

activities will be divided among three subcommittees, dealing with changes in population composition and the labor market, international comparison of migration policy, and multicultural coexistence and social integration, respectively. The subcommittees will research and organize information on Japanese labor policy and multicultural coexistence/social integration policy, and will investigate policies regarding migration adopted by other Asian countries.

<Outline of project activities in 2008>

◆ Subcommittee 1 Changes in population composition and the labor market

The effect on the labor market of the drop in population size resulting from the declining birth rate and ageing population will be investigated. Taking into account the increases in productivity that occur through mechanization, greater introduction of women and senior citizens into the labor market, outsourcing overseas and other such approaches, the labor force – and thus the necessity, if any, of recruiting migrant workers from overseas – will be investigated on a region-by-region and industry-by-industry basis. In FY2008, the aim of the project will be to compile the arguments surrounding migrant workers in Japan, and prepare fundamental data that facilitate objective discussion of the population composition and changes in the labor force in Japan. The industries considered will principally be manufacturing, primary industry (agriculture, fishing), IT, nursing/caring.

◆ Subcommittee 2 International comparison of migration policy

Developed countries are now attempting to bring in migrant workers to prevent the stagnation of economic activities that results from depletion of the labor force and to maintain international competitiveness. Policy for the social integration of long-term

residents is also being hammered out, and in Asian countries immigration policy now revolves around the two core policies of immigration control and social integration.

Countries supplying migrant workers are now adopting enthusiastic labor sending strategies to make their workers more attractive through human resource training and other methods, thus making the migration of the labor force highly dynamic on a global scale. Yet, developing countries also face a rapidly decreasing birth rate and ageing population, thus the future of labor migration [[from these countries]] is by no means guaranteed.

In FY2008, labor distributing countries – the Philippines, Indonesia, China – and recipient countries – Korea, Taiwan – will be studied. Studies of labor sending countries will focus not only on policy outlines, but will touch upon the future of distribution from the distributing country in light of changes in population composition. Furthermore, consideration will be given to how the workers regard employment overseas. Turning the spotlight on these areas should help deepen understanding of the countries distributing labor. Studies of countries receiving labor resources will not only focus on immigration policy, but will also deal with social integration policy. Detailed reference will be made to nursing and caring, two fields that have drawn particular attention in recent years. The international comparisons conducted will not stop at a simple comparison of systems used in various countries, but will also look at discrepancies between the system and the actual state of affairs in the country, as well as problem areas.

◆ Subcommittee 3 Multicultural Coexistence / Social Integration

Studies of migration policy tend to focus on the management side of immigration, however this subcommittee will largely investigate and compile information on present status and issues regarding what happens after a country has accepted migrant workers/immigrants, looking at services provided to these individuals by local governments and NPOs as part of their “social integration policy” or