明治大学外国人研究者招聘制度 報告書

<招聘教授・研究員の情報 / Guest Professor・Guest Scholar>

THE THE PERSON OF THE PERSON O	
氏 名	OH, Jung-Eun
Name	
所属機関(派遣元)	Hansung University (Seoul, the Republic of Korea)
Affiliation (Home Organization)	
現在の職名	Associate Professor
Position	
研究期間	11 March 2024 to 10 October 2024
Period of Stay	
專攻	Migration Studies
Field of Research	
ホスト教員氏名と所属学部研究科等	国際日本学部教授 山脇啓造
Name of host teacher and affiliation at Meiji University	

<外国人研究者からの報告 / Foreign Researcher Report>

①研究課題 / Research Theme

A Comparative Study of Japan and Korea (ROK) on Immigrant Integration Policies at the Local Level

②研究概要 / Outline of Research

Japan and Korea (ROK) share many similarities in their immigration policy environment. Both countries require a foreign workforce due to their low birth rates and aging populations. However, they remain hesitant to embrace foreign cultures, influenced by their long-standing perception of being homogeneous nations.

Despite these similarities, there are notable differences in how the two countries approach immigrant integration policies. In Korea, integration policies are developed at the central government level and then implemented by local governments. In contrast, Japan allows individual local governments to design and implement their own immigrant integration policies tailored to their specific local needs.

Before coming to Meiji University, I conducted a theoretical study comparing the similarities and differences in immigrant integration policies at the local government level in Japan and Korea. After arriving at Meiji University, I visited major local governments in Japan, interviewed public officials responsible for immigration policy, and met with individuals working at immigrant integration support organizations. Through these experiences, I conducted an empirical study examining the commonalities and differences in immigrant integration policies among local governments that share similar characteristics, such as industrial structure and the proportion of the immigrant population relative to the total population, in both Japan and Korea.

③招聘期間中の研究活動の実績 / The research results as Guest Professor・Guest Scholar

During my time at Meiji University, I had the opportunity to closely examine the immigrant social integration policies implemented by local governments in Japan. Through this research, I realized that the differences between the social integration policies of local governments in Japan and South Korea were far greater than I had initially expected. In particular, I discovered a significant difference in their approaches to language policies for immigrants.

In South Korea, many places offer free Korean language classes for foreign residents, yet there is no strong expectation that they must necessarily learn Korean. As a result, many long-term foreign residents do not speak Korean fluently. Even at immigrant integration support centers run by local governments, services are provided in multiple languages, not just Korean. Additionally, many of those offering services in foreign languages at these institutions are marriage migrants who have married Korean nationals.

In contrast, Japan places a strong emphasis on foreign residents learning Japanese. It is common for immigrant integration support centers run by local governments to provide services primarily in Japanese. For foreign residents who struggle with the language, there are initiatives to promote the use of simplified Japanese to facilitate communication.

The insights I gained about the social integration policies of local governments in Japan during my time at Meiji University were further deepened through lectures and discussions with participants during special lectures at the university.



