

THE DYNAMICS OF INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS IN JAPAN UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Abstract

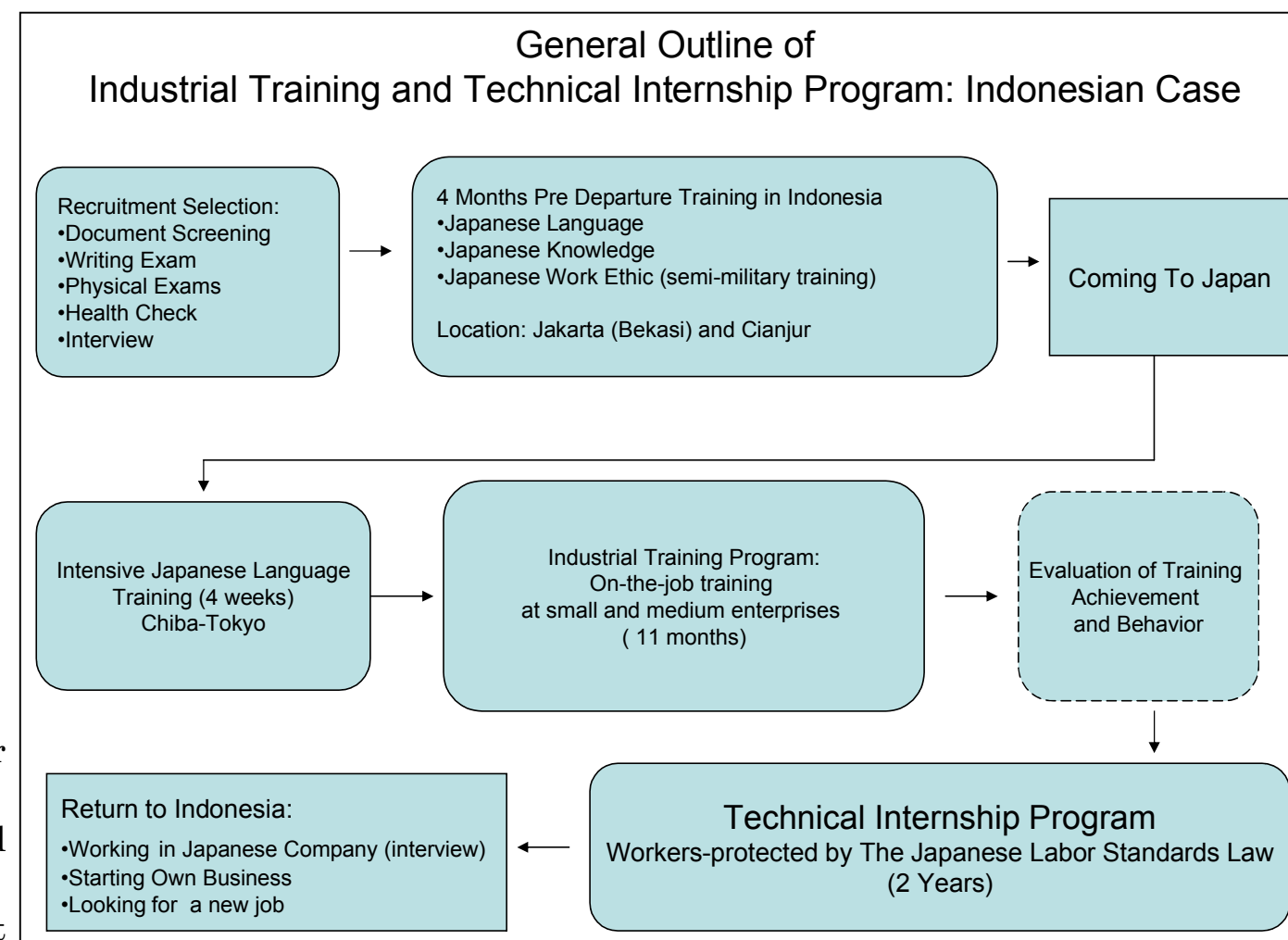
Attracted by Japan's prosperity and motivated by desire for gaining higher income, many Indonesians have been migrating to Japan in increasing numbers since the mid-1990s. Different from other destination countries, most of Indonesian workers who came to Japan is under the program called "Industrial Training and Technical Internship Program" with the main objective to get the use of actual work to obtain new knowledge and technical skills. In fact, it is widely believed that many of them are just treated to fulfill Japan's labor shortage as cheap manual labor. On the other hand, as Japan is extremely different from Indonesia in many aspects, making life in Japan is not easy for Indonesian. However, it is considered that, in spite of many problems in the implementation of the current 'training program' of Japan, as long as the significant difference remains in employment opportunity and earning between Japan and Indonesia, the efforts of dispatching more Indonesians to Japan is still an important policy for both countries.

Research Background

- International Migration is not a new phenomenon for Indonesian Society
- Currently, almost 5 million Indonesians are working and living abroad
- Japan is one of destination countries for Indonesian and it can be predicted that the number will continue to grow in the future
- Lack of dedicated study on the issue of Indonesian migrant workers in Japan
- In a more competitive global environment, the mutual understanding the issues and prospect of foreign migrant workers are very important for reaping optimal benefits.

Research Method

- In-depth Interview
- Close Open Questionnaire
- Number of distributed questionnaires: 100
- Location : Mie Prefecture- Tsu City (35), Matsusaka City (25), Iga City (20), Suzuka City (7), Yokkaichi City (5), Kameyama City (5), Kuwana City (3).
- Type of Industries: Metal, plastic, electrical machinery, rubber and food industries



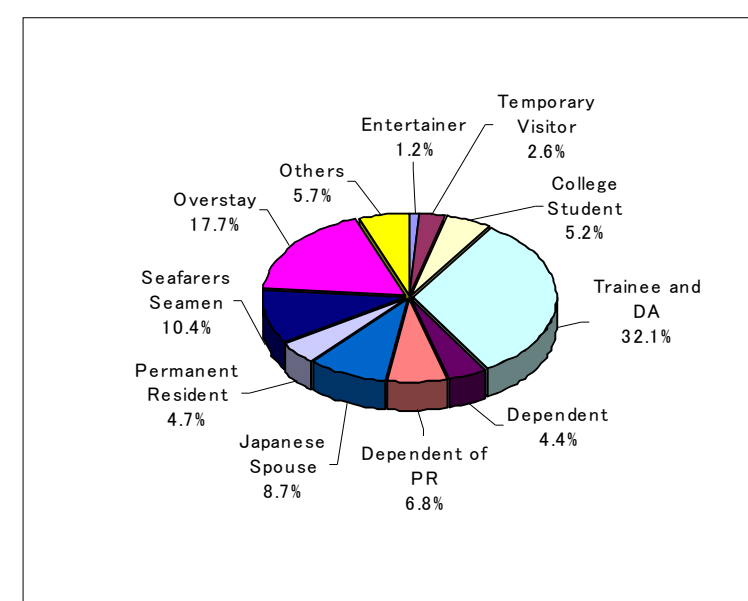
Keywords on Japan Industrial Training and Technical Internship Program

Industrial Training Program is designed to secure the transfer of technology, skills, and knowledge of Japan's Industry as a mean of contributing to the development of the human and industrial resources of others countries, particularly developing countries. In order to ensure these objectives are fulfilled, corporate plans for the accepting trainees must meet the following conditions:

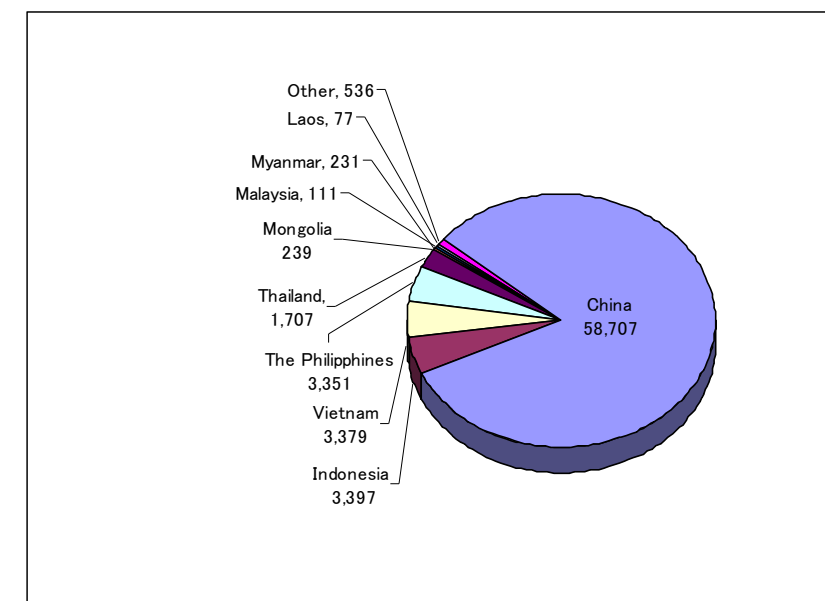
1. The technology, skills, and/or knowledge that the trainee is to obtain in Japan must not be of the type that could be obtained mostly through the repetition of simple work.
2. The trainee is expected to engage in a job requiring the technology, skills, and/or knowledge obtained in Japan after returning to his or her country of nationality or habitual residence.
3. The trainee must be at least 18 years of age.
4. It must be impossible or difficult for the trainee to obtain the desired technology, skills, and/or knowledge in the country where he or she resident.

Technical Internship Program is designed as a training system of broader cooperation with transfer of more practical technology, skills and knowledge to developing countries and with the cultivation of human resource to lead their economic advancement. This program concerns practical of the same category of skills and at the same time as in the regular training.

Percentage of Indonesian in Japan by Status of Residence, 2007

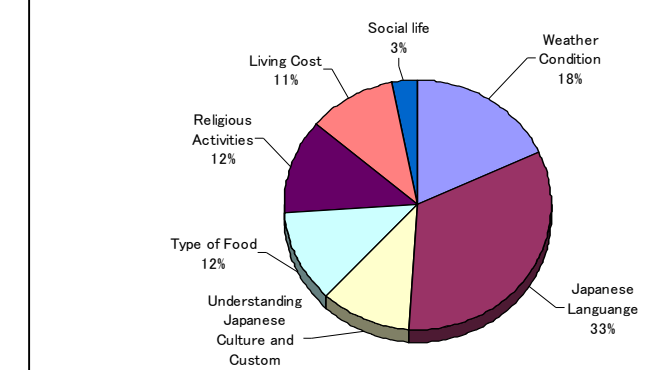


Number of JITCO Supported Trainees in Japan by Country of Origin, 2007



Its Reality and Issues: Result from the Survey Problem during staying in Japan

Q: What is the most difficult things or problem during your stay in Japan?

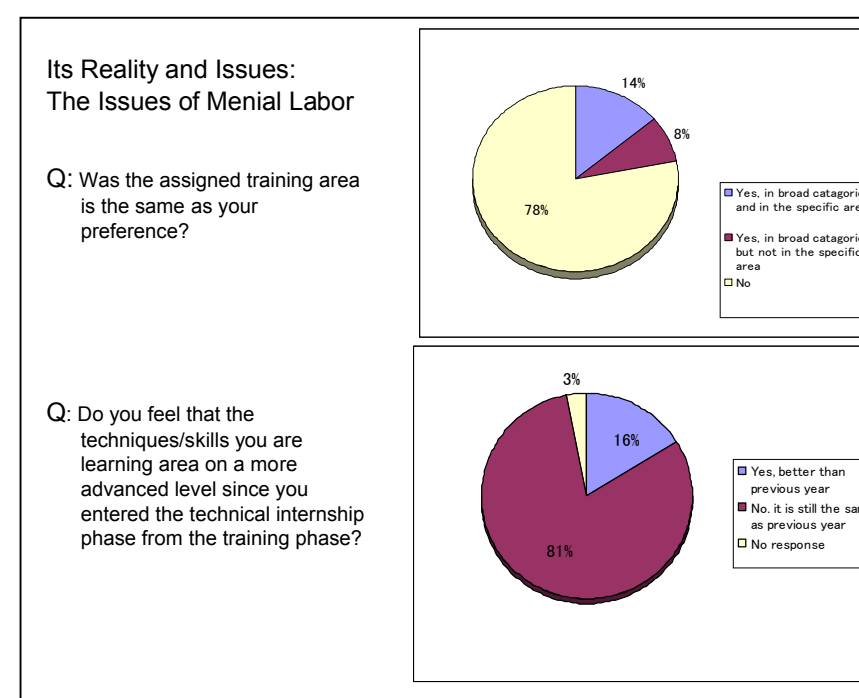
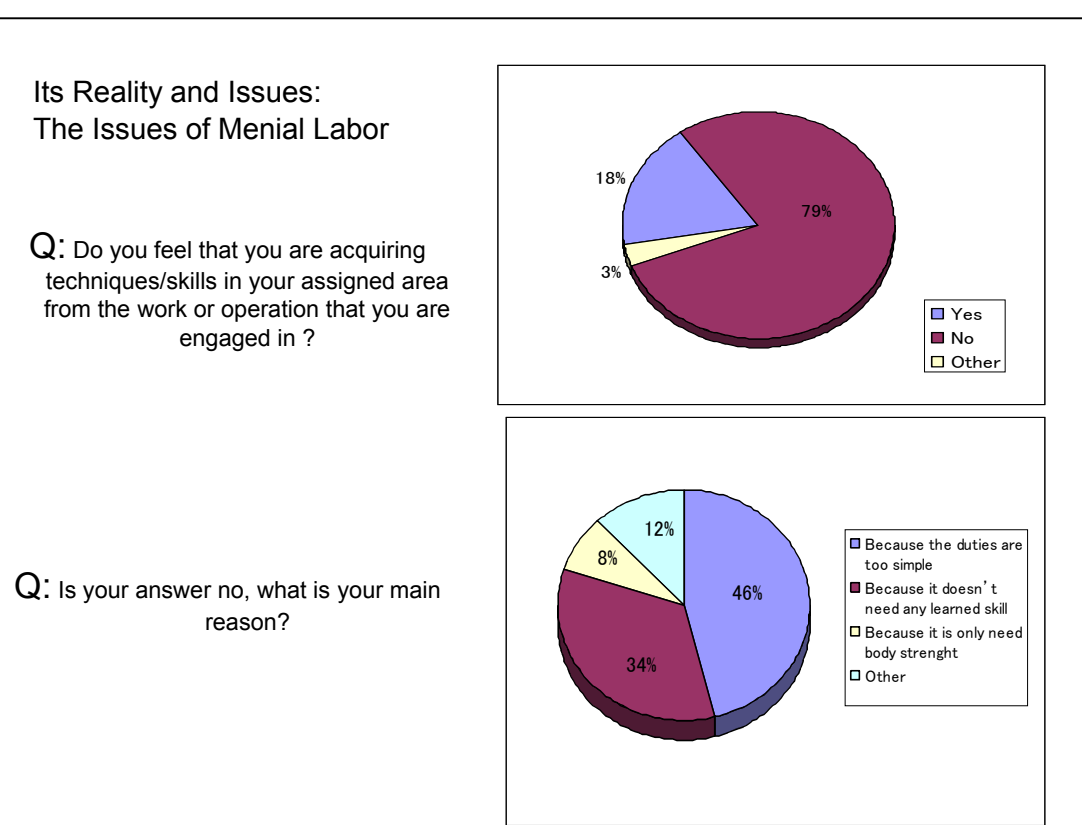


Result from the Survey : Indonesian Technical Intern Monthly Wage

Monthly Wage (in Japan Yen)	Number	Percentage
90,000 - 99,999	8	8.0
100,000 - 109,999	10	10.0
110,000 - 119,999	42	42.0
120,000 - 129,999	26	26.0
130,000 - 139,999	7	7.0
140,000 - 149,999	4	4.0
150,000 - 159,999	1	1.0
160,000 - more	2	2.0
Total	100	100.0

Its Reality and Issues: Remittances

Amount of money remitted per one period of sending remittance (in Japan Yen)	Number of respondents	Percentage
up to 59,999	4	4.0
60,000 - 79,999	6	6.0
80,000 - 99,999	12	12.0
100,000 - 119,999	18	18.0
120,000 - 139,999	36	36.0
140,000 - 159,999	6	6.0
160,000 - 179,999	12	12.0
180,000 - more	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0



Conclusion

Japan's industrial training and technical internship is designed to give opportunities to young people from mostly developing countries, to learn technology, skills and knowledge of Japan's industry. However, base on answered questioners and interviews on this study clearly found that there are still serious problems on the implementation of this program. The reality is still far from the stated objectives. Many of young Indonesian participated on this program are just treated to fulfill Japan's labor shortage as menial labor. Most of them are also engaged in marginal works or assigned to a small part of the operation, such as cutting, packaging, lifting, digging, etc. The condition continues the same event after they became technical interns from their second year.

Learning from this small survey finding and many critics on the implementation of current Japan's training and technical internship program, there is a need for both governments to review and give serious attention to this program, with the intention of improving it. On the Japan side, it should be there is a comprehensive monitoring mechanism on the implementation of this program, particularly monitoring at the level of accepting company or industry. The program should be clearly designed to ensure that the trainees and technical interns acquires appropriate technical skills effectively that will be use to both themselves and their countries.

On the Indonesian side, there is a need for the government to facilitate young Indonesian which will be sent to Japan by giving appropriate information, not only about true condition of training and internship program but also information related to the dynamics of Japanese society, culture, and custom. Furthermore, there is also a need for the Indonesian government to set policies to manage the returning trainees as these returning migrants have many experiences obtained. Benefit can be optimized, and finally, only can be realized when there is serious concern and mutual understanding between both governments, Japan and Indonesia.