

Priority directions of Japanese-Russian cooperation

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The decrease in a population as the mutual problem of both Japan and Russia

Russian economy has kept growing mainly due to a fixed capital and the expanding of private consumption. In 2007, Russian GDP was marked 8.1%. It led several impacts on working culture, the unemployment rate decreased 5.6% from 7.9%. According to the statics of WHO, both Japanese and Russian birthrates mark 1.3; which means we both have a problem of a decrease of total population from now on.

The expected social issues in the era of the decreasing population

Now, I would like to address several social issues in the era of the decreasing population.

This is a prominent problem in Japan, "NEET." Such a disproportion of supply and demand of employment seems to cause a social phenomenon like NEET. NEET means "Not currently engaged in Employment, Education, and Training (or Job hunting). The extended economic stagnation in Japan during the 1990s, which has led to a high percentage of unemployment amongst the youth segment of the population; 2.13 million by some estimates, reflected in a change in status of part time workers, who were nominally employed into NEETs.

One issue we can not escape from is a Labor Shortage. The generation born in the first baby-boom till the end of the rapid economic growth had reached old age, causing the birth rate to become low. Then, the number of labors had been decreased from 2005. In 2005, we had approximately 67million labors; though, it is supposed to be 63million a 7% decrease in 2025. The percentage of people over 60 years old is assumed to be 19.6% in the total population, which means 1 in 5 people will be over 60 years old. Furthermore,

Japanese people have a longer average life expectancy; Japan now faces on the problems of the aging society that leads to a labor shortage in result. Especially, there is lack of labors in nurses and care workers, thus the Japanese government have established in accepting about 1,000 Indonesians, training to be nurses since this August. The Japanese government plans to increase such an interchange of human resources from overseas more in the near future. So if the birth rate keeps falling in Russia, there are still possibilities to have a labor shortage in the future.

In order to the raise the birth rate, a new balance between work and life is been explored. As you can see those facts, the Japanese government seems to rely on foreign immigrants; yet, there is still something to make this circumstance better. Firstly, Japan needs some changes for accepting modern Japanese sense of values. In fact, there are more and more women who have their own jobs and careers, but less interested in marriage or having babies due to the difficulty of managing work and family. As a lot of Japanese companies regard long-hour-working as a virtue. Women employees can not use a child-care leave system because of the biases.

Now the companies are requested to accept the variety of employee's life style. In that way, women who have the family can continue their careers longer.

Conclusion

It is so significant to know and understand the different working culture or recruiting system of another country, and those case studies would bring a new value of sense on the people.

In addition, it is necessary to offer new varieties of recruiting and working style to increase the employee having a different value. For example, in Japan, we do not really have the culture of the gap year, so after students finish schooling, they immediately start to work at companies. So if young people who haven't built any careers, the status of the new-grad-student means so much, but it prevents bringing the diversity in Japanese working culture. Therefore, I believe altering the recruiting system should be the key point of spreading the values of Work Life Balance. To achieve the work life

balance, the labor environment will need to be developed further both socially and institutionally. Personally, I believe we should be so fortunate to participate in this kind of forum, which is a great opportunity for young people to share new ideas to each other directly.

Thank you.