

**Waseda University Global COE Program,
'Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration'
Investigative Research Assistance Achievement Report**

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Itinerary 2008/09 /23 / ~2008 /09 /30 (Month/Date/Year)

Destination (Name of city and country)

National University of Singapore, Singapore

Research objectives

The objectives of my research trip were three fold. First, as my research revolves around migration and social integration issues in Asia, both of which are a result and a factor in growing regional integration in Asia, I will participate as a speaker in the "International Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts." Through presenting a paper on social integration practices in Japan I will be able to receive valuable feedback and insights from other scholars examining the impact of migration and the movement of people in Asia.

Second, through this research project and participating in the above workshop it is my intention to delve into migration and social integration issues facing countries in Asia. The papers presented by scholars from throughout Asia will reveal some of the numerous factors that can be attributed to converging and diverging immigration and social integration practices in Asia.

Third, I want to gather information from scholars centered in Singapore about Singapore's social integration and migration practices. The purpose of this was to better understand how Singapore is dealing with growing diversity and how Singapore's immigration policies are related to other countries in the region.

Achievement

Through participating in the "International Workshop on Migration and Diversity in Asian Contexts" I received substantial information and constructive comments related to the paper I presented on social integration practices in Japan at the local government level. In particular, Chinese, Korea, Hong Kongese and Singapore scholars pointed out that the factors driving their migration and social integration stances overlapped as well as significantly differed when compared to Japan. Examples include but are not inclusive to the following: (1) Korea's progressive policies towards foreign residents in Korea is related to an attempt by

Korea to receive the same treatment of their nationals living abroad in countries such as Japan; (2) Participating scholars also pointed out that the people that are linking their nations to countries in Asia have different profiles owing to historical, geographic and policy differences; and (3) Asia as a region is growing more connected through the by-products of migrant labour such as overseas remittances, trans-national families, dual citizenship as well as others.

In addition to the fruitful factual based exchanges that took place through the workshop, several unique frameworks for analysis were presented that I believe will be useful in future research. Specifically, one scholar presented several variables that can be used to understand the development of migration and social integration policies including: (1) policy approach; (2) mode; (3) timing of promulgation; (4) sphere; and (5) rhetoric behind that policy.

Through this workshop I was also able to meet with Korean scholars studying integration and migration issues in their country. As a result, I was able to gather the latest information on Korean migration and social integration practices and set up a meeting with them scheduled in Korea in October 2008 or November 2008 as part of a long term project on "Inter-regional Asian Emigration and the Potential for International Cooperation in East Asia: A Comparative Examination of State Integration Policies in Korea and Japan."

Lastly, the workshop's participating scholars from Singapore through their presentations and additional discussions provided ample information on Singapore's national building strategy, diversity initiatives, immigration policy and guest worker programmes. Importantly, they stressed in their presentations and through our discussions the growing connectivity that exists between Asian nations as a result of the movement of people. This interconnectivity includes economic dependency when we consider states that are heavily reliant on overseas remittances and migrant labour. It also includes trans-national interconnectivity as families are spread through several counties.

Confirmed by person in charge of project promotion (signature and seal)

Academic Adviser 園田茂人 教授

Sub Adviser 篠原初枝 教授

(Note: please write within a length of two A4 pages. Space for each item can be changed to suit.)