

## A Perspective on International Migration - Is there any Japanese model ? -

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International migration is important both for the globalized world and for Japan which is experiencing substantial population decline. There is a steady increase of the number of the international migrants in the world from 154 million in 1990 to 232 million in 2013. If we classify countries according to the proportion of international migrants, the most migrant rich countries are the Arab States of the Gulf, followed by the "historically migrant countries" such as Canada, Australia and United State. European countries are also rich in migrants in the same level as some African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire or Gabon. In Asia, apart from Malaysia or Singapore, the proportion of migrants tends to be lower, in which Japan, China and Korea are no exception.

Considering the fact that people migrate while they are young, the stagnation of young population of the world in the future is a reality and more and more competition would be anticipated between the migrants receiving countries. The only exception is the African continent where the young population increase continues throughout the 21st century, how to manage the African "push" will be a challenge for the global community in the near future.

Since the remittances exceed international aids, the relation between the international migration and development has been a hot debate, but so far there is no unanimous consensus. Various studies were conducted and showed different results to support the brain gain, drain or waste. Simple analysis shows that the out-migration rate has no correlation with GDP per capita and has negative correlation with GDP growth rate. Japanese historical trend shows that the both in-migration and out-migration had no apparent effect on the economic growth. An anthropological survey suggests a possible adverse effect of international migration to raise fertility in a very high fertility setting in Western Africa. International migration has both positive and negative effects for the development, and while promoting good migration, efforts should be made to create better domestic environment so that people are not obliged to go abroad to have better life.

The free movement of people has been already realized through regional integration in EU, CARICOM, East, West and Southern Africa and it is also planned in ASEAN from 2015. In addition, the growing number of regional trade agreement such as EPA or FTA stimulates conditioned movement of people. These "controlled freedom" of international migration might be the future trend, backed by the development and popularisation of related technology such as biometrics or internet and mobile phone network.

The foreigners in Japan comprise only 1.6% of total population so far, but the rate is increasing steadily especially for the permanent residents. Various measures were taken to improve the governance, such that foreigners were included in the resident registration since 2012 or the International Social Security Agreement has been implemented, signed or under negotiation with 25 countries. The "Yokoso! Japan" campaign coupled with the expansion of visa exemption had promoted the short-term foreign visitors achieving the historically highest number of 11 million in 2013. EPAs are facilitating the care-worker migration from the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

However the social integration measures are much to be improved.

The accumulation of the researches on the DNA analysis had proved that the Japanese race is a mixture of different groups of people, not replacing the natives or excluding new comers. The culture of symbiosis had been a norm, but occurred in a slower pace, compared to the actual speed of population decline or international migration. Thus the replacing completely the population decline with international migrants would be very difficult, but it is nevertheless important to call for the migrants in view of the activation of the society by multiple cultures, creation of new amalgamated civilization, as much as the reception capacity allows.