilian workers. Pulp and Paper is one of the major industries of Fuji city. Fuji city also has a high number of foreign residents (approx. 4,800 people, 2% of the population).
**Group Presentation**

**Objective:**
- To wrap up on the things learnt in Japan and from the other participants to discuss and contemplate what the Asia Oceania region, government, local government, NPO, media and the migrants themselves can do to overcome the impact of the financial crisis on migration and work to strengthen the community.
- To facilitate discussions and build network through the group work.

**Evaluation (Japan Foundation)**

**Objective:**
- To understand the activities of the Japan Foundation.
- Introduction to possible follow-up activities through the Japan Foundation Grants, etc.
- Overall evaluation and exchange of ideas to make a better programme.

The site visits below were unfortunately cancelled as the delegation could not go to Kobe.

**Kobe Overseas Chinese Museum (Kobe Chinese Association)**

Lecturer: Mr. LAN Pu (藍 璞), Director, Kobe Overseas Chinese Museum
(Q&A with Mr. HUANG Ren Qun (黃仁群), Director General, Kobe Chinese Association)

**Objective:**
- To learn about the history including the struggle for coexistence by the Chinese migrants in Kobe.
- How the Chinese community functions and maintains itself, and the global network it has with the Chinese community abroad.
- How and if there are impacts of the financial crisis on their community.

**Specified Non-profit Corporation Takatori Community Center**

**Objective:**
- To learn how a natural disaster (earthquake) has led to the support and community building of foreign residents in Kobe, and the potential and ideas to build a multicultural society in Japan and avoid ethnic communities from becoming ghettos. (Lecturer: Dr. Shizuyo YOSHTOMI, Director, Takatori Community Center)
- “FM Wai Wai”: Multilingual community radio station started after the earthquake and the role that it plays.
- “Specified Non-profit Corporation Multilanguage Center FACIL”: Community Business providing mainly interpretation/translation and ethnic chef dispatching services, creating a win-win situation between the Japanese and Foreign Community.
- “NGO Vietnam in Kobe”: Vietnamese organization providing various services as well as dealing with the community problems, such as drug abuse.
Welcome Reception

Office of the coordination of policies on foreign residents at the Cabinet Office

Lecture by Dr. Inaba and NPO Kyojukon

Field Walk

The vibrant atmosphere of Okubo
The multi-ethnic shops of Ohkubo

Migrant children introducing themselves

Exchange with Migrant Children at NPO Minna no ouchi

Lecture by Japan Association for Refugees (JAR)

Lecture on refugee empowerment and how the financial crisis is affecting the asylum seekers/refugee community by a refugee union leader. The participants also met and talked with more than 20 members of the community in Tatebayashi city, Gunma Prefecture.
Visiting Nippaku-Gakuen, a private Brazilian school in Oizumi

Discussion with Prof. Chizuko Kawamura at the Japan Foundation

Dialogue Session with Indian Community

Enjoying Japanese Style Dinner

Higashi Chaya Gai, or old town of Kanazawa city

Oumi-cho Market
Visiting the Bara Kyoshitsu (rose classroom)

Foreign children preparing to enter the Japanese public schools at Kani city

Kenrokuen Garden

Kanazawa Castle

Nagoya Immigration Bureau

A brazilian store in Kani city

Visiting the Bara Kyoshitsu (rose classroom)

Foreign children preparing to enter the Japanese public schools at Kani city
Lecture by Kani City officials at FREVIA

Dr. Iguchi giving advice during the mid-program wrap up

Consulting with Dr. Iguchi on the group presentation outline.

Each group continued their brainstorming after the feedback from the program advisor

Group Discussions
Visiting a Machi no Eki. The owner explained about the different types of sake being produced in the local area, and the history of this shop that runs along the Tokaido (historical road of Japan).

A house used by Japanese Migrants in Seattle, USA

Mr. Watanabe explaining the common “omotenashi (hospitality)” spirit of the Japanese and tea.

Receiving briefing on the “Machi no Eki” (human station) project of Fuji City. Each store/restaurant/clinics/NPO/etc. that agrees to become a Machi no Eki, will show their hospitality to any stranger to come in and rest and use their toilet, provide maps and information of the city, as well as enjoy the little conversation and exchange which will lead to networking and community building.

Visiting a Machi no Eki. This kimono shop station welcomed the participants by giving an opportunity for them to wear the kimono.

Back in time at Meiji Mura

Visiting a Machi no Eki. The owner explained about the different types of sake being produced in the local area, and the history of this shop that runs along the Tokaido (historical road of Japan).
Visiting a Machi no Eki. Here in the Japanese green tea store, the participants learned the proper way of preparing green tea through the humorous presentation of the Eki-cho (station master).

Yoshiwara is a historical area of Fuji city. The participants had exchange with the community members at an inn which also serves as a community center.

Receiving a good departure omen (Kiribi), using flint to ward off bad luck.

Japanese-Brazilian workers at a factory in Fuji.

Courtesy Call at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Programme Advisor
Profile of Programme Advisor

Yasushi IGUCHI
Professor, Dr. of Economics (Labor economics, international economics and migration study), School of Economics, Kwansei Gakuin University

Education and academic degree
- Doctor of Economics 1999 Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan
- Post graduate study 1980-82 University of Erlangen-Nuernberg and Federal Institute for Employment and Vocation, Germany
- Bachelor of Economics 1976 Hitotsubashi University, Japan

Professional Experience
- 2005- Director of the Research Center of Economies with Declining Fertility, Kwansei Gakuin University
- 1999/2004 Guest Professor, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Lille 1, France
- 2001-2002 Guest Researcher, Max-Planck-Institute for I.A.S.R. in Munich, Germany
- 1997- Professor of Economics, Kwansei Gakuin University
- 1995-1997 Associate Professor of Economics, Kwansei Gakuin University
- 1976-1995 Official, Ministry of Labor, Japan

Books (Selected)
- Deborah Y. (ed) Migrant Workers in Pacific Asia (in English) (Iguchi Y. “Foreign Worker and Labor Migration Policy in Japan”) Frank Cass, 2003

Articles (Selected)
- Iguchi Y. “Determinants of Intra-regional Migration and Effects of Economic Partnership Agreements in East Asia” in Korean Labor Institute, Quarterly Journal of Labor Policy, Vol 2. No. 4, November 2004, pp1–24, (in English)
1 Program

- The Japan Foundation organizes an East Asia Future Leader Program to Japan in May 2009 under the Japan–East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program.

It is funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration fund, and aims to deepen understanding of the different facets of the Japanese society including politics, diplomacy, economics and culture and to form the basis of future vision and construct firm solidarity among Asian countries which will promote mutual understanding of the future generation of the East Asia Community.

<Concept of this Program>

The global financial crisis has led to a severe economic downturn around the world. Stabilizing the financial market, stimulating the economy and creating employment are the top agenda for most countries, as massive layoffs are announced across the globe.

In such times, migrants are often the first ones face the negative impact and loose their jobs.

- Migrants, especially the blue collar and undocumented migrants tend to be more vulnerable than the citizens of their destination countries, since they are less likely to receive the social welfare benefits, and are not aware of their rights and support that are available due to the lack of language ability or education.

Some migrants have returned to their country/region of origin, and others have chosen to stay.

However, the support for the unemployed migrants is heavily dependent on the various local communities (ethnic, regional, religious, etc.) as the governments may not be able to respond quickly enough or do not have enough resources.

This program will first study the impact of the global financial crisis on migrants and the economy, and learn how the central government, local government, NGO’s and communities are trying to tackle the problem taking Japan as a case study.

It will then focus on the roles of the community, and discuss how the various communities can bridge the gaps between the migrants and locals in the destination country, and support migrants and their families in both the origin and destination countries.

It will also contemplate on how the definition of community has expanded, from the traditional community (ethnic, regional, religious, etc.) to a contemporary community (informations, virtual/international networks, etc.) and discuss how the various communities can develop and collaborate within the Asia and Oceania region to overcome this common crisis.

This program is composed of lectures, discussions, visits to public and private organizations in Tokyo and other localities, field work and writing and presenting a group paper on the said topic.

<Key Words>

Global Financial Crisis
Community (Ethnic, Region, Workplace, Information, Religion etc)
Multicultural/Intercultural Coexistence
Regional Development
Employment Support
Safety Net (Social Welfare)
Refugee and Resettlement
2 The 150th Anniversary of Internationalization of Japan -with ethnic community forming-

The year 2009 is the 150th anniversary of opening of Japan on a basis of Friendship Treaty with USA concluded in 1856. Yokohama was a small village whose district "Kanai" was opened for foreigners.

After the First Opium War from 1840 to 1842, there was growing tension in Asia, as European countries were beginning to make colonies in East Asia.

In 1858, Perry with four warships came from Shanghai to demand the Shogunate to open several harbor and to provide food and water for US ships. The Shogunate concluded the treaty as it thought that the US was a new country and "less brutal" than the other European countries. Those days, the US ships were catching whales in the Pacific Ocean.

(2) Chinese Communities overcoming so many difficulties

Chinese people created communities in Japan based upon their home provinces of origin. They had made shops and restaurants for their own needs. It was not until the 1960s that Japanese people enjoyed ethnic food or culture.

The communities met with several catastrophes like the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, Japan-China War 1936-45 and the other accidents (fires or economic crisis). Some of them lost their whole money or assets.

As the background of such strength, it should be pointed out that Chinese people have been maintaining Chinese schools in Japan to keep their culture and identity as well as to survive in the Japanese society by learning Japanese.

Even in San Francisco, where many Chinese people live, there is no full-day Chinese schools.

In September 2008, there was a large-scale congress on overseas Chinese in Kobe. They reaffirmed that overseas Chinese should make contribution to host country as well as to economic and social development of China.

(3) Indian traders in Japan with fourth or fifth generation

Japan-India trade had expanded as textile industry became an engine of exports from Japan in the first half of 20th century.

In 1922, as the Great Kanto Earthquake occurred, Indian traders also suffered great losses and some of them moved to Kobe.
It should be noted that Indian traders also collaborated with Japanese citizens to rescue victims.

After the World War II, Indian traders were engaged in massive procurement of the US army by supplying livelihood articles. However, the Japan-India trade were shrinking as a result of industrial transformation from textile to heavy industries in Japan. Besides, the socialist way of economic management in India until the 1980s contributed to diminishing tendency of trade between the two countries.

Indian traders survived through diversification of imports from Asian countries to Japan.

In the 1990s, Indian IT specialists who work for foreign financial institutions and IT companies have created a new community in Kasai area near Tokyo. They also established Indian International School in Tokyo for their own children.

Near Yokohama, another Indian community of IT specialist emerged at the beginning of 21st century.

In 2008, the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holding caused uncertainties of employment of Indian specialists who earn high incomes in Japan. However, many of them were now hired by Nomura Security Holding and others were recruited to jobs in other foreign and Japanese financial institutions.

(4) The other new types of Asian Communities

In Tokyo, new types of Asian communities expanded especially after the World War II.

In Shinjuku Ward of Tokyo, there have been many Asian inhabitants since before the World War II.

After the War, Korean entrepreneur established chewing gum factory with the brand of LOTTE.

Taiwanese residents made entertainment area in Kabukicho in Shinjuku.

There came many Filipinos in the 1980s as "entertainers".

Especially Okubo area has become an ethnic town with almost one third of inhabitants are foreigners.

Korean IT specialists who live in Japan also send their children to international schools. Not just to local Korean schools. This should be regarded as a new tendency.

Chinese students, who got PhD degrees from Japanese universities have filled so many positions in academia here in Japan.

There had been students from Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia etc. to Japan, who got scholarship of "Look East". They have been playing important roles in Japan as well as their home countries. However, this tendencies also changed as more students from ASEAN go to the United States.

Vietnamese community has been established especially because they had been refugees and their families since the 1970s. I am afraid that adjustment to the Japanese society has not been smoothly implemented.

Japanese policy of diffusing Japanese language in the world has not been effectively conducted. Standard of language ability from the aspects of survival in Japan should be established as soon as possible. The right of foreigners to have opportunity to learn survival Japanese should be established.

(7) Brazilians concentrating in Industrial agglomeration areas

Since the late 1980s, many Japanese Brazilians came to Japan and engaged in working to earn money not only for go and return, but also for settle with their family members.

During the time of deflation since 1995 after the collapse of bubble in 1990, they have continuously growing in atypical employment (as subcontract or dispatched workers) especially in manufacturing sectors.
slide 1-19

Because of the financial crisis stemming from US, trade was radically reduced and manufacturing sector was hardest hit. Japanese Brazilians have beginning to lose jobs, Brazilian school have been shut down or pupils cannot go to Brazilian schools any more. Some of them have returned to Latin America. It is also important to provide new employment opportunities or self employment to overcome recession.

The community of Japanese Brazilians have been established for example in Hamamatsu, Toyohashi or Toyota city, where administration also supported to create them. It was important to have Brazilian entrepreneurs who may be able to take initiatives for creating community.

slide 1-20

3 Diaspora’s network attracting attention under globalization

The term diasporas is attracting attention. It seems to have acquired new significance under regional economic integration or globalization.

It originally meant “scattered people” who settled and survived in countries or areas other than their home. Important thing is that they could do so by creating networking locally, regionally or even globally. Family ties, religion and home town play an important role in such types of diasporas.

slide 1-21

We can say the most famous diasporas in the world history are Jewish, Chinese and Indian. They have strong family ties as well as based upon religion and home towns.

Since the 1980s, new types of diasporas, especially based upon information and communication technology appeared, who are not based upon family ties or religion. These people share similar backgrounds of education.

In addition, there seems to be another type of diasporas whose network is based upon growing multinational enterprises.

slide 1-22

4 Industrial agglomeration and fragmentation — de jure and de facto integration under way

Here we define “Fragmentation” as division of production process (articles or services) into several blocs, which should be located in different countries or regions. This is enabled by lowering tariffs and service linkage cost of de jure economic integration.

Here we define “Agglomeration” as growing concentration of managerial resources, money, workforce, technology as well as economic and social infrastructures to certain local areas.

slide 1-23

Irrespective of relatively underdeveloped de jure economic integration, the intra-regional trade already occupies 50 % of total trade in ASEAN+3 (AST) (de facto economic integration).

Such intra-regional trade is attributable to dynamically expanding network of production (fragmentation) as well as “triangle trade” (ex. Japan-China-US) based on more and more efficient distribution network promoted by foreign direct investment.

Recently, agglomeration has been growing especially in China, India, Thailand as well as Vietnam, while domestic investment has also been recovering in Japan.
slide 1-24

Figure 2.1-14 Ratio of intra-regional imports and exports in East Asia (incl. Taiwan, Hong Kong), EU25 and NAFTA

Source: DOT (M/E).
Source: METI White paper (2007)

slide 1-25

Graphic Free trade agreements in (enlarged) East Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>ASEAN</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>NZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○※</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>△</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>☀※</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○/○</td>
<td>○/○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○/○</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○/○</td>
<td>○</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

○ signed or took effect, ○ under negotiation or △ studying × suspended
FTA between Korea and Thailand
Table 7  Japanese Companies overseas, employee and expatriates from Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>3269570</td>
<td>55937</td>
<td>3394452</td>
<td>49299</td>
<td>3889555</td>
<td>42174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia total</td>
<td>1992808</td>
<td>27398</td>
<td>2224631</td>
<td>28231</td>
<td>2809570</td>
<td>28846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>84575</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>72437</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>69376</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>459003</td>
<td>1804</td>
<td>683914</td>
<td>6678</td>
<td>1134307</td>
<td>10890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taipei CH</td>
<td>128603</td>
<td>2033</td>
<td>102756</td>
<td>1846</td>
<td>89381</td>
<td>1476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>142507</td>
<td>5786</td>
<td>111344</td>
<td>3066</td>
<td>144519</td>
<td>2309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>16212</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>46465</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>145764</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>855490</td>
<td>5556</td>
<td>388855</td>
<td>4382</td>
<td>499544</td>
<td>4594</td>
</tr>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>90483</td>
<td>4123</td>
<td>77608</td>
<td>3145</td>
<td>46833</td>
<td>1826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>249712</td>
<td>2776</td>
<td>229736</td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>180867</td>
<td>1396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>112250</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>160011</td>
<td>1231</td>
<td>194456</td>
<td>893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>211145</td>
<td>2283</td>
<td>268942</td>
<td>2105</td>
<td>240259</td>
<td>1556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>54485</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>52607</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>62861</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Toyokeizai Shimposha

5. Overview on development of domestic and foreign population and labor force in Japan

It should be noted that the Japanese population started to decline from 2005, while the loss of population has been compensated by the growing inflow of foreigners from 2006.

Historically speaking, massive inflow was recorded in the 1930s from the Korean Peninsula.

At the beginning of 21st century, the growing inflow of foreigners is more diversified, although it is difficult to trace Indian migrants as they have been counted as British subordinates.

Since the beginning of 21st century, there are growing mismatches in the labor market under the aging population. This leads to growing presence of foreign workforce.

We can statistically show that the location choice of foreigners are strongly influenced by economic factors. It is also dependent upon freedom of foreign workers to change employment opportunities.

If people are mobile, they are gradually concentrating in large cities or areas with industrial agglomeration.

We should also pay much attention to economic as well as social factors which determine location choice of diasporas.
Table 2: Historical development of foreign inhabitants by nationality in Japan from 1920~2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Phil.</th>
<th>Thai</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Peru</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1,304</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,556</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Statistics (Population Census)

Note: Indian registered population is still small (almost 20 thousand in 2007) and classified to others.
Slide 1-33

Graphic 5  Trainees (2006)  
Source: By the author

Note:
The color indicates the number of persons

- 7,500~ (dark)
- 5,000~7,499
- 2,500~4,999
- 1,000~2,499
- 250~999
- (white) 0~249

Slide 1-34

Table 3  Estimated number of foreign workers in Japan excluding special permanent residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign with the status of residents for working</td>
<td>67,983</td>
<td>125,726</td>
<td>154,748</td>
<td>192,124</td>
<td>180,465</td>
<td>171,781</td>
<td>193,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical intern trainees etc. (1)</td>
<td>3,266</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>29,749</td>
<td>63,516</td>
<td>87,324</td>
<td>97,476</td>
<td>104,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated activities of foreign students (2)</td>
<td>10,935</td>
<td>32,306</td>
<td>59,435</td>
<td>106,406</td>
<td>96,959</td>
<td>103,595</td>
<td>104,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese descendants (3)</td>
<td>71,803</td>
<td>193,748</td>
<td>220,644</td>
<td>231,393</td>
<td>239,259</td>
<td>241,325</td>
<td>239,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal working</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overstay (4)</td>
<td>106,407</td>
<td>284,744</td>
<td>219,418</td>
<td>193,745</td>
<td>287,298</td>
<td>103,745</td>
<td>149,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orderly permanent residents (5)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,412</td>
<td>39,154</td>
<td>101,904</td>
<td>113,899</td>
<td>128,441</td>
<td>143,184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sum | 256,800+ | 620,000+ | 750,400+ | 980,000+ | 920,000+ | 930,000+ | 930,000+ |

Source: Estimates by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (until 2003) and by the author (from 2004)
### Table 4  Number of registered foreign nationals according to countries of origin in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of resident</th>
<th>Total of all countries</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>American</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Indian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
<td>8,436</td>
<td>2,453</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investor and manager</td>
<td>7,916</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>2,276</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>44,004</td>
<td>23,247</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>5,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International business</td>
<td>61,764</td>
<td>267,62</td>
<td>7,706</td>
<td>4,040</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate transfer</td>
<td>16,111</td>
<td>5,712</td>
<td>54,317</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>1,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainer</td>
<td>15,728</td>
<td>1,193</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled worker</td>
<td>21,261</td>
<td>11,766</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>132,46</td>
<td>85,905</td>
<td>2,144</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-college student</td>
<td>38,190</td>
<td>22,094</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>88,085</td>
<td>66,576</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated activity</td>
<td>104,488</td>
<td>73,049</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary permanent resident</td>
<td>430,757</td>
<td>128,501</td>
<td>11,125</td>
<td>3,301</td>
<td>2,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouses and Children of Japanese</td>
<td>250,980</td>
<td>56,990</td>
<td>9,131</td>
<td>2,624</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term stay</td>
<td>268,604</td>
<td>33,816</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special permanent resident</td>
<td>430,229</td>
<td>2,986</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,152,073</td>
<td>666,889</td>
<td>51,851</td>
<td>17,328</td>
<td>29,589</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5  Population, labor participation rate and Unemployment Rate according to Population Census in 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Share of women (in %)</th>
<th>Labor Participation ratio</th>
<th>Unemployment rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreigner total</td>
<td>1,157,354</td>
<td>53.1 (61.1)</td>
<td>62.8 (61.1)</td>
<td>5.7 (4.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>407,424</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>227,429</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>157,850</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine</td>
<td>87,846</td>
<td>84.4</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>32,913</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>27,220</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>22,545</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>13,823</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>10,152</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>9,487</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>5,032</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3,187</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,018</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*By the author in reliance upon Census of Population (2000) (1) indicates the corresponding data on Japanese.*
### Table 6: Number of foreign children less than 15 years old in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total (0-14)</th>
<th>0-4</th>
<th>5-9</th>
<th>10-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>193,923</td>
<td>85,594</td>
<td>67,894</td>
<td>80,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Korean</strong></td>
<td>47,655</td>
<td>12,897</td>
<td>16,101</td>
<td>19,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chinese</strong></td>
<td>35,697</td>
<td>12,763</td>
<td>11,595</td>
<td>11,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brazil</strong></td>
<td>49,466</td>
<td>17,959</td>
<td>16,611</td>
<td>12,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Philippines</strong></td>
<td>16,766</td>
<td>5,444</td>
<td>5,904</td>
<td>5,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peru</strong></td>
<td>11,754</td>
<td>3,763</td>
<td>4,067</td>
<td>3,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td>4,827</td>
<td>1,687</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>1,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnam</strong></td>
<td>3,780</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thailand</strong></td>
<td>2,785</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>2,420</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indonesia</strong></td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK</strong></td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France</strong></td>
<td>978</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Germany</strong></td>
<td>546</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: by the author in reliance upon foreigner's registration statistics of Ministry of Justice

---

Migrant workers are not substituting national workers in employment, while decline of younger population has close correlation with growing foreign trainees in local areas.

Growing number of ordinary permanent residents in Japan may be an important evidence that the nature of migration is changing from temporary to permanent.

The rights of migrant workers especially in atypical employment have not been satisfactorily guaranteed. The second generation of migrants has not been enjoying good education including Japanese language training.

The reform of migration policies has started in Japan already. What is important is to realize a system which may be mutually beneficial for receiving as well as sending countries.

Creating "institutional infrastructure" for multicultural coexistence may be an important basis for "circular migration" for long term.

Therefore "integration policy" to create such infrastructure especially at local levels should be the second pillar to "Immigration policy" mainly at national level.

In order to guarantee rights as well as obligations of foreign inhabitants, it is indispensable to create effective on-line data system. In addition, offering language training for foreigners and reforming education as well enhancing compliance and promoting CSR at workplace have high priorities.
Table 4  Free trade agreements in (enlarged) East Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>ASEAN</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>NZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○※</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>△</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○※</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>△</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

○ signed or took effect, △ under negotiation or △ studying × suspended
FTA between Korea and Thailand

slide 1-41

The frame of APT (ASEAN plus Three i.e. Japan, Korea and China) with the strong initiative of ASEAN has celebrated the tenth anniversary in 2007. The goal of such regional integration has been explicitly specified as forming “East Asia Community”.

The APT summit took place in January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines, have not gathered much attention. However, the financial and currency cooperation has been leading the intra-regional cooperation since the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997.

In addition to sixteen areas of “functional cooperation”, the APT decided to cope with four new issues on women, poverty eradication, disaster management as well as minerals.

With the background of sensitivity and strong national interests, “international migration” has not been adopted as a field of functional cooperation yet.

slide 1-42

5 Industrial agglomeration and fragmentation – affecting intra-regional migration

Here we define “Fragmentation” as division of production process into several production blocks, which should be located in different countries or regions. This is enabled by lowering tariffs and service linkage cost.

Here we define “Agglomeration” as growing concentration of managerial resources, money, workforce, technology as well as economic and social infrastructures to a certain area.

slide 1-43

Irrespective of relatively underdeveloped de jure economic integration, the intra-regional trade already occupies 50% of total trade in ASEAN+3 (AST) de facto economic integration.

Such intra-regional trade is attributable to dynamically expanding network of production (fragmentation) as well as “triangle trade” (ex. Japan-China-US) based on efficient distribution network promoted by foreign direct investment.

Recently, agglomeration has been growing especially in China, Thailand as well as Vietnam, while domestic investment has been recovering in Japan.
**Table 7**  Off-shore production in China in terms of FDI volume (million US Dollar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Accumulation from 01 to 05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FDI in total</td>
<td>49875</td>
<td>52743</td>
<td>53455</td>
<td>60839</td>
<td>60320</td>
<td>274081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4843</td>
<td>4190</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>5452</td>
<td>6530</td>
<td>56035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>4275</td>
<td>3973</td>
<td>3377</td>
<td>3117</td>
<td>2152</td>
<td>15567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>10717</td>
<td>17851</td>
<td>17730</td>
<td>18080</td>
<td>17940</td>
<td>89225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>2152</td>
<td>2723</td>
<td>4469</td>
<td>6248</td>
<td>5168</td>
<td>20728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1213</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>5580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>4448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>2584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the author based on [Statistical Yearbook of China](#)
### Table 8: Domestic and overseas employment in Japan (in thousand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Labor Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Foreign Labor</th>
<th>Employment in Japanese MNE</th>
<th>Employment in Japanese MNE in Asia (and expatriates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>67930</td>
<td>65140</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>1,880 (26.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>67660</td>
<td>64460</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>3,161</td>
<td>2,065 (25.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>66890</td>
<td>63300</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>3,175</td>
<td>2,225 (26.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>66420</td>
<td>63290</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>3,766</td>
<td>2,499 (25.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>66570</td>
<td>63820</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>4,356</td>
<td>2,704 (27.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Ministry of Trade and Economy (Overseas employment),Toyokeizai Shinposha (Asia) as well as author’s estimation (foreign labor)

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### Graphic 1: Factors promoting economic integration in East Asia

- **Central Government**
- **Agglomeration within the countries**
- **Trade liberalization**
- **Dynamic comparative advantage**
- **Direct investment**
- **Technological architecture and corporate strategy of the MNEs**
- **Fertility, population, Family etc.**
- **Social dimensions**

**Legend:**
- ☩️ Trade liberalization
- ☐️ Direct investment
- ☣️ Technological architecture and corporate strategy of the MNEs
- ☉️ Agglomeration within the countries
- ☢️ Central Government
- ☩️ Local government

**Effect 1:** Changes in combination of on-shoring / off-shoring
- Growing supply chains / distribution network
Graphic 2: Concept of fragmentation

before fragmentation

after fragmentation

PB: production block  SL: service link
Source: Kimura (2006)

Graphic 3: Fragmentation and agglomeration process with different service link cost

According to the annex, the cost function 1 represents the relation between cost and production with a single production block with fixed cost OA.

The cost function 2 represents the relation with several production blocks and lower marginal cost with more fixed cost based on direct investment.

The cost function 3 also represents the relation with more production blocks and much lower marginal cost with much more fixed cost based on more direct investment.

In such a case, agglomeration takes place at C (instead of C'), whose service link cost (C) is lower than that of (C').
Graphic 5 Reduction of establishment and employment in manufacturing industry between 2001 and 2006

Establishment still declining in number

Only several areas with employment growth

In the model explaining the number of establishment and that of employment, most of the hypotheses were supported and statistically significant.

In economic stagnation, industry makes efforts to create value added, while they have to eliminate the number of establishment or employees. However, wages are correlated with the number of employment or establishment. This may be an evidence of agglomeration.

Foreign labor, both mobile or in rotation principle, may also contributes to agglomeration.

Devaluation of Yen may promote domestic production sites, while FDI to China is promoting delocalization.

It is important for central and local government to support establishing and improving infrastructure for creating industrial agglomeration and attracting manpower, including foreigners, so that technology and human resources be accumulated.
### Table 5  Determinants of on-shore production for Japanese enterprises

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable</th>
<th>Number of establishment</th>
<th>Number of the employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>-4.032</td>
<td>-50.646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average wage</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>0.997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacancy/Applicant</td>
<td>-0.220</td>
<td>-17346.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign trainees</td>
<td>2.065</td>
<td>44.577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian population</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>8.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDI to China</td>
<td>-0.389</td>
<td>-11.788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land price</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange rate</td>
<td>89.710</td>
<td>2573.769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>1871.432</td>
<td>-455605.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted R2</td>
<td>0.705</td>
<td>0.764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample size</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: by the author

### Table 6  Correlation coefficients between Japanese labour force and foreigners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ratio of younger generation</th>
<th>Labour participation ratio of 50 years old and over</th>
<th>Employment population ratio of 50 years old and over</th>
<th>Labour participation ratio of female from 25 years old</th>
<th>Employment population ratio of 25 years old and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreigners in total</td>
<td>0.301**</td>
<td>0.610***</td>
<td>0.699***</td>
<td>0.021</td>
<td>0.321**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special permanent residents</td>
<td>0.340**</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.360**</td>
<td>-0.364**</td>
<td>-0.094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>-0.054</td>
<td>0.686***</td>
<td>0.504***</td>
<td>0.410***</td>
<td>0.474***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilians</td>
<td>0.718</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.004</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Intern Trainees</td>
<td>-0.437***</td>
<td>0.217</td>
<td>-0.040</td>
<td>0.396***</td>
<td>0.215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: estimated by the author  
See Iguchi and Shiho (2007).  
Note: Co-relation coefficients and probability of significance
### Table 10: Sector of employment for foreign nationals in Japan according to Population Census 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Philippine</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total %</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy &amp; water</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport/communication</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale, retail &amp; restaurant</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking and insurance</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public service</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Appendix: Payment for trainees and technical intern trainees

#### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical Intern</th>
<th>Monthly wages (Before tax)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textile and clothing</td>
<td>Approx. 125,000 Yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery and metal</td>
<td>168,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welder</td>
<td>166,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and drink</td>
<td>137,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other occupations</td>
<td>163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery</td>
<td>113,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>129,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>145,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainees</td>
<td>Monthly raising allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group of SMEs</td>
<td>On average 63,800 Yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sole Company</td>
<td>80,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65,612</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reforming migration policies both in the national as well as regional interests

With the background of increasing foreign population, there are urgent problems as follows.

1) The increase of foreigners of Japanese descendant, including those who obtained permanent resident status continues. There is a phenomenon that foreign inhabitants concentrate themselves in specific local areas in several municipalities.

2) Displaced subcontracting undertakings have been cracked down and they have become a political problem since summer in 2006. The changes from subcontracting to worker-distributing undertaking has been still limited and the working condition and the coverage by social security of foreigners could not be improved.

3) Almost three fourth of foreign youths aged from 16 years old to 18 are not attending any schools and estimated to be working in irregular employment. There are fears that they cannot be integrated to the Japanese society.

4) The inflow of foreign trainees as well as technical intern trainees is so fast that the number has reached over 170 thousand (the sum of technical intern trainees and foreign trainees) in 2007. There are growing number of evil conducts identified by the immigration authority.

5) The Economic Partnership Agreement (free trade agreement in combination with economic cooperation) with the Indonesia and the Philippines have taken effect. The agreements accompany schemes admitting nurses and care-givers from such countries under the framework of trade agreement and invoked discussions on the schemes on migration and human resources development in East Asia.

In coping with urgent policy, the Council on Regulatory Reform of the Cabinet Office took initiative to undertake reforms of Japanese migration policies in June 2006. This was the first step towards the whole reform of migration policies in Japan.

Basically, the Japanese immigration system can be regarded as an Anglo-Saxon type, because it has been established according to the US immigration laws after the World War II.

The immigration control laws and regulations have been supplemented by the Foreigner's Registration Law, which originally aimed at control of the Koreans as permanent residents who had lost Japanese nationality after 1952 according to the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which recovered the independence of Japan.

# Table 16: Comparison of different types of systems on the stay of foreigners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Immigration control</th>
<th>Power of local government</th>
<th>Register at local government</th>
<th>Management of tax and social security</th>
<th>Information Sharing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglo-Saxon type (US / UK)</td>
<td>Issuance of visa status registration of permanent residents</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Election (Inhabitants) register for nationals</td>
<td>Social security number (US) tax number (UK)</td>
<td>Freedom of Information Act (UK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continental European type (France)</td>
<td>Issuance of entry permits</td>
<td>Permission of stay (Immigration bureaus in prefectures)</td>
<td>Election register for nationals</td>
<td>Residency number of French and foreign nationals</td>
<td>Exchange within the prefecture offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continental European type (Germany)</td>
<td>Issuance of entry permits</td>
<td>Permission of stay (Foreigner's office at municipalities)</td>
<td>Registration of domestic and foreign nationals</td>
<td>Income tax number</td>
<td>Information sharing with network database among authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future in Japan Proposal (A)</td>
<td>Issuance of status of residence (with resident card)</td>
<td>Checking rights and obligations (municipalities)</td>
<td>Registration of domestic and foreign nationals</td>
<td>Utilizing Reporting system on employment of foreigners (social security)</td>
<td>Information sharing with network database among authorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: By the author. See: Iguchi(1998/7/1)
At the same time, trainees should be treated as “workers” according to labor laws, when they are engaged in “on-the-job-training” under the new legislation. The “hot line” to rescue trainees as victims will be introduced from April 2008.

Anyway, there should be more involvement of municipalities, which is expected in the reform package to be realized in the near future. This reform process of the migration policy can be regarded as establishing institutional infrastructure for “integration policy (in Japan, “policy for multicultural coexistence”).

It is also expected that, with several regulatory reforms of migration policy, there should be mutually beneficial coordination between Japan and the neighboring economies in Asia Pacific, so as to facilitate movement of persons within this region taking into consideration of “circular migration”.

It is desirable for Asian Pacific economies to have more dialogues to create intra-regional framework for cooperating between receiving and accepting countries in the field of migration policies as well as human resources development from long-term perspectives, because it should be an important part of community building in this region.

From the standpoint of enriching human resources in East Asia as a whole and meeting the growing demand for health professionals, the scheme of EPA is very limited.

The candidates from Indonesia should be registered nurses or certified case workers in the Philippines already. There is no room to create more health professionals in this region and this might bring about “brain drain” effect. At the same time, language courses should be provided in Japan, whose disadvantage is high cost. Furthermore, the qualification acquired in Japan has no mutual recognition within the East Asian region.

Anyway, the admission of Indonesian and Filipino nurses to Japan in the EPA would be an important step.

The scheme should undergo evaluation processes and be improved from wider perspectives including domestic labor market and community forming in East Asia.

Table 10 Japanese Companies overseas, employee and expatriates from Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>employee</td>
<td>expatriates</td>
<td>employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World total</td>
<td>3259570</td>
<td>55037</td>
<td>3394452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia total</td>
<td>1992608</td>
<td>27393</td>
<td>2224981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>84575</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>72437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>459003</td>
<td>4804</td>
<td>683914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taipei CH</td>
<td>128603</td>
<td>2033</td>
<td>102758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>142507</td>
<td>3786</td>
<td>111344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>16921</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>46465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>355480</td>
<td>5536</td>
<td>388355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>90483</td>
<td>4123</td>
<td>77508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>249712</td>
<td>2776</td>
<td>2290766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>112250</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>160011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>211145</td>
<td>2383</td>
<td>268942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>54485</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>52607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Toyokeizai Shimposha
7 Concluding remarks

It is important to redefine and strategically utilize the potential of foreigner’s community / diaspora’s network, whose economic and social functions are evolving in the globalizing world.

To overcome global economic recession and to take initiative to find sustainable and equitable growth track, we should explore the roles and functions of such communities at local level (in a prospective East Asia Community at regional level etc.) and possible collaboration with the host society.

It is your turn to find undiscovered possibilities of Asian Pacific collaboration.

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Discussion on changing "communities" in the globalizing world and their future in Asian and Pacific Region -Case study from Japan-

JENESYS Program 2009
Prof. DR. Yasushi IGUCHI

1. Introduction

With growing foreign inhabitants in local areas as a result of migration under globalization of economy, there have been efforts to maintain a society with multicultural diversity. People may also think that "multicultural society" is a consequence of globalization. However, there has been a danger that "plural mono-cultural societies" are growing and that a society will be separated into many parts without communication with each other.

Traditionally speaking, there are debates on "multiculturalism" vs. "assimilation.
In overcoming such endless debates, "integration policy" or "mainstreaming" has been a leading concept in the migration policy discussions since the 1990s.
However, with the outbreak of global economic crisis, there are increasing policies which can be regarded as "backlash" against policies with accents of multiculturalism.

Now we are faced with challenges to overcome such backlash and to find new ways to integrate all the people in the society and to restore "social cohesion". Exploring new ways may lead to reconsider the roles of (ethnic) communities, meanings of cultural identities and interactions among such communities, civil societies, municipalities as well as central government.
Now you should go back to case studies of Japan.

2. Creating infrastructure of "Multicultural coexistence" in Japan
The Japanese concept of "multiculturalism" is not the same as "multiculturalism".
It is a "grass-rooted" concept, which was used for the first time in Kawasaki City in the first half of 1990s.
In 1995, it has been evolved after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in Osaka and Kobe with the experience of collaboration between Japanese and foreigners in the activities of reconstruction.

Now, the "Alliance of municipalities with high density of foreign citizens" ("Gaikokujin Shujutsushi Kaigi" with 27 cities, headed by Ota City in 2009) uses the notion of "multicultural coexistence" society.
According to the definition in Toyota Declaration in 2004, it is a society, in which different culture and language of citizens should be mutually respected, while realizing rights and implementing obligations necessary for the life of citizens should be guaranteed.
Discussion Session

**slide 2-7**

- The member cities of the Alliance have been attracting foreign population because they have new industrial accumulation of especially automobile and electronic industries since the beginning of 21st century as a result of industrial fragmentation in East Asia.

For example, the area of 80 km from Toyota City has been developed for “just-in-time production” with highly developed distribution network.

In such cities, however, younger generation tends to flow out to large cities while production workers have been in shortage.

**slide 2-8**

- Therefore, the Alliance has been making efforts to create institutional infrastructure of “multicultural coexistence”.

The first effort was to realize the new register of foreign inhabitants with digital and online data base to identify their addresses and to identify rights and obligations. The bill to amend the Immigration Control and Refugees recognition Act and that to amend the Inhabitants Registration Act has been submitted to the Parliament in March 2009.

**slide 2-9**

- To create institutional infrastructure, it has also high priority to guarantee coverage of foreign workers by social security and compliance of employment laws by employers.

In addition, it has been discussed that foreigners should be entitled to have opportunities to learn Japanese language for everyday life and business.

In applying compulsory education to foreign children, it is also necessary to legally acknowledge foreign schools, to give legal status and to enable financial assistance to them.

**slide 1-10**

3 Activating and supplementing roles of ethnic communities

In implementing migration policies at local level, with better infrastructure of multicultural coexistence, it is important now to review the roles played by ethnic communities.

**slide 2-11**

1. Functions of communities

- Sharing information for members
- Mutual assistance among members (safety net)
- Maintaining cultural identities of members
- Education for the next generation of members
- Providing safety net for members
- Creating new business (taking risks)
- Creating better relationship with host society
- Participating in management of municipalities
(2) Changing types of “communities” stemming from ethnicity

- **Chinese communities in Japan**
  - consisting of skilled workers, entrepreneurs and their families (old) / highly skilled workers or businessmen and their families as new emigrants (new)
  - based upon commercial activities or business integrated in the host society
  - **Strong importance of education and strong cultural identities**
  - International support for Chinese school
  - Networking around the world / strong mutual assistance within the network

- **Indian communities in Japan**
  - consisting of traders (old) / IT specialists (new)
  - based upon international business
  - No support from host country
  - Strong importance of internationally oriented education while maintaining cultural identities
  - Contributing to development and poverty alleviation in India
  - Overseas Indians as Brain Banks
  - Education in international schools
  - Networking around the world / strong mutual assistance within the network

(3) Potential of community

From such comparison, it is clear that Chinese or Indian communities are so independent. They sometimes are rich enough and do not need any assistance from host society.

Educational function is so important and maintaining basic identities are so essential. It has been always a risk that such communities may become closed. Japanese language education has an important role to make the community open.

Another potential of such communities may be to contribute to economic and social development in home countries.

It should be investigated if old community may be one of the conditions to attract newcomers to host country.

In the case of Brazilian communities, they are still very fragile and they do not have full functions. In other words, Brazilian communities are dependent upon local society.

High mobility may hinder formation of community. Policy for multicultural coexistence has roles to supplement such communities to function.

If there emerge more Brazilian entrepreneurs who create enterprises in host country, there may be firm basis for undertaking more activities as community.

It is also important to realize circular migration between host and home countries, which may enable long-term economic partnership.
Korean communities have produced several enterprises in Japan, while they are gradually shrinking, as more Koreans are naturalizing. Some naturalized Koreans are vital in entrepreneurial activities. Vietnamese communities containing refugees are still weak to be independent from host country. It reflects the fact that the measures for settlement has not been always successful. Pakistani communities which comprises overstaying nationals are difficult to grow. Ethnic communities may grown up to make more contribution to home and host countries, while they often need assistance from home or host country.

Although cooperation between different ethnic communities are not easy to achieve at present, while it is also expected that such communities be united in the future to create strong cooperation within this region.

4. Discussion on future communities

- In the face of economic and employment crisis, we should explore more potentials of different types of “communities” in overcoming the crisis.
- Keys of such discussions have been found in the case studies in Japan.
- We are now going to make group study and seek for new policy measures at local, national and regional levels.

Appendix  Sandwich production

1) Every group is requested to make an outline of final presentation (“Sandwich”). It should consist of two sheets of paper (A4 one or two pages).
2) Each participant draft one paragraph on a chapter of the final report. Your group is requested to compile such paragraphs and to add “Introduction” and “Conclusion”. This is “Sandwich”.
   After improving the “sandwich”, you are requested to give a title and present it to Ms. Mukai by 21:00 on May 10.
Group Presentation
Group Presentation Overview

1. Objectives
   - To wrap up on the information and experience gained through the program by creating a group paper on the roles and potentials of diverse communities to overcome the negative impact of the global financial crisis on migration as well as on the institutional framework and policies that would be necessary.
   - To facilitate discussions and build network among the participants through the group work.

2. Group Members
   In order to achieve the objectives, the participants were divided into 4 groups of 4-5 people. The members were selected so that each group will have a mix of different professional backgrounds, cultures and nationalities.

3. Method
   Each group was given 30 minutes to present their papers, followed by Q&A from the floor and comments from the Program Advisor, Dr. Iguchi. Each Group prepared a power point and a 4-5 page paper for the group presentation.
   - May 13: The concept of the program, briefing on the group work and a key note lecture were given by Dr. Iguchi.
   - May 19: A more detailed lecture on migrant communities and their potentials as well as instructions for making the group report outline were given by Dr. Iguchi. The participants were divided into groups to brainstorm. Each group handed in their group presentation outline “sandwich” in the evening.
   - May 20: Feedback from the Program Advisor. Dr. Iguchi prepared feedbacks and recommendation for each group and the groups were given more time to discuss and refine their ideas.
   - May 22: Group Work. Each group was provided with a laptop, printer and internet access to write up their group paper and power point.
   - May 23: Group Presentation

4. Observations
   The delegation could not visit Kobe due to the outbreak of the influenza and could not complete all of the sight visits and lectures that had been prepared for them. It was very unfortunate that they had to miss one of the most progressive civil society movements working for multi-cultural co-existence and the empowerment of ethnic communities in Japan. However, the extra day gave them more time to receive feedback and work on their presentation, as well as some time to digest and rearrange their thoughts regarding what they have learned.

   Each group found time to get together on their own initiative to discuss and complete their group report. Most participants gave very positive feedbacks on the process such as this following comment from one of the participants.

   “First, the country reports were helpful because they created a “base” from where we could start discussions on the topics of concern. --- However, the biggest and most effective aspect was the group presentations at the end. It was challenging to agree on a specific focus/angle/point of reference because all of us have different levels of knowledge about the topic, different working experiences, and come from different academic and cultural backgrounds. However, it was this effort of creating a presentation collectively that strengthened our bonds with each other and enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the situations in other countries.”
Group Presentation 1 (Group A)
Public sector’s role to improve multicultural co-existence

Oi Hyun KIM (Republic of Korea)
Leolita MASNUN (Indonesia)
Hitomi TAKAKI (Japan)
Hannah MALLOCH (New Zealand)

Question
What are the key components of multicultural co-existence? How can these components be implemented to maximize the potential of diverse communities in times of financial crisis?

Introduction
Japan has begun its movement towards multicultural co-existence. This movement needs increased invigoration and motivation on the part of both the host community and existing and future migrant communities in Japan. This paper outlines the essential components necessary for multicultural co-existence and discusses the relevance of these components with reference to examples from Japanese culture. The essential components are: equal employment opportunities; access to information and services; community development; and a welfare safety net. Following this discussion are comparisons to international examples of migration, with particular reference to the roles of the public sector. These examples serve to offer recommendations and impetus for Japan’s movement towards multicultural co-existence in the current economic climate. Migrants and host communities benefit most from migration when migrants are employed in industries that suffer labor shortages, or when they are employed to the full extent of their potential as such employment is of benefit to both the migrants and the economy more generally.

Lower-skilled migrants are particularly vulnerable to negative migration outcomes. This is compounded by two factors:
- These migrants congregate in low income housing residences together, which has the effect of reinforcing the “us” vs “them” mentality in the host culture which can easily avoid the face of immigration by not integrating with migrants;
- There is lack of communication in practical information that could empower migrants to adjust better to the host community.

Furthermore, migrants’ ability to engage in social participation is impacted on by often working long and unsociable hours (such as shift work). It is a common phenomenon that migrant workers are often employed to do work that ordinary citizens are reluctant to do. As mentioned, community development is a key component of multicultural co-existence. The public sector has a role to encourage and facilitate community development. This will enable migrants to become more included in society, for the benefit of both the migrants and the host communities.

Methodology
This discussion considers the aim of achieving an ideal condition of society: to have communities which celebrate diversity and live in harmony. Currently, this is an aspirational goal. To find ways of reaching this goal it is important to consider the barriers to reaching that goal. They are lack of the presence of the four main components of multi-cultural co-existence:
- equal employment opportunities
- access to information and services
- community development and social participation
- safety net for migrants.

In order to discuss these barriers a frame of reference is required. “Multicultural co-existence” sums up the condition we are looking for and offers a conceptual framework from which to seek solutions. What is meant by multicultural co-existence in this paper is a condition where all members of a society recognize the need to respect diversity, to the point where diversity is acknowledged as both necessary and desirable. Using this concept, we can identify the main players and consider two key questions:
- What are the incentives that govern their behavior?
- What are their roles and responsibilities in achieving the aim?
We have defined the key players in two main groups – host community and migrants. Within these groups are a range of players. The “host community” includes the various levels of the state, civil society and the market (employers in particular). “Migrants” is a term which encompasses foreign workers, immigrants, and refugees, alongside their families in the host community. These definitions and the concept of multicultural co-existence frame the following discussion.

Equal employment opportunity
Migrants in any country face more disadvantages in the workforce than their domestic counterparts. Because of this, migrants miss out on equal economic opportunities and are generally unable to reach their full potential in the labor market. Employers, civil society and the state share the cost of economic opportunities in this situation, alongside the migrants themselves.

The most significant barrier migrants in Japan face in reaching their full potential in employment is language. The Japanese language is not a recognized state language anywhere else in the world. Therefore, it is unlikely that the majority of migrants will come to Japan sufficiently prepared to get around in the country and secure suitable employment that meets their expectations and skill level. Other barriers migrants face in the Japanese workforce are: low recognition of qualifications, discrimination based on their migrant status, and poor working conditions.

This description of the circumstances migrants face implies that migrant workers are unwanted by Japanese society. On the contrary, these migrants are essential to the Japanese economy, particularly now, in the economic crisis. Whether or not this fact is generally accepted by wider society is debatable, however. Social acceptance of migrants can begin with the recognition of their economic contribution, before moving to the next step of acknowledging their wider social contribution to the community.

Japan has a significantly aging population and young Japanese citizens are fleeing the rural populations to seek urban lifestyles and employment opportunities. This creates a gap in the labor market. This gap is recognized by those migrants who come to fill the jobs made available by this circumstance. However, if migrants are simply coming to Japan because there are perceived to be “jobs” on offer, this situation is not enough for building a positive multicultural co-existence. For, in order for the migrants to establish roots and enjoy positive social outcomes, they need to be matched to suitable and sustainable employment that suits their individual talents. In Japan this is not happening. An example to prove this point is the experience of migrants who have come to Japan from Brazil, the Nikkei peoples. Despite the ethnic connection of Nikkei peoples to Japan, which entitles them to legal immigration status, Nikkei migrants do not enjoy equal employment outcomes. Instead, they are often relegated to manual factory work and menial labor, and are generally the first to be laid off when a company needs to downsize due to difficult economic times.

In the case of New Zealand, the government welcomes migration from all nationalities as long as they meet immigration selection criteria; and pursues the aim of equitable employment outcomes for all potential and existing migrants by undertaking three steps. Firstly, the government requires the majority of migrants to prove that they have an offer of employment from a New Zealand employer to get approval for migration. This prevents the long-term unemployment of new migrants. Secondly, each year the New Zealand government reissues a Long Term Skills Shortage List and an Immediate Skills Shortage List. These lists are available online and form part of the points system for would-be skilled migrants who seek to come to New Zealand. If a potential migrant has skills and experience in the occupations New Zealand suffers labor shortages in, they are more easily approved for immigration to New Zealand. This is because these migrants are more likely to find work that suits their needs and will boost New Zealand’s economy. Thirdly, New Zealand has a policy of “work testing” employment opportunities. This means that if an employer is seeking to source workers from overseas, they must first prove that there are no New Zealanders available to do this work. This policy prevents the situation whereby migrant workers are laid off first when a company suffers financial difficulty.

Japan has not fully opened its labor market to migrants. This is one strong reason for the discrimination that the migrants face. In order to satisfy even the basic stage of equal employment opportunities, the government needs to take active, transparent and encouraging measures to encourage employers to maximize the economic investment they are making in their migrant employees through training and professional development opportunities. The government should also undertake measures to improve communication and goodwill between migrants and their fellow employees, and employers, such as legislating that employers must give due respect for cultural and religious differences in the workplace.
Practical access to public information and services

The global economic downturn affects not only migrant workers who suffer in the crisis, but also the citizens of the host country. Many citizens, as well as migrant workers, have lost their jobs and struggle to find another. The fact remains that migrant workers are the most vulnerable to become long-term unemployed. In recognition of this fact, Japanese central and local governments have implemented the Hello Work project to help them. Since most of the job offers available require Japanese language proficiency, the migrants who possess little proficiency in the Japanese language are very likely to remain unemployed. This language barrier also negatively has impact on their ability to seek information and support to find a new job, or to access the unemployment services available to them. Compounding this is the fact that even migrants who do have jobs tend to work most of the day, and this has the effect of their losing contact interaction in their community. Just providing access to information is not enough, unless the information can be actually followed up by the intended recipients. The host community’s encouragement for migrants to learn its language is a must; however as an interim measure for those who have not yet gained Japanese language proficiency, public information should be translated to commonly spoken languages of migrants, such as Portuguese, Mandarin and Korean.

An example of the problems migrants face when restricted from access to public information and services can be seen in the experience of the Burmese Rohingya asylum seekers in Japan. In fact, when they do not yet have the legal status as refugees, they are only allowed to move freely in a particular location of the country. This condition can get worse especially if the organization which offers assistance to them is not next door, but in quite a distant region. So, left on their own, these refugees struggle to make a living or access state funded assistance in Japan.

Indonesia has a long history of dealing with issues presented by multicultural co-existence. For over one hundred years, people from China, Japan, the Middle East, and European countries such as Holland, Germany, Portugal, have come to Indonesia and become its citizens. As a result, Indonesia currently enjoys a variety of ethnicities such as Chinese, Japanese, Middle Eastern, and European. Descendants of these immigrants chose not to leave the country, as they had the political opportunity to integrate into the local community. They were given direct access to information and services as long as they maintained their status as citizens or at least as permanent residents of Indonesia. The assimilation and integration between local and foreign culture have been in constant development since that time, and continues today. Of course there have been some bad experiences like the 1998 Riot, which proved that the process of creating a multicultural society in Indonesia remains problematic. Some scholars say that these different ethnic descents may have become exclusive in order to maintain their own identity. Multicultural co-existence needs to stretch beyond living “alongside,” to living “with” each other in order to realize the positive benefits to society, which come from a sharing of ideas and a respect for diverse cultures and perspectives.

Despite the problems faced, Indonesia gave practical access to information and services to foreign nationals and their decedents, and this has led to positive outcomes. In order for the governments to establish mutual cooperation in the prospective emigrant and host community, exposure of information about different cultures is essential. In regard to labor market, states should create regulation and/or policy to enforce private sector employers to initiate training to enhance migrants’ employment skills to enable them to have better employment and social outcomes. Of course, the governments would also have to design inclusive settlements in areas where local and foreign culture community engagement is taking place in order to avoid ghettoisation and tragedies like the 1998 Riot in Indonesia.

Community development and social participation

Multicultural co-existence cannot develop if migrants are excluded from the mainstream community. Considering that the migrants in Japan tend to be found working in low skill sectors like manufacturing, and tend to form a typical minority group in the society, the migrants’ communities are likely to be underdeveloped. It is the responsibility of the community to welcome migrants and for migrants to participate in the community as much as possible, to encourage social acceptance of the increasing levels of diversity in Japanese communities.

Unfortunately, many migrants’ communities are marginalized and unable to actively participate in the social activities. Due to discrimination and exclusion from the mainstream, they are not fully invited nor involved in social dialogues on economy, society, culture and politics. Generally, migrant workers in Japan are only accepted in few restricted sectors like low-skilled low-wage labor market. Citizenship and political participation are enjoyed by very few privileged migrants in Japan. Migrant
communities don’t have the resources to conduct research into the specific challenges faced by migrant groups which would assist them to advocate for positive change. Even positive initiatives, such as the local community’s class to offer supplementary education to migrant children in the Okubo area in Tokyo, Japan are under funded due to lack of local government prioritization, despite the clear need.

There are two ways to provide public efforts to achieve migrants’ social participation. One is the indirect measures by benefitting the migrants with social support:

- awareness-campaigns for the elimination and prevention of stipulated discriminations
- public funding of language classes and translation services.

The other ways are direct measures for giving the migrants what they need:

- mother-language education in the public education system
- state support for migrants’ organizations and core activity groups
- administrative participation and facilitation in the official council for organizations like migrants’ committees to make their views heard to local government
- opening public space for migrants’ information and networking
- support and regulation for labor unions to accept the migrant workers.

And the ultimate stage will include giving rights to vote to the migrants, in order to be represented in the political sphere as well as society.

Safety net for all migrants
Migrants become vulnerable to bad social outcomes because they are not provided with a sufficient safety net (education, medical care, social welfare) in Japan. The state needs to develop a safety net for migrants in order to support the settlement of migrants in Japan. This can be done by offering sufficient support from local and national governments, though this may require an increase in Japanese taxes or reprioritized utilization of the budget, not only for the migrants but also to develop a safety net for both migrants and Japanese people. By and large Japan has followed the neo-liberal model of economic development, and without a doubt Japan is facing difficulty in supporting residents in the financial crisis. If the state was to shift more toward becoming an interventionist welfare state, then it could develop a much better safety net system that would be able to help both Japanese citizens and migrants.

Examples of the way the state could implement a better safety net would be if national and local governments offer to support the foundation of schools/educational opportunities for the population in Japan from different cultural backgrounds. An advantage would be to create the schools that might also attract Japanese people to attend. These could be like the Public International School/Asian-Pacific School, Public Bilingual/Immersion school (the Japanese-Brazilian school), prep-class/international class in Japanese schools in Kani city.

In order for the safety net for migrants to be accepted and then improve multicultural co-existence in Japan, Japanese people need to develop their knowledge, sensitivity, competency, and skills to be global citizens and Asian-Pacific citizens. To reach this aim, one idea would be to create a credit transfer system and scholarship program to increase the educational opportunity for students to learn in ASEAN+3 and Pacific regions. These educational opportunities would help to form ASEAN+3 and Pacific regional group cohesiveness and common values to develop the region together. This could start from the initiation of an exchange between South Korea and Japan as a pilot program with a view to expand to the Asian-Pacific region at a later stage. The opportunity this presents is that it would function to develop more engagement (getting to know each other) among Asian-Pacific regions.

Conclusion
Migration is inevitable in the globalized world of the 21st century. Preparation needs to be made in advance to deal with emerging trends and issues in migration. Past examples and other countries’ examples should be well-studied to let each country successfully come up with a proper model for its society. Unlike the immigration-based countries in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, countries like Japan, Korea or Germany would take somewhat exclusive measures in the immigration policy. These countries have comparatively longer history, and they regard a country as a blood-related community. These attitudes are reflected upon the citizenship regulation, only allowing those migrants who promise to go back after working for a while. Permanent residence is not usually accepted and this often leads to occurrences of discrimination.

Along with the generations, however, social and cultural integration will come true. Immigration-based countries would rely on the civil society’s autonomy, but others with stronger sense of nationality would find it harder. This is why their governments will have to become involved in the integration of migrant people. Suggestions
made in this paper are mostly expected from the public sector.

Japan does not have a history of being a primary source or a destination country for immigration. A lot of the issues presented by increasing migration to Japan are new for government and communities to deal with. Japan need not shy away from dealing with these issues; rather, Japan has the advantage of being able to look to other nations for direction and lessons from their experience of positive and negative outcomes from differing policy directions that aim to improve multicultural co-existence.

In order for migrants and host communities to maximize the benefits of migration, the state needs to proactively facilitate the transition from migration to successful settlement outcomes. This can only happen with buy-in from the civil society and the market, particularly employers. If the migrants are to integrate better with the local community, they require equitable access to practical information and services. By using social services and information, migrants will be able to access social protection mechanisms, such as social supports and the social safety net. The local community would also benefit from the integration of migrants by developing their mutual knowledge and respect for diversity. To achieve a multicultural community, both the host community and migrants need to cooperate in social participation and community development initiatives.
slide 1

Public Sector’s role to improve multicultural co-existence

WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF MULTICULTURAL CO-EXISTENCE? HOW CAN THESE COMPONENTS BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF FINANCIAL CRISIS?

JENIYIS EAST ASIA FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME 2009
Group A: O Hyun Kim, Leebu Maman, Hihomi Takaki, and Hannah Malik

slide 2

OUTLINE

- Methodology of discussion
- Definitions
- Concept of Multicultural Co-existence
- Discussion of the main components of multicultural co-existence
- Summary of ideas for improving multicultural co-existence in Japan
- Conclusions reached
- Questions

slide 3

METHODOLOGY OF DISCUSSION

1. Decide on an aim/goal of society
2. Find the social and economic barriers to achieving that aim
   a. Lack of equal employment opportunities
   b. Lack of access to information and services
   c. Lack of community development and social participation
   d. Lack of a welfare safety net for migrants
3. Choose a relevant concept to frame the discussion
   a. Multicultural co-existence
4. Use the concept to look for solutions
   a. Look for key components of the concept
   b. Identify the main players
      i. What are the incentives that govern their behavior?
      ii. What are their roles and responsibilities to achieve the aim?

slide 4

DEFINITIONS

- Who are “host communities”?
  a. State – national and regional governing and funding bodies
  b. Civil Society – NGOs and NPOs, clubs, schools, etc.
  c. Market – employers in particular
- Who are “migrants”?
  a. MYTH: Migrants are just “foreign workers”
  b. REALITY: Migrants are:
      i. foreign workers AND
      ii. immigrants AND
      iii. refugees AND
      iv. children of migrants

slide 5

CONCEPT OF MULTICULTURALISM

- Multicultural co-existence
  a. This concept has been defined as a condition where all members of a society recognize the need to respect diversity, to the point where diversity is acknowledged as both necessary and desirable.
  b. It is the difference between “tolerating” the presence of another culture in the community to embracing that culture as an addition to the evolving character of the community.
- Application of the Win-Win concept:
  a. Recognizing the needs/incentives of both migrants and host countries and finding ways to respond to both sets of needs/incentives facilitates multicultural co-existence.

slide 6

1. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Problem: Migrant workers face significant disadvantages in the Japanese workforce

Explanations: Barriers to suitable and sustainable employment include: language, status discrimination, poor working conditions. Migrants are underemployed and are often the first to be laid off when a company hits financial difficulties due to their employment disadvantages in Japan
1. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Proposed solution: Japan could implement integrated immigration and labor market policy to facilitate the needs of employers and employees.

State: Integrate immigration policy with forecasts of potential labor shortages to improve the economy. Increase state facilitation of migrants with specific skills needed. This would necessarily involve a general rethinking of existing policies.

Desired outcome: State would spend less on welfare due to migrants having employment and would receive more income from taxation.

Civil society: Labor unions could organise migrant workers together to lobby employers and local government bodies for improved working conditions and language training.

Desired outcome: Employees empowered by securing work that suits talents.

Market: Employers, and industry bodies could lobby government for a skills shortage list, also employers could contract directly with employees rather than employment brokers.

 Desired outcome: Improved productivity and retention of migrant workers.

2. PRACTICAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Comparison:
Indonesia has long history in dealing with multicultural issues. Over one hundred years ago, people from China, Japan, the Middle East region, and European countries such as Holland, Germany, and Portugal, came to Indonesia.

Lessons learned:
1. The state now facilitates the opportunity for migrants to integrate into the local community by giving from equitable access to information and services as long as they’re maintaining their status as a citizen or at least a permanent resident in Indonesia.
2. Inclusive settlements have been designed in areas where encounter of local and foreign culture are taking place.
3. Mutual cooperation has been established between groups to prepare the prospective immigrant and prospective host community with the ability to live in different cultural and social settings.

2. PRACTICAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Proposed solution: the government of Japan should provide practical access to information and services to all migrants.

State: Design practical regulation or policy on the dissemination of relevant information on government requirements and services.

Desired outcome: Mutual knowledge and understanding in multicultural communities empowers migrants to cope well in society.

Civil society: Establish networking with other organisations in national, regional, and international level.

Desired outcome: The role of civil society in multicultural communities is further developed and strengthened.

Market: Implement practical training initiatives for migrants to enhance their language proficiency and employment skills.

Desired outcome: Migrants workers up-skill to reach the full potential.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Problem: Marginalisation exacerbated by a lack of social participation.

Explanation: Discrimination and exclusion from the mainstream, not fully accepted in social activities.

No political representatives.
No public space for information.

Comparison: Foreign Labourers’ Union in Korea

Proposed Solution - Public Support
Indirect Support - Social safety nets for migrant workers
Direct Support - Giving rights to vote (ultimately)
4. SAFETY NET FOR MIGRANTS

Problem: Migrants are vulnerable, not able to receive sufficient safety net (education, medical care, social welfare) and easy to lose when economics are downsized.

Explanation: Since Japan followed the neo-liberalism for our economy, our country is facing with difficulty in providing sufficient safety net for both Japanese and migrants. Migrants face significant disadvantages as they have difficulty in language, access to information, and marginal in Japanese society.

Example: Education for migrants are not guaranteed by local or national government.

Proposed solution: Shift more toward to welfare state/country. Japan could develop our welfare safety net system and that would help both Japanese and migrants. Primary focus on education.

State: Create schools/educational opportunities for different cultural backgrounds population in Japan. Create schools that attract Japanese people to attend.

Desired outcomes: Public International School/Asia Pacific School, Public Bilingual school, partnerships in public schools

Civil society: Partnership between NGOs/POs and public sectors

Desired outcomes: Donation System for securing education for migrant children

Proposed solution: Japanese need to develop knowledge, sensitivity, competency, and skills to build multicultural co-existence society. Japanese people need to have more international experience to understand the real meaning of multicultural co-existence.

Education
- Create Asia Pacific (ASEAN + 3, Osaka) exchange program (credit transfer system) to increase study abroad opportunities.
- As for trial, we could start between South Korea and Japan and then seek to expand the system.

Desired outcomes: Help people to be more globally aware. Form Asia Pacific regional group cohesion and develop regional common values.

University: Imbalance of students’ study abroad destination. (Western countries vs. Asian countries)

Step 1: Promote multicultural co-existence and integration on campus (apply community development model of Kari, Fujisawa)

Step 2: Create Really Short Study Abroad Program to Asian Countries

Step 3: Facilitate students to study in Asia and various countries

CONCLUSIONS REACHED

- It is in the economic and social interest of Japanese society to encourage multicultural co-existence and acceptance of migrants in the community
- By implementing a range of policies that allow greater integration of migrants to the host community the public sector can foster a climate of acceptance for migrants from a diverse range of cultures
- Diplomacy has a role to enable Japan to be more open to external influences, such as foreign students
- Civil society has a role to facilitate and empower migrants and citizens to participate more fully in the community together for mutual goals

Do you have any questions?
"Ichigo wa amai" (Strawberries are sweet)! Every year, children join strawberry picking in a farm owned by a local resident in Kani City. Young boys and girls are children of migrant workers, who are not only experiencing strawberry picking but also learning the Japanese language. Living in a community, however, is not like strawberry picking where one can choose the sweetest and best fruit. Like strawberries, a community has to nurture and protect its members for them to grow and develop their full potential.

Neither are communities static entities. They are born; they expand and flourish; they collapse and die. Migrant communities are no exception and across the world, one can find many examples of migrant communities in various stages and states of transformation. The question addressed in this paper and undoubtedly to countries in Asia and the Oceania area is: “What makes a migrant community viable and sustainable, particularly during global financial crises and increasing migration inflows?” This report is going to explore and discuss how to bring about a model of sustainable migrant communities, in addition to the institutional framework necessary to support these communities in their initiatives.

Any model towards sustainable migrant communities must address the issue of maintaining one's cultural identity. What does it mean to be a migrant in Japan today? For the most part, it means being defined as a foreigner or foreign national, legally, socially and economically. It means being registered as an alien, non-Japanese resident with restrictive entitlements and working rights. And if the current legislation proposed by the cabinet in March is enacted, it means having an identity of increasing state classification; according to birth date, sex, nationality, address and work status.

What are the implications for migrant community identities under such categorical registration systems? Primarily this classification stifles a community's rights to self-determined identification. Communities should be free to draw from different (and at times multiple) sources in shaping their own collective identity, whether it be according to culture, language, faith, geography or activity to suggest a few. It is only through this self-expression by each migrant community that an authentic, collective identity can be forged- one that is resilient and responsive in the face of rapid change and increasing social and economic pressures.

The issue of cultural identity is particularly crucial for the children of migrants. Caught within the paradox of multiple cultural identities with conspicuously absent citizenship status, these 200,000 plus children are at risk of withdrawing from the Japanese community at large, as well as their local community and family, in their search of a national identity. This was poignantly explained to Kim Oi- Hyun by an elderly Japanese Brazilian at the Tokai Seishi Kogyo recycling company who explained that whilst one of his daughters remained in Japan, another daughter had gone back and forth between Brazil and Japan in search of a place to settle.

How does a country steeped in traditional kinship structures based on the principle of descenture transcend its innate and static notions of what identifies as a community in Japan? In the first instance, a community can provide opportunities for citizenship to its long settled migrant communities. This would provide the opportunity for Japan and migrants to reconfigure their ideas of what it means to be Japanese- and provide a safe and secure site to explore and articulate identities that are diverse through community structures. However, the question of identity and the transitional development of identity formation is a messy and complex process requiring an element of friction and disorder.

Perhaps the real challenge for Japan lies in confronting
its values, laws, aspirations and responsibilities to incorporate the notion of Japan as a unified community that values peoples diverse social and cultural identities; one that is inclusive to migrants and foreigners alike. Undoubtedly any process in Japan of collective identity forming will be imbued from the onset with multiple dimensions of power. None the less, recognising the diversity of human identities within the human community is a crucial prerequisite for the establishment of sustainable migrant communities in Japan.

A society that recognises cultural diversity understands that the different cultures, faiths and languages of its people should be mutually respected and their rights and obligations upheld. However, in a report given by the Kyojukon group leader in Okubo area, his view was that “there is a strong tie among the local Japanese residents, while people from abroad are seen as ‘others’ or ‘outsiders,’ who bring trouble to the community.” Such perceptions by Japanese are likely to result from their misconception about the value of cultural diversity or their limited experience of living with migrant communities. The model used by the people in Kani City, which has established good relationship between different ethnic groups by providing information, cultural exchange and consultation on daily life issues is an effective one to promote greater cultural dialogue.

But that may be not enough. Discrimination towards the migrants should also be actively discouraged in host countries. Media has an important role to play in this process. It provides easy and quick access to the information that can influence people’s value judgment and attitudes. Unfortunately, it can also encourage racism through unbalanced and subjective reporting. For example, media stories from Okubo reporting that foreign residents were destroying the area and threatening public safety provoked negative public sentiment towards migrants.

The issue many migrants face is a lack of access to resources. These resources include; financial, social, natural and cultural resources as well as information, employment opportunities, spaces to meet, and education and language services. This is particularly true in Japan, where a lack of knowledge in the Japanese language can create a lot of difficulties in migrants’ lives. Also, when a person does not speak the language it is very difficult to acquire necessary information about available social and public services such as health care and the right to unemployment insurance. In contrast, a community that has members who know what the host country’s social structure is and how it works, can provide assistance to those who do not know this information and to newcomers. In addition, having access to a place to meet with each other, for example community facilities, and resource support is essential for a community for information exchange and maintaining their cultural identity, thus leading to a more self-sustainable community.

On the other hand, a community that does not have this advantage of well-informed members needs some assistance from outside the community. In this instance, both local and national government of the host country should provide accessible information about migrants, so they can live and survive in Japan. A good example was seen in Kani City, where the local government provided a facility where migrants - in this case Japanese-Brazilians - to get information on available services in the city and even attend various classes, from Japanese language to disaster response information. A non-governmental organization can also play an important role in providing information and assistance to a struggling community. Since many NGOs rely on volunteers, NGOs’ community assistance service can also bring the migrant community and locals together.

Unfortunately, some migrants do not have the right to these services due to their status in Japan; hence, they are forced to experience significant hardships. For example, many asylum seekers in Japan do not have legal status or a work permit. Since very few of them receive public assistance from the Japanese government, many have little choice but to work illegally to secure a wage. The recent economic crisis has made finding a job and supporting a family more difficult.

Effective governance and strong leadership are important within a community. Through community representatives and leadership they create the means and capacity for communities to provide unique local initiatives that respond to the unmet needs of communities as determined by the community themselves and enjoy strong participation of communities in the delivery the initiative. For example the NPO Minna no Ouchi in Okubo was established to support foreign children living in Japan. It provides “supporting Japanese language and study activities in response to the language barriers experienced by migrant children in Japanese schools and classes to support transition to a public school system. However limited time and availability of community representatives can make sustainable governance difficult.

A community plays a vital role in reaching its members and sustaining initiatives toward development. Involvement of critical actors such as national and local government, companies and enterprises, and foreign and local residents is important in creating a model of
sustainable migrant community. For example in the Philippines, the local government, through the Public Employment Service Office, provides a list of vacancies, guiding jobs seekers in finding employment. A number of cities and municipalities in the Philippines are also using the toolkit on Local Development and Decent Work developed in partnership with the International Labour Organization. Members of the community work hand in hand with being able to send and keep children in school and out of child labour. Here in Japan, the Kani City established a multicultural center and job searching facility in a part-time bank. The job searching center has a special counter for migrant workers who lost their jobs due to the global economic crisis. Kani City created a fund as well for government and private agencies to work together and send migrant children to school. Recent estimates in Kani City revealed that 6.8 per cent of migrant children are not going to school. Amid the crisis, critical actors worked and contributed to a fund, which included donations from companies and groups, together with 17 citizens. In Ohizumi City, the mayor put priority on the local residents, despite the fact that one out of seven in town are Japanese-Brazilian foreign residents. For eight years, Japanese-Brazilians has had difficulty being part of the community. About 300 migrant children of compulsory age were not enrolled in school. The change in government had a strong effect on Japanese-Brazilians. Critical actors and organizations in Ohizumi started the Japanese-Brazil Academy. “We just have to keep up and never be defeated,” said Mrs. Shoko Takano, President of the Ohizumi International Education.

Effective governance as well as critical actors and organizations are important for a community. To sustain local initiatives, there should be constant dialogue among its residents both local and foreign. The change in government can have a huge impact on communities. Thus, local ordinances, institutions, organizations even support groups and systems within a community have great influences in sustaining initiatives

The East Asia/Pacific Regional Commitment towards Functional Cooperation on Sustainable Migration could be based on a regional framework on migration addressing key issues relating to migrants such as employment, income, social security, citizenship, healthcare, education, cultural exchange, legal responsibility, etc. This prevents migration based on political agendas, business contracts, or even bilateral treaties having unpredictable effects on migrant communities, particularly during economic downturns in host countries. A regional framework based on political commitment between state members is very significant in facilitating and balancing effective cooperation as well as support in handling potential risks. This regional framework should be functional in the way that based on this each state, both home and destination countries can make their properly informed decisions towards migration issues.

Realizing that framework requires conducting a regional review and assessment to provide comprehensive understandings about the existing migration in home and host countries, including current policies and legislations, related problems and their root-causes, and potentials for better perspectives. It also should be formulated for a long-term performance, e.g. at least 10 years, based on sharing common values, and signed by state government, with periodical evaluation and review every 3 or 5 years. Annual or biyearly regional meetings scheduled for information exchange and national/regional reviews between governments and/or sectors are recommended. Each member state should nominate a responsible organisation, e.g. ministry or agency, to act as the national focal point to coordinate and follow up the regional commitment after their ratification.

An independent committee (or task force) could be formulated, to take responsibility for monitoring the performance of regional commitment, as well as provide consultancy and policy recommendations for state members. Each country member could make their migration policy and decision consistent with the signed regional agreement. They need to legalise and institutionalise regional commitment to facilitate handling migration tasks.

These would become National Legal Frameworks to Ensure Rights, Responsibility, and Obligations of Migrants in Home and Destination Countries (political, economic, social, etc). For example, the migration policy and legislation of destination countries would be designed to meet basic (living) needs and rights of migrants and facilitate them to properly comply with their responsibility and obligation regarding all economic, social, environmental and political dimensions. It would address issues relating to housing and food, employment, income and taxation, unemployment compensation and/or pension, social security and health care, education, language and vocational training, children and gender support (e.g. pregnancy and maternity), Visa application and citizen registration, social participation (e.g. trade union membership) and criminal violation and justice. Home countries should consider particular issues relating to orientation and preparation for migrants (knowledge, skills, other resources), support abroad and financial
assistance (loan, tax deduction, etc).

What is needed are information exchange, support groups to bridge the gap through Asia Pacific regional cooperation and partnership, for example fairer labour standards in the region, and International networks across nations to support communities and build bridges. Bilateral agreements and even memorandum of understanding, the most common but less formal non-binding agreements, have been made among various countries. There are a number of regional agreements on different areas of migration such as trafficking. The ILO proposed the establishment of a regular ASEAN Forum on Labour Migration. Most of the agreements and discussions, however, focus on a national and international level, but not so much on communities. In addition, most of the agreements tend to look at recruitment procedures but not so much on welfare and protection. Monitoring and enforcement should be strengthened. The Economic Partnership Agreement of Japan with Indonesia and the Philippines has been implemented. There should be ongoing discussions on the impact, not only within international or national, but also on the local or community level. What will happen to migrant workers who will eventually marry or bring their families to Japan but have little or no Japanese language skills to survive? When tackling relevant issues in order to realise success stories on migration, challenges and experiences of communities should be considered.

There is one article in a Chinese elementary school textbook that says, “Do you know who built your house? Do you know who cleans your classroom? Do you know who makes our city more beautiful? The migrants did all that for you.” It is a little bit literary, but it tells us that migrants contribute a lot to our city.

There is good recognition of migrant community contributions in Japan. A paper published by the Immigration Bureau tells us that those contributions can be found in: diplomacy, economy and industry, culture, education, research and sports.

Meanwhile, according to our research during this program, the communities that migrants rely on are still vulnerable and unsustainable.
Changing communities
Reaching the grassroots &
Sustaining local initiatives
in a globalized world

Group B
Linda Petrone (Australia)
Zhang Shuyang (China)
Sayaka Kikuchi (Japan)
Minette Angeles Rimando (Philippines)
Nguyen Viet Dung (Vietnam)

“Ichigo wa amai !”
(Strawberries are sweet !)

A question of cultural identity

- What does it mean to be
  a migrant in Japan?
- A foreigner ?
- foreign national ?
- registered as an alien ?

Community’s right to self
determined identification

According to
- Culture
- Language
- Faith
- Geography
- History

Cultural identity for the children of migrants
Risk of withdrawing from both Japanese
Community, local communities and families in
the search for a national identity.

The notion of community in Japan
A transition from innate traditional kinship
based groups to new, reconfigured ideas of
what it means to be Japanese.
Slide 7

A sustaining model of migrants community — Cultural values

- Recognize the cultural diversity — You are living together
- Build up mutual respect — diversity is possible only when everything is accepted.

Slide 8

Media plays an important role in discouraging discrimination

We

You

They

Slide 9

Access to Resources

- Financial
- Social
- Natural
- Cultural
- Information
- Employment opportunities
- Spaces to meet
- Education service
- Language service

Slide 10

Examples

- Japanese language skill crucial
- Access to information often difficult in migrants’ languages

Slide 11

Within Community

- Having enough resources enables community members to help each other

From Outside

- Public assistance
- Public policy
- Non-governmental organization
- Awareness

Slide 12

Effective governance

- Community representatives with strong leadership
- Unique local initiatives to respond to unmet needs of communities
- Involvement and participation of national and local government, companies and enterprises, foreign and local residents
Regional Commitment on Migration: Functional Cooperation

- Political commitment between states to address key issues relating to migrants
- To provide institutional framework of support for migrants across the region
- Regional review and assessment required
- Operational and monitoring mechanisms

National Legal Framework

- Ensuring migrants' rights, responsibility, and obligations
- Issues related to receiving countries (housing, food, employment, compensation, social security, ...)
- Issues related to sending countries (orientation and preparation, abroad assistance)

Thank you!
Arigatou!
Maraming Salamat!
谢谢！
Cam On!
Group Presentation 3 (Group C)
Changing communities: Globalizing Japan

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Introduction
Japan has seen an influx of migrant workers in recent years. This report is going to discuss the following:
1. Benefits and costs of this influx.
2. How to promote harmonious co-existence between the locals and the migrant community.

Benefits and costs of this influx
Benefits
Host countries can benefit from the influx of migrant workers. In Singapore, highly skilled workers bring their expertise and help contribute to growth sectors such as biomedical and pharmaceutical industries, while lower skilled workers work in jobs that locals shun, such as construction, marine and domestic work.

Migrant workers also benefit from coming to work in Japan. The most apparent benefit is when they remit money to support their families back home. For those that manage to succeed in their businesses, the source country also benefits, as seen in the case of Lotte, where a South Korean was able to succeed in Japan and eventually set up factories back in South Korea to create employment for his fellow countrymen. Migrant workers can also help bridge the gap between the host and the source country, as they are aware of the differences in the cultures and the way businesses are carried out in both countries. They can act as the middlemen in helping companies to explore business opportunities in the foreign country.

Costs
Nonetheless, there are also costs involved for both the host country and the migrant workers. For example, Burmese migrant workers have been living and working in Thailand both legally and illegally for several decades. The majority of them are working in fisheries, agriculture and domestic services. In order for migrants to work legally in Thailand, they are required to register with the Ministry of Interior for permission to stay and with the Ministry of Labour for work permits. The registration and work permit fees contribute to the government budget for public services, including provision of healthcare services. However, as it is very easy to cross the border, there are more unregistered workers than registered ones. Since both the registered and unregistered workers have access to healthcare services (hospitals cannot turn away patients or force patients to pay the hospital bills if they cannot afford it), the Royal Thai Government (RTG) has to come up with additional budgeting to cover the cost of providing healthcare services for this group of unregistered migrants.

With regards to the cost to Thai residents, there have been concerns pertaining to health issues. Migrants’ journey to Thailand is normally by foot, through jungles or in boats. During this process, the migrants are exposed to communicable diseases such as Malaria and Tuberculosis. Without appropriate information on health prevention and hygiene, these communicable diseases can be spread to the host communities. Again, the RTG will have to tap on the national budget to address this.

In addition, there is concern over the welfare of migrant workers since some employers do not provide these people with acceptable employment and working conditions. This is especially evident in the present financial crisis, where many migrants were unfairly laid off. This situation has led to a strain on diplomatic relations with Myanmar and the international community and could result in sanctions, due to human and labour right violations.

In response to the situation, the RTG has collaborated with international organizations and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to raise awareness and to disseminate necessary information on regulations on work permit extensions and healthcare to migrant communities. IOM (Thailand) has also been working with the Ministries of Labour, Public Health, Social Development and Human Security, as well as the Police and Immigration Bureau on activities such as workshops and social events to promote
better understanding and positive attitudes towards migrants among government officials, employers, host communities and NGOs. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as newsletters, pamphlets, comic books and animation DVDs on migrants’ rights and obligations under Thai legislations and international frameworks are also produced and distributed to the various groups.

How to promote harmonious co-existence between the locals and the migrant community

It is important for locals and migrant workers to understand each other. In Malaysia, as a result of the British indentured labour programme, workers from India were brought to work in rubber plantations, from China to work in tin mines, from Nepal to work as armed guards and from Sri Lanka to work as civil servants. These communities were kept segregated. Vernacular schools - Indian and Chinese were set up for their children and the migrants continued to maintain their separate existences. Post independence, political parties too were set up according to ethnic groups. The consequence of this was that despite being Malaysian, most members of Indian or Chinese communities do not identify with a Malaysian identity but rather identities of their own ethnic backgrounds. There have even been politicians who have challenged them to return to their countries of origin if they were unhappy with Malaysia's political landscape.

In view of the issues brought about by segregated communities, it is especially important to promote harmonious co-existence. To do so, the following measures can be implemented:

Incorporate the concept of multi-culturalism in the education system

It is important to provide opportunities to learn about multiculturalism and international law through the public education system. These concepts can be introduced in schools so that the younger generation can become accustomed to them at an early stage. For example, in a multi-racial society like Singapore, the idea of multi-racialism is incorporated in the primary schools' curriculum. In this way, young children are brought up in an environment where they are encouraged to embrace diversity in the community. This helps to reduce discrimination against minority groups in the society.

Lessons on Japanese language and culture for migrant communities

The government as well as companies that hire migrant workers should provide language and culture training programs for them. Before these workers start their work, they are required to take this course. Alternatively, they can attend the course on a part-time basis for the first year. During this period, companies or the government must pay them a salary. In order to get the necessary manpower for this, the government can also train local residents as social workers and teachers.

For the migrant workers' children, we can create a JSL (classes in Japanese as a second language, like ESL) system in Japan, as it is quite expensive to study at international schools or private language schools in Japan. (For example, a certain international kindergarten requires 1.8 million Japanese yen per year). As we saw in Okubo, if there are tutoring schools for migrant children available at low prices, it is quite helpful for them to integrate and co-exist in Japanese society.

Promote interaction through organizing sports and cultural events

Interaction between the local and migrant communities can also be promoted through sports and cultural events. In order to promote coexistence in host communities, instead of initiating new activities, IOM (Thailand) has been coordinating with local authorities to involve migrants in various sport events run by locals.

Improve means of sharing information

One of the biggest problems for migrant workers, especially low-skilled workers, is that they are very busy with their work and cannot afford the time to participate and interact with local communities even when community activities are organised. To promote greater understanding amongst the local and migrant communities, local municipalities can issue bulletins to exchange information on Japanese residents and immigrants. One positive example is seen in Kani City, where the local government provides information to the Japanese-Brazilian and Japanese-Peruvian communities in their native language. Information on Disaster Prevention is also disseminated this way.

Multi-cultural Day

In recognition of the increasing diversity in the Japanese community, the government can set aside a day to be known as "Multi-cultural Day." On this day, the locals and the migrant communities are encouraged to wear their
traditional costume and engage in activities to embrace the notion of multi-culturalism. An example of this is seen in Singapore, where on July 21st of every year, Singaporeans celebrate “Multi-racial Day.” This serves as a reminder to the people that Singapore is a multi-racial society. On this day, school children get to wear their ethnic costume to school and participate in activities to improve their knowledge on the various races.

In Malaysia, there are also attempts to foster cultural unity by organizing state funded “open houses” – parties to celebrate the festivals of the key ethnic and religious communities in Malaysia. Food and cultural performances unique to the community in question are displayed for the enjoyment of the guests.

**Future of migrant communities in Japan**

**Need for government to adopt long-term view towards migrant workers**

In view of the fact that the Japanese Government has identified clear guidelines concerning its labour requirements, it is suggested that social and cultural issues be included in the policy making. Who will the migrant workers be interacting with? What will influence their attitudes and productivity? What long or short-term goals do they have? Should migrant workers be eligible for social security system and if so, how can this be done? Discussions of the answers to these questions are absent at present. For this purpose, the inclusion of relevant NPOs, municipalities, labour unions and migrant associations into policy-making is invaluable.

Related to the point on the need to adopt a long-term view towards migrant workers, the government should also consider providing training opportunities to this group so that they can improve their skills. Not only will this enable them to contribute more to the Japanese economy, it will also allow them to upgrade themselves and be less vulnerable in the event of a downturn.

**The need to ensure that a migrant community does not lose its identity**

While there are efforts to help migrant workers co-exist in local communities, it is also important to ensure that the migrant community does not lose its own identity in the process. One way to encourage this is through the setting up of centralized language schools where the native languages of the various communities are taught and the students attend these schools on a part-time basis. In Ohizumi, according to Shoko Takano, President of Ohizumi International Education, the former mayor led unfriendly attitudes against Japanese-Brazilians during his 8-year administration. However, through persistence, Japanese-Brazilians continued to celebrate their cultural events, and to appreciate their own language and food. As a consequence, they are finally accepted as members of the community by local people. By pooling their resources in centralized schools, it helps to cut the operational costs and to ensure sustainability.

**Conclusion**

In this report, we have examined the benefits and costs of having migrant workers in the society. In addition, we have also discussed ways to promote harmonious co-existence between the locals and the migrant workers. Lastly, we also looked at the future of migrant communities in Japanese society.
Changing communities: Globalizing Japan

Outline
- Benefits and costs of influx of migrant workers
- How to promote harmonious co-existence between the locals and the migrant community
- Future of migrant community in Japan

Benefits of influx of migrant workers
- Host
  - Bring expertise and contribute to economy
  - Work in industries that locals shun
- Migrant
  - Support family back home
  - Bridge gap between host and source countries

Costs of influx of migrant workers
- Host
  - Cost of providing healthcare services
  - Health concerns
- Migrant
  - Unfavourable employment and working conditions
- Measures taken
  - Raise awareness through activities and dissemination of information

Promoting harmonious co-existence
- Case study
- Measures
  - Multi-culturalism in the education system
  - Lessons on Japanese language and culture
  - Organizing sports and cultural events
  - Improve means of sharing information
  - Multi-cultural Day

Future of migrant community in Japan
- Adopt long term view towards migrant workers
- Ensure migrant community does not lose its identity
Group Presentation 4 (Group D)
The Role and Potential of Communities in Influencing Migration Policy in Japan from Below and Above

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I) Introduction
Over the past two weeks of exposure to various facets of international migration in Japan, several topics of central importance emerged as the critical challenges that Japan faces in reconciling its national economic and political interests at home and abroad and the well-being of immigrants and foreign workers that often constitute the “backbone” of the Japanese economy. One salient observation that was made was the disjunction between Japan’s immigration control policy (policy inputs) and the realities of immigration (policy outputs).

Japan’s current policy can be characterized by its encouragement of skilled labor inflows and stringent regulations against the entry of low-skilled labor. Among the residence status categories that are offered, none are explicitly reserved for low-skilled workers, thereby creating a façade that Japan does not import and utilize “unskilled” foreign labor. Furthermore, of the residence statuses based on type of activity, none guarantee a priori future permission to settle (e.g. a point system). These basic characteristics of Japan’s immigration policy portray Japan as a country of non-immigration/settlement, which does not utilize rotational low-skilled foreign labor. Japan’s current policy can be characterized by its encouragement of skilled labor inflows and stringent regulations against the entry of low-skilled labor. Among the residence status categories that are offered, none are explicitly reserved for low-skilled workers, thereby creating a façade that Japan does not import and utilize “unskilled” foreign labor. Furthermore, of the residence statuses based on type of activity, none guarantee a priori future permission to settle (e.g. a point system). These basic characteristics of Japan’s immigration policy portray Japan as a country of non-immigration/settlement, which does not utilize rotational low-skilled foreign labor. However, as a product of various social, economic, and political factors that challenge the efficacy of immigration policy, in reality, Japan does have immigrants, recent settlers, and a large population of de facto low-skilled foreign workers. The government’s reluctance in recognizing such realities inevitably prevents further government attempts to improve policy, and also further perpetuates existing discrepancies between policy and reality that ultimately result in deficient social and legal structures that disadvantage and marginalize foreign residents in Japan.

In thinking about the measures that are necessary to improve policy and realize a society of coexistence between nationals and foreigners, we recognize that initiatives at the community level are crucial in that they can not only improve the immediate living conditions and rights of foreign workers in their local communities, but also influence long-term policy changes at the central government level while acting as a primer for dialogue on regional integration and cooperation. Additionally, with the current global economic crisis, various national and regional economies have suffered, and migrant and foreign workers – often being some of the most vulnerable groups within each society – have been adversely affected. Therefore, many nations, as entities embedded within the international community, face the challenge of implementing immediate social and economic measures to procure the basic livelihood needs of nationals and foreign populations alike. Japan is no exception. The current affairs of economic instability and uncertainty has both thrown into relief the inadequacies of the current immigration control policy and the shortcomings of social infrastructural measures to protect the rights and well-being of groups in weak social standings and has posed somewhat of a litmus test for Japan’s ability to effectively legitimize itself as a democratic nation.

It is under these conditions that we believe that dialogue on the role and potential of community building initiatives from below (local level) and above (regional level) are paramount in creating a working framework that could serve as a model for improved future policies. By attempting to find a balance between pragmatism and idealism, and reality and theory, the aim of this paper is threefold: 1) to introduce selected community building initiatives made by various actors at the local and regional levels in Japan; 2) to illuminate and learn from specific efforts and/or successes of parallel efforts
in other countries; 3) to propose recommendations that will improve the efficacy of ongoing efforts and spark additional dialogue on new creative measures to realize a more sustainable regional system of migration that considers both the rights of migrants and the development of the Asia Oceania Region.

II) Initiatives from Below: Local Municipalities, Migrant Communities, and NGOs/Civil Society

1) The Role of Local Municipalities

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Japan’s economic boom and the increase of its aging population have led to the growing number of foreign workers. Unlike a few decades after Japan first opened its doors to the outside world in the late 1800s, the inflow of foreigners to Japan is now more diversified in terms of countries of origin and skills. As economic factors have played an important role in pulling migrants to Japan, they also play a great role for migrants in making their destination choices. Therefore, big industrial cities see high concentrations of foreign workers. With different cultural backgrounds and a lack of mutual understanding among Japanese and foreigners, living together inevitably involves various issues. It is, therefore, necessary to have a comprehensive integration policy; and the role of local communities – particularly local municipalities – is vital in creating a harmonious and mutually beneficial multicultural society, especially at a time of crisis when foreign workers are generally the first to be hit in the labor market.

The high level of economic development in Japan has allowed Japanese society to have foreign language products translated into Japanese. In addition, many top manufacturers such as automobile and electronic industries are Japanese and have their plants in Japan. Thus, foreign languages are limitedly promoted in the Japanese education system, in the working environment, and in Japanese society as a whole; and the majority of Japanese have become limitedly internationally-oriented. This, as a result, becomes a big challenge for foreign workers and their family members in integrating into Japanese society when their Japanese language ability is limited. Moreover, their different culture and a lack of knowledge on Japanese norms add more difficulties into the integration process. For example, in Japan, garbage is separated by types of materials for recycling purposes, as Japanese are becoming more concerned with environmental issues. For many foreigners this is not normal and the Japanese do not take that into account. Therefore, local municipalities need to provide assistance to help foreigners integrate into Japanese society and create an environment where Japanese can better understand foreigners and their cultures so that they are more willing to welcome foreign workers. However, at the municipal level, immigration policies vary across locations, and so do the services provided and the degree of integration.

Despite different policies being undertaken in different municipalities, a good example is found in Kani City in Gifu Prefecture where their immigration policy is proactive with clear aims to form a multicultural society where people, regardless of nationality, can live comfortably and in harmony. The municipality has provided various services for their foreign residents and has created platforms for Japanese and foreigners to exchange and interact. For instance, the website of Kani city is available in three languages: Japanese, English, and Portuguese. In the Partnership Division under the umbrella of the City Hall Governance, there is a consulting counter for foreign residents, where they can seek advice on problems regarding daily life and city administration procedures; the consultation too, is in three languages. In addition, to prepare foreign workers’ children for the Japanese education system, the Rose Classroom was established to teach basic Japanese to foreign children. Furthermore, the Kani City Multicultural Center (FREVIA) was also established in 2008 to be a platform for social and cultural gatherings, and to act as an information center for foreign residents. With this comprehensive service provided by the local municipality, foreign residents in Kani City have actively and comfortably worked together with the Japanese, and Kani City has become a relatively more harmonious multicultural society.

The good example mentioned above should not be neglected and other municipalities should be encouraged to learn from it. However, without the support from the central government level this might not be achieved. Therefore, the central government should first identify the municipalities that have high concentrations of foreign residents and examine their measures in dealing with migration issues. From that, the central government could identify good practices and translate them into national policy. For better implementation, the central government could create a platform for local municipalities to exchange their experiences and learn from each other. This, to some extent, ensures that some good practices are carried out in each municipality. As things change over time, monitoring and evaluation are needed to ensure timely responses to new situations. Although it may be the case that some local municipality initiatives in Japan are relatively active and can therefore serve as a model for other areas in the
Asia Oceania Region, experiences from Europe and other regions of the world may also be worth learning from.

2) The Role of Migrant Communities

Migrants are vulnerable, since they are away from home, far from their own families and their own community. In the host country, the first problem they face is communication barriers with the local society since they may have limited or no knowledge of the local language. Cultural differences and possible discrimination in the host society are some of the challenges. Since there are limited channels of legal documented/regular labor migration, some are working with illegal status in the host country, making them vulnerable to both labor exploitation and ineligibility for social security.

Japan is the host country for migrants from different countries – Brazil, China, India, Korea, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, etc. – of different backgrounds: low- or semi-skilled laborers, highly skilled workers, and entrepreneurs. Low-skilled migrant workers are more vulnerable than highly skilled migrant workers. Furthermore, undocumented migrants are the most vulnerable among them. Refugees and undocumented migrants are exploited by their employers and cannot report this anywhere because of their status. They are also not entitled to unemployment insurance although they are paying for it and they are not covered by any health insurance. Although some refugees are given special permission of residence, such cases are rare, and the refugee recognition process itself is a long cumbersome process, which often takes three to five years. During this time, they are not entitled to work and they find it very difficult to survive. There are some organizations like the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) providing assistance to refugees in Japan, but the funding available does not suffice to support the increasing number of refugees.

In Japan, there are some initiatives made by migrant communities to establish community centers, to support themselves, and to overcome the problems they are facing in the host communities.

For example, the Oizumi International Education and Skills Diffusion Center in Gunma prefecture hosts youth festivals for children at Brazilian schools in Japan to present what they have learned in school and various facets of their culture and identities. It has also started cultural exchange events between Brazilians and Japanese and has facilitated the establishment of a private Brazilian school to teach Brazilian children of Japanese descent the Japanese language and skills necessary to live in Japan so that their graduates will have the choice and equal opportunity of living in Japan or returning to Brazil.

Another example is how Myanmar migrant workers formed the Federation of Workers’ Union of the Burmese Citizens of Japan. The federation assists Myanmar migrant workers and refugees by representing their human and worker rights in Japan.

However, they need more support from the local community and local authorities as well as financial and technical support from NPOs. In Myanmar, in collaboration with the concerned government ministries, the NGOs and IOs are supporting the community to establish their own community working groups so that they can help themselves. The NGOs and IOs are providing funding support and capacity building projects so that these groups can manage their own communities. An example of a community empowerment project in Myanmar is the integrated health project implemented by IOM in 76 villages in Mon State. In that community, there are internal migrants who move from the Dry Zone, potential migrants who seek to go to Thailand, migrants who return from Thailand, and individuals from the host community. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, IOM is helping the community to establish Village Mobility Working Groups (VMWG) and support the community start-up fund to protect their own communities from health vulnerabilities. This fund can be used as a revolving fund to generate their own funding. IOM also arranges for VMWG cross-visits so that they can learn from each other.

Despite the fact that most migrants know that they will get higher wages and fewer rights in the destination countries before they emigrate, there are more and more migrants moving to start new lives in other countries since there are limited job opportunities in their home countries. While the international community, central governments, and local governments are playing a role in policy change to protect and promote the human rights of migrant workers and to create orderly/regulated labor migration, there is a need to empower the migrant communities to ensure that they are protected under international law and local legislation. NPOs, in collaboration with the local government, should start to not only provide support for communities, but also empower them to be able to manage their own communities to protect themselves and get along with the host community.

3) The Role of NGOs and Civil Society

The Japanese Government has implemented various measures to combat the influx of migrants in Japan in ensuring a smooth transition into the Japanese community.
However, perhaps due to the lack of monitoring or lack of human resources, these measures are not enough.

Although skilled migrants are able to infuse themselves into the Japanese community, this is not the case for unskilled migrants. This could be due to the lack of resources, be it in monetary terms or information and guidance.

Established in July 1999, the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) seeks to assist refugees in leading an independent and decent life in Japan. Their major activities include providing legal assistance, social and legal counseling, financial assistance as well as aid in finding housing and healthcare and obtaining employment.

The Kyojukon is an NPO based in the Okubo area formed in 1992 to assist the influx of foreign migrants and to find a way for Japanese and non-Japanese to learn and live together. Their activities include making policy recommendations to the Shinjuku local government on multiculturalism, fostering community development initiatives using various languages in carrying out disaster drills, organizing lectures or discussion meetings on current Okubo issues, and conducting field surveys of the Okubo area.

The Minna no Ouchi is one such measure to compensate for the unsuccessful attempts of the government. The Minna no Ouchi or "Everybody's Home" is an organization, which provides Japanese language instruction for foreign children living in Japan in the Okubo, Shinjuku area. Three nights a week, migrants can send their children to the institution to enhance their Japanese language skills.

Although these organizations have helped to ease some of the migrants' problems, these efforts are still not sufficient. Since the government lacks the human resources in monitoring migrant issues, organizations such as the abovementioned were established to assist in such activities and the government should provide assistance, be it in terms of funding or more awareness of their activities.

In Brunei, there are currently no known organizations that are specifically set up for migrant related issues which could be due to the fact that Brunei's population remains small and such issues are still "manageable." Organizations that employ highly skilled foreign labor make their own initiatives to organize various social events for foreign workers and locals to understand each other. The Human Resource Departments are required to have at least one employee who has completed a counseling program organized by the government so that they are able to provide assistance to nationals and foreigners who require it.

Religious institutions also play a vital role in the integration of migrants into the local community. On Fridays, most business activities stop for two hours during the midday as men congregate to the mosque for prayers while Christians gather on Sundays at Church. These religious gatherings are "stepping stones" for foreigners who are unfamiliar with the country. At such places, they are able to socialize with other members of the community by getting involved in activities held by these institutions.

The vital roles that various groups such as the foreign migrant children assistance groups and the Myanmar migrant workers and their families. Without strict regulation of recruitment processes and employment conditions, ad hoc labor agreements stipulating wages, terms and conditions, enforcement mechanisms and remedies for contractual breaches create a vulnerable working environment for migrant workers.

A number of countries in the Middle Eastern region have recently adhered to the notion that neither labor-
sending countries nor labor-receiving countries can address migration challenges alone. Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait have this year struck a landmark agreement with Sri Lanka to grant all internationally recognized labor rights to Sri Lankan migrant workers, with trade unions carrying the responsibility to ensure implementation. The Colombo Agreement is based on ILO principles and offers a model for other binding bilateral and multilateral agreements between labor-sending and labor-receiving countries.

Short of ratifying the UN and ILO Conventions for the protection of migrant workers and their families, labor-receiving countries such as Japan could use these bodies of international law to inform their domestic law and practice. Principles established in these Conventions, such as obligations for all states to prevent misleading propaganda and to provide accurate information to potential migrants, can form the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements that ensure that benefits flow to migrants, receiving countries, and sending countries alike in the Asia Oceania community.

2) Regional
At the regional level, Japan has begun negotiating with other ASEAN countries for the intake of migrant workers to meet skill shortages, such as Filipino and Indonesian nurses and caregivers. Similarly, Australia has recently commenced a pilot to trial a seasonal migration program with neighboring Pacific Islands to meet skills shortages in the horticulture industry. Importantly, the Australian Government has recognized the potential development impact that the program can have in the region if remittances are managed effectively. To this end, the Australian Government is working with money transfer service providers to help migrant workers manage remittances and lower associated costs.

The Japanese Government can also continue to play an active role in the region by establishing systems and schemes to strengthen the development impact of remittances in neighboring countries; and by promoting and enhancing regional consultative forums, which provide an informal opportunity to build trust and understanding between countries to create an environment conducive to establishing shared frameworks for managing migration.

IV) Conclusion: Looking to the Future
Japan’s shrinking population and workforce, as well as the country’s foreseeable need for replacement labor, points to continuous and perhaps even larger-scale inflows of foreign workers and migrants in the future. However, as witnessed in the multitude of challenges that Japan currently faces with its immigration policy, it is evident that unless policy improvements are made quickly and effectively, the current policy framework will prove to be even less effective and more detrimental to the well-being and interests of foreign workers in Japan. Although the Japanese government may eventually attempt to improve policies in acquiescence to future increases in foreign worker inflows, the implementation of such ex-post facto measures will be too late. The Japanese government’s ex-ante involvement and willingness to directly address future immigration challenges is imperative, both in terms of ensuring the rights of migrants and foreign workers, and fostering a society that celebrates both similarities and differences.

Japan is not alone in the migration-related challenges that it is facing. Japan has the opportunity to look at some of the difficulties experienced in countries with high population diversity, and learn from these experiences in order to minimize the negative impacts of migration, thus maximizing benefits to Japanese society.

From a regional perspective, inter-state cooperation is essential to ensure safe migration frameworks that are beneficial to all countries in the Asia Oceania Region. Whilst it is important to consider the economic potential of migration – be it developing the economy of the labor-receiving country or realizing the development impact for the labor-sending country – migration frameworks and regulations should never lose sight of their role in upholding the human rights of workers.

At the local level, communities, municipalities, and civil society groups should work in partnership with other organizations to build a critical mass for lobbying for policy changes at the national level. Through collaboration, whether locally or nationally, groups will be in a greater position to respond to the needs of migrant communities and raise awareness of challenges and approaches being experienced and developed across Japan. Increased awareness of issues associated with migration, and of the human and social capital that migration brings into the Japanese economy and society, is key to enhancing community support for migrants.
The Role and Potential of Communities in Influencing Migration Policy in Japan from Below and Above

Elina Zuraiadah, Amphanone Sayasen (Tuk), Maw Maw Tun, Rasika Jayasuriya, and Ralph Hosoki

JENESYS Programme
23 May 2009

Introduction (1)

- Policy:
  1. Among the residence status categories that are offered, none are explicitly reserved for low-skilled workers.
  2. Of the residence statuses based on type of activity, none guarantee a prior future permission to settle (e.g., a permit system).
- Reality:
  - Japan does have immigrants, recent settlers, and a large population of de facto low-skilled foreign workers.
- Unless the government openly recognizes those realities and the existing gap between policy and reality, policies without improve and such discrepancies will widen and further disadvantage immigrants and foreign workers in Japan.

Introduction (2)

- We recognize that initiatives at the community level are crucial for improving policy and realizing a society of coexistence between Japanese nationals and foreigners.
  - Improve immediate living conditions and the rights of foreigners
  - Influence long-term policy changes at the central government level
  - Acting as a center for dialogue on regional integration and cooperation
- The importance of community-based initiatives is even more profound in times of economic uncertainty and instability, and the current economic crisis has:
  - Shown that the inadequacies of the current immigration control policy
  - Serves as a forum for Japan’s ability to effectively legitimize itself as a democratic nation
- Under such conditions, dialogue on the role and potential of community building initiatives from below (local level) and above (regional level) are paramount.

Introduction (3)

- Presentation Outline and Objectives
  1) To introduce selected community building initiatives made by various actors at the local and regional levels in Japan
  2) To illuminate and learn from similar efforts and/or successes of parallel efforts in other countries
  3) To propose recommendations that will improve the efficacy of ongoing efforts and spark additional dialogue on new creative measures to realize a more sustainable regional system of migration that considers both the rights of migrants and the development of the Asia Oceania Region.

1. Initiatives from Below

The Role of Local Municipalities

- Economic boom and the increase of an aging population have led to the growing number of foreign workers with more diversity.
- Japan’s economic development and the forefront of Japanese manufactures result in the limited promotion of foreign languages and the limited international orientation of Japanese society.
- Japanese language and norms become challenges for foreign workers to integrate into Japanese society.
- Local communities have taken initiatives to integrate foreign workers. Policies vary across locations, and so do services provided and the degree of integration.
The Role of Local Municipalities (cont.)

- Kansai City is a good example.
  - Good initiatives: Race Classroom, FIREVA, and trilingual services

⇒ Good examples should not be neglected. A central government level policy could be formulated from good practices at the municipal level.

⇒ The central government could create a platform for municipalities to exchange and learn from each other.

⇒ Experiences from other regions such as Europe could be worth learning from.

The Role of Migrant Communities

- Mexicans are vulnerable in many ways: communication barriers, cultural difference, possible discrimination in the host society, labor exploitation
- Japan is the host country for migrants from different countries – Brazil, China, India, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, etc. – and they have different backgrounds; low- or semi-skilled laborers, highly skilled workers, and entrepreneurs.
- Low-skilled migrant workers are more vulnerable than highly skilled migrant workers.
- Undocumented migrants are the most vulnerable among them.
- NGOs like JAR provide assistance for refugees in Japan but the funding available is not sufficient to support the increasing number of refugees.

Initiatives by Migrant Communities in Japan
- In Japan, there are some initiatives by migrant communities: establishing a community center to support themselves and overcome the problems they face in the host community.
  - Example 1: Osaka International Education and Skills Diffusion Center
  - Example 2: Federation of Workers’ Union of the Bureaucrats of Japan
- Community initiatives should be welcomed and supported financially and technically.

The Role of Migrant Communities (cont.)

Recommendations

⇒ While the international community, central governments, and local governments are playing a role in policy change to protect and promote the human rights of migrant workers and to ensure orderly regulated labor migration, there is a need to empower the migrant communities to ensure that they are protected under international law and local legislation.

⇒ NGOs, in collaboration with the local government, should start to not only provide support for communities but also empower them to be able to manage their own communities to protect themselves and get along with the host community.

The Role of NGOs and Civil Society

⇒ Government measures are not enough.
- Unskilled migrants lack resources.
  - monetary
  - guidance

⇒ Assistance from NGOs and Civil Society
  - JAR
  - Kajiakan
  - Minna no Ouchi

The Role of NGOs and Civil Society (cont.)

⇒ Still not sufficient – Government should assist these organizations

⇒ Burel’s initiatives
  - Private organizations
  - Religious institutions

2. Initiatives from Above

- Example 1: Osaka International Education and Skills Diffusion Center
**Multilateral and Regional Approaches**

- Japan is a signatory to a number of international conventions and is a member of a number of regional coalitions. However, its implementation of obligations under certain international instruments is limited (e.g., Refugee Convention).

- Japan is not a signatory to the UN and ILO Conventions that establish a framework for the protection of migrant workers and their families.

- The principles of these Conventions can be used to inform domestic laws and bilateral/multilateral agreements in the Asia Oceania Region, regardless of whether countries are signatories.

- The recently signed Colombo Agreement (based on ILO principles) between Sri Lanka and Bahrain, Senegal and Jordan offers a model for bilateral/multilateral agreements between labor-sending and labor-receiving countries.

**Multilateral and Regional Approaches (cont.)**

- Regional migration schemes are being used across the globe to help meet skills shortages, particularly in developed countries.

- Japan is currently negotiating for the invite of Filipino and Indonesian nurses and caregivers to fill gaps in its local workforce.

- Labor-receiving countries need to assist labor-sending countries to realize the potential development impact of remittances. For example, in a new temporary worker pilot scheme in Australia, the Australian Government is working with money transfer services to help minimize the costs associated with remittances for migrant workers.

- The Japanese Government can continue to promote regional consultative forums to build trust and understanding between Asia Oceania Region countries in an effort to identify shared interests and frameworks for managing migration.

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**Concluding Remarks and Recommendations**

- Although the Japanese government may eventually attempt to improve policies in accordance to future increases in foreign workers, the implementation of such reforms measures will be too late. The Japanese government’s one-step involvement and willingness to directly address future migration challenges is imperative; both in terms of the economic development of their home country and foreign workers, and fostering a society that embraces both similarities and differences.

- Additionally, Japan is not alone in the migration-related challenges that it is facing and should look at some of the difficulties experienced in countries with high population diversity, and learn from these experiences in order to minimize the negative impacts of migration and maximize the benefits to Japanese society.

- From a regional perspective, inter-state cooperation is essential to ensure safe migration frameworks that are beneficial to all countries in the Asia Oceania Region. Whilst it is important to consider the economic potential of migration, migration frameworks and regulations should never lose sight of their role in upholding the human rights of workers.

- At the local level, communities, municipalities, and civil society groups should work in partnership with other organizations to build a critical mass for advocating for policy changes at the national level, and raise awareness of challenges and approaches being experimented and developed across Japan.

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Thank you very much for your kind attention!!!
Individual Reports

*The positions and biography of the participants are as of May, 2009*
Ms. Petrone graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne, majoring in Economics and Psychology. She also attained a Master of Social Science in International Development at RMIT University. She worked for Refugee Council of Australia and Brotherhood of St Laurence, Ecumenical Migration Centre prior to joining Victorian Multicultural Commission, where she is currently working as the Community Strengthening Officer.

Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers. – Howard Thurman

We are a country of migrants with 24 per cent of Australia’s population born overseas, and 43 per cent either born overseas or having at least one parent born overseas. In fact since 1945, around 6.5 million migrants including over 700,000 refugees have settled in Australia coming from source countries as diverse as Central, Northern and Southern Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the African continent. Some of these migrants brought skills, some brought labour. Some travelled lightly, with nothing more than the rich tapestry of their heritage and culture. But all came with aspirations for a better life and the promise of a new place to call home.

The impact of migration on Australia has been direct, immediate and pervasive. With more than 200 ancestries, over 300 spoken languages, and over 100 religions, Australia has had to adequately respond to the complex needs of a diverse population. This has been made possible by incorporating sustainable structures and systems that promote cultural diversity as both economically and socially enriching for all people and by investing in settlement and related services and programs (for example English classes) to assist migrants. The diversity of our population has also required a recalibration of what it means to be Australian, requiring more fluid notions of identity, mobility and ethnicity and new incarnations of citizenship ideals to embody the values of equality, fairness, and human rights.

Migrants have also played a significant role in Australia’s economic development. Not only do migrants create jobs, spend money, pay taxes, use services, provide labour, skills and capital contribution to technology, but they also introduce new businesses into Australia and add productive diversity through knowledge of international business markets. However, the recent global economic downturn has led to a review of Australia’s migration program, mainly in response to Australia’s rising unemployment. Australian Government cut the permanent skilled migrant intake to 108,100 places for the 2009–10 Migration, an overall drop of almost 20 per cent on previous planning levels. In addition to the cutback in places, the Government is increasing the English language level required for trades-related occupations and introducing a targeted skills-testing regime to ensure that migrants have both the language and skills needed to participate in the labour market.

But migrants are more than calculations about economic investments, business strategies, and financial returns. Migrants foster stronger connections between the local and global communities and support open minded approaches to intercultural dialogue and interactions. They promote positive international relations and recognise intergenerational perspectives. They enrich our culture by bringing us the ideas, knowledge, food, music and arts, language, religion, clothes, and festivals of their culture. And through these various forms of cultural expression, migrants foster an understanding of difference and diversity.

Migrants also call on us, as a nation and individuals, to address the constantly changing concept of community. They require us to transcend traditional notions of

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1 Australian Research shows that, overall, migrants contribute more in taxes than they consume in benefits.
community beyond cultural and geographic boundaries to adapt to increasing population diversity, new technologies and new forms of social and economic engagement. And they challenge us to reflect on how communities can provide insulation against the destabilising forces of unemployment, financial crisis and dislocation.

Australia’s relationship to its migrant communities is encapsulated through its multicultural policy. This policy sets the direction and legislative framework for shared fundamental values - values that promote respect and fairness, equality and protection from discrimination and people’s rights to their culture, faith and identity. And by promoting equality of opportunity for all groups to participate in and benefit from Australia’s social, economic and political life, multiculturalism enables cultural differences to coexist on a complementary rather than a competitive basis.

Victoria, as one of Australia’s most culturally diverse states2 is fortunate to have a strong legislative framework and institutions that articulate people’s rights and obligations in relation to racial and religious tolerance and multiculturalism. The strong role played by government is demonstrated by the authority and scope of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), which conveys the state’s commitment to recognise the social, cultural and economic contribution of migrant and refugee communities. It acts as the main link between Victoria’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities and the Government, situated at the interface of both policy development and service delivery to Victoria’s migrant and refugee communities.

As a strengthening community development officer working with refugees and migrants for the Victorian Multicultural Commission, I work as part of a team supporting over 1,600 culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse Victorian communities and groups yearly. My department supports migrant and refugee communities across Victoria through projects that develop the capacity of new and emerging communities and multicultural networks, by developing partnerships across community and government agencies and by providing targeted assistance to migrant seniors, migrant and refugee women and young people. Its model to work proactively and collectively – to facilitate a more informed, more coordinated and more holistic approach and provide vital services that support and enrich migrant and refugee communities, promotes community cohesion and strengthens communities’ capacities to sustain their organisations, programs and events.

Practical economic imperatives mean Japan too will become increasingly diverse. The nation and its people will face many unique challenges. Not least of these will be the question of how Japan responds to the ensuing new social, spatial, and cultural expressions caused by increased migration inflows, given its own low level migration history and ideology towards cultural and racial homogeneity.

If places like Okubo are any indication, migrant communities will provide a significant contribution to Japan’s society through the creation of dynamic and thriving centres of economic engagement, business activity and job creation. The Okubo migrant population of predominantly Korean and Chinese have established a relatively successful ethnic business centre of restaurants, offices, distribution sites, shops and food stores, catering to both the Japanese and migrant communities’ needs. In the course of time, centres like these will become more prevalent in large cities in Japan, as a greater number of migrants, foreign students and foreign residents migrate and develop deeper roots in Japan’s society.

As business connections and interactions between diverse migrant groups and the Japanese strengthen and increase in frequency, more opportunities will be created for cross cultural dialogue and connectivity between the various communities. In time, and with the backing of social and legislative frameworks, Japan can successfully develop an approach to cross-cultural interaction and exchange that positively supports a “multicultural Japan.” The “machi-no-eki” station program demonstrates how this principle can be turned into affirmative action. Its “station for people” program in cities all over Japan acts as a means of encouraging face to face communication and social exchange to respond to community based challenges. It is the mutual understanding produced through daily encounters at the local community level which I think makes this such a successful example of a program. An extension of this network program to incorporate foreigners living in Japan would be ideal: providing migrants with information and resources useful in adapting to Japanese society and a sense of belonging in their local neighbourhood.

Of course, it would be far too optimistic to conclude that all a multicultural society needs for social stability is cross-cultural interaction. Living next door to a person of a different culture and/or language in everyday life does not immediately foster mutual understanding and integration. Specifically targeted programs that respond to

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2 Victoria has a higher proportion of its population coming from non-main English speaking countries than other Australian states.
the fundamental needs of immigrants and non Japanese residents are crucial. Some of these will need to come from the national government, such as those in the areas of employment discrimination, access to housing and health care and education. Local governments are also well placed to provide support to migrants facing the challenges of settlement, for example language acquisition and social integration. Lessons can be learned by Kani, which has proactively responded to the rapid increase of foreign residents in its city by developing and delivering migrant programs and services to support its multicultural community. These include building a Multicultural Center, providing information and counselling to foreign residents, running Japanese language classes, promoting mutual understanding between Japanese and foreign residents and providing a place for social and cultural gatherings.

Local migrant communities, working with the Japanese community, also are often in the best placed position to respond to the issues facing their community members, to develop solutions to address these issues and to deliver the relevant programs to the targeted migrant community. This was well demonstrated by our visit to the Minna no Ouchi volunteer organisation, which is delivering a Japanese language program to migrant children living in Japan. These "supporting activities of the Japanese language and classroom studies for children with foreign roots" is an ideal example of a great grassroots initiative, producing significant benefits to local Asian communities. Unfortunately, it is also a great example of how under-resourced these valuable volunteer organisations are.

Negotiating a changing and dynamic region will be of paramount importance to Japan, as the pressures to 'open the door,' from both within and outside Japan intensify. Developing a coordinated and constructive approach to settlement planning and delivery to accommodate the worsening global refugee situation and the urgent need for durable resettlement solutions in the Asia Pacific region will be one of its immediate challenges. The Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights (APCRR), which brought together over 110 participants from 13 countries in the Asia Pacific region last year, to work around a variety of geographic and thematic issues, was a great first step. These networks based on international cooperation are crucial towards any sustainable regional strategies that aim to address refugee protection and displacement. They also remind the more affluent countries of their role, within national and geopolitical contexts, in addressing inequitable and exploitive global migration systems.

Japan will also be operating in a highly competitive Asia Pacific context, as countries in the region develop diversification strategies and new forms of economic engagement to build its international status, seek new markets and attract skilled migrants from overseas. To compete, Japan will need to find new and innovative ways that strengthen intercultural exchanges and connections; ones that harness economic, education, employment and tourism opportunities. One of the strategies available to Japan is to build on the ways its Indian community is promoting local and global business connections through linguistic and workforce diversity and to reap the economic benefits this connectivity brings.

Migration is a story of journeys. Its course involves movement, not only across geographic spaces but also across ideas, evolving identities and shifting cultural landscapes. It is a quest for understanding, of who we are and how we relate to one another within the context of a global community. Japan is facing its own unique journey of migration. And just like migrants, it too will be embarking on an odyssey of identity development. Inevitably, this will include Japan asserting its profile in the world community, and its role in international interaction and exchange. To do so effectively will require an understanding of diversity and trans-nationality that welcome other cultures; attracting new people, investment and skills. Multiculturalism can play an important role in shaping this understanding.
Ms. Jayasuriya obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (BA LLB) with Honours in Law at Macquarie University in 2002. She also holds a Master of Social Science, with a focus on International Development, from RMIT University. She is currently the Senior Policy Officer at the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Her field of expertise includes labour migration, refugee and asylum seeker policy, and multicultural affairs policy.

1. Background
As a Senior Policy Officer at the Victorian Multicultural Commission in Melbourne, Australia, I was privileged to participate in the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program in May 2009. The Victorian Multicultural Commission is a statutory authority that advises the Victorian Government on multicultural affairs. The Commission supports Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities to actively participate in Victorian society and recognises and promotes the social and economic advantages that multiculturalism brings to the State of Victoria.

Australia's population is highly diverse, with waves of migration having led to approximately 44% of Australians being born overseas or having at least one parent who was born overseas. Australia's development has depended on migration and will continue to do so as net overseas migration now contributes to over half of Australia's population growth. New arrivals to Australia have been steadily increasing and, in 2007-08, Australia welcomed 149,365 permanent arrivals and granted a further 56,575 permanent visas to people already living in Australia. In addition, Australia allocates 13,500 places annually to its Humanitarian Program.

In recent years, growth in Australia's economy has led to a shift in the focus of our Migration Program from family reunion to skilled migration and, in 2007-08, skilled migration visas accounted for 68% of Australia's Migration Program. However, as a result of the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Australia's economy, changes have been made to the 2008-09 Skilled Migration Program, which include a 14% reduction in the skilled migrant intake from 133,500 to 115,000. This number will be further reduced to 108,100 places in the 2009-10 Migration Program in response to the economic slowdown. Furthermore, the Australian Government has introduced a Critical Skills List of occupations, which gives priority to individuals with skills or qualifications in critical demand occupations. The list currently identifies just over 40 professions and the Australian Government has indicated that occupations will be removed from the list if those skills can be satisfied by local labour.

2. Personal observations from Japan
It is clear that Japan is facing its own challenges in relation to the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on migrant and local communities within the country. In particular, the pressure that reduced employment opportunities placed on migrants working in low-skilled occupations was evident, for example, among the Brazilians of Japanese descent (Nikkei).

However, as can be seen in instances around the world, local communities in Japan are coming together to bridge the gaps in support of migrant and refugee communities. For example, in Kani City, local government authorities have joined with members of the community to establish initiatives in support of local migrants to assist with their resettlement in Japanese society. This includes establishing the Rose Kindergarten in recognition of the importance of investing in a supported transition process for young people to assist with their immediate well-being and long-term resettlement prospects.

Kani City offers an excellent case study for other areas in Japan with high concentrations of residents from migrant backgrounds. However, whilst it highlights a local approach to addressing some of the challenges
faced by migrants, it appears that there is still significant progress to be made at a central level in recognising and promoting publicly the economic and social advantages that migration and diversity can bring to a society. As is the experience in many countries, whilst skilled migrants appear highly valued in Japan, there is a lack of positive images of low-skilled migrant workers that can represent and build understanding about the valuable contribution that they make to economies and societies.

3. What I have gained from the Program

The JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program provided a unique opportunity to explore migration issues in Japan and engage at a regional level in sharing ideas with, and learning from the experiences of, regional counterparts working in the field of migration. Through the Program, we were able to discuss different government, NGO and community approaches to migration and multiculturalism in the East Asian region and develop an in-depth understanding of the approaches being taken by governments and communities in Japan at both the national and local levels.

Not only did I strengthen my knowledge and understanding of migration and refugee patterns and experiences in Japan; the Program also offered the opportunity to examine how different levels of government, NGOs, the private sector and communities can work together to best support migrants, particularly in times of global financial pressure. Through field visits to different government and non-government agencies, we were able to identify strategies and partnerships that were being put into place effectively, and also gaps in support for migrants and refugees that need to be addressed at national and regional levels to ensure that the rights and welfare needs of these communities are met.

Perhaps most importantly, the Program provided an invaluable opportunity to establish relationships and networks with regional counterparts to begin an ongoing process of working together to tackle inter-related migration issues that are shared across the East Asian region. I look forward to continued involvement with this network well into the future.

4. Regional cooperation

Migrants, particularly low-skilled and temporary workers, are especially vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation in the global economy. This is compounded in times of global financial pressure and in weakly regulated migration environments. Nonetheless, with a highly integrated world economy, cross-border labour flows (both formal and informal) will continue to increase. Furthermore, countries with ageing populations, such as Japan and Australia, will become increasingly reliant on migrant workers to meet skills shortages.

Hence strong international, regional and bilateral regulatory frameworks are vital to underpin humane practices that encourage the economic and social participation of migrants and refugees. This necessarily includes a commitment by all key stakeholders – governments, businesses, workers, trade unions, NGOs and communities – to uphold the internationally recognised labour rights of migrant workers. Furthermore, it requires both countries of origin and settlement to actively support migrants throughout the migration cycle. This involves the pre-departure and post-arrival stages and, in the case of temporary migration, the return and reintegration phase.

Developed countries in the East Asian region that receive migrant workers can play a leadership role in the region by becoming signatory to international instruments designed to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families. Furthermore, binding bilateral and multilateral agreements between labour-sending and labour-receiving countries are needed if we are to have safe and well regulated systems that uphold the rights of migrant workers consistent with international human rights standards.

It is therefore essential when developing migration-related public policy at a national level to have a deep understanding of regional and international migration contexts; to share and learn from best practices at regional and international levels; and to analyse domestic immigration policies and practices in light of the responsibilities of states under international refugee and human rights protection frameworks.

5. Conclusion

I sincerely thank the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the opportunity to participate in the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program. I have no doubt that this experience will greatly enhance my current and future work in the migration field through a deeper understanding of migration-related issues facing Japan and the East Asian region; and the strong regional network established during our time and experiences in Japan.
Migration and The Role of Communities amid The Global Economic Crisis - An Observer’s Viewpoint

DK Elina Zuraidah Pg. Kamaluddin (Brunei)
Acting Marketing Manager, Group Marketing, QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd

Ms. DK Elina Zuraidah holds her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Financial Management from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, where she graduated in 2004. Since 2004, she has worked for QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd, the largest privately owned organization in Brunei, and she is now the Acting Marketing Manager. Her role at QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd is to assist the CEO in areas, such as evaluation of regional development/opportunities and administrative and customer relations management.

Brunei Darussalam is a small country located on the island of Borneo, a 2-3 hour plane ride from most ASEAN countries. The country is governed by an absolute monarchy where His Majesty the King is the head of state and head of government as well as the Prime Minister.

ASEAN remains as the foundation for the country’s foreign policy. The country’s economy is heavily dependant on its oil and gas industry. Hydrocarbon accounts for 90% of its exports and 50% of its GDP. Currently, Brunei is the 3rd largest oil producer in South East Asia and 4th largest producer of LNG in the world.

Years of high oil prices and sound financial policies have helped the country to withstand the global financial turmoil. However, low hydrocarbon prices have caused a slight dent in the economy, highlighting the country’s dependence on oil and its need to diversify into the non-energy sector. While most countries have closed its doors to foreign laborers, this country’s policy has not changed and still opens its doors to foreign labour-skilled and unskilled, which at the moment makes up one-third of the population.

QAF Brunei Sdn Bhd is the largest privately owned organization in Brunei and is the most diversified in terms of activities – ranging from newspaper to pharmaceutical to retail as well as entertainment. My roles and responsibilities as the Acting Marketing Manager are quite diverse. Despite the fact that the organization did not suffer any setback from the global economic crisis, fears and insecurities of retrenchment among the foreign nationals signaled us to restructure our Corporate Social Responsibility policies and to place more emphasis on employee support as well as community development.

Although my occupation is not directly related to migration, the programme, “Migration and the role of communities amid the global financial crisis” gave me a chance to play an observer’s role, where I was able to learn of the problems that foreign nationals faced in their countries, which led them to migrate to their host countries as well as to learn of the challenges that they face in the host countries. As Brunei has no NGO that handles issues relating to foreign nationals I feel it is important for every organization to make their own initiatives to seek measures in ensuring that their foreign nationals are settled and taken care of.

On the 1st day of the programme, Professor Yasushi Iguchi highlighted the theory of concept vs. reality, which became a dominant issue throughout our programme. Concepts are policies made by government agencies while reality is what actually takes place. Although the Japanese government have introduced policies to help and assist migrants and refugees especially the Japanese Brazilians, lack of monitoring and examination of these measures prevents such polices from being effective and improved. Thus when respective government bodies appear to be ineffective, communities as well as NGOs step in and provide assistance in overcoming the problems.

We had the opportunity to interact with different migrant groups – the Myanmar refugees, Japanese Brazilians as well as the Indian Merchant Association and migrant children. Different migrant groups have
different reactions to the policies. While the skilled Indian Merchants argue that the government has effectively welcomed them through their migration polices, not the same can be said for the rest especially for the refugees who are the most vulnerable. Fortunately, NGOs such as JAR (Japan Association for Refugees), local municipalities such as Kani City in the Gifu Prefecture and organisations such as Kyojukon and Minna-no Ouchi have provided these minorities a haven during their time of need.

The opportunity to interact with different migrant groups proved to be an unforgettable experience, especially the time spent with the migrant children. Children I feel are the most affected when it comes to matters such as these as they often have no say in the decision making process and are forced to adapt to the situation.

Migration is inevitable. Although governments from which they have been sent and host countries have set up prudent policies and measures, such policies will not be fully effective if there is no monitoring carried out. Governments should ensure that these measures are continuously monitored and that improvements are made on any flaws. If they lack the human resources they should consider providing financial assistance to those who can follow through on these measures such as JAR as well as the communities.

This framework can be adapted to the Asia/Oceania community, where if government bodies lack the resources to review and assess their policies, they could perhaps set up a special body or a task force to ensure that agreements and measures are being practiced.

Migration and communities aside, the programme gave me the opportunity to experience different aspects of the Japanese culture. Within a span of 2 weeks, we managed to travel back in time to the Meiji Mura era, had hot spring baths, and visited Geisha teahouses, castles and temples. We were able to appreciate the purity of sake, the benefits of green tea, the beauty of Mount Fuji, join the mass of passengers at Shinjuku Station – one of the busiest stations in the world and most importantly, survive the swine flu epidemic.

Overall the programme exceeded my expectations. Not only did I bring back a wealth of information but also memories that I’ll look fondly upon. I’d like to thank the Japan Foundation for this opportunity and hope to meet the participants as well as members of the Japan Foundation again.
Individual Report

Xiao Fang LIU (China)
Program Officer, Beijing Vantone Foundation

In 2005, Ms. Liu received her Bachelor of Law at China Youth University for Political Science, with a major in Social Work. She was the supervisor of Community Department at the Beijing Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center, a Beijing-based NGO, before joining Beijing Vantone Foundation. As the program officer, Ms. Liu has managed environmental improvement project for migrant workers, and organized a supporting event for the orphans of the Sichuan earthquake.

1) Brief status quo of the impact of the financial crisis on migration and how the crisis has affected the migrants and/or government policy in China and how this programme's topic relates to your work:

At present, there are 45 million foreigners living in China. They hold 1- to 5-year residence permits, which can be renewed. In 2003, there were 23 million foreigners holding this kind of certificate. In addition, to the envy of many, there are 700 foreigners with long-term residence status. This is according to the long-term residence in 2004 and effective method.

History of policy

Since the founding of new China, foreign settlements have been restricted. In 1985, the tube method was promulgated, in which the permanent residence status was set, and the qualifications were divided into two classes--settlement and permanently settled. Among them, settlement was applicable to family reunion, and permanent settlement was mainly applicable to high-level foreign talents and special contributors to China. Such a permanent residence status was more like an honors certificate.

In Beijing, for example, the first permanent residence permit was awarded to the contributors of the Chinese revolution, then to the outstanding contributing experts and celebrities. After 1995, foreigners who invested became eligible for the permits. Since 1986, more than 3,000 foreigners have been approved for residency in China, of which less than 50 have been allowed to settle permanently. Now these people hold the original documents that can be submitted to the immigration department for document renewal.

In 2001, the Ministry of Public Security, in order to actively adapt after joining the WTO, developed conditions with reference to international practices, gradually providing permanent residence status to foreigners in China.

In 2003, categories of residence permits with the longest period of five years were awarded. Although not many foreigners had the five-year permit, even the allowance of two or three years of residence can provide considerable convenience for its holder.

On August 22, 2004, the measures and management of permanent residency for foreigners in China, jointly signed by the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was officially promulgated. This system of the green, moved a step forward, compared to the previous practices. “Settled” and “permanent residence status,” are no longer distinguished. They are both referred to as permanent residence.

The influence of the financial crisis in China

The current world is going through a once-in-a-hundred-year financial crisis. In the context of globalization, this crisis will not only relate to Americans or the rich. Every Chinese should pay close attention to the way our lives are affected by it. Many people think that the financial crisis is far away from us, but in fact, the financial crisis has really influenced our lives greatly.

The spread of the financial crisis caused many industries to pay much attention to it, resulting in an overall real estate market downturn. This was followed by the significant downturn in the national income. It is reported that Wuhan Iron and Steel Ltd. co. and Bao Steel Limited Company are planning to reduce their employees' salaries; the salary of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Limited Company's...
staffs is going to be reduced by 20%. Before that, Vanke and the ZhongYuan reduced some employees’ salaries and laid off others. China Eastern and China Southern laid off employees, and Bird and Amoi were forced to cut labor costs and conduct massive layoffs. Petroleum Companies as well. Layoffs have extended to a series of industries such as real estate, aviation, petrochemical, Power, IT, securities, finance, printing, etc. Migrant workers in central and western China have little ability to deal with this reality. Migrant workers of Sichuan, Anhui, and Henan provinces have emerged in various waves of returning migrant workers.

In addition, it is now the peak season for fresh graduates of Chinese colleges and universities looking for employment. All kinds of job fairs are competitively held. In the context of the financial crisis, the economic, trade and finance students’ employment situation has taken a sharp turn. Some graduates have to change the concept of their choice and lower expectations in order to meet the employment situation. Chinese human resources and the social security department recently have said that the number of university graduates in 2009 will reach 6,100,000. University students will be faced with a more serious situation in employment from this year to the end of next year.

The Chinese Government has also taken certain measures in this financial turmoil: China cut interest rates twice in January and canceled the interest tax, the Central Bank reduced RMB loans and deposits Bench Marks, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority re-invested in the Hong Kong dollar 800,000,000 ... ...

2) Personal observations and recommendations of migration and the role of community in Japan amid the financial crisis.

1. Policy
The Japanese government has established a comprehensive policy in treating international immigration, has set up special organizations to manage migration, and provide migrants with a series of services. Under the backdrop of the financial crisis, the government and NGOs play well together, helping immigrants through this period.

2. Immigration and social order
With a large influx of immigrants, the problem of social order is more prominent than before. More attention is paid to social exclusion. This also is one of the major reasons against accepting migrants. Besides social crime, the different ways of life and values were also raised by many people. Obviously, values and way of life of the migrants are indeed different from those of the local residents. Especially in the public domain, behavior and values are influenced by social order. Different lifestyle habits and values really have a very strong impact on social order.

3. Integration and diversity
The different ways of life and value concept is the main content of social and cultural diversity. Immigrants really would increase the aspects of diversity in the receiving country, but also pose as a challenge to the mainstream social values and way of life. In Japan, some immigrants have formed their own regional community; living according to the values and way of life of home country, while some immigrants melt into the mainstream of society. Generally speaking, immigrants with a high level of economy and culture melt into local society more easily. But second generation immigrants are different. Whether in the way of life, or in the language and culture, they very easily blend into the local society.

4. Culture and identity
The problem I'd like to discuss here is culture, identity, and also education. In the schedule arranged by Japan Foundation, one night we went to a children's home, communicating with the community residents and their children. There were several young persons from coastal regions in China such as Jiangsu, Fujian province. They followed their father or mother, who came to Japan to work for a few years. Some of them came to Japan when they were very young. In most cases, the parent first came to Japan to work and then the child joined later. The children are all in the local schools for study. That was quite impressive. Unlike their parents who encounter many problems, they have very easily assimilated to the local society. As for language, they speak Japanese very fluently, and are accustomed to the local etiquette. From their outward appearance, they look like Japanese children also.

But there are problems that exist. First, although their time spent in Japan is not long, some of them are only 2 years old. Some of the children's Chinese is not fluent. How to preserve their home culture has become a challenge. I think this is relative to their family education and community environment. A cute little 12-year old boy, though he went to Japan with his mother when he was only four years old and his time in Japan is the longest of the children, his Chinese is the best. I think family environment and community environment play a very
important role.

Secondly, when asked if they would return, they all answered “no,” without exception. The region and society has let them live very comfortably, just as with the many people who moved to big cities from rural regions in China. The acceptance can help them melt into local society better. However, in the context of the financial crisis in Japan, if the working parents were unemployed, the families would lose their economic resources. How to continue living in Japan, has become a serious problem. Faced with crisis of unemployment and local governments likely to encourage repatriation, though they are not willing, they might have to return to face an environment that they have not adapted to; a culture education, or life.

5. Education
The Japan Foundation arranged for us to visit an immigrant school and a community school to learn about education for immigrants. The immigrant school was established by socially outstanding people, and the community school mainly provided services for the children’s education, to help them to become admitted to local Japanese schools. Indeed, starting out in an unfamiliar place, the language is the first hurdle. Children need language education to help them in to local society. This can help them to pass the entrance examination and receive an education in Japanese.

One thing that was very impressive in the community school was that in a small classroom, a dozen children of different color were all studying. Japanese hard. The hardware aspect of this school was not very good, compared with public schools in China, but children learn very seriously, the school is very neat and orderly, and very tidy. Beautiful sunflowers were blooming near the school gate; a beautiful, neat and orderly environment, even if not luxurious. Modern is nice, but for children, we need more neat and orderly environments around, in our country as well.

6. Community
Faced with the economic crisis, the community can play a good role. Community can have a good effect, making people support each other. It can be used as a platform for information exchange, especially when facing a financial crisis and the risk of unemployment. People can seek new jobs through community.

3) What you have gained and have taken home through participating in this program.
1. First, to attend this project was a broad journey for me. This is my most memorable experience abroad. This experience made me understand Japan that I wasn’t aware of before coming. I deeply realized that the country is beautiful, neat and orderly. Not only did I gain new knowledge, I also experienced different cultures, Japanese food and such beautiful scenery.

2. Secondly, I have made very good friends from different countries; dozens of friends from different countries and several friends from Japanese Foundation. We communicated with each other from different backgrounds and cultures. We discussed problems, and we laughed in fun. We helped each other when we faced difficult times; we shared the experience with each other. Friends are precious wealth; they give me much help.

3. Thirdly, I have gained a new knowledge and understanding of the immigrants from other countries, and got an in-depth understanding of the Japanese local situation. I am working in China, where immigration refers to the migration from rural areas to the cities and migrant workers from underdeveloped areas to developed areas, rather than the international migrants. But in the context of the project, migration is basically the international migrants in other countries. However, I think many aspects are similar and universal, such as the economic problems, education, cultural identification, and the problem of assimilation. I think my biggest difference with other participants, while may have caused some difficulties in the beginning, had no influence on our exchanges and interaction. Gaining the knowledge is helpful to my work. China’s migrant workers have become a focus of the government and of the society, and many people and many organizations are serving them. However, I think they need more practically. Migration is a major problem in China society, and we need a break in the household registration system.

4. Internationally, the demand for cross-cultural talent is very high. I still need to improve myself in all aspects, in order to help disadvantaged groups and to provide better services for them.

4) Your views and ideas on if and how the Asia/Oceania region can cooperate to form a regional community to overcome the current crisis for the benefit of all in the field of migration.
1. Governments provide more powerful support. Facing the financial crisis, the receiving and sending countries’ governments should provide safeguards, promote employment policies, and help migrants survive in the
local society.

2. Social service organizations play a more prominent role in the face of a financial crisis. Social service agencies can understand more clearly about the need of immigrants and help them face this crisis, providing them with more excellent and professional service.

3. Develop and cultivate social organization; encouraging the development of the third sector in the distribution of social resources, promoting community organizations and the development of social service agencies, encouraging its role in the development of community service projects and activities, and realize community development.

4. Promote mutual relationships between different communities, including those with different levels of economy and culture. The regional community can promote the mutual relationship between communities, to face the financial crisis together.
Discovering Migrants’ Life, with Hope and Desperation

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Ms. Zhang graduated from the Communication University of China (formerly known as the Beijing Broadcasting Institute) in 2003, majoring in international journalism. She has been working for CCTV (China Central Television), and is now the program’s producer and newscaster of “Today’s Focus” on CCTV-4, CCTV’s international Mandarin channel. Actively involved with issues, such as China’s migrant workers and rural problems as a journalist, she is also pursuing her studies in the field of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University.

During the program of JENESYS 2009, some kids’ eyes remained deeply in my heart. They looked familiar. I have seen them before, I thought. Yes. I can see in their eyes the same contents as in those kids from my country, China.

The pictures were taken in a Brazilian school in Kani City near Nagoya. These kids are Japanese-Brazilian, who grew up in Brazil and were brought to Japan by their parents who are adults now working in Japan as migrant workers.

With their eyes, these kids are demanding the same rights and support as Japanese children: identity recognition, education opportunity and financial support. Their situation became even worse under the global economic crisis, since their parents, who are more vulnerable than the local workers might easily lose their jobs.

I saw the same combination of eager and desperation from the kids in China.

I am a journalist of China Central Television. I found that the major work for those who work in the media is to raise public concerns about certain social issues. Before I went on to the JENESYS program, I had broadcast pictures of migrants’ children in China, in one of the shows named “Kids of migrant workers, no more schools.” It was about a phenomenon caused by the economic crisis.

Under the global economic crisis, which has hit Chinese real economy badly, rural migrant workers are the major victims. The decline of international market demands caused the unemployment of a great number of migrant workers. About 20 million rural migrant workers in China had returned to the countryside from cities without jobs. Some migrant workers left their kids in the destination cities to continue their education. But the schools for the migrants’ kids run by the volunteers are facing great challenges.

The situation of both Chinese and Brazilian kids reflects the reality of survival for migrant workers. Foreign migrants may not be a serious issue in China, since they hold relatively high positions and even lead a better life than the locals. But major Japanese media covered the topic several times during my stay for the program, an indication that this has became a serious social issue for the country.

The following are my observations and perspectives of the migrant issue in Japan amid the economic crisis.

First, Japan has set up certain systems responsible for the migrant workers within the central government, local government and NGOs, which are the foundation for solving the problems. The government of Japan established an “Office for the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents” in the Cabinet Office in Sept. 2009 to take necessary measures promptly. The support measures include educational, employment and housing measures. For example, the education measures assist children...
who wish to enroll in public schools and the housing measures support acceptance to private rental housing. Some of the local governments performed well on solving the migrant problem. Like Kani City and Fuji City, they supported the migrant communities and encouraged the concept of "Human Station" meaning helping each other, accepting nature and cherishing people. As for the NGOs, public financial assistance, intra-community support and interaction measures with Japanese society have been taken to help.

Second, recognition of multi-culture existence in Japan helps Japanese people to understand that diversity is possible only when everything is accepted. There was tension and minor discord among Japanese and non-Japanese during the influx of foreign migrants. Some Japanese people then started to learn what was actually happening in their neighborhood and how to live together with the new residents from abroad. During this process, NGOs played a very important role by telling people how the different cultures diverted from each other, stimulating communication among ethnic groups. The Kyojukon in Okubo area made policy recommendations to the local government towards multiculturalism and held lectures on the issues around Okubo with different ethnic groups.

While system existence and recognition of multi-cultures are advantages to solving migrant issues, disadvantages remain in the inefficiency of policy making and the discrimination of "outsiders."

Migrants are disadvantaged when they seek employment, housing, health care, social services and other information when policies and regulations restrict access to this kind of information. Their situation even got worse during the economic crisis as they were much more easily fired than the locals. The contribution of the migrants might have been made aware, but rules to protect the migrants have not been made. Take the short-term policies for foreign residents in Japan made by the "Office for the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents" in the Cabinet Office, for example. They launched the employment measures, which include employment assistance, support for job creation, reinforcement of training programs and the financial support for emergency. These measures may work to help them find another job, but the most important measure should be rules to protect them from being unfairly fired. Migrants need rights that are equal to the locals in job securement and insurance.

A good example was seen in Kani City where the local government provided a facility where migrants get information on available services in the city. Unfortunately, some migrants are not eligible for these services due to their status in Japan, hence they are forced to experience significant hardships. Since very few of them receive public assistance from the Japanese government, many asylum seekers have little choice but to work illegally to secure a wage. The recent economic crisis has made finding a job and supporting a family more difficult.

As for status identity, foreign children are more vulnerable than the adults. Children with foreign roots have a complicated family environment. Often observed cases include: 1) The mother is divorced in her home country and starts working in Japan while leaving her children at home. 2) While the parents are working in Japan, the children are left with their grandparents or relatives. Then the parents bring their children to Japan, after their life in Japan is settled. However, there are children born in Japan and many of them live with their single mother. Many of the children are in a relatively bad situation in terms of their family and economic environment and whose Japanese languages skills are inadequate. Still I found some Chinese children who may live in Japan without an identity for their whole life, because their parents are illegal migrants and they were born in Japan. They have neither Chinese nor Japanese nationality. Even if they get married, their children will face the same situation again. I wrote the story of the children of illegal Chinese migrants in my blog. It raised a great interest among the readers, as most Chinese don't know about the life of Chinese migrants in Japan. Unfortunately, all I could do was to tell the readers that I still cannot find the way to solve this problem, and neither does the Japanese government.

The other disadvantage is the discrimination towards “outsiders.” We have met two different groups of people in Japan. One day, we heard about the Myanmar refugees, who complained that they suffered mistreatment in Japan. The other day, we heard another story from Indian elites, who are diplomats, scholars and businessmen, about their view of how they are respected well in Japan's society. It tells that there is discrimination in Japan towards the migrants. To some extent, migrants are excluded from total acceptance by society. They are seen as the “outsiders” who come from the underdeveloped countries and may bring trouble to their destination country. Therefore, they don't have the equal opportunities as the locals in job seeking. They don't benefit from the welfare system when they encounter troubles.

Discrimination should not be tolerated by the people of the host countries towards the migrants. Media should make a stand on this process. Media in Okubo once reported that foreign residents were destroying the area and threatening public safety. Mass media is an easy and
quick access to information, and to some extent, influences people’s value of judgment. Because of this report, hatred among Japanese surfaced. The negative stereotypes inflamed Japanese anxieties towards the “outsiders.” In the name of security, assaults against foreign migrants’ human rights were getting very serious.

How then, can the Asia/Oceania region cooperate to form a regional community to overcome the current crisis for the benefit of all, in the field of migration? At the end of our group discussion, we members found that it should be based on a regional framework on migration, addressing key issues relating to migrants, such as employment, income, social security, citizenship, healthcare, education, cultural exchange, legal responsibility, etc. This would prevent migration based on political agendas, business contracts, or even bilateral treaties from having unpredictable effects on migrant communities, particularly during economic downturns in host countries. A regional framework based on political commitment between state members is very significant in facilitating and balancing effective cooperation and will provide support in handling potential risks. This regional framework should be functional in that based on this each state, both home and destination countries can make their properly informed decisions regarding migration issues.

Exchange of information and building support groups will bridge gaps throughout Asia/Pacific regional cooperation and partnerships, for example for fairer labor standards in the region. International networks across nations will support communities and build bridges.

There is an article in a Chinese elementary school textbook that says, “Do you know who builds up your house? Do you know who cleans your classroom? Do you know who makes our city more beautiful? The migrants did all that for you.” It is a little bit literary, but it tells us that migrants contribute a lot to our city.

Just think about the kids. Foreign children will be the important members who are going to take on the future of the city with those kids from their host country. Recognizing cultural diversity and building up mutual respect by eliminating discrimination and studying from different cultural backgrounds, those kids in different colors and speaking in different languages could have a sustainable community to live on and share the beautiful future of the city with their friends.
The global financial crisis that started from the United States has raised a very broad impact to Indonesia. In fact, it has also caused several problems for Indonesians working abroad. According to Jumhur Hidayat, Head of the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers/Badan Nasional Perlindungan dan Penempatan Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (BNP2TKI), some employers have decided not to renew work contracts with Indonesian workers. In addition, countries such as South Korea have postponed their intake of foreign workers until later this year (INDONESIA: Foreign remittances set to fall with global slowdown, http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=82554). These Indonesian migrant workers/Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (TKI) have been facing worsening conditions in their work place, not to mention layoffs. In December 2008, about 300,000 of the 1.2 million Indonesian workers in Malaysia may have had to return home, as companies were forced to cut their workforce due to the crisis. And indeed, several electronic goods manufacturers are not renewing contracts. However, Indonesia's ambassador to Malaysia, Da'i Bachtiar, said the plantation and service sectors in Malaysia were not yet affected (Ibid). In regard to this fact, Djaja said that the influx of migrant workers coming home would severely add to Indonesia's unemployment problem (Komara Djaja, Impact of the Global Financial Crisis and Economic Crisis on Indonesia, a Rapid Assessment, 2009).

Along with the problem faced by its migrant workers, Indonesia is expecting a decline in the amount of money sent home by Indonesians working abroad, due to the global economic slowdown triggered by the financial crisis. Regarding this, Abdul Malik Harahap, Director for Indonesian Migrant Workers Placement at the Manpower Ministry, said the impact of the credit crunch on remittances was likely to start being felt around April 2009 (http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=82554). Some Indonesian economists predicted that Indonesian remittances would only reach around $3 billion this year (2009), half the amount sent home in 2007 which was US$6 billion (Ibid). If the amount of money sent home by Indonesians working abroad is declining, we can expect that it will be difficult for the family to meet the cost of daily living expenses. The World Bank Research Team (2006) concluded that if the remittance is the sole source of income of the family, it will usually be exhausted within 2-7 months; after that they have to resell the assets that they have and go back to the original condition or again work overseas. For those who come from a family with a sufficiently stable economic background, the amount of remittance that can be saved to enhance the family's assets will be lesser.

One action that had been taken by the Indonesian government to overcome problems experienced by Indonesian migrant workers was to look at potential markets such as South Africa, Madagascar and eastern European countries to offset slower demand in the Middle East, East Asia and Malaysia, where many Indonesians work in the plantation and manufacturing sectors. Besides the government, from my research data there are several good practices to overcome the impact of the global crisis, carried out by Non Government Organizations/NGOs. Several NGOs (international, national, and local) such as
IOM (International Organization for Migration), Migrant Care Indonesia, Migrant Care Malaysia, Setara Kita (local NGO established in Batam – Kepulauan Riau), Sirih Besar (local NGO established in Tanjung Pinang – Kepulauan Riau), and PP Nakerwan (Local NGO established in Batam – Kepulauan Riau), have been actively involved in protection programs for migrant workers. The programs are various, namely: repatriation program of Indonesian Migrant workers (especially repatriation from Malaysia to Indonesia), reintegration program for the migrant workers into their previous social environment after completing his/her working contract, advocacy for the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, recovery program for migrant workers who experienced any kind of violent in their workplace, and so on.

Based on some problems mentioned above, as a junior researcher in my institution, I have several questions: How are migrant workers coping with their recent working situation that was affected by the global crisis? How about the migrant workers’ families? How are they affected, and, how does each family cope with the situation? How have other people who live surrounding the migrant workers (community) reacted to their situation?

Though I have several experiences in conducted research about Indonesian women migrant workers to Malaysia for the last three years, I still do not have data to answer those questions. Therefore I am glad that I had the chance to join the JENESYS program, specifically group E, which delivered a 14-day program, called “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis”. So, what did I get from the program?

Before I joined the JENESYS program, I thought that only the people from ‘sending’ countries (for example, Indonesians working in Malaysia) were facing many difficulties when they are living outside their country. I thought that it was only the migrant who took the bigger portion to adapt to a new environment without any help from their surroundings. My thought was wrong.

When I and other participants visited the Cabinet Office, took a field walk around the Okubo area, met and greeted foreign national children in Minna no Ouchi Tokyo, visited migrant workers and refugees (asylum seekers) from Rohingya Myanmar, visited the Japan-Brazil Academy (Brazilian School), met and greeted Indian nationals, visited the Immigration Bureau, visited various places in Kani City including visit local NPO and local government, and visited Machi no Eki in Fuji City, I had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of Japanese governments (on the national and local level) as well as Japanese civil society in dealing with not only the consequences of transnational migration, but also in dealing with the impact of financial global crisis. So, I was proven wrong.

Throughout the lectures and fieldtrip designed by the program, I found that ‘receiving’ countries such as Japan, are also struggling to solve some problems caused by the global movement of people, especially with the recent financial global crisis. Therefore, we could not say that the problem caused by the global movement of people — either as migrant workers, family reunion, asylum seekers or refugees – was less complicated in this country compared to problems faced by the ‘sending’ country. They were indeed the same. And I was surprised.

For me, the program had been very fruitful and eye-opening because not only did I have a chance to learn about Japan’s experiences but also to learn, by exchanging information, of experiences in other Asian Pacific countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao, Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore, South Korea, China, Australia, and New Zealand. This new knowledge has been a significant contribution to my career as researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), especially to my recent research on women migrant workers. In the future, I believe that this kind of program will support any effort to create and construct firm solidarity among Asian Pacific countries to overcome common problems on transnational migration issues.
Importance of promoting exchange between Japan and Asia/Oceania Regions: To develop sustainable and balanced multicultural co-existence societies

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Ms. Takaki holds a Bachelor's degree in International Economics from Reitaku University, a Master's degree in Education from Sophia University. In 2005, she also obtained her Master of Arts from Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota. At present, Ms. Takaki is the Specially Appointed Associate Professor at Nagoya University, where she teaches and researches on cross-cultural understanding, multicultural counseling, promotion of internationalization of campus, regional partnership activities, and so forth.

As an International Educator working with international students at the Nagoya University in Japan, I took the opportunity to participate in the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis.” The global financial crisis has had a huge impact on our society and the university. I am witnessing significant changes in daily life and seeing fewer career opportunities for international students and scholars and migrants.

In the Nagoya area the employment rate of internationals (migrants and international students) has decreased. Based on the data of the Nagoya Employment Service Center for Foreigners (NESCF), the employment rate of these NESCF clients (migrants and international students) was 9.8% in February 2008, and fell to 1.1% in February 2009. Although the NESCF offers career counseling and provides sufficient job posting information, clients at the NESCF have experienced difficulty in finding jobs. Similarly at the Nagoya University, the International Student Advising Office offered intensive career workshops for 5 months to prepare international students for employment in Japan and develop their job-hunting skills. However, only 3 students out of 22 who participated in the workshop continuously, were able to find jobs by June 2009.

These conditions prompted me to deepen my understanding of the ways the global financial crisis impacts societies and migrants. I hoped to develop a holistic view of the society, and what role each sector (government, community, education, NGO/NPO) can play in building sustainable society that satisfies the needs of each population.

During the JENESYS Programme, we had many opportunities to visit field sites and learn about the current impact of the financial crisis on migration in Japan and how the government and communities are supporting migrants. Visiting the Japan-Brazil Academy (Brazilian School) in Oizumi city, Gunma Prefecture had a huge impact on my personal views. I have learned how individuals and groups can contribute to the development of educational programs/schools and community. The founder of the Brazilian School and president of the Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center, Ms Shoko Takano’s contributions were significant. Ms. Takano built a school for Nikkei (Japanese descent Brazilians) students in Oizumi city since many youth of Nikkei population were not able to adjust and be retained to Japanese public schools and subsequently engaged in criminal incidents. In order to create learning opportunities and safety places (“ibasho” in Japanese) that meet with Nikkei children’s needs, she and her family created a private school for them. In addition, she expanded support for the Nikkei population and created an NPO called the Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center, offering Japanese language classes, cultural festivals and other events; educational and relaxation programs that enhance a sustainable adjustment of the Nikkei population in the city.

We also visited Kani city in Gifu Prefecture to learn about
how city and community groups are supporting Nikkei life and adjustment. In Kani city, there is a prep school for foreign students who are going to enter public elementary school and there are international classes in each public school for foreign students who need to have support in catching up with normal classes. The Kani city mayor emphasizes support for and inclusion of internationals in their community and the city hall, and the board of the education offers a variety of programs and support for migrants and other foreign residents. Furthermore, the Kani City International Exchange Association (KIEA) also takes on an important role in supporting the foreign population in the city. Similar to the Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center, KIEA offers Japanese language classes, supports the daily life, enrollment and career development of foreign students, and offers cross-cultural events to develop a multicultural society.

From my observation, the Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center is run by the Nikkei population. Their activities seem to focus more on adjustment and keeping their Brazilian cultural heritage in order to maintain culturally healthy lives in Japan. In contrast, KIEA is run by a mainly Japanese population, and their activities seem focused on adjustment, inclusion, and the understating of multicultural differences from the Japanese side. Through observing both organizations' activities, I learned that it might be beneficial for the foreign population to have balanced support in their adjustment that honors their cultural heritage, while promoting inclusion. These key components might be important not just for migrants in Japan, but also for the international students at our university and their families. I would like to keep these perspectives in mind and would like to plan and implement more sufficient support for students and other members of the foreign population in my work.

Through this program, I discovered that I did not have enough knowledge about the Asia/Oceania Regions and migrant issues in these areas, including Japan. Each activity: country reports by participants, lectures, fieldtrips, discussions, and group project opened my eyes to the reality of migrants in Japan, Asia, and Oceania. It was a great starting point for me to develop my knowledge in this field, to see what I could contribute to this matter from my profession.

In Japan, we have an international population including students from many Asian countries. On the other hand, many Japanese students are willing to study in the U.S., Europe, and Oceania creating an imbalance of in/out bound study abroad. To build a sustainable and balanced multicultural co-existent society in Japan, I believe that it is important for Japanese people to develop a knowledge of and cultural sensitivity to other Asian countries. In my academic field and professional work, I would like to work on developing student interest in and awareness of Asian countries and cultures. I am hoping to promote students' Study Abroad destinations in the Asian region so that Japanese students can develop sensitivities toward Asian countries as well. I hope that the field of International Education and my profession will contribute to nurturing a multicultural co-existent society in Japan and the Asia/Oceania region.
A Call for Solidarity: Reflections on the Multilevel Potentials of “Communities”

Ralph Ittonen HOSOKI (Japan)

Mr. HOSOKI holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and anthropology from Carleton College (2002) and a Master of Arts degree in area studies from the University of Tokyo (2007). He previously worked as an interpreter staff member for the Peace Boat, and is currently involved in volunteer work with foreign worker support groups in the Tokyo area. Also a doctoral student in the Department of Advanced Social and International Studies at the University of Tokyo, his research interests include international labor migration, civil society engagement in foreign worker rights advocacy, and domestic processes of international norm mobilization/diffusion in Japan.

In comparison with many other industrialized countries, Japan continues to remain somewhat of an anomaly in terms of the size of its immigrant/foreign worker population (Table 1). Yet a closer look reveals that the number of registered foreigners has started to see a steady increase beginning in the early 1990s (Figure 1). This increase coincides with the 1990 revision of Japan’s Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which at the official level, simultaneously encourages the entry of skilled professionals while tightening control over the entry of undocumented and low-skilled foreign laborers. Among the 27 residence status categories offered, none are explicitly reserved for low-skilled workers, thereby creating a façade that Japan does not import and utilize low-skilled foreign labor. However, if we disaggregate the increasing foreign worker population, we find that it is the population increase of foreign nationals of Japanese descent, technical interns, and international students – many of whom are engaged in low-skilled work – and not that of skilled professionals, that accounts for this increase (Figure 2).

In other words, there are discrepancies between the intended and actual outcomes of Japan’s immigration policy. Additionally, one could go a step further and also argue that these discrepancies are products of a clandestine government strategy to secure de facto low-skilled foreign labor. The importance lies in the fact that the continued existence of mismatches between policy and reality signify the government’s reluctance or inability to admit to the existence of a large “invisible” population of low-skilled foreign workers, and this void in recognition hinders the enactment of laws that protect the worker and human rights of these de facto, or bona fide low-skilled laborers.

To complicate things even more, of the residence statuses based on type of activity, none guarantee a priori future permission to settle (e.g. a point system). This basic characteristic of Japan’s immigration policy portrays Japan as a country of non-immigration/settlement which does not utilize rotational low-skilled foreign labor. However, as a result of various social, economic, and political factors that challenge the efficacy of immigration policy, in reality, Japan does have immigrants, recent settlers, and a large population of de facto low-skilled foreign workers who have established a living in Japan. Again, the government’s reluctance in recognizing such realities inevitably prevents government attempts to improve policy, perpetuating...
existing discrepancies between policy and reality that ultimately result in deficient social and legal structures that disadvantage and marginalize foreign residents in Japan.

Under such social and legal structural limitations, foreign residents and workers are often in underprivileged social and economic positions, and such conditions are further exacerbated in times of economic downturn. Foreign workers in low-skilled jobs are particularly vulnerable, attested by the numerous newspaper reports on the layoffs of foreign workers of Japanese descent and government statistics on the repatriation of trainees and technical interns (Figure 3). Under such conditions, support groups and local communities play a critical role in not only providing immediate livelihood assistance, but also in initiating community building initiatives that incorporate foreign residents into the local community and economy while building awareness among the local population that foreign residents are integral members of. A prime example of such efforts to promote mutual understanding and respect between local Japanese residents and foreigners can be glimpsed from the community building activities of Kyojukon in the Okubo area of Shinjuku.

Although the government may be reluctant to admit this, many foreign residents are not transient rotational laborers, but rather long-term settlers. Educational opportunities of migrant children therefore become an issue of critical importance. The retention of one’s parents’ language, culture, and identity and the simultaneous acquisition of the linguistic, social, and cultural skills necessary to effectively “succeed” and “function” in the host society is a formidable challenge for many families, and in many cases, the two are uncomfortably juxtaposed at the expense of each other because of the limited opportunities for bilingual education in Japanese public schools. Meanwhile, the other alternatives – private schools for non-Japanese speakers – are often too expensive for many families, and in some cases, such schools do not qualify as accredited educational institutions by the Japanese government, thereby posing obstacles for students who want to eventually enroll in Japanese high schools and universities. However, despite these challenges, innovative efforts have been made to overcome these rigidities and limitations in the Japanese educational system. Minna no Ouchi in Shinjuku, for example, is an NPO that provides extracurricular instruction to assist children of foreign residents with both their acquisition of the Japanese language and mastery of school subjects that are necessary to enter Japanese high schools. Similarly, the Brazilian government accredited Nippaku Gakuen in Oizumi city (Gunma prefecture), has collaborated with Gakugeikan High School (a nearby private Japanese high school) to provide a curriculum in which Brazilian children of Japanese descent can attain an accredited Japanese high school diploma. This dual accreditation and the school’s emphasis on bilingual education helps prepare students with the linguistic and scholastic knowledge necessary to be able to equally choose between Japanese and Brazilian universities. Furthermore, in Kani city (Gifu prefecture), in an effort to smoothen the transition into Japanese schools, the local municipality-funded Bara Kyoshitsu KANI provides supplementary Japanese language instruction classes for the young children of foreign residents.

Among the foreign residents in Japan, individuals who do not have residence statuses that permit employment are perhaps the most adversely affected by the economic crisis. To begin with, it is difficult for such individuals to find jobs to support their family in the first place because employers are often unwilling to hire individuals whose residence statuses do not permit work. Additionally, in times of economic downturn, the demand for labor diminishes, and job openings dwindle. In particular, refugees awaiting recognition of their refugee status are most vulnerable to downward fluctuations in the economy. It is often the case that due to bureaucratic red tape and lack of documentation, the refugee recognition process extends for over five years. To exacerbate things, during this period applicants are not eligible for any form of social security and are not permitted to work. Unable to return to their country of origin for fear of persecution, and unable to legally work/find a job in Japan, many refugees have difficulties supporting themselves and their families. NPOs such as the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) and labor unions such as the Federation of Workers’ Union of the Burmese Citizens in Japan (FWUBC-Japan) have provided livelihood assistance to refugees and have advocated for improvements in the refugee recognition process.

This vignette of civil society and local municipality engagement only scratches the surface of the diverse array of efforts that various individuals and organizations have made in their efforts to assist foreign residents and to strengthen awareness of the need to seriously think about the changing nature of Japan’s social landscape as well as the incongruities that exist between reality and the extant anachronistic immigration policies. With the anticipated continuous increase in the foreign resident and immigrant population, the imminent need to secure the human and working rights of foreign residents – or cohabitants on Japanese soil – should not be considered an
abstract future challenge, but a concrete reality that must be addressed immediately and before more individuals become subject to unequal and inhumane treatment. Although tensions may exist between the recognition of various foreign resident rights and the government's concern over state sovereignty and domestic social order, there is no evidence that the two are naturally mutually exclusive. We can look to other countries and draw from successful attempts to reconcile such tensions, but in the end, we must look within and envision a system of social norms, values, and legal frameworks that will effectively realize a society that celebrates the mutual acceptance and respect for similarities and differences in Japan.

For this, there must be dialogue – dialogue between people, dialogue between civil society and the government, and dialogue among concerned actors on the regional level. NGOs, civil society groups, religious organizations, professional support groups, labor unions, and some local municipalities have been the initiators and catalysts for such attempts in Japan. However, limitations in financial, human, and informational resources have often hindered their efforts. The same can also be said about similar initiatives in other countries in the Asia Oceania Region. In light of these common challenges, collaborative measures between concerned parties at the local, national, and regional level are paramount in maximizing not only the efficacy of grassroots initiatives to build multiethnic and multicultural communities in various national contexts, but also the solidarity and integrity of regional initiatives to collaboratively improve the conditions of foreign residents and immigrants in both sending and receiving countries.

It is with this conviction that I deeply appreciate the Japan Foundation's leadership in taking the initiative to create a space and learning opportunity for young aspiring individuals to collectively contemplate and discuss the potential of communities in addressing both the longstanding and more recent economically-induced challenges of international migration in the Asia Oceania Region. I believe the breadth of site visits and opportunities to interact with various actors involved at different levels along the civil society – central government spectrum have provided an invaluable overview of the existing realities of policy inputs and outcomes that would be difficult to obtain on one's own. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, my interactions with the other participants have not only deepened my understanding of migration-related issues in Japan vis-à-vis the experiences of other migrant sending and receiving countries in the region, but have also fostered friendships and professional ties that I will continue to cherish for years to come.

References
Figure 1: Growth Pattern of the Number of Foreigners Registered in Japan

Sources: Data compiled from Jasan Immigration Association (2005:iii) and the Statistics Bureau website

Figure 2: Shifts in the Numbers of Foreign Workers by Residence Status

Note: Individuals with “trainee” and “special permanent residence” residence statuses are not included in this definition of “foreign workers.” Source: http://www.chuouinsai.jp/livest/pdf/en5005_5.pdf (original data from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Justice)

Figure 3: Number of Trainees and Technical Interns that Returned to Their Home Countries in Mid-contract due to Bankruptcies, Downsizing, Financial Difficulties, etc. at Their Receiving Companies (10/2008-01/2009)

Source: Ministry of Justice (2009)
The global financial crisis has affected various industries and individuals as well as national governments. Due to the economic downturn, many foreign workers including refugees/asylum seekers in Japan were dismissed or laid off from their work and are having difficulties in finding a new job. As the impact of the financial crisis began to surface, Japan's export-oriented industries including automakers and other large manufacturing companies experienced a large decline in their profit, which led them to temporarily suspend the operation of their factories or entirely close them down and decrease the number of employees. Since many foreign workers worked in these factories, they were hit hard by the crisis as their pay was cut or they lost their jobs.

For asylum seekers in Japan, the crisis was a new problem for their already difficult life in Japan. Due to the language barrier and their visa status, many asylum seekers in Japan also worked in factories as subcontract or irregular workers, thus were affected by the lay-off or dismissal. Although asylum seekers often visit the office of Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) for job search consultations, the number has increased since the fall of 2008. Their stories were all similar: they had been working but were dismissed, and they had been looking for a new job but could not find one. Before the crisis, many of the asylum seekers had jobs whether they were satisfied with them or not, including those who did not have legal work permits. Those who did not have stable jobs or had no jobs were able to rely on their friends within their communities. Now that many asylum seekers are out of work, this in-community assistance has also become difficult because more and more of them can no longer even support themselves and their own families. Due to these circumstances, they have no choice but to ask for assistance from an organization like JAR.

This current condition of the asylum seekers was presented during the JENESYS programme by a JAR staff member and asylum seekers themselves. They voiced their concern and frustration by talking about how they had been out of work for a long time, how their limited visa status is an obstacle for job searching, and how limited and insufficient the support from the Japanese government is. Currently, the only public financial assistance available to the asylum seekers is provided by the Refugee Headquarters, an external organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and even this assistance is only provided to a limited number of the asylum seekers. Those who do not receive public assistance need to work to sustain their living but a large number of the asylum seekers in Japan are not eligible to work due to their status of visa at the time of their entry into Japan. This leaves them no choice but to work illegally and under unfavourable and sometimes dangerous work conditions.

Moreover, due to the rapid increase of refugee status applicants in the past few years, the MoFA has not been able to secure a large enough budget to accommodate the rapid increase of asylum seekers in Japan, thus has been forced to cut down the number of beneficiaries who receive public financial assistance. More than a hundred asylum seekers were cut off from the assistance in April and some of them even lost a place to stay, as they could no longer pay for rent. The others were concerned about how they were going feed their children. Although JAR has been advocating to the government to either expand
the number of beneficiaries or allow them to work while waiting for their refugee status application results, there has not been a change in the refugee policy. JAR has launched a large-scale donation campaign with other organizations to help those asylum seekers who are in a desperate condition, but the current economic situation has made it difficult for many private companies and individuals to make donations. Although aid organizations including JAR are trying their best to support the asylum seekers by continuing to be the last lifeline for them, without MoFAs change in its policy on public assistance, these organizations will eventually reach a point where they can no longer help any asylum seeker.

Even with a legal work permit and a residence status, living and working in Japan is difficult for many foreign residents. The largest group of foreign residents in Japan is probably the Brazilians. During the programme, we visited two different Brazilian communities. Both communities had been experiencing difficulties under the financial crisis. The story is similar to that of the asylum seekers: many Brazilians were working at manufacturing factories, thus were laid off or dismissed as the economic situation in Japan worsened. Even though their visa status allows them to stay and work in Japan, the lack of Japanese language and other specialized skills has been an obstacle for them to find new jobs.

Compared to the refugee protection policy, it seems that the Japanese government feels more of a need to deal with the Brazilians who lost their jobs. The Cabinet Office introduced several policies and launched several projects to help the Brazilians through a new portal website and is providing information to the municipal governments where a large number of Brazilians reside. Unfortunately, these initiatives just started this year and it is difficult to tell how successful they have been so far. Furthermore, no external monitoring agency exists to keep track of how effective or ineffective the policies are and to provide feedback and advice to the Cabinet Office. This means that the Office of the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents may never have an opportunity to change and improve their policies. It was also not very clear as to how often representatives of the Office visit the municipalities and Brazilian communities to actually listen to the concerns and needs of the concerned parties directly.

The visit to Ohizumi, Gunma, affirmed these questions. Although we did not meet the adults and hear about how their lives have been affected by the financial crisis, we did observe the conditions of Brazilian children under the current policy. Due to the language barrier and different school system, many Brazilian children do not go to Japanese public school, preventing them from receiving a necessary education. Although some children are able to attend Brazilian schools like the Japan-Brazil Academy in Ohizumi to study in Portuguese and to learn Japanese, it is a private school where parents have to pay tuition. This means that children whose parents are not able to afford this school do not go to any school. Since many Brazilians in Ohizumi also experienced dismissal or lay-off amid the financial crisis, the number of these children has increased. Although the school is concerned about their education, their limited budget does not allow them to provide free education for them and no public assistance is given to the school from either the Ohizumi municipal government or the Japanese government. The field trip to Ohizumi showed the harsh reality of how the financial crisis also affected children. According to the president of the Academy, the current Ohizumi municipal government’s policy neglects the Brazilian population within the town because it is the mayor’s policy to do so and the Japanese government has not reached out to support these children or the Brazilian population of Ohizumi.

On the contrary, Kani in Gifu presented us a good example of effective public policy. Unlike Ohizumi, Kani City recognizes a large percentage of foreign residents within its city and has set up various initiatives to assist them. The multicultural centre called FLEVIA was established by a non-profit organization with support from the city to provide a space for Japanese language lessons and cultural activities as well as just a place for the foreign residents to meet. They can acquire necessary information of the city at the centre, from garbage collection rules and schedules, to what to do and where to go in case of an earthquake. The information is provided in Portuguese, Spanish and Tagalog as well as in Japanese with kana written above or on the side. The centre also provides opportunities for Japanese residents to attend Portuguese language classes or just to volunteer. Education for the children of the foreign residents is taken care of by the city. The city’s school board set up a public school for foreign children so that they can learn the Japanese language and about how a Japanese school works. After finishing this school, the children are able to transfer to the local Japanese public school, prepared. Although the foreign residents of Kani are also suffering from the impact of the financial crisis, they are provided with what is called a Part-Time Bank as well as opportunities to volunteer within the community. According to the city official we talked to, what made it possible for Kani to provide such model policies for the foreign residents was the mayor’s willingness to do so.
The visits to these two different cities provided an interesting comparison. One has been neglecting the foreign residents' community and has not been supportive of them even in this difficult time. It seemed that no public policy exists in Ohizumi to support them because the city officials have no intention to do so. The other city has acknowledged the fact that it has a large foreign population and has been engaging in establishing effective policies to assist them. Although we did not have an opportunity to actually hear the beneficiaries' voices in either city, the outlook of the City of Kani appeared much more hopeful than Ohizumi, even under the financial crisis.

The lack of public policy was also evident when we visited Minna no Ouchi in Okubo, Shinjuku, Tokyo. Although efforts to help foreign children to study have been encouraging, Ms. Kobayashi, the director of the place, mentioned how helpful it would be if they could get financial assistance from the Shinjuku Ward. Despite the fact that 10 percent of the residents of Shinjuku are foreigners, a place like "Minna no Ouchi" has not received any public support. Meanwhile, we witnessed another example of an effective municipal policy in Fuji, Shizuoka where the city supported a citizens' project called "Machi no Eki." The City of Fuji is seeking to shift its city's main attraction from the industrial area to tourism due to the gloomy outlook of the city's industry. Because of this it has been supportive of "Machi no Eki," stations set up where visitors can ask information about the city and communicate with the locals. In Fuji's case, they were not trying to help the foreign residents but were trying to establish a community in which they can help each other and the city itself.

As a staff of a non-governmental organization (NGO), I am aware of how difficult it is for many NGOs and small private organizations to be fully capable of carrying out their activities. Just as Ms. Kobayashi and Mr. Yamamoto of NGO Kyojukon explained, it is difficult for an NGO to maintain a sufficient budget. JAR is no exception. While we have the advantage of being able to work at a grassroots level and knowing first hand what beneficiaries need, in a larger picture, a policy change or improvement is always necessary to fully meet the needs of beneficiaries. Both of the successful and promising communities we saw during the programme were ones that had support and cooperation from the municipalities, and the ones that were struggling did not, let alone the Japanese government's assistance.

Taking this into account, NGOs and small private organizations need to continue advocating to both central and local governments for policy change so that there will be a public safety net and community support for foreign residents. In the meantime, working for more public awareness and education on mutual understanding between locals and foreign residents is necessary. Unfortunately, it is often the case that blue-collar foreigners are excluded from Japanese society and/or are often stereotyped as potential criminals. Although there is no doubt that some foreigners have committed crimes in Japan, it must be made clear that not all are the same. In addition, it has to be stressed that the difficulty of fitting in with Japanese society and the lack of public assistance, especially in learning the language, could possibly lead some foreign residents to be vulnerable and drawn to crimes. Both the public and private sectors should focus on more education and awareness on these points.

Finally, the Asia-Pacific regions have a large number of outflows and inflows of people within the region as well as to and from the other regions. What those migrants have in common is that they are especially vulnerable under the current economic crisis. Whether they chose to migrate or not, their basic human rights should be protected where they reside. The regional cooperation and commitment on the issue of migration needs to be in place, to provide an institutional framework of support for migrant communities across the region. For example, a model public policy and/or community should be shared within the region and there should be regular exchanges of people and information among those who are involved in the migration issue, including migrants themselves. This should not be limited to the national government level but should also include the local governments as well as NGOs and other private sectors. Although it could take a long time to establish this type of scheme, the global financial crisis has given us an opportunity to rethink the current migration policy. It has opened up a discussion of what should be done to formulate better policies, so that the whole region can prepare sustainable societies and local communities for migrants. This JENESYS programme on migration has set a base for this scheme by connecting and educating potential future leaders in the migration issue, and we should be hopeful for the future of migrant communities in the region.
Individual Report

Yukiko ABE (Japan)
M.A Candidate, Asia Pacific Studies, Graduate School of Waseda University

After graduating from Tokyo Woman's Christian University, Ms. Abe started her career as a news reporter. Ms. Abe is currently an M.A Candidate in Asia Pacific Studies, Graduate School of Waseda University, and her research topic is on immigration policy. While pursuing her studies, she writes articles and works as an interpreter for foreign media, too.

The great experience of JENESYS program

First of all, I would like to thank Japan Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor Yasushi Iguchi, Dr. Stephen Nagy (who introduced this program to me) all participants and those who welcomed us during the program. JENESYS was a really great program and I learned so many things through our visits and first-hand information regarding migration, one of the most important and pressing issues in today’s world. In addition, it was great to spend two weeks with people from 14 different countries. We not only spent a lot of time studying, but also had a lot of fun and these experiences really brought us together.

Prior to the JENESYS program, I had not seriously thought about "Soft Power," but after the program, I now understand its significance and believe that cultural exchange creates great potential for the future. I hope that through our daily activities the relationships between countries in the Asia and Oceania region can be enhanced.

Current situation of migration in Japan.

Foreigners are becoming increasingly visible in Japanese society and Japan is gradually being internationalized. In 2007, Japan officially had 2.15 million non-Japanese residents, accounting for 1.69 percent of the total population of 127 million. The number of non-Japanese residents has increased by approximately 40% over the past 10 years. In addition to this number, the Japanese government estimated that there were 149,785 illegal immigrants whose visas have expired, residing in Japan as of January 2008 (Immigration Bureau, 2007).

The total number of registered foreign nationals as of 2007
Source: Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

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Foreign residents in Japan 2.15 million =1.69% of the total population of 127 million in Japan

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Traditionally, Japan has not accepted foreign workers. In 1991, the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (ICRRA) was revised to welcome laborers of Japanese heritage, nikkei, to address the shortage of laborers during the bubble economy. The Japanese government announced a dual-tier immigration policy in 1999. The government officially expressed that Japan aims to more actively promote the acceptance of highly skilled foreign laborers in order to achieve socioeconomic revitalization and to promote the further internationalization of Japan. In contrast, the government is not willing to accept unskilled workers, stating that Japanese society is not well prepared to accept them. In addition, the number of refugees accepted is also quite low.

Japan has yet to fully develop a framework for the provision of social welfare and the protection of foreign nationals’ human rights. Many problems like education, the national health-care system and language still remain and these sometimes trigger social problems.

How the economic crisis has impacted immigrants in Japan

After the financial crisis in September 2008, foreign laborers, especially those who are unskilled, were found to be the most vulnerable members of Japanese society. Many suddenly lost their jobs as temporary workers when employers chose to lay off short-term workers with little job security. In addition, some lost their housing along with their temporary work contracts.

Impact on nikkei workers

The worsening economy has forced many nikkei workers, as well as Japanese temporary workers and other foreign temporary workers, out of their jobs. Many factories, particularly those of auto industry subcontractors and electrical component manufacturers, decided to cut production and refused to renew work contracts with temporary workers due to the recession. nikkei were dramatically affected because the majority of them had worked as temporary workers for a long time. It is quite difficult for them to find alternative jobs in a different industry due to their limited skills and Japanese language ability.

Their children also have faced serious difficulties in their studies. A growing number of students enrolled in private ethnic schools have stopped attending school, as parents have become unable to pay tuition fees (students’ tuition is those schools’ only source of revenue). According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Education, there were 6,373 students attending ethnic schools for children from South America in December 08 but this number fell to just 3,881 by February 09.

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1 Nikkei are the second- and third-generation blood descendants of Japanese emigrants overseas, who have returned to work and stay in Japan. They are accepted unconditionally as laborers, along with their spouses and children. By the end of 2007, there were 316,967 Brazilians and 59,696 Peruvians out of 2.15 million non-Japanese residents in Japan (Immigration Bureau, 2007).

2 The bubble economy in Japan was from 1986 to 1991. The Japanese real estate and stock prices were quite high (bubble).

3 I think this double standards policy contradicts the revision of the immigration law in 1991, to welcome nikkei workers.

4 The Japanese government ratified the UN Refugee Convention in 1982 but the number of refugees accepted is small. From 1982 to 2008, 508 people were accepted as refugees although 7,297 people applied for refugee status in Japan during this period.
to Brazil or Peru. While in Japan for many years, they lost many opportunities to network with non-migrants and organizations in their homeland. Some of them have confided in nikkei residents in Japan, saying that they want to come back.

The Japanese government also started a job training program for nikkei, focusing on Japanese language learning as Japanese language proficiency is often encountered as a barrier to finding employment. The budget is 1 billion, 80 million yen for fiscal 2009. Financial support for nikkei children is also scheduled. The budget is 3.7 billion for fiscal 2009.

Learning through the JENESYS Program

One of the most impressive things in this program was visiting Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Gunma prefecture on May 15, 2009. I was shocked to discover their current situation. I am ashamed to say that I did not have any idea about what kind of life they spent and the form of public assistance they receive after landing in Japan. After completing the JENESYS program, I talked about my experiences with my friends and colleagues. Some, including people who work for the media, did not even know about the existence of refugees in Japan.

The stories which we heard from Tin Win, president of the Federation of Workers’ Union of the Burmese Citizen and Zaw Min Htut, President of the Burmese Rohingya Association were sorrowful. After the economic crisis, many refugees have been laid off because their work contracts were temporary. According to Htut, only 20 out of about 200 Rohingya refugees in Tatebayashi area in Gunma still have work whilst the others are jobless. Because of their unsustainable status and limited Japanese language ability, they are unable to find new jobs or to access social welfare programs. Their lives are becoming desperate. Those people who came to Japan as refugees have no choice but to stay in Japan even if they can not find any jobs or receive any social insurance from the Japanese government.

I also had the opportunity to talk with a UNHCR staff member in Tokyo after the JENESYS programme. According to him, this spring the Japanese government stopped providing official financial assistance for asylum seekers who are forbidden to work in Japan, until they are officially recognized as refugees. This is because of the increasing number of asylum seekers in Japan and the shortage of government funding for them. Some refugees end up being homeless.

On the following day after we listened to the stories of Rohingya refugees, we visited an Indian IT company located in one of the most expensive office buildings in Tokyo. The workers were all highly skilled. They happily explained how Japanese people have been wonderful through their wonderful experiences in Japan. Actually they are very successful people in Japan and I got the impression that they are treated very well by both the government and Japanese people. It is only natural for them to have a very good impression of Japan.

This gap between refugees and highly skilled workers

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The Japanese government provides refugee applicants with financial assistance for living expenses, rent and medical expenses for 3 or 4 months. For living expenses, those over 12 years of age receive 1,500 yen and those under 12 are eligible for 750 yen per day. For rent, a single person receives 40,000 yen and a family gets 60,000 yen per month. Many refugee applicants actually prefer to work illegally than to accept a small amount of money, which is not enough to pay for the cost of living in Japan. However, under the deepening recession, this assistance has been very important for them, although now it is only available to refugee applicants who have sick children. The procedure in which the Japanese government decides whether the applicant is a refugee or not, takes two years on average.
is apparently a part of Japanese society.

I was also inspired by many people whom I met in the program. In Kani City and the Okubo area in Shinjuku, local Japanese people are determined to co-exist with non-Japanese people. In Okubo, people have built community networks and volunteer to teach Japanese to non-Japanese children. In Kani city, I heard the warm-hearted words by an elder man, the director of NPO Kani International Association, “It is joyful to live with people who have different ethnic and culture backgrounds, because we can create a new culture together.”

In Oizumi Town in Gunma, Ms. Takano, a representative of the Oizumi Nippaku (Japan-Brazil) Center in Gunma Prefecture told us of the difficulties Japanese-Brazilians have faced in building strong relationships with local Japanese people, as well as their positive experiences in Japan. Through her tears and smile, I learned that it is not easy to integrate into a new society but it is possible if one does not give up.

Future Immigration Policies for the Asia-Oceania Region

Each country of the world currently faces migration issues. I hope that the regions of Asia and Australasia will be closer in the future economically, socially and emotionally. One of the ways to achieve this goal is to create more opportunities to discuss and build a framework in which future immigration policies can be developed. I believe that together we can do this. And the JENESYS program is a part of the process.

Thank you and see you again.
Is Obama a Possible Story in Korea or Japan?
- Discrimination and Violence, Inconvenient Truths about Immigrants in S. Korea

Oi Hyun KIM (Republic of Korea)
Staff Reporter, The Hankyoreh

Mr. Kim was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from Division of Humanities, Yonsei University, with majors in Chinese and Asian History. He has also studied in China between 2000 and 2001 at Soochow University and in Japan between 2002 and 2003 at Hosei University. Since 2006, he has been a staff reporter of international team at The Hankyoreh. Mr.Kim's interests as a reporter evolve around the idea of global community as well as immigration issues in Korea, especially those related to migrant workers and international marriage.

1. Nguyen’s Death

I learned that there are bitter trials in life, but I failed to overcome them.
- Nguyen, 32-year-old Vietnamese migrant worker in Kyeonggi, Republic of Korea

Nguyen was found dead on Mar. 11 2009, leaving a short letter to his family in Vietnam. He committed suicide in a dormitory fifty-two days after he re-entered the country. He used to work for an automobile parts company in Kyeonggi Province for three years and had gone home for visa renewal. In January, Nguyen returned to the same company, which dismissed him due to shrinking profits two months later. He still needed to make money to send to his family, and he kept going back and forth to the career center for a job, only in vain. Nguyen began to live in with a friend from Vietnam to cut the cost of living, but still had to borrow money from others. His job loss was a big burden on him, as Korean law prohibits migrant workers from looking for jobs more than two months after becoming unemployed. On the day he killed himself, he was robbed of his wallet, where he had kept some money and his registration card. This led him further into despair. In his jacket, the police found some twenty letters of introduction, but his final choice was not among them.

This tragic incident has called for an immediate concern in the society. It was a signal that the economic crisis could bring further intricacy to immigration matters, while the country has not successfully coped with them even in friendlier circumstances.

2. Future Korea Will Accept More and More Migrants

South Korea has been and will be accepting more and more migrants to each and every aspect of the society, because the country is in need of migrants for inevitable reasons. One reason is the increasing insufficiency of labor forces due to the rapid aging of the society. By 2019, ten years from now, the median age of the Korean population is expected to become 43.3. The over-65-year-old population will hit 15 percent. The population growth rate will go down to zero, beginning an era of minus growth. With fewer and fewer people who can work, produce and consume, the society will have to call for foreign elements. This is not a new phenomenon, considering that even now, the low-income and low-skilled occupations are regarded as jobs for migrant workers, which will expand to wider fields in the future.
The other need of migrants derives from marriage. Due to the severity of the country’s urban concentration, it has become difficult for male farmers to find spouses, forcing them to seek chances out of Korea. Low-income laborers of urban areas are in the same difficulty as well. Matchmaker agencies are in business and the farmers and laborers are getting married to women from China, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Uzbekistan and many other countries. Government data shows that 122,552 foreigners in Korea are married to Koreans as of December 2008, and 88 percent of them are females. 13 percent of the marriages last year were from different nationalities. It has become easier than ever to find children with a foreign parent in elementary schools.

While there are needs, there is also an unavoidable inflow of migrants caused by regional politics, the North Korean refugees. Year by year we see an increasing number: 2,548 North Koreans defected to the South in 2007, more than sixty times the 41 defectors in 1995. Ravages of dearth made it possible for them to risk the fear of captivity and escape from the totalitarian regime. Harsh famine in the North is expediting more and more defectors and they are building their own community in the South. If the long-anticipated reunification of two Koreas takes place, this wave of migration from North to South in pursuit of economic prosperity will make an exodus.

3. Homogeneity, Immaturity and Tragedy

Located on a peninsula, Korea historically has hardly ever experienced such an increase of migration. Aside from military conquests by China and Japan, few racial interchange took place in the peninsula, which intensified the homogeneity. The unprecedented increase of migration in recent years has resulted in many cases of misconceptions and wrongdoing. Low efficiency of communication and lack of cultural understanding has led to discrimination and even violence.

For example, 47.7 percent of marriage-related female immigrants are reported to have experienced domestic violence, which have sometimes led to even more dreadful tragedies. In January, an 18-year-old Cambodian wife, who came to Korea in April last year, accidentally stabbed her 39-year-old Korean husband to death. He had been beating and kicking the woman, 3-months-pregnant with his own child. In 2007 and 2008, three Vietnamese women who were married to Koreans and lost their lives, drew the attention of Korean and Vietnamese media. One was beaten to death by her husband, another fell from the ninth floor of an apartment building while escaping from the husband’s family, and the other killed herself. All of them were as young as twenty years of age and reported to have suffered severe domestic violence.

While the social security nets for migrants remain ill prepared, their population is growing day by day. Unless successful harmony among all members of the society is achieved, Korea may go through a tragic discord of races.

The worst outcome in the future could be classification of ethnic groups, for example, Asian immigrants and North Koreans respectively claiming to be “more Korean,” second to the native South Koreans. Even among the North Korean community, economic disparity could exist between those who escaped from the North and those who remained. Korea will have to go through the racial struggles that the U.S. and European countries have been experiencing for centuries, unless the society is prepared to accept them.

4. It Will NOT Stop

The global economic crisis is threatening migrants that they might lose their jobs. When “even the native Koreans are losing jobs,” it means that a harder time has arrived for migrants. The migrant workers are “last-invited, first-kicked” in every society without a historic tradition of migration.

The inflow of migrants in Korea, however, will keep growing with the inevitable reasons mentioned above. Even the economic crisis might not have much influence,
considering what happened during Asia Financial Crisis of 1997. The number of migrant workers shrank temporarily but sprang up in following years, because there was no haven in Asia from the crisis while wages were still higher in Korea. Besides, their job sectors in the 3D (difficult, dirty and dangerous) industry seldom had serious competition with local Koreans, who wouldn’t take the job anyway.

Upon realization of indispensability, the government is also trying a variety of policy support for immigrants. “Multicultural Society” has become a famous slogan among central and municipal governments. Support programs and facilities for non-Korean laborers and spouses are built across the country. These efforts are aimed at winning awareness from the public, to share understanding and tolerance towards immigrants. Nevertheless, the migrants still suffer discrimination and exclusion from the society. Many matrimonial immigrants are helplessly enduring the suppressive treatments, as they must stay married for two years at least, in order to achieve their Korean citizenship. What’s worse, undocumented migrant workers are hardly guaranteed of minimum humanitarian treatment. Complaints of payment delays and cases of unequal contracts are endlessly reported and even increased.

5. When Can the Korean Dream Prove Itself?
South Korea has been under ideological confrontation against the North for half a century. Accordingly, civil society and labor community’s major concern has been focused on overcoming ideological disputes in the society to help complete a balanced democracy. Nowadays migration has become a major issue for them, implying that migrants are one of the most vulnerable groups of people. A lot of movies and TV shows adapt stories from migrant communities. Comparative studies about migration with countries of similar migration histories like Japan and Germany are on the way. The whole society seems to have agreed to stop them from ending their lives here without realizing their dreams.

Last year, American dream proved itself with the election of President Barack Obama. Maybe it’s time to ask when Korea can promise such a proof.

6. When Can Japan have Fujimori and Honda?
I am a journalist working for a national newspaper and while writing about the society’s changes and development, I have been studying the migration issues with deep interests. I have covered a variety of migrant-related topics: the changing history of a migrant workers’ town in Kyeonggi; difficulties and worries of North Korean teenagers who have defected to the South; efficiency of Korean language education to marital migrants. I have my own experience of teaching Korean to foreign soldiers in the country.

During my participation to this year’s JENESYS Group E program, I was able to observe how Japan is coping with the rapidly increasing migrants. It was interesting and encouraging to see efforts among civil societies, of mingling with migrants, offering assistant (including bilingual) education and building communities together. The public sector seemed to be lagging far behind those endeavors of the private sector. It is likely to take time for the government bodies to satisfy the civil societies. They will have to work on those policies that have privileged
Nikkei Brazilian immigrants, those that have regarded the migrant workers as trainees and those that have neglected the importance of accepting international refugees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korean Chinese</td>
<td>6,169</td>
<td>25,518</td>
<td>31,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>3,058</td>
<td>29,012</td>
<td>32,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>26,951</td>
<td>27,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillippino</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>5,657</td>
<td>5,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>4,708</td>
<td>5,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>2,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolian</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>2,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
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<td>2,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>1,053</td>
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<td>1,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3,539</td>
<td>4,469</td>
<td>8,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total / %</td>
<td>14,753</td>
<td>107,799</td>
<td>122,552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Immigrants with Korean spouses. The reality is that absolute majority of them are Chinese, who wouldn't look much different from Koreans. (KNSO, As of Dec 31 2008)

One concern is the temptation of taking pictures, because publicity always carries the chance of being misinterpreted, misleading and concealing reality. This is the major criticism over the Korean government's spoiled effort of emphasizing the importance of a so-called “multicultural” family. They published many pictures of marital migrants from Southeast Asia with their kids to draw media attention, taking advantage of their different appearances. The reality is that more than fifty percent of foreign women in Korea who are married to Koreans are Chinese, and don’t look very different. In addition, the marital migrants are not the majority among the migrant society. The number of foreign laborers in Korea is at least four times larger, but these migrants are still appealing for equal treatment, which they haven’t received yet, because they are being paid less attention. The Korean government’s labor policies are still being criticized as considering the laborers as temporary residents in rotation, thus outweighing and prioritizing the marital migrants who will stay and give birth to a new population in the country.

Japanese modern history of migration cannot be told without mentioning the Koreans and Chinese who moved to the islands in the beginning of twentieth century. These people suffered the famine and poverty of wartime together with the Japanese society and contributed to the country’s rapid development. They are the majority of migrants in Japan but are still seen as foreigners in many ways. The question, “are they recognized enough?” must be answered affirmatively, but it remains questionable. For example, Cho-sen, a term used for the country of origin, where Korean migrants of the early 20th century came from, needs to find a proper translation. It shouldn’t be kept being translated as North Korea, while, in the real politics; Japan is quite hostile to North Korea.

Success stories of companies like Lotte or people like Masayoshi Son are encouraging signs of migrants to Japan, yet their political presence is rarely seen. Japan has welcomed overseas Japanese migrants’ political success in their countries, like the controversial Peruvian ex-President Alberto Fujimori and U.S. Congressman Michael Honda. Just like Korea’s Korean dream, Japan also needs to suggest evidences of the Japanese dream to migrants who are chasing theirs.
Potential Role of Community in Re-integrating Returning Migrants

Amphapone SAYASENH (Laos)
Research Officer, National Economic Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment

Ms. Sayasenh received her Bachelor of Business Administration from National University of Singapore. In 2007, she began to work for National Economic Research Institute as a research officer. In 2008, she was assigned to be in charge of the project, “Out-migration from Lao PDR to Thailand: Issues in raising human development.” Also, she was a co-researcher to conduct research on “How to prepare Lao banking sector for economic liberalization.” She regularly monitors Macroeconomic situation, specifically on monetary sector and international trade.

I. Background

I am currently working at the National Economic Research Institute (NERI), Lao PDR. I have been working at NERI for only two years, but I was fortunate enough that during my first year in NERI I was given an opportunity to conduct a research on the topic: “Out-migration from Lao PDR to Thailand: issues in raising human development.” From conducting the mentioned research, I have built my interest on issues relating to migration; and that interest has motivated me to look for an opportunity to enhance my knowledge in this field.

In March 2009, few months after completing my research, I was informed about the JENESYS programme with the theme topic of “Migration and the role of community amid the global financial crisis.” With a strong interest in the topic of migration and a desire to enhance my knowledge in this field, I decided to enter the competition. I was selected as one of the winners eligible to participate in this fruitful programme held from May 12 to May 24, 2009. This programme would allow me to see new aspects of migration, particularly the role of community toward migrant workers during the hard time amid the global financial crisis. Before sharing my experiences from participating in this programme, I would like to offer a picture of migration in Lao PDR.

II. Migration in Lao PDR

Number of migrants and foreign exchange inflow

Most of the international migration from Lao PDR can be characterized as labor migration with a primary destination country of Thailand. The majority of Lao migrants to Thailand are irregular migrants. Although opportunities to migrate to Thailand legally have increased recently, through the implementation of MoU on Employment Cooperation signed by the Governments of Thailand and Lao PDR, the process remains time consuming and expensive. Therefore, large numbers of Lao workers continue to choose irregular migration channels over the legal ones.

Due to the irregularity of status of Lao migrant workers in Thailand, the concrete number of Lao migrants in Thailand is far from being obtainable. However, various NGOs and government agencies of the two countries have estimated the number to be somewhere between 200,000 and 300,000 people, which accounts for more than seven percent of the total labor force.\(^1\)

This group of people has contributed significantly to socio-economic development and poverty alleviation of the country via remittances. This amount of money is particularly important because it flows directly to poor families in rural areas where job opportunities and basic infrastructures are limited. With the assumed number of migrant workers and the average amount of money remitted home, it is estimated that Lao migrant workers in Thailand send home about USD 190 million in cash and USD 13 million in kind per year.

Migration factors

Lao PDR has been growing at the rate of 6 percent since 2001 and above 7 percent since 2005. A large proportion

of this growth contributed by the increase in foreign direct investment in the hydropower and mining sectors, and non-resource sectors like agriculture and tourism. By association, the poverty rate has been on the decline as well.

Though the country has made significant progress on its economic growth and poverty reduction, the outcomes are uneven. Many areas are still underdeveloped with no basic infrastructure and limited job opportunities. As a result, workers in those areas are pushed to migrate to find better-remunerated activities in other countries, particularly Thailand. A limited job opportunity is not the only factor that influences their migration decision. Underemployment arising from seasonality of agricultural work, higher pay and higher demand for low skilled workers in Thailand, proximity and similarities in languages and culture are all also push and pull factors contributing to migration decision.

**Migrant worker condition in Thailand**

Being unskilled and low educated labor, Lao migrant workers are likely to have access to only unskilled work such as domestic services, construction, agriculture and livestock, fishery, manufacturing, and in the service sector. Though it seems that many kinds of jobs are available for migrant workers, they are usually hired as general labor with a poor quality of work known as 3Ds (dirty, dangerous, and difficult) work. In addition, these sectors offer less incentive compared to industrial and commercial sectors and thus is less favorable by Thai workers. As a result, the supply of domestic labor is limited and generally filled by migrant workers. In addition, their illegal status, low education and limited awareness of their rights make them vulnerable to exploitation, forced labor and employment violation.

Being aware of such vulnerability, the governments of the two countries signed the MoU on employment cooperation, which aims to decrease the numbers of irregular migrants and their vulnerability, through foreign labor registration and the introduction of legal channels for migration. However, high fees and time consuming procedures have failed to attract many employers and migrant workers. Therefore, many workers still remain with their illegal status.

**Potential impacts of the financial crisis on Lao Migrant workers**

The financial crisis has hurt economies around the globe. Thailand, one of Asia's big exporting countries, has inevitably been hit by the crisis. Many firms and factories have needed to close down or downsize their production. When it comes to downsizing, foreign workers are most likely to be laid off first. In addition, their low skill and illegal status make it more difficult for them to look for new jobs. As a result, many workers need to return home or are being repatriated back home.

**III. Role of communities in Japan**

*personal observation from participating in the JENESYS programme*

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Japan's economic boom and the increase of its aging population have led to the growing number of foreign workers. Unlike the first few decades after Japan opened its doors to the outside world in the late 1800s, the inflow of foreigners to Japan is now more diversified in terms of countries of origin and skills. For instance, Indian IT specialists are regarded as expatriates; while refugees from Myanmar and many migrants from China, Korea and other can only land lower circuit jobs.

The high level of economic development in Japan has allowed Japanese society to have foreign language products translated into Japanese. In addition, many world top manufactures such as automobile and electronic industries are Japanese and have their plants in Japan. Thus, the promotion of foreign languages in the Japanese education system, in the working environment, and in Japanese society as a whole is limited; and the majority of Japanese have become limitedly internationally oriented. This, as a result, becomes a big challenge for foreign workers and their family members in integrating into Japanese society when their Japanese language ability is limited. Moreover, their different culture and a lack of knowledge of Japanese norms add more difficulty into the integration process. It is, therefore, necessary to have a comprehensive integration policy; and the role of communities is particularly vital to create a harmonious and mutually beneficial multicultural society, especially in a time of crisis when foreign workers are generally first to be hit in the labor market.

As mentioned above, migrants in Japan are from different countries and possess different skill levels. Thus, the communities that migrants associate with are different. For example, highly skilled migrants and entrepreneurs, such as those from India, can afford to have their own community which can support and help its members to overcome the problems they are facing in Japan.

On the other hand, low and semi skilled labor such as refugees from Myanmar, migrants from Brazil, the Philippines etc., are more vulnerable especially during the time of crisis. Being in the lower circuit, they are unable
to have and run their own communities. This is why local communities and NGOs communities are so crucial in integrating them with Japanese and assisting them during the crisis. In Japan, many local and NGO communities have been successful in helping these migrant workers.

A good example of NGOs assisting migrant workers is the Japan Association for Refugees. JAR’s major activities include providing legal assistance, social and legal counseling, financial assistance as well as aid in finding housing, healthcare as well as obtaining employment, as part of its aim to help migrants lead an independent and decent life in Japan.

In addition, a good example of local communities is in Kani City in Gifu Prefecture where their immigration policy is proactive with clear aims to form a multicultural society where people, regardless of nationality, can live comfortably and in harmony. The municipality has provided various services for their foreign residents and created platforms for Japanese and foreigners to exchange and interact. For instance, the website of Kani city is available in three languages: Japanese, English, and Portuguese. In the Partnership Division under the umbrella of the City Hall Governance, there is a consulting counter for foreign residents where they can seek advice on problems regarding daily life and city administration procedures. The consultation too, is in three languages. In addition, to prepare foreign workers’ children for the Japanese education system, the Rose Classroom was established to teach basic Japanese to foreign children. Furthermore, the Kani City Multicultural Center (FREVIA) was also established in 2008 to be a platform for social and cultural gatherings, and to be an information center for foreign residents. With this comprehensive service provided by the local municipality, foreign residents in Kani City have actively and comfortably worked together with Japanese, and Kani City has become a relatively more harmonious multicultural society.

IV. Potential role of a local community in assisting Lao returning workers: lesson learnt from Japan

Though migrations in Lao PDR and Japan have different aspects - Japan is a receiving country while Lao PDR is a sending country - the role of a local community like what exists in Kani City can be a model for a local community in Lao PDR to assist returning migrant workers.

As mentioned earlier, during the financial crisis, some Lao workers are being laid off and need to voluntarily return home, and some are being repatriated back by Thai police. In both cases, migrant workers have to restart their livelihood. Being away from home for a period of time, they lack awareness of job opportunities available, and for some reason some of them are viewed as different and hardly accepted by local people.

For cases like this, the good example of Kani City should be learnt from and applied in the local context. For example, local municipalities should provide job information and business consultation centers to make returning migrants aware of available opportunities. In addition, local municipalities should also create a platform for returning migrants to interact with the local people, and re-integrate to their homeland.
Lessons from Japan

Renuka T BALASUBRAMANIAM (Malaysia)
Chair, Migrant and Refugee Working Group of the Bar Council Human rights Committee,
Advocate and Solicitor, Messrs T. Balasubramaniam

Ms. Balasubramaniam studied Humanities at South Australian Matriculation and later received a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from University of London. She obtained her Certificate in Legal Practice in 2003. Since 2007, she has been the advocate and solicitor for Messrs T. Balasubramaniam. Also, she is currently Chair of Migrant and Refugee Working Group of the Bar Council Human rights Committee, volunteer Lawyer for Legal Aid Centre, legal advisor for Labour Resource Centre, and so forth. From September 2008 to January 2009, she was engaged as Retainer Counsel for UNHCR.

How do more developed states determine their migration policies? Who are the key players?

Between May 12th and 24th 2009, I had some of these questions answered. A two-week excursion to three prefectures in Japan, with a high incidence of migrants and immigrants was made possible by the Japan Foundation of Kuala Lumpur. The JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme was themed “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis”. Yet, although the focus was meant to be on assistance to migrants amid the global financial crisis, I learned that many of the efforts had begun long before the financial crisis and that they were holistic in that they did not have the ad-hoc-ism so commonly seen in the context of Malaysian policy.

Migration in Malaysia
The exploitation, extortion and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment that migrants in Malaysia find themselves in, is a recurrent theme. The Malaysian Bar, through the work of its committees has spoken out strongly against this trend on numerous occasions. The aggressors are the Malaysian Government’s non-existent rights based migration policy and the consequent public attitude toward the so-called “illegal immigrant.”

On 28.2.2009, the Deputy Human Resource Minister, was quoted as urging employers to retrench migrant workers first before retrenching locals. This is being misinterpreted by local employers as permission to terminate the services of their migrant workers without compensation. The consequences to migrant workers has been disastrous, as even before they have an opportunity to seek redress at local labour offices, the law allows for the employer to terminate the employment permit and to repatriate the migrants.

Language and the isolated conditions in which they are maintained is their biggest obstacle. Several local civil society groups submitted a Memorandum to the Ministry of Human Resources, calling for a review of this policy. It resulted in nothing more than a cautionary statement for employers to adhere to the labour laws of Malaysia. This was as good as doing nothing, as although Malaysian labour laws are regionally comparable, their enforcement is not.

The Japanese experience
Japanese society, being homogeneous, has deeply held attitudes concerning non-Japanese. These attitudes have a historical foundation in Japan’s first nationality law, passed in 1899. As this was shortly after the Sino-Japanese war ended, a time when fears of a large scale Chinese migration was sweeping the Asia Pacific region, Japan adopted a restrictive approach based on ius sanguinis (that is citizenship derived from descent or “bloodline”), rather than on place of birth or residence. The psychological effect of this appears to have indelibly connected Japanese everywhere, regardless of where in the world a person of Japanese heritage may be.

Needless to say, this link has been further reinforced by the unique culture and language of Japan. Against this historical backdrop, it would seem that the question of migrants and immigrants integrating into Japanese

1 “Reinventing Japan” by Tessa Morris Suzuki
society would be a no-brainer. Conversely, during the “bubble economy” period (1986-1991), in order to address the labour shortage, government policy to regroup the diaspora of Japanese appears to have emerged. The first Japanese immigrants to Brazil and Peru sailed in 1908 in search of a new life. In the early 1990s, second and third generation descendants of Japanese immigrants were invited to return to Japan with their families on three-year renewable work visas. According to 2007 statistics from the Immigration Bureau, Brazilians and Peruvians, known as Nikkei, account for 18% of Japan’s 2.15 million registered foreign nationals.

The office for the coordination of policies on foreign residents - a Cabinet office - is mandated with developing and implementing policies to support Nikkei-Brazilians. Efforts to promote public school enrollment for Nikkei children, job placement, language and retraining programmes as well as efforts to secure stable housing after job displacement, are among the initiatives of the office. One might argue that this was merely an effort to recover a seriously diminishing population. Contrary to practices in Malaysia, there was no basic pre-requisite for migrants to be attached to the sourcing employer in order to obtain immigration status. There was also certainly no discrepancy in the treatment of the blue-collar migrants vis-a-vis white-collar migrants.

The study tour involved visits and briefings at the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice, and visits to Japan’s ambassador to ASEAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Japan Association for Refugees. During these visits, evidence of an evolved local attitude was remarkably present. Three civil society efforts stood out as indicators of Japan’s development. To me, it was these attitudes that reflected the maturity and progress of a nation.

**Kyojukon-Okubo.**

The Non Profit Organization (NPO) “Kyojukon” in Okubo promotes cross-cultural understanding between newcomer migrant and existing Japanese communities, to arrest the undercurrents of xenophobia. This NPO was set up by participants at a seminar organized in 1992 by the residents of the Okubo area. The seminar which was titled, “Developing a community together with foreign residents: How should we accept the influx of foreign migrants in Shinjuku?” was organized to promote dialogue after tensions and minor discord arose between Japanese and non-Japanese in the Okubo area.

The NPO organizes guided walks through areas with a higher incidence of migrant residents where the success stories of migrants are showcased and contemporary incidents involving migrants are discussed. It also makes policy recommendations to the Shinjuku local government towards multiculturalism; it conducts earthquake drills in Japanese as well as some of the other languages prevalent in Shinjuku and also conducts research. With a view to developing and revitalizing its community through communication between Japanese and non-Japanese, the NPO hopes to bridge gaps between Japanese and the migrants residing in the area.

**Minna No Ouchi – Okubo**

The Minna No Ouchi (Everybody’s Home) is a center for children of migrant workers where local Japanese residents volunteer to tutor the children in order to assist them with the language difficulties they’re up against. Many of the children were thrown into the Japanese language and system of education after having commenced primary education in their home countries, and in their own languages. The project which was started by Hiroko Kobayashi when she learned how the Shinjuku Ward’s (district council) "instructions for adaptation" – a form of interpretation service provided to foreign students to assist them with school – was inadequate for their needs. According to her, the 90 hours provided by the ward could never be sufficient to help the children to pass secondary school entrance examinations.

One can only imagine the strength and courage that is expected of these children forced by the circumstances - usually financial hardship - of their parents, to uproot and start new lives in Japan. The participation of the residents in the tutoring of the children has been observed to have a dual effect. The children feel welcomed by the locals whilst the locals sense the isolation of the children and respond with compassion.
The Ohizumi Education Center
A similar school has been set up in Ohizumi by a concerned citizen. It caters to approximately 300 Japanese-Brazilian children who have not been enrolled in local schools because they found it too difficult to understand the language. In addition, Japanese-Brazilians have a great deal of difficulty integrating into Japanese society because of cultural differences. Local Japanese citizens have often complained that their samba parties went on all night and were loud, that they were unhygienic and that they did not know how to drive (presumably by Japanese standards)!

This school tutors the children in Portuguese and Japanese in the hopes that they may eventually be able to assimilate into local schools whilst at the same time, anticipating that they may return to Brazil. Its Principal and the president of the NPO formed for the purpose – Mrs Shoko Takano – has sustained the school over the years by securing funding from generous non-governmental donors and the Brazilian embassy.

The Multi Cultural Center in Kani City
As Japan has a system where local councils register all residents, the city of Kani has annual statistics of the number of foreign residents. Observing a marked increase in the ratio of foreign residents (6.7%) in 2009, the city prioritized working on harmonizing its multicultural society. Among the efforts it undertook were providing language classes for children in preparation for a Japanese education, supporting enrollment in high school, publicizing issues concerning multiculturalism, organizing recreational events where cultural study and exchange were to be had and managing a city multicultural center. The center also organizes efforts where foreign residents are invited to participate in community events such as environmental clean ups.

In order to assist migrants with job placement, a Part Time (Work) Bank was initiated by the city to enable both employers and migrants to register their requirements with a view to job matching. Again, however, inadequate language ability and skills remains the key obstacle towards improving employment.

As is quite apparent from the report above, the roles played selflessly by civil society and extraordinary people struck me most of all. These efforts, which may seem small, make a big, big difference in the lives of migrants and their children. In addition, they force the evolution of the host society itself. Malaysian society may not be as progressive as the Japanese, but many of the things being done in Japan are not unlike efforts that have been started here by various NGOs. The experience on the whole was an indicator to me that the amount of effort a group puts into a cause is relative. However much the group puts in, really is good enough.

Migration is not a national issue. It is a cross-border issue affecting the entire region of South, South East and East Asia. Recognizing this, civil society groups across this region are actively consolidating their work towards achieving a common good. Yet again, language barriers, education and the resources of the groups remain formidable impediments to cohesive action. Development policies that are neo-liberal in most countries in this region are also a further stumbling block to rights-based migration policies in underdeveloped Asian countries. It would seem that it is in this regard that cooperation between countries in South, South East and East Asia and Oceania can play its biggest role.

In January, at the World Economic Forum Japan’s Prime Minister Taro Aso pledged that Japan will hand out $17 billion in development aid to other Asian countries to help them face the global financial crisis. In June 2009, a joint statement was released by the East Asia Summit and ASEAN plus 3 to the extent that Japan supports the efforts being made by Asian countries through a variety of measures including up to two trillion yen of official development assistance.

Yet the East Asia Summit and ASEAN plus 3 are committed to ensuring that in restoring confidence, growth and jobs, promoting global trade and investment and strengthening financial regulation to rebuild trust, protectionism will be rejected.

In light of the fact that arguments forwarded by free trade proponents are explicitly and essentially premised on capital (and other factors) being immobile between nations, Herman Daly’s alternative view is that the application of the comparative advantage theory to the present day is illogical. Under the new globalization
regime, capital tends simply to flow to wherever costs are lowest—that is, to pursue absolute advantage.2

Protectionists fault the free trade model as being reverse protectionism in disguise, that of using tax policy to protect foreign manufacturers from domestic competition. By ruling out revenue tariffs on foreign products, government must fully rely on domestic taxation to provide its revenue, which falls disproportionately on domestic manufacturing.3

More insidiously however, in the wake of globalization, it is “human” capital that is flowing across borders and states are trading in them as with commodities. A migrant worker generates more man hours than a local worker. His inability to communicate and isolation at the workplace prevents him from seeking redress for breaches to his employment contract or crimes committed against him. Inadequate enforcement is an obstacle to receiving compensation for personal injury or death. Restrictive laws prevent organization among themselves. Human rights activists across the region vehemently oppose these trends because the consequence is the degeneration of the citizens of a state into a commodity and a corresponding disregard for the inherent dignity of the human person.

What proportion of the funds allocated to development assistance to be utilized in sustainable development or poverty reduction is left to be seen. This is where regional cooperation may be able to play a role. It is governments that must insist on safeguards for their cross-border citizens. Similarly, it is governments that must insist on sustainable development.

The Japanese Post War Economic miracle was lead by its then Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda. As Prime Minister, he advocated the “income-doubling plan” and “politics of patience and reconciliation,” emphasizing economic development in Japan, while minimizing societal conflict. He was remembered as the man who pulled together a national consensus for economic growth. His plan predicted a 7.2 percent growth rate (thereby doubling GNP over ten years), but by the second half of the 1960s, average growth had climbed to an astounding 11.6 percent.4

Japan was united in its desire to emerge like a phoenix from the ashes and it succeeded because of this consensus, and the incentive of the doubled income. In such an environment, trust, confidence and growth were a natural consequence. Economic policies that serve the interests of all key stakeholders – not just the more powerful stakeholders - are destined for success. This is an irrefutable truth.

4 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayato_Ikeda
Individual Report

Maw Maw TUN (Myanmar)
Head of Admin and Finance Unit,
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Ms. Maw Maw Tun holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Dagon University, Diploma in Management Accounting from London Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Diploma in Business Administration from Myanmar Human Resources, and Diploma in International Law from University of Yangon. She worked for Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue as the Finance & Administrative Assistant and for World Health Organization Myanmar Office as Secretary. Currently, she is Head of Admin and Finance Unit at IOM.

Migration is a major global issue these days as more and more people move across borders for economic and political reasons. There are now about 192 million people living outside their place of birth, which is about 3% of the world’s population.

Most migrants are migrant workers and they contribute to economic and social development in both countries of destination and countries of origin. The global financial crisis is leading to a downturn in the global economy which will affect migrant workers. Possible effects are job losses, reduction in wages and poorer conditions in the workplace as employers seek to make savings. Jobs are scarce and migrants are at greater risk of discrimination and xenophobia than others are. Thus there is an urgent need to take appropriate measures to protect the rights of migrants in terms of their working and living conditions and in the event of loss of employment.

The JENESYS, Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Programme on Migration and the Role of Community Amid the Global Financial Crisis was organized by the Japan foundation from 12th May-24th May 2009 in Japan and I was invited to participate in the programme. 19 young men and women of different backgrounds from 14 countries in East Asia and Oceania were invited to participate in this programme. The programme is composed of lectures, group discussions, visits to government offices, visits to various country sites and meetings with migrant communities and refugees. We also had the chance to exchange information and share our opinions on migration and the impact of the financial crisis on the countries of participants from the presentation of country reports given by each participant and discussion of each report on the first day. This gave us the opportunity to understand the current situation of each country and migration issues from different perspectives.

The aim of the programme was to study the impact of the global financial crisis on migrants and the economy, and the role of the central government, local government, NGOs and communities. Taking Japan as a case study, during the two weeks, we learnt about migration issues in Japan through lectures as well as meetings with various actors related to migration; migrant communities, NPOs and local municipalities. We also had the chance to meet with government offices; the Cabinet Office, Nagoya Immigration Bureau and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with officials, who warmly welcomed us and explained to us the current policies and services provided.

Migrants who work outside their home countries face specific vulnerabilities such as language and cultural differences, separation from friends, family and community, difficult living and working environments, vulnerability to poor health and exploitation and human trafficking. Some migrant communities in Japan have established community centres to support themselves and overcome the problems they are facing in host communities. Examples include the Ohizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center which was founded by a Japanese-Brazilian Community leader and is a private Brazilian school for Brazilian migrant children and a Workers’ Union formed by Myanmar migrant workers to assist Myanmar migrant workers and refugees in representing their human and worker rights in Japan. NPOs in Japan are also playing an important role to help out migrant
communities. During our visit, we had the chance to visit the Minna-no Ouchi (Everyone's Home) in Okubo, Shinjuku area, which is an organization that provides Japanese language classes for foreign children living in Japan. In Kani City, Gifu prefecture, we learnt how the local municipality is building a harmonious multicultural society by providing a consulting counter for migrants to get information on city administration procedures and Japanese language classes for migrant children. The website of Kani city is also in three languages; Japanese, English and Portuguese.

As part of the programme, we participated in a site visit to a refugee community and we had the chance to talk with refugees and learn about their situation in Japan. As in many other countries, refugees and undocumented migrants are sometimes exploited by their employers and they cannot report anywhere because of their status. They are also not entitled to unemployment insurance although they are paying for it and they are not covered by any health insurance. Although some refugees are given special permission of residence, such cases are rare and the refugee recognition process itself is a long process which often takes three to five years. During this time, they are not entitled to work and they find it very difficult to survive. They cannot find a suitable job with their professional background. According to the information provided to us, there are doctors and engineers who are washing dishes as they cannot find suitable jobs which match their capability. First, they left their home countries, which cannot employ skilled labour or cannot pay enough for their skills, expecting to find a better job and a better life. Again, in the host country, they cannot find jobs which match their specialized skills and experiences and they end up washing dishes as unskilled labourers to survive there anyway. This can be seen as brain drain from the source country and brain waste in the host country which does not benefit either country or the migrants.

We need better policies to find a way to manage labour migration for the benefit of all: source countries, destination countries and migrant workers themselves. Creation of job opportunities in source countries is one solution to reduce undocumented migration and to protect migrant workers' rights in host countries which will benefit migrants as well as the source and host countries. There are countries with labour shortages and there are countries with unemployment problems. In order to avoid undocumented migrants and such kind of brain waste, labour migration should be legalized by bilateral agreements between states to fulfill the labour shortage of one country, solve the unemployment problem of another country and protect the rights of migrant workers. At the regional level, inter-state cooperation is important to improve migration policies in order to ensure that labour migration makes the best contribution to economic and social development in the region.

Myanmar is one of the developing countries in this region and many people from Myanmar migrate to other developed countries by various channels, formal or informal to seek employment. As I am from this source country, my view on labour migration issues was limited to this perspective but after participating in the JENESYS programme, I have a better understanding of labour migration issues from having a chance to learn about Japan which is a host country and also from exchanging views with participants from other countries in the region from different backgrounds. During this programme, I also had the chance to make wonderful friends from Asian and Oceanic countries and to explore Japan and its culture. I will never forget this wonderful experience and will always be thankful to the Japan Foundation for providing this great opportunity. I believe that the friendships and networks we built during this two week programme, the experiences we shared and what we have learnt will be a valuable contribution to our work as we all are playing a part in this global issue of migration in one way or another.
Opposite ends of the spectrum: Multiculturalism in New Zealand and Japan

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After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Gender and Women’s Studies) from Victoria University of Wellington, Ms. Malloch is presently completing her Honors Degree in International Relations at the same institution. Since 2007, she has been working in the Immigration Policy Team of the Department of Labour as the Policy Analyst. Her key area of responsibility is to lead the development of the Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking. She has also led a policy review of the Victims of Domestic Violence immigration policy.

When it comes to a comparison of demographic dynamics and levels of multiculturalism, New Zealand and Japan are worlds apart. New Zealand is a country that has been formed by immigration; historically this has not been the case for Japan. Japan has maintained a strongly homogenous ethnic culture until quite recently. Even now, migrants make up only 1.6 percent of the population in Japan. This percentage may seem rather small in comparison to the 25 percent of people in New Zealand who are born overseas; however, 1.6 percent of the large Japanese population accounts for over two million people. New Zealand has about one million migrants by comparison. So, how well is Japanese society absorbing these two million migrants into society? In this paper I will discuss my experience of learning about the climate of migration in Japan with reference to New Zealand, and attitudes toward migration and multiculturalism in both countries.

I am employed as a Policy Analyst on the Immigration Policy team at the Department of Labour. Specifically, my key areas of responsibility have been to lead the development of a Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking and to lead a policy review of the Victims of Domestic Violence immigration policy. This work experience has given me a good understanding of both the border security and humanitarian objectives of immigration policy. Through both my employment in the government sector and my ongoing university studies, I am continually improving my expertise in the social and economic impacts of immigration. Participating in the JENESYS Programme was a great way to increase my knowledge of migration trends and drivers in the Asian region. My participation was also an opportunity for me to share New Zealand perspectives on immigration issues and to inform my peers about the direction the New Zealand government is taking to meet the challenges and opportunities of permanent and temporary immigration.

New Zealand immigration policy recognises that immigration is essential and has economic as well as social benefits. There are three pillars to New Zealand’s immigration policy:

- attracting skilled migrants to work in New Zealand
- enabling eligible family members of migrants to be reunited and settle well in New Zealand
- meeting our international obligations to refugees and to those in need of protection, as well as maintaining the relationships we have with Pacific nations with specific immigration policies.

The global economic crisis has had an impact on New Zealand, introducing new challenges for immigration policy. While unemployment is increasing, some skill shortages continue to persist in both high and low skilled occupations.

It is important that immigration policies recognise the needs of the labour market. New Zealand has a programme of permanent migration which leads to citizenship after five years. Immigration policy also facilitates employer access to temporary workers. The New Zealand Government scrutinises migrant job offers to make sure that no New Zealanders are available to do that job in that area, who otherwise could potentially be missing out on a job opportunity. The New Zealand Government recognises that despite the economic crisis, some skill shortages remain. It is working to enable immigration for temporary migrants with the skills New
Zealand needs. For example there is a constant need for healthcare professionals, as there are simply not enough New Zealanders qualified for this work; therefore, we rely on migrants to fill these positions. Considered government reactions to the economic crisis are important so that they do not impede the employer’s ability to hire the staff they need, especially if no citizens or permanent residents are available to do that specific job.

The New Zealand Government encourages long-term settlement to increase the social benefits for both migrant families and host communities. The New Zealand Government also places a high priority on assisting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) with resettling an annual quota of 750 refugees and their families each year. Refugees do not have the option to return to their home country so it is essential that they are fully accepted by their host community and are able to develop a sense of belonging.

I was encouraged to see government departments in Japan considering the issues faced by migrants at a high level. One example of this was the Cabinet Office we visited which had designed and implemented a range of policy measures to assist Nikkei people’s who are finding themselves out of a job (and potentially losing their job-related accommodation at the same time) due to the current economic crisis. While their policy to assist migrants to return home was the most publicised and debated aspect of this policy in an international discourse on migration, there were several other very proactive measures within the policy which aimed to assist Nikkei people’s to stay and find more work. These efforts are admirable and it is good to see them being supported and enhanced.

By sharing views on the Japanese experience of migration with participants from both Japan and the wider East Asia region, I learned that there are many common pillars of understanding about the positive role migration can play in society, that have yet to be realised in Japanese communities. These common pillars of understanding are, firstly, that diversity is generally a benefit to society; secondly, economic imperatives demand that migrant labour fill skills gaps and shortages; and thirdly, that in order for people to settle well, they need to be fully accepted by their community. While these common pillars of understanding are widely accepted, migrants are still being generally marginalised by society in most countries. For example, migrants in Japan face significant social and economic disadvantages, which lead to negative settlement outcomes. This situation is most often due to the language and cultural barriers between migrants and their host communities. It is pleasing to see that language and cultural issues are being addressed by locally supported language schools for migrants’ children.

I was honoured to have been given the opportunity to meet with many children of migrant workers in Japan who are learning the Japanese language alongside their regular studies. Their brave efforts are inspirational. Language barriers tend to be the prominent feature of the relationship between the migrants themselves and Japanese society. Language skills can be the key to opening up opportunities for themselves and their families to succeed in Japanese society both economically through employment and socially though more active participation in community life. By assimilating through language, the next step towards greater social integration becomes more likely.

In the current financial crisis, the challenges migrants face in relation to achieving the level of social inclusion needed for good settlement can be more difficult to bear for many migrants who face unemployment and the subsequent risk of social exclusion. It is the responsibility for host communities to work with migrants to find positive responses to the greater social challenges, and opportunities, presented by multicultural coexistence. Schools that teach Japanese language alongside the general curriculum taught in the children’s mother tongue are a positive step in this direction. They open up opportunities for the children to have an increased economic advantage as they enter higher learning and employment, and can allow them to maintain a sense of identity based on their ethnic and cultural heritage. This type of schooling also gives them the option to be integrated into a Japanese public school as their language proficiency develops.

Diplomatic relations are the key to developing plans to overcome the challenges faced by migrants. Through diplomacy, governments can share ideas and experiences. For example, Japan, which is a nation only recently coming to terms with the need to accommodate a variety of migrants in order to keep the economy functioning, can engage with nations in the Asia-Pacific region who are more experienced in dealing with migration and multicultural issues. Japan can learn from the range of policy initiatives that have been both successful and unsuccessful, to figure out what policy options may be best suited for the Japanese context. This is beginning to happen. Already the Japanese government has sent a delegation to New Zealand in July 2008 to look at how the refugee quota is managed because Japan has recently committed to resettling 20 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) refugees annually. Such diplomatic efforts should be continued across the region because by learning from each others'
experiences governments can fast track progress towards implementing immigration policies that result in positive social and economic outcomes for both host communities and the migrants themselves.
Local communities responding to the global crisis

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Ms. Rimando was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Development Communication in 2000, and Master’s degree in Development Communication in 2005, both from University of the Philippines. Prior to joining ILO in 2004, she worked for Women’s Health and Safe Motherhood Project-Partnership Component as the Community Development Assistant II, and SOS Children’s Villages Philippines as the Communication, Sponsorship and Fund Mobilization Head. Her current position at ILO is the Senior Communication and Public Information Assistant.

The financial and economic downturn has hit countries throughout the world. Early in 2009, job losses increased mostly in formal, electronics, construction, automobile and export-oriented industries. The Philippines, as a labour-sending country, was affected by the return of thousands of migrant workers. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), prospects are the worst since the Great Depression. The global crunch is leading to a jobs crisis which could linger for six to eight years with big risks of prolonged recession.

In the Philippines, exports dropped and imports plunged. Employers tightened their belts and expressed concern on the need to sustain jobs and businesses. Workers face uncertainties of losing their jobs or working on reduced work days. Among the most vulnerable sectors in the Philippines are migrant workers, seafarers and workers in garments, electronics and other export-oriented industries.

The Economic Resiliency Plan (ERP) is the Philippine government’s response to the global crisis. It aims to provide fiscal stimulus through government spending, tax cuts and public-private sector projects to help reduce impacts of the global crisis and prepare the country for recovery. To protect and create jobs, the ERP included the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Programme (CLEEP) in which government agencies set aside part of their budget for emergency employment fund and livelihood projects.

Behind economic figures and employment statistics are people suffering after losing their jobs; employers struggling for their businesses to survive; migrants returning home with higher debts; parents striving to provide for their families; workers coping with stress after being laid off; children working instead of going to school to contribute to the family income; women and young people facing inequalities; and individuals worrying about the future.

Since the onset of the crisis, the ILO office based in Manila received requests for information and interviews with experts and economists as well as individuals who were greatly affected by the crisis. As workers in the ILO Communication and Public Information, we need to provide relevant information on the impact of the crisis and respond to inquiries on displaced overseas Filipino workers. There were issues related to rights and labour standards with more workers being laid off. However, the greater challenge was communicating and advocating for decent work as part of the development solution.

The Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme on “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Financial Crisis” provided an opportunity to look into the impact of the global economic crisis on migrants and the economy as well as to understand how the government, non-government organizations and communities are addressing the problem.

The Office of the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents in Japan has implemented immediate and short-term support efforts to assist foreign residents, who were deeply affected by the crisis. The Cabinet Office recognized the importance of having a good understanding of the situation and considering the needs of communities to be able to establish policy measures. Aside from emergency measures which include employment, education, housing, voluntary repatriation, crime and disaster prevention,
it is important to extend social protection such as unemployment benefits and health insurance as part of the fiscal stimulus. For many individuals, social protection only covers those who are employed, resulting in social hardship among those who lost their jobs.

Okubo provided a glimpse of a multicultural town and highlighted diversity in the community. Indeed, the media played a critical role in breaking or promoting harmony among local and foreign residents. In the case of Okubo, the media reported negatively accusing foreign residents of being a threat to the community. Okubo and Shinjuku were perceived as areas of criminal activities. Although non-government organizations exist, they often face challenges such as lack of funds and volunteers to sustain their initiatives. Programmes and activities were implemented to better understand foreigners as well as to provide support to children of migrant workers, who are determined to learn the Japanese language. It would be difficult to sustain such efforts without local policies and strong support from the community.

Similarly, a community builder in Oizumi is helping children of migrant workers to learn the Japanese language. The change in elected local officials resulted in conflicts and tensions in Oizumi where at first the migrants had been welcomed and treated well in the community. Foreign residents felt neglected. This situation lasted for over eight years. With the economic crisis, foreign residents can no longer afford their children's education. The Oizumi International Education system assisted in providing education and Japanese language classes through their school made out of donated shipping containers.

Another non-government organization is reaching out to refugees in Japan. Refugees are among the marginalized group, often facing poor working conditions, low-income levels and lack of employment. Without legal status and regular income, refugees find it difficult to survive. The situation is contrary to the Indian migrant community in Japan who entered the country as traders, professionals, scholars or officials of multinational firms. Majority migrated to Japan out of choice and not out of necessity. The financial and economic crisis turned as an opportunity for Indian migrants to establish their business in Japan and provide job opportunities in information technology. It was observed that migrant workers contribute to the development of both sending and receiving countries but can only be maximized if they are in a position to develop their full potential.

The local community of Kani City and human station concept of Fuji City are good examples of how local communities in Japan work together to address the impact of the financial and economic crisis. Fuji City through the human station concept recognized that it is impossible to face tough situations with only a few people helping and making a difference. Kani City, on the other hand, has an increasing number of foreign residents in the community. Most of the residents were from Brazil with a total population of 4,399, followed by the Philippines, with a total population of 1,614 in 2009. Due to the global financial crisis, some of the foreign residents returned to their country of origin or moved to another city.

Kani City supports Japanese language study for foreign children and enrolment to schools. The Rose Classroom or Bara Kyoushitsu Kani, an international classroom similar to a preparatory school, was built in 2005 for children of foreign residents and workers. Local officials found that 6.8 per cent of foreign workers' children are not going to school due to expensive school fees or lack of knowledge in the Japanese language. The local community of Kani City believes that children are the ones who will lead our
Minette Angeles RIMANDO

society and that foreign children's education is everybody's responsibility. This is the main reason why Kani City created a fund for government and private companies to work together. Despite the financial and economic crisis, over 20 companies and groups including 17 citizens contributed to the fund. The city granted emergency assistance for the children of unemployed parents as well, to help them amid the global financial crisis.

The Frevia Kani Multicultural Center was also established to enhance exchange opportunities and promote multiculturalism. Frevia started in 2000 as Kani International Exchange. From a private organization with city government support, Frevia turned to a non-government organization in 2008. It promotes multicultural existence by providing information for daily life in the community, Japanese language classes, counseling for foreigners and a place for social and cultural gatherings. Regular meetings of foreign citizens are held with two representatives each from Brazil, Philippines and China. Their initiatives include group activities and consultation on how to live in Japan. They are trying hard to hand down their culture to future generations.

Across from Frevia is a "Part-Time Employment Bank" with a special counter for job placement. The economic situation has greatly affected workers in Kani City. Many people are struggling because they lost their jobs and homes as an impact of the global financial crisis. The manpower office is run by the city and the national government. It started in December 2008 as a special counter for foreign workers to help them in their job search. The language barrier had been the main reason that most of the foreign residents had difficulty finding jobs. In response to this, the government will now provide a three-month intensive language course to better assist foreign residents. Aside from the language barrier, mismatching of job-skills and lack of work-related experience are among other factors identified. As part of the financial crisis measures, Kani City is extending financial and housing support, unemployment insurance and loans to support job hunting, including return home support for those who decide to go back to their country of origin.

Through the programme, we learned about the vital role of local communities in addressing the financial and economic crisis. We gained knowledge about Japan and learned that receiving countries face many challenges as well, related to migration. The financial and economic crisis spares no country from experiencing the brunt of the global meltdown. Urgent action is important to collectively deal with the impacts of the crisis. A global and regional approach is needed because the measures, to be as effective as the ILO recommends, need to avoid beggar-thy-neighbour solutions to a crisis, which is global in nature. It will not be possible for the economy to recover in a sustainable manner unless greater emphasis is placed on decent and productive employment, social protection and workers' rights. Measures are best implemented through social dialogue in countries, but greater cooperation at the international level can also have mutually-reinforcing benefits.

The ILO has adopted a Global Jobs Pact designed to guide national and international policies towards economic recovery, job creation and social protection. The Pact calls on governments and organizations representing workers and employers to work together to tackle the economic and jobs crisis through decent work policies. The Pact is not about how much more governments can spend, but how they spend it. The Asia/Oceania region can form a regional community to overcome the current crisis but this can only happen through constant dialogue. In the context of dialogue, it is important to take into account the experiences and initiatives of local communities. There is also a need for greater political commitment and will to address the impacts of the economic crisis. Japan, as a receiving country, has many initiatives to share as well as experiences to learn from other countries in the Asia/Oceania region.

A list of job vacancies in a part-time bank in Kani City established to provide information and counseling to job seekers in the community.
Mr. Ng studied Electrical Engineering at University of Toronto and graduated in 2005. He entered the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) in 2007, and is now the Senior Manager. Being a policy officer in the Foreign Workforce Policy Department, he handles policy planning to the unskilled or semi-skilled workers. His main responsibilities, for instance, is to manage the stock of these foreign workers through the review of existing policies as well as developing new ones to keep abreast with the changing manpower needs.

Personal observations and reflections from the trip

The global financial crisis has affected many countries around the world, and Singapore is of no exception, especially given the open nature of its economy. In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Singapore’s GDP contracted by 14.6 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter, seasonally adjusted annualised basis in the first quarter of 2009, compared to the decline of 16.4 per cent recorded in the last quarter of 2008. In year-on-year terms, real GDP contracted by 10.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2009. For the whole year, GDP is projected to contract by 6% to 9% (as of 21 May 2009).

The impact on the overall economy has also translated to a weak employment situation. Total employment declined by 6,200 in the first quarter, the first quarterly contraction in nearly six years as the number of workers hired was lower than the number of workers who left their jobs. This is especially significant when you consider the fact that total employment rose by 21,300 in the previous quarter. Overall, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 2.5% in December 2008 to 3.3% in March 2009. Total redundancy, which refers to employees made redundant due to retrenchments or early release of contracts, rose to 12,760 from 9,400 in the fourth quarter of 2008.

In terms of foreign employment, we do see a slowdown in the employment numbers, especially for workers in the semi-skilled or unskilled category. These numbers relate closely to my work since I am from the Foreign Workforce Policy Department under the Ministry of Manpower, which is the government body that deals with manpower-related matters in Singapore. My department is responsible for formulating policies that pertain to foreign manpower and the overall policy objective is to augment the local manpower pool for sustained economic growth and enhanced competitiveness.

Broadly speaking, our foreign work pass framework consists of a 3-tier structure, the 3 tiers being 1) Global talent; 2) Mid level skilled manpower and 3) Unskilled or semi-skilled foreign workers. I am part of the team that manages the unskilled or semi-skilled foreign workers. One of the main responsibilities is regulating the stock of these foreign workers through the review of existing policies as well as developing new ones to keep abreast with the changing manpower needs. In order to regulate the stock, we make use of policy levers such as the Dependency Ratio, which requires companies to employ locals before being allowed to employ a specified number of foreign workers, and the Foreign Worker Levy, which is imposed on every foreign worker the companies employ. We play a critical role in times of both economic growth and downturns like the one we are currently experiencing as our policies facilitate a flexible labour market to support economic activities but at an appropriate balance between the foreign and local workforce that is sustainable in the long run.

As the nature of my work is closely related to the topic of migration, I was invited to participate in the Jenesys Program from 12 May to 24 May 2009. During the program, I had the opportunity to visit a number of migrant communities. From these visits, I learned about the various challenges and issues faced by each of the migrant communities. It was interesting to see how the quality of life can be so different for the different communities, depending on their background and the
circumstances that led them to migrate to Japan.

The first community I would like to mention is the Japanese Brazilians and Peruvians (Figure 1). These are the second and third-generation blood descendants of Japanese emigrants to Brazil and Peru and they are known as “Nikkei.” The financial crisis has hit them very hard. Not only have many of them lost their jobs as blue collar workers, they have also lost their accommodation, since many of them had their housing tied to their employment.

Another migrant group that we visited is the refugee community (Figure 2). The situation for this group is even more challenging. Many of them are in the midst of trying to get refugee status, which is often a long and difficult process. They face difficulties in gaining employment and access to public assistance is very limited and short term.

The third group that I would like to highlight is the Indian migrant community (Figure 3). Many of them are well educated and have migrated to Japan by choice. They are mostly employed in white-collar jobs such as IT professionals or bankers. Even though some of them have lost their jobs in this downturn, unlike the previous two groups, the situation for the Indian migrants is much more favourable.

As described above, the situation for the different migrant groups can be very different. Having talked about some of the migrant groups living in Japan, I would like to next briefly focus on the main challenges faced by the migrant groups as they try to integrate into the Japanese society. The first difficulty is the lack of proficiency in the Japanese language. This makes it hard for the migrant worker to seek employment in Japan. Furthermore, it is also a barrier for migrant children who want to get into the public schools. The difference in culture almost always makes it difficult for migrant communities to adjust to life in Japan. For example, Japanese people tend to be more soft-spoken while Brazilians tend to be louder. Japanese have a custom of sorting their garbage while other migrant groups don’t. Such differences can lead to friction amongst the local and migrant communities.

So, what have the various groups, namely the government, the community and the non-government organizations (NGOs), done to address this problem?

Firstly, the government set up the “Office for the Coordination of Policies on Foreign Residents” in January...
2009 to come up with measures to deal with issues faced by foreign residents (especially Nikkei) in this downturn. In Kani City, the local government help set up the Kani City Multicultural Center (Frevia) to explore policies on co-existence with non-Japanese (Figure 4). These are examples of positive steps that government can take to help migrant groups integrate to the local community.

The local community can also help by being more welcoming towards the migrants. For example, during our visit to Fuji City (Figure 5), we were introduced to the concept of “Machi-no-Eki” or “Human Station,” which basically provides a place for people, be it locals or foreigners, to rest and interact with the stationmasters. This helps to create a more harmonious environment for the people living in that community.

The NGOs have also done their part in providing assistance to the migrant community. For example, in Okubo and Kani City, language classes are set up to help migrant children so that they can enter public schools (Figure 6). In Oizumi, private schools are set up to teach Japanese Brazilians children, all the way to senior high school (Figure 7). As for the refugee community, the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) is set up to help this group of migrants as well.

What I have mentioned above are just some of the measures that I witnessed during my visit. What else can be done to help the migrant community living in Japan?

In my opinion, the most fundamental thing is that there needs to be a mindset change in the Japanese community. They must learn to not only accept, but also to embrace the concept of multiculturalism. This will allow them to be more understanding and tolerant towards the migrant community and only then will it be possible for a more harmonious relationship between the two groups. The concept of multiculturalism should be introduced in schools so that the younger generation can be accustomed to it from young. In this way, young children are brought up in an environment where they are encouraged to embrace diversity in the community and this will help reduce discrimination against minority groups in the society.

In summary, this program has been a very enriching experience for me and I feel very privileged to have participated in it. Not only did I learn a lot about Japan's policy towards the migrant community, I also had the opportunity to interact and make friends with fellow youths from other countries. I would like to conclude by expressing my heartfelt appreciation to Japan Foundation for organising such a wonderful program.
Role of Community in Promoting Multicultural Coexistence

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Thailand's rapid economic growth demands a supply of workers which cannot be met by its domestic labour force. This is particularly the case in labour intensive sectors, such as agriculture, fishery, construction, manufacturing and domestic services, which all depend heavily on migrant workers from neighbouring countries – namely, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia. It is estimated that there are more than two million migrants from the three neighbouring countries in Thailand. Labour migrants, particularly undocumented, are often denied basic rights and are among the most vulnerable of all migrants, to health and social risks. Vulnerability is often caused by lack of access to basic health and social services, lack of awareness of their rights and protection, lack of legal status in Thailand and language barriers. Migrants in Japan are facing a similar situation. Geographically, it is not as easy as in Thailand, where migrants can cross the border. Migrants have to fly to Japan. In general, there are two cases; 1) Migrants enter the country with appropriate required documents then overstay or illegally work or 2) Migrants enter the country with fake documents. Both cases make migrants vulnerable and inaccessible to basic rights and welfare.

Migration has become an increasingly important policy issue for governments in the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries. The implications of international migration are increasingly inter-linked with most key issues on the national and regional agenda including security, development, demography, public health, human rights and environmental concerns, among others. Thailand actively participates in the exchange of international investment, trade and tourism. This openness to other countries has also resulted in large flows of international migration, including that of refugees, displaced persons, professional migrants and labour migrants.

Migrant workers and their families can be categorized as economic migrants. Their lives including their rights and welfare heavily rely on their employers. Though Thailand has shown great achievements on economic development, the Government and private sectors did not expect the global economic downturn. Employers have been greatly affected by the financial crisis. Many employers inevitably had to close down their business or are forced to lay off their workers. Migrants, especially undocumented ones, are likely to be the first group that will face this situation and might not receive the compensation they are entitled to. It is important to note that the global financial crisis does not only affect workers/employees but also their families.

The JENESYS programme provided us an opportunity to visit Kani City in Gifu Prefecture where there is high population of foreign residents. There are 6,934 foreign citizens, mainly Brazilians and Filipinos, which make up approximately 7% of the population as of April 2008. In response to the diversity in the community, the local government has established a Multicultural Center called FREVIA in the Shimoedo area. The center's aim is to promote a multicultural society and coexistence, where everybody, regardless of nationality, can live in harmonious coexistence without discrimination. It promotes mutual understanding between Japanese and foreign residents at every age, regarding their cultural/customs differences.
and language barrier, through information dissemination, language and education support and social and cultural gatherings. The informational materials are made in Japanese and foreign languages to make it easy for foreign residents to understand about local activities and customs including health, garbage disposal, and disaster prevention.

The right to education is fundamental, as emphasized in the Convention of the Right of the Child (CRC). The State is required to provide free compulsory education to children regardless of their nationality, racial, and religion. Education is an important tool. In addition to FREVIA, the JENESYS fellows also visited the Oizumi International Education Skill Diffusion Center in Gunma Prefecture that provides English and academic class to “Nikkei” Japanese–Brazilian children, preparing them for Japanese formal education. Children are the next generation; therefore, another way to promote harmonious coexistence among local and migrant communities is through children in school. Nonetheless, as easy as it may seem, migrant children still face difficulties including harassment from classmates. The same situation happens with Burmese migrant children when they enroll in Thai schools. Bullied children tend to be isolated from friends and eventually stop going to school. Dropout children can lead to problems of drug abuse and crime in the community. Unfortunately, locals still relate crime with migrant workers, though statistics do not significantly prove as such. Education can provide a great deal of knowledge and perception of cultural diversity and human dignity to prevent migrant children from dropping out and falling into the same situation that their parents experienced. They can have an opportunity of higher education and contribute something back to their community. There are successful cases in Kani City where migrant children completed their university degree and came back to teach migrant children in Japanese school. Hence, it is important for teachers to encourage children to understand and accept that migrants are also human, to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Though “Machi no Eki” or the neighbourhood station project is not directly related to migration, this concept presents important roles of community members. How community members support and coordinate with each other, particularly with support from the municipality, can lead to sustainability. The “Machi no Eki” is a successful concept because all individuals in a community can benefit from it. Policy and activity that is in place especially for migrants only differentiates migrants from locals and creates a negative attitude towards the migrants themselves. This is one of the reasons that many activities are not sustainable. They're likely to be gone after a project finishes. The “Machi no Eki” highlights the role of a community because they are the ones that are always in the community and affected by migration. In order to accomplish coexistence and sustainability, a program should be developed to address the mutual benefits or a “win-win situation” for both locals and migrants. Furthermore, activities should create a sense of belonging, by involving locals and migrants to implement their own activities.

The programs mentioned above have proven an important role of community members, both authorities and locals, as addressed in the theme of JENESYS Programme 2008 - 2009 “Migration and the Role of Community Amid the Global Financial Crisis.” As a Field Coordinator of the Labour Migration and Research Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM), I am based in the filed office of Phang Nga where I have been coordinating with local communities for the past two years and encouraging local authorities and members to get involved for sustainability. I greatly admire the works that have been done in Kani, Oizumi and Fuji Cities that have encouraged the participation of locals. Some activities or models can definitely be adapted to Thai context.

During the JENESYS program, we had a chance to discuss and exchange ideas with other participants from different countries and professional backgrounds and had first hand experiences from both migration-related and cultural field visits. The invaluable experience has broadened my perspectives on migration, which will greatly benefit my work and the counterparts I am working with. On the last day of the programme, we said good-bye to each other. Some (or probably just me) didn’t want to think about workloads waiting after a 2-week memorable trip in Japan. Though nobody knows when we will meet again, one thing for sure, is that our friendship and network will remain. With the experiences we have gained from the programme, I believe we will be part of the future development of a migration management scheme that will benefit both origin and destination countries. Thanks to the Japan Foundation for the wonderful program that brought me to wonderful friends and an invaluable experience.
Migrant workers - The last to be hired and the first to be fired

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“Vietnam is still a basic economy, where most people produce rice or other commodities like coffee and shrimps - and that's an advantage in this crisis. Those who lose their jobs in factories will just return to their villages and fall back on their extended family social services network. It's a very different story from the West, where people who lose their jobs in the cities will get little family support and are more likely to cause social problems.”

Source: The Business Times Singapore, March 5, 2009 Thursday

The recent global financial crisis has led to a serious downturn in the world's economy, and Vietnam has not been an exception. It has also been severely affected for over two years, particularly in 2008 and 2009. As the consequences of the economic and financial crisis, an estimated half-million Vietnamese migrant workers, both internally and internationally, have adversely suffered for various reasons, causing their families to be further threatened by poverty and an uncertain future.

It should be noted that for the last decade, exporting migrant workers has been officially and widely recognised as a strategic solution for creating more jobs, reducing poverty, and raising the national budget from migrant remittances. Thousands of rural migrants and unemployed have attempted to contribute by getting jobs abroad every year. The countries in their search traditionally included South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, and the Middle East as well as Japan and/or the Czech Republic. Internally, millions of youths have left their rural areas and found temporary employment with low payment in the industrial zones of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and their neighbouring provinces. Most of the companies offering these jobs are joint ventures and/or foreign. One million jobs created for migrant workers both inside and outside Vietnam have made significant contributions for the survival of the Vietnamese poor and for social stability.

Wherever they are, migrants are likely to be recognised as “minority” workers, whom are “the last to be hired and the first to be fired”. Facing the economic slowdown and crisis, migrant labourers deeply became the most vulnerable groups, because they are often used as “cyclical buffers” to help their companies maximise growth and minimise labour expenses based on frequently non-standard and poorly regulated employment relationships. Many thousands of Vietnamese migrant labours were laid-off and deported from abroad and/or industrial zones to their homeland in 2008 and 2009. Several impacts on Vietnamese migrant workers have been observed and assessed since the emerge of the financial crisis in late 2007, which are briefly presented in the following:

- Many countries, particularly Taiwan, Malaysia, Czech Republic and the Middle East, have reduced the quotas of Vietnamese migrant workers; and some other thousands of migrant workers have been deported home due to their employers also falling into labour cuts;
- Those migrant labourers remaining employed in the hosting countries are usually forced to salary reduction and working overtime;
- Many migrant labourers do not return home even when they have been offered incentives, e.g. air fares, for voluntary leave, because they are pessimistic regarding to employment opportunities they could get.
in Vietnam. Most of them are still in debt from their migration. Trying to find whatever work they can in the hosting countries could push them into illegal conditions and/or even engaging in social and/or criminal violations;

- As an obvious consequence, the remittances that migrant workers used to send home are now certainly declining. This raises serious threats to their families in Vietnam who are pay their migration debts and covering living expenses, e.g. children schooling, house building, and so on. On the other hand, money flows based on migrant remittances to national and local bank deposits are also dwindling; and thus slowing down economic investment activities in general;
- As a result of the consequences of the financial crisis, both migrant workers in Vietnam and abroad are the causes of spiritually and materially social tension. Many criminal violations caused by Vietnamese migrant workers in Taiwan and Malaysia have recently been published by national media;
- It is often said that migrant labourers have little access to social safety net support both from/in Vietnam and in the hosting countries, particularly social insurance and health insurance. This is because their “cyclical buffer” or “seasonal” or “short-term employment” situations are intentionally recognised by their employers as well as their poor awareness and/or engagement to such services. Therefore, they always tend to be excluded from emergency social protection benefits in Vietnam and hosting countries. This shortcoming contributes more to the stability of migrant workers’ lives and the society they are engaged in; and
- Due to various reasons, including political, cultural, religious and educational aspects, the phenomena of xenophobic violence and discrimination against foreign labourers is increasingly rising in many countries on various levels, which are reflected by policy expressions and/or enterprises’ interpretation and practices.

Though there has been no comprehensive and official assessment on the impact of the crisis to migrant workers in Vietnam, it has been publicly confirmed that the objective of the Government creating 1.7 million jobs in 2009 definitely will not be achieved. This is understandable when it is estimated that only 20% of companies nation-wide were considered in “good health” and the other 60% had to face various difficulties by the end of 2008. In response to the financial crisis, similarly to many other states, in December 2008, the Vietnamese Government has released several urgent measures to prevent the sharp economic downturn and ensure social stability in the country, in which as said by the Government, much support is given to small and medium enterprises who support a lot of rural workers. Particularly, a stimulus package of USD 6-billion was announced with the goal of reviving the slowing economy. This will include tax-cuts and bank interest assistance, to create more work by spending more for infrastructure and housing developments, and to increase domestic consumption. In addition, the Government also launched an employment insurance scheme in January 2009 in order to provide financial assistance to unemployed workers. In addition, the Government also issued a policy (known as Decree 34/2008/ND-CP) in March 2008 to regulate employment and management of foreign labourers in Vietnam. However, not many interventions taken by the Government are found in direct support to those Vietnamese migrant workers being affected by the crises abroad.

Attending the JENESYS East Asia Future Leader Programme on “Migration and the Role of Community amid the Global Financial Crisis” in Japan in May 2009 greatly helped me to directly observe and understand the difficulties and challenges which foreign migrant workers, especially those from less developed / developing / poor countries, have been facing to survive in host countries like Japan. I came to this programme with a strong interest in learning more about transnational non-traditional security issues in the context of globalisation and global/ regional economic crises, in which migration, social conflicts, civil society and policy responses are important topics.

The programme's focus on the analysis of migrant workers' ability to live and work in a multicultural society is of critical importance. Many visits to foreign migrant communities in Japan, e.g. Korean, Brazilian, Indian and Burmese proved to me that (1) integrating and living in a multicultural society are always challenges to migrant workers from developing countries if they are not well prepared and educated before their arrival, in regard to language, culture, regulations, working skills, etc; (2) cultural identities between foreign migrants and their origins should be mutually respected; and (3) policy interventions from both hosting and origin governments based on bilateral and/or multilateral commitments towards functional cooperation on migration are preconditions particularly regarding to salary, social security net supports, long-term employment and educational opportunities given to foreign migrant workers.

The programme highlighted the importance of the
role of civil societies in helping foreign migrant workers to overcome their hardship amid the current financial crisis. Employment information, legal consultation services, food aid, helping school children, teaching languages, etc that are all necessary for migrant workers. However, I realised that only a small number of migrant workers can access such supports while the network of such community assistance is quite small and fragmented. To address a large population of existing migrant workers, would require more support from the (Japanese) Government through its favour migration policies, and especially from Japanese communities to change a common perception that “there is a strong tie among the local Japanese residents, while people from abroad are seen as ‘others’ or ‘outsiders’ who bring trouble to the community.”

I have already shared my views and ideas in a submitted group paper¹ for JENESYS regarding the promotion of long-term and effective cooperation in the Asia/Oceania region to form a regional community to overcome the current crisis for the benefit of all in the field of migration. In that paper, we stressed the importance of developing a Regional Commitment towards functional cooperation on migration that could provide an institutional framework of support for migrant communities across the region. This framework should address key issues relating to migrant workers such as employment, income, social security, citizenship, healthcare, education, cultural exchange, legal, rights, responsibility, etc. We also emphasised that regional framework should be constructed based on functionally political commitment between states to meet the needs of each origin and host country and be able to make informed decisions on migration.

To realize that framework requires a regional review and assessment to provide comprehensive understanding of existing migration, including current policies and legislations, related problems and their root-causes, and potentials for better perspectives. It should formulate a long-term cooperation e.g. of at least 10 years, based on common values, and signed by state governments in the region with periodical evaluation and review every 3 or 5 years. Annual regional meetings scheduled for information exchange and national/regional reviews between governments and/or sectors are recommended. Each member state should nominate a responsible organisation, e.g. ministry or agency, to act as the national focal point to coordinate and follow up the regional commitment. In the group paper we also recommended that an independent committee (or task force) be formulated to be responsible for monitoring the performance of regional commitment as well as to provide consultancy and policy recommendations for member states. Each country could make their migration policy with consideration to international standards and make decisions consistent to the signed regional agreement.

¹ Written and submitted by Nguyen Viet Dung (Vietnam), Linda Petrone (Australia), Zhang Shuyang (China), Sayaka Kikuchi (Japan), Minette Rimando (Philippines) as “Changing communities, reaching the grassroots, and sustaining local initiatives in a globalised world” (May, 2009)