

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

Towards a Safer Transnational Migration

Bringing Together Multiple Stakeholders' Perspectives

Friday, October 13, 2023 from 14:00 to 16:30

Online (Zoom webinar)

Japanese/Korean/English with simultaneous interpretation

Free admission

Register here



PROGRAM

- 14:00** Opening Address
- 14:00 – 14:15** PRESENTATION
Reporting on People Migrating from Nepal and Myanmar to Japan and Korea
PRESENTER: Hyejin Lee, Senior Program Officer, JCIE
- 14:15 – 15:15** PANEL DISCUSSION I
Hearing the Voices of People from Nepal and Myanmar Working and Living in Japan and Korea
PANELISTS: Representatives from dispatching organizations in Nepal and Myanmar
MODERATOR: Wan Lee, Co-Representative, Solidarity for Asian Human Rights and Culture
- 15:15–15:25 Break
- 15:25 – 16:25** PANEL DISCUSSION II
Guaranteeing the “Right to Know” of Migrants—
Role of Host Countries Accepting Migrants
PANELISTS: Wan Lee
Soe Moe Thu, Operation Director, Myanmar Worker Welfare Center
Bhupal Man Shrestha, Founding Chairman, Everest International School Japan
Yasuhiro Inoue, Vice-Chairman, Osaka Restaurant Management Association
MODERATOR: Toshihiro Menju, Managing Director and Chief Program Officer, JCIE
- 16:25 – 16:30** Closing Remarks
Isao Kano, President and CEO, JCIE

ISAO KANO

President and CEO, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)



Mr. Isao Kano took the helm of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE/Japan) in April 2023, bringing 40 years of experience in international business and the extensive knowledge he has gained through postings in seven different countries. Having joined Mitsubishi Corporation in 1984, Mr. Kano was posted in Vienna, Düsseldorf, Brisbane, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, and London, and has worked in mineral resources trading, investment, and development. He also has extensive experience in management globally and served in various corporate functions such as corporate planning. In 2016, he became senior vice president & COO of the Mineral Resources Trading Division, and Chairman & CEO of Mitsubishi Corporation RtM International Pte Ltd, Singapore. In 2018, he became regional CEO for Europe and managing director of Mitsubishi International (Europe) plc. While serving at Mitsubishi Corporation's overseas offices, Mr. Kano served as the president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK, as well as vice chairman of the Nippon Club and as a member of the Japan House London Trust. Mr. Kano is a graduate of Hitotsubashi University with a BA in Commerce and Business Administration, and also completed Harvard Business School's LFO (Leadership in Financial Organizations) program in 2012.

HYEJIN LEE

Senior Program Officer, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)



Hyejin Lee is from South Korea coming to Japan in 2003 as a student. After completing the PhD course in sociology at Hitotsubashi University, she worked as research fellow at Hitotsubashi University and Ochanomizu University. In November 2014, she joined JCIE, and as a migrant herself, she has been conducting researches on migration policy of Japan and labor migration in Asia, as well as actively participating in various activities to support migrants. She has been a visiting researcher at the Institute of Comparative Economic Studies of Hosei University. Her publication includes "Challenges of and Coping with Immigration in Korea: The State, Civil Society, and Migrant Workers" (*Asia on the Move: Regional Migration and the Role of Civil Society*, JCIE, 2015), and *Towareru 'ichiji-teki' koyou no hasso—kankoku wo rei ni gaikokujin seisaku wo kangaeru* [Temporary Employment in Review—A Perspective on Policy for Foreigners from a Korean Experience] (Asahi Newspaper Press, Journalism, No. 348, 2019).

WAN LEE

Co-representative of Solidarity for Asian Human Rights and Culture



Mr. Wan began supporting migrant workers in 2000. In 2004, he co-founded Solidarity for Asian Human Rights and Culture and has served as its co-representative ever since. From 2018 to 2022, he served as the representative of the Korea NGO Coalition for the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He also served as the representative of the Joint Committee with Migrant in Korea (JCMK) in 2022. Lee Wan is active in various activities in the fields of racial discrimination and cultural diversity. From 2014 to 2019, he served as a consultant to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on cultural diversity-related works. From 2019 to 2020, he served as a member of the Special Committee to Respond to Hatred Discrimination of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. He is currently a member of the Multicultural Education Advisory Committee of the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education and Director of External Cooperation of Korea International Migrant Studies Association. Lee Wan is engaged in various educational activities and international solidarity activities for the improvement of migrant rights and peaceful coexistence.

SOE MOE THU

Chairman of Operations Committee, Korean Center for Myanmar Worker's Welfare/General Secretary, Representative office of National Unity Government of the Union of Myanmar in Korea.



In 1995, Soe Moe Thu came to Korea from Myanmar. In 2003, he joined the migrants' movement and also played in "Stop Crackdown", a multicultural band composed of migrants. He worked as an executive of Burma Action Korea and as chief representative and principal director for the documentary on "Migrant Workers TV". In 2013, he started "Padauk Glory", a cooperative style company with the Myanmar community in Korea, and is active on protecting human rights and supporting children and the poor in the Myanmar community in Korea. He worked on the establishment of the Korean Center for Myanmar Worker's Welfare to promote protection of human rights and provide education for the Myanmar community in Korea, and serves as chairman of the Operations Committee. He received the "2010 Human Rights Award" from Korean Human Rights Foundation, and "Human Rights Award" from Korean Human Rights Committee. In 2011, he was officially recognized a refugee status by the Supreme Court of Korea.

BHUPAL MAN SHRESTHA

Founding Chairman, Everest International School, Japan



In 2003, Bhupal Man Shrestha came to Japan from Nepal as a student. In 2011, after completing his PhD in economics at Soka University, he co-established GMT International Co. Ltd. in Shinjuku to publish a Nepalese-language newspaper for the Nepalese community in Japan. In April 2013, he founded a Nepalese school authorized by the Nepalese government, named Everest International School, Japan, and served as its chairman until March 2020. Currently, he is the CEO of CE HUMAN RESOURCES Co. Ltd. He is actively involved in the activities of multicultural coexistence, migrant workers, and the Nepalese community in Japan. He serves as a member of the Shinjuku Committee for Multicultural Cooperative Community (2012-18), the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Committee for the Promotion of Multicultural Cooperative Community (2017-), and is a founding member of the "Roundtable Meeting on Accepting Foreign Human Resources." He also gives lectures at Chiba University of Commerce.

YASUHIRO INOUE

Vice Chairman and Head of Foreigner Worker Employment Promotion Division, Osaka Restaurant Management Association (ORA)



Yasuhiro Inoue has been working in the food service industry for 39 years since the age of 19. Currently president of Hiro Food Service Corporation, he is also a member of the Food Industry Specific Skills Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and general manager of the Food Service Pavilion Operation Division of ORA for the Osaka Kansai World Expo 2025. To address the chronic shortage of human resources, he visited schools in developing countries to investigate with his own eyes the local situation and similarly verified actual cases of foreign workers employed by companies in Japan. He is also working on developing a framework for a unique certification system for the restaurant industry to improve the working environment for foreign workers coming from overseas.

TOSHIHIRO MENJU

Managing Director and Chief Program Officer, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)



Toshihiro Menju joined JCIE in 1988 after working in the Hyogo Prefectural Government for 10 years. He has worked on various initiatives on migration programs and policy advocacy, and grass-roots international exchange. He served as a member of the Japanese Cabinet Secretariat's Regional Attraction Creation Expert Committee (2018), Japanese Language Committee of National Language Sub-Group, Agency for Cultural Affairs, (2019-), and a member of Shinjuku Committee for Multicultural Cooperative Community (2012-). Mr. Menju is author of dozens of books, including *Jinko Bokoku—Imin de umarekawaru Nippon* [Depopulation ruins the Nation—Migrants regenerates Japan] (Asahi Newspaper Publications, 2023). Mr. Menju completed his BA in law at Keio University and a master's in public policy at Evergreen State College.

*This symposium aims to disseminate findings of JCIE's project on "Building Social Infrastructure for Information Security in Transborder Migration" supported by The Toyota Foundation international Grant Program. funded project