

For the future of Japan

For many decades, Japan was the only advanced industrial country in the world that did not rely on unskilled foreign labor. However, things in Japan are not good in terms of economy. China overtook Japan as world's second-biggest economy 6 years ago and we have been influenced by Europe's debt crisis. In addition, we had the big earthquake in 2011. Because the serious problem for Japan, the demand for foreign workers has increased. In this situation, Japan should now accept more immigrants and become a multi-ethnic country in the future. Japan has to discuss about immigrants and prepare to accept and set up systems, like creating laws and building houses. There are several reasons for that.

Firstly, getting immigrants is countermeasure for aging society. Aging society is one of the most serious problems we have in Japan. One government estimate finding that by 2060, the country's population could shrink from 127 million of its current size to 87 million, with 40 percent aged 65 or older. It means that young people are imposed great financial burden on the health care for elderly. The decline of young people accelerates to make the situation worse. So accepting immigrants brings the labor force and rises up the birthrate. Secondly, the reason for finances that they pay as taxes. If immigrants live in Japan, they have to pay taxes. Then government makes most of the money useful for health care or economic recovery. Thirdly, many Japanese would have chance to communicate with foreigners. Japanese tend to be introversion, so it is good for them being apt to turn inward to have a chance to communicate with foreigners. It is very important for Japan to become multi-cultural and international in order to be more creative and competitive in the world. Despite the obvious need, why don't they take immigrants like in UK or Canada? Simply put, there is a deep cultural aversion to any immigration whatsoever. As in the U.S, some Japanese people believe that allowing in immigrant workers is bad for those already in Japan. For example, they are afraid of increasing criminal rate and a job shortage for Japanese people. According to one research, 48.5% of Japanese firmly refuse immigrants. 19.3% don't want immigrants that much. 16.8% said that there is no choice but to accept immigrants. It means 74.6 % of Japanese have a hesitant idea for immigrants. Japan is somewhat too cautious of foreigners, so I think there is a need to maintain a more positive attitude towards them.

I think quota immigration Act is good for our society. It's not for shut out immigrants, it's for control to be well-ordered. Quota immigration Act in the U.S is for turn down

immigrants especially Asian by control number of immigrants who live in the U.S less than two percent per each country. My thinking of Quota immigration act is controlling the number of immigrants according to their past year's behavior. For example, if immigrants from China did just few crimes in 2015, we will accept more immigrants from China in 2016. Making it enforce, we should have some efforts. We need to teach Japanese for immigrants. Positive countries to accept immigrants like the U.S, Canada, and Australia use English, but Japanese people use Japanese. There are very few people who can speak Japanese in the world. Unless immigrants can speak kind of Japanese, they can't become familiar with our society in the true sense of the word, so we should make this opportunity for them. Other aspect, this is good for Japanese because it could make jobs for Japanese teachers. Also the government of Japan should encourage Japanese people to speak English more. Although most students in Japan learn English for six years (starting the first year of junior high school), they often have difficulties communicating in English. This is because the English education in Japanese schools is mainly geared towards helping the students to pass the written university entrance exams. Thus the students spend hours memorizing complex English grammar rules but never spend anytime actually using English to communicate. English has played a central role as an international language more than ever, so it's really important they can speak at least Basic English. To enhance Japanese people's communicative skills in English, the textbooks must be closer to practical English. Also, we should enfranchise for immigrants. (Just for permanent residents) This is to be expected rights for them.

For above reasons, I agree with accepting immigrants. Japan cannot make requirements for immigrants loosely now because of insufficient system or law for immigrants. But we finally have to accept immigrants in the future not only to make Japan better, but also to make futures of world better. We need to think about Japan and immigrants.

(797 words)

Reference:

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