

**Where Migration Meets Gender in Northeast Asia:
Marriage Migrants and Domestic and Care Workers in Japan and Korea**

Naomi Chi

Abstract

Rapid industrialization, economic growth and urbanization have resulted in an influx of international migrants to East Asia since the 1980s. Since then, there has been a significant increase in the migration of women, which is an illustration of the global trend of feminization of migration. Consequently, the increase of migration (both legal and undocumented) in this region brought about new avenue for exploitation. The objective of the paper is to explore the gender dimension within the dynamics of international marriages and labour migrants in domestic and care work in Northeast Asia including the factors such as the “lack of agency” and “immobility” of these women, the difficulties in mainstreaming, the victimization of these women, and types of support available to them. In terms of methodology, the author relies on primary and secondary sources such as government documents, reports by human rights organizations and memoirs as well as personal encounters with these women.

Temporary Workers from Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Mongolia

Yuji Fukuhara and Mitsuhiro Mimura

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to report the situation surrounding North Korean temporary workers in Mongolia based on fieldwork, and to consider the significance of sending and receiving North Korean temporary workers.

The employment of North Korean workers is in line with Mongolian policies which aim to resolve the problem of labour power shortage at low cost, and to maintain influence in diplomacy through economic cooperation with North Korea, whose historical experience as a small state between big powers of the former USSR and China is similar to Mongolia's. It is also welcomed by North Korea, because Mongolia displays a friendly attitude toward them and does not intervene in their domestic politics. By sending workers, they can also acquire economic benefits at relatively low political cost. Within this framework of cooperation, there do not seem to be such problems as excessively heavy labour, a severe working environment, ethnic discrimination, or poor conditions of food, shelter, and clothing, which are often pointed out for North Korean temporary workers overseas. However, problems do exist such as extraction of wages by North Korean officials, non-payment by Mongolian employers, and the human rights violation of unpaid labour.

Russian Perceptions of Chinese Immigration: Between Alarmism and Utilitarianism

Serghei Golunov

Abstract

The paper focuses on post-Soviet Russia's debates on the Chinese immigration issue. I argue that despite the level of alarmism remains relatively high, there is a trend towards its gradual softening and to some extent to understanding positive importance of workforce inflow? Still, even in current times of Russian-Chinese honeymoon, alarmist sentiments are still here and some attempts to utilize Chinese workforce for Siberian and Far Eastern regional development meet strong public opposition.

Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: UNHCR and IOM Moving Beyond Their Mandates

Nina Hall

Abstract

There is a growing awareness that climate change is affecting human livelihoods, and may lead to displacement and migration. However, no person has ever been granted refugee status due to climate change. Even if the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters are harmful, they do not satisfy the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention requirement of persecution. This paper asks: how are international humanitarian institutions providing assistance to those affected by climate change? It examines recent mandate and operational changes in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It finds that these two organizations lobbied their Executive Board's to expand their mandates: IOM successfully and UNHCR not. Both also worked with sympathetic states to establish new initiatives to tackle internal and international displacement related to climate change. Overall, it suggests there are many multilateral avenues for states to assist those affected by climate change.

Climate and Migration in Oceania

John Campbell

Abstract

Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have been identified as 'hot spots' from which relatively large numbers of people may be either induced or forced by the effects of climate change to leave their homes. Climate change induced migration is mobility of individuals and families in response to climate change impacts. Migration relieves pressure on a degrading environment and remittances supplement declining livelihoods of those who remain. Climate change forced relocation, however, is likely to occur when places become fully unable to provide the life support systems to enable continued occupation by humans. There are three scenarios where forced relocation may become necessary: the places may no longer exist (land insecurity), the places may no longer be able to provide livelihood security and finally, the places no longer provide an environment secure from disease and injury. To date there has been no successful forced relocation in the Pacific region although there are some places that are becoming increasingly insecure. An extremely important issue in PICs is that of land which in most countries is inseparable from those who live on it. Relocation will disrupt this critical aspect of Pacific cultures in many ways that will make relocation highly problematic.

The climate-migration nexus: an international law perspective

Benoit Mayer¹

Abstract

This paper provides a general overview of the debates on the climate-migration nexus from a legal perspective. Firstly, it highlights some difficulties on conceptualizing the climate-migration nexus. Secondly, it offers a broad overview of the relevant legal developments. Lastly, it examines the political and normative implications of discussions on the climate-migration nexus.

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