

“Multicultural coexistence conductance policy”. To obtain this information, the subcommittee will examine eight locations around Japan. These studies should illuminate the needs of foreign residents as well as the services that are provided by government, NGOs and NPOs. However, as these factors will vary depending on the attributes of long-term residents, their employment status and local policy, it will be possible to make several representative models, namely, 1) a central city model, 2) a suburban model, 3) a densely populated region model, and 4) a mid-mountain region model. Through fact-finding surveys in the abovementioned areas, the subcommittee will aim to build a regional management model.

Initiatives planned for 2009 onwards

In the second year of the project and in subsequent years, investigation and research will be carried out on more specific themes. Subcommittee 1 will carry out detailed analysis of agriculture and other industry sectors that have not been sufficiently clarified to date. At the same time, quantitative analysis will be carried out for use in simulations to examine the effects on Japanese society of introducing migrant workers. By so doing, both quantitative and qualitative approaches will be used to research the impact of migrant workers. Subcommittee 2 will continue investigation of country-by-country differences in managed migration policy, paying particular attention to regions that transcend national boundaries. The demarcation of the EU is a new factor that defines migration in Europe; however, in Asia, ASEAN is rapidly becoming integrated and therefore provides an excellent model for examining what effects integration of a given region has on migration within that region. Subcommittee 2 will investigate the effects of regional integration on international migration. Subcommittee 3 will examine several case studies of regions in Germany to investigate whether the multicultural coexistence model created in project year 1 can be applied to other countries. These case studies will allow a country-by-country comparison of the role of local governments and the private sector.

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Demographic Change and International Labor Migration

The composition of the world population is entering an unparalleled phase of drastic change, with the birth rate falling as the population ages overall. Changes are particularly prominent in developed countries, where workers from developing countries are moving in to supplement labor shortages. Japan is among the countries most affected by the falling birth rate and ageing population, thus the question of whether or not to accept foreign workers is of great significance. Yet, the flow of workers into Japan continues unchecked despite a grave lack of investigation into the issue. According to forecasts by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the working population of Japan will fall by about 10,700,000 by 2030 unless action is taken to promote employment. Some believe that, should this forecast prove accurate, Japan will have little choice but to take on foreign workers. However, the problems of a falling birth rate and ageing population exist also in developing countries, hence it is far from guaranteed that the flow of labor from these areas will continue.

Migration across the borders of Asian countries is commonplace, and competition is arising in securing human resources. The countries that provide a large number of workers see migration positively, viewing it as a fundamental human right. Given this active international migration, it is crucial to deepen mutual understanding with countries that supply labor if these countries are to survive and co-exist in global society.

In view of this situation, this project will examine how best to deal with these changes in population composition, and forthcoming results will be compiled into documents for policy formation. Over the next three years (FY2008-2010), SPF will aim, through this project, to produce proposals for Japanese policy regarding acceptance of foreign labor resources into Japan. In FY2008, project