2015 Annual Report
"IOM Migration Research and Training Center (MRTC) is a migration policy think-tank committed to creating values of social integration between the international community and Asia, government and local communities, and migrants and nationals."

Established in December 2009, the Migration Research & Training Center of the International Organization for Migration (MRTC) is an independent research and training institution created through a special partnership between the Korean government and the International Organization for Migration. The MRTC undertakes practical and innovative research and education on migration policy issues that are essential for local, regional and international stakeholders, including governments (national, provincial and city administration), academia, international organizations, and civil society organizations, etc.

Furthermore, the MRTC also fulfills its roles to meet social responsibility: takes the lead in advancing migration policy as a new driving force of Korea; and is committed to contributing to migration policy as an Asia hub and international cooperative institution.

Contents
02_ Introduction
08_ 2015 Research Projects
26_ 2015 Education & Cooperation Projects
36_ 2015 Major Activities
As Korea is entering into a low-birth rate and aging society, a dynamic migration policy comes to the fore as an optimal alternative solving these social problems amid comprehensive discussion over a future driving force.

The number of foreigners based in Korea has exceeded 1.9 million with a short migration history, and accordingly, migration policy can be applied to all sectors including economy, culture, society and safety, not only that, it also has a big impact on state management and international stance than any other time.

Established in December 2009 through a special partnership between the Korean government and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the IOM Migration Research and Training Center (MRTC), as a public and international cooperative institution, devotes itself to meeting the responsibility of the times in research and education of migration policy.

Especially, the MRTC conducts various research and surveys on foreigners residing in Korea and throughout this, it provides not only basic data of policy development and academic research and proposes major migration policies to the Korean government providing changing information of international environment in relation to migration policy.

Also, the IOM MRTC contributes to establishing a network through active exchanges with home and abroad migration experts as well as accelerating its efforts to train and nurture migration-related experts. Besides, the emerging objectives of the IOM MRTC will focus on 7 million overseas Korean nationals.

The IOM MRTC will be at the front of developing and disseminating migration policy comprehensively covering immigrants, local communities, government policy, and international relations. The IOM MRTC sincerely appreciates your interest in our organization and hopes continuous supports and encouragements in the future.
2007~2009

November 2007
MOU concluded between Minister of Justice, Governor of Gyeonggi province, and Secretary General of IOM
July 2009
The Agreement entered into force

September 2009
Established IOM BRIC
December 2009
Held an opening ceremony and seminar on immigration policy

2010

February
Held “Essentials of Management Training: Migration Law, Policy and Practice” with special emphasis on migrant integration
May
Hosted an international seminar on Multicultural Society & Migrant Integration Policy
July
Held “Human Rights Policy Development Seminar” with immigration policy officials from East Asia
December
Hosted a workshop on policies for the social integration of migrants

2011

January
Hosted an international workshop on the cultural context of marriage migration
January
Hosted an introductory meeting with Labor Attaches of Asian countries
June
Signed a MOU with Korea Science Data Archive (KOSDATA)
August
Organized a workshop on “Migration and Public Health: Special Lecturer Series” with Seoul National University’s Graduate School of Public Health
October
Signed a MOU with Korea University’s Asiatic Research Institute (ARI) and jointly hosted a symposium on “Current Issues and Future Perspectives on Multicultural Societies in East Asia”

2012

February
Signed a MOU with the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA)
March
Signed an agreement to establish the First-Run Asia Secretariat of the International Metropolis Project
May
Held an international symposium on “Labor Migration through the Korean Employment Permit System: Current Perspectives and Future Vision”
July
Hosted an international conference on “Northeast Asia Diaspora: Korea, China, Japan, U.S., and North Korea.”
July
Mutable and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea Foundation
September
Hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Justice a roundtable discussion on “Migration Policy and Multicultural Education in Universities”
September
Organized a roundtable discussion on “Migrant Integration Policy in Local Communities” with the Ministry of Public Administration and Security
November
Jointly hosted Korea Foundation’s Global Seminar on “Challenges of Multicultural World and Global Approaches to Coexistence: Realities, Visions, and Actions.”

2013

January
Hosted a joint conference with Ministry of Foreign Affairs on “Policy Coherence on Migration and Development in Asia”
March
Hosted a training workshop for Asia-Pacific policymakers and practitioners on “Migration, Environment, Climate Change, and Adaptation” in the partnership with IOM
March
Conducted a session for “2013 Human Rights Policy Development Training Program” hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea
April
Visit of the head of Migration Integration & Education Division from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas
May
Organized a joint conference with the Korean Society of Contemporary European Studies on “Solidarity and networks: Re-thinking European Studies” to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Korea-EU relations
May
Held an academic conference commemorating the 8th Together Day on “Multicultural Korea, seeking potentials for an integrated society” in partnership with Korea Immigration Service, Dong-a Daily Newspaper, Korean Association for Multicultural Studies, and Seoulming University for Multicultural Studies
August
Hosted with Korea Immigration Service a roundtable policy dialogue between foreign experts and the Korean government officials on “Devising Policy Link between Migration and Development”
August
Hosted with the Korea Bar Association an international symposium on “Legal Systems for International Marriage in Asia”
October
Held a training program for visiting instructors of multiracial family support centers in Gyeong and Paju city
November
Jointly hosted a conference on “Migration Association a roundtable seminar on "Migration and Development " in partnership with IOM
November
Hosted the “Policy Seminar on "EPS Migration Policy and Development" with sponsorship of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KIOCA), Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KOEIC), and Seoul National University Asia Center
September
Held the inauguration ceremony of Joon Oh Jung, the Director of IOM MRTC
October
Hosted the “Workshop by Public Private-University Partnership in North Gyeonggi Province” in cooperation with Culture Education Center of Shinhwa University
November
Hosted the “7th Future Immigration Leaders’ Conference” in cooperation with Korea Immigration Service
November
Hosted a session in “2014 Metropolis Milan Conference”
November
Participated in the 105th IOM International Organization for Migration Plenary Session
December
Participated in the Council of Ministry of Foreign Affairs - International Organizations in Korea
December
Hosted “Migrant Social Integration Support System Analysis” in cooperation with Ministry of Justice, Korean Association for Public Administration
December
Held "Migration and Development in Korea - Asian Future, Inclusive, and Possibilities" in cooperation with UNITAR and SOMIS

2014

January
Held Welcome forum with OECD international Migration Division on “OECD Statistics and Sustainability of EPS in Korea”
February
Hosted IOM General Director in welcome on “Discussion Policy and International Cooperation” in cooperation with MORA, MOJ and IOM
February
Host scheduled invitation discussion on “Korean-German policy to attract high quality human capital”
May
Hosted Academic Conference Commemorating the 7th Together Day in cooperation with Korea Immigration Service, Dong-a Daily Newspaper, Korean Association for Multicultural Studies, Seoulming University for Multicultural Studies
May
Jointly organized the 8th Conference of Korean Society of Contemporary European Studies with the Korean Society of Contemporary European Studies (KIOCA) and the Institute for EU Studies of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
June
Hosted IOM MRTC Seminar with HR Immigration Officials in cooperation with Korea Immigration Service
July
Hosted IOM MRTC forum with OECD international migration division on “OECD Statistics and Sustainability of EPS in Korea”
July
Hosted IOM MRTC seminar with government officials from developing countries in cooperation with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KIOCA)
August
Hosted “International Colloquium” in cooperation with Konkuk University
August
Hosted a joint Seminar “ODA in the Migration - Development Nexus” with sponsorship of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KIOCA), Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KOEIC), and Seoul National University Asia Center
September
Held the inauguration ceremony of Joon Oh Jung, the Director of IOM MRTC
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2015

January
Selected as an Immigrant Support Institute by the Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice
January
Designated as a public institution by the Committee for Management of Public Institutions, Ministry of Strategy and Finance
February
Hosted 2015 joint Workshop for Immigrant Support Institutes and Centers
March
Hosted Workshop for Human Rights Lecturers for E-6-2 Visas holders
May
Hosted Migrated Research Forum to commemorate the 8th Together Day jointly with Incheon Immigration Office of the Ministry of Justice and Multiculturalism and Social Integration Research Centre of Inha University
June
Signed a MOU with BK Bank
August
Co-hosted an academic cooperation with the University of Konjoo (South Korea)
September
Hosted an Invitation Seminar with Hong Kong Immigration Department officials with the Korean Immigration Service
September
Hosted a seminar and supplementary training course for multicultural society professionals
September
Co-hosted an Invitation Seminar with Hong Kong Immigration Department officials with the Korean Immigration Service
October
Co-hosted a Konjoo Province Province Policy seminar on “Migration and Multicultural Research Network” with the University of Shinko, Pumiphool, Honoring and Konjoo Family and Femal Research Institute
October
Hosted Policy Seminar on “ODA Academic Activities”
October
Hosted an international expert seminar on “Refugee Assistance Policy in Japan and Korea and the ULS.”
November
Co-hosted a dialogue with 500 multicultural experts in Konjoo Province with the Gyeong Provincial Government
November
Hosted the next-generation immigration policy symposium: “A meeting with diplomatic officials in Korea” with the Ministry of Justice
December
Co-hosted a discussion on “The Safety and Protection of Overseas Korean Nationals” with the representative office of Yang Chang Young
IOM MRTC PROJECTS

"IOM Migration Research and Training Center (MRTC) conducts a wide range of projects, including research for the development of migration policy, and education and cooperation activities to enhance policy practice by utilizing domestic and international networks."
2015 Research Projects

The MRTC performs a wide range of research works, which include analyzing in detail about immigration policies implemented at the central government and local government levels, thereby providing suggestions for the improvement of policy efficiency; identifying migration trends of the Republic of Korea by using migration-related administrative statistics and survey data; and providing preliminary materials for policy development and scholarly research. The MRTC’s research also delivers the latest information about changes in the international migration policy landscape and about newly-introduced immigration law system or policies of major migration countries with an aim to contribute to on-going efforts to further improve immigration policy of the Republic of Korea.

Especially in 2015, the MRTC’s research projects looked closely into policies related to long-term foreign residents and illegal foreign residents, and had an in-depth study on Employment Permit System (EPS). Meanwhile, the MRTC placed more importance on policy report and issue brief that will contribute to developing immigration policy and enhancing the understanding of rapidly-changing migration environment.

The MRTC’s 2015 publications are overall 33 including 2 research reports, 6 policy reports, 16 issue briefs, 1 statistic brief, and 8 working papers.
**Debate on Migrant Workers’ Right to Change Workplaces**

**Background and purpose**

- The Employment Permit System (EPS) limits the right of migrant workers to change their workplaces or employers except for ethnic Korean. The related regulations have been relaxed since a launch of the EPS. However, there are still fierce debates about the existing rules limiting the rights of migrant workers. Thus, this study reviews the past and on-going debates on the above-said issues, and examines whether such regulations are irrevocable to protect the interest of local employers and employees as its policy measures are being actually implemented.

**Key points**

- Analyzed cases of the Employment Permit System (EPS): related regulations on the limitation of change in workplace of foreign workers.
- Analyzed statistical data on the limitation of change in workplace of foreign workers: the number of applications for changing in workplace, and reasons for changing
- Analyzed debates, reasoning, and relevant documentation on the issue
- Analyzed the impact that migrant workers’ mobility has on local employers and employees

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**International Cooperation on Migration in South Korea and its Future Direction**

**Background and purpose**

- International cooperation on migration have been highlighted as a new policy agenda and its goals set by the Korean government in the “Second Basic Plan for Immigration Policy (2013–2017)”. However, in general, lack of awareness of international cooperation can be seen in Korean immigration policy. In this regard, this study looked closely into each phase of categorized international cooperation in such policy, suggesting meaningful insight for developing relevant future policy.

**Key points**

- Reviewed the need of international cooperation on migration and its discussion at international level
- Identified and analyzed international migration cooperation status of Korea (Categorization)
- Suggested future directions and challenges in international migration policy of Korea

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**Statistics on Korean Emigration: Current Status and its Improvements**

**Background and purpose**

- Immigration policy in regard to inflow and outflow of the population has been in the spotlight as a preventive measure of domestic depopulation. Currently, researches on immigration have rapidly increased while that of emigration is still inactive. Lack of credible statistical data on overseas Korean nationals are one of main reasons that explain lack of research on emigration.

The concept of population in transnational era is beyond a nation’s boundary or territory. Therefore, overseas Korean nationals should also be regarded as a member of Korean society. Various and in-depth survey on them should be conducted to make suitable policies if they are regarded as the part of Korean society.

This study first reviewed immigration status by using domestic and overseas statistical data of immigration, and secondly, suggested improvement measures for further necessary information or survey methods while indicating the parameters of current statistical data

**Key points**

- Identified Korean immigration trend by using statistical data
- Indicated the definition of immigrant in the above-said five data, collecting data method, and its problems
- Introduced how the other countries try to identify their immigration status
- Suggested policy measures regarding related survey on immigrants, establishment of statistical data and its management

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**UK’s Refugee Policy and Integration Support Services**

**Background and purpose**

- This study reviews the UK’s refugee policy: the number of refugee seekers, change of UK’s refugee policy; looked into community-based integration support program and its services that provided; and implications for the development of Korea’s refugee policy from the UK’s case

**Key points**

- UK’s current status of refugee and refugee seekers
- UK’s refugee policy history
- UK’s refugee integration policy and its support program
- UK’s support services by the category of refugee
:: Return and Reintegration Issues in Sending Country: Vietnam, The Philippines, and Indonesia

Background and purpose

• As the magnifying effects of positive impacts brought by virtuous circle of migration, voluntary return and re-integration of migrant has become controversial. Considering that the most of migrants living in Korea are from developing Asian countries, cooperation with sending country for return and re-integration of migrants would be more critical policy agenda in the future.

• This study is aimed at realizing the Korean government’s virtuous cycle of migration in making effective policy, requiring comprehensive understanding of related return and re-integration policies of sending countries. In particular, it conducted comparative analysis on the return and re-integration policies of major three Southeast Asia countries – Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam – where their nationals are the top three residents in Korea.

Key points

• Analyzed the meaning of return and re-integration in terms of international cooperation on immigration

• Suggested policy and cooperative measures regarding return and re-integration of these three countries Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam

:: The Economy Ripple Effect of Medical Tour by Foreigners

Background and purpose

• In an increasing demand of medical services and medical industry’s competition and openness, there creates growing economic ripple effects resulting from medical consumer’s international mobility, by which medical tourism will become a new value-added industry.

• Since the amendment of Medical Act in 2009, the attraction of foreign patient has been allowed with the Korean government’s supportive policies such as the introduction of medical visa, medical tourism agency registration, lodging and incidental recognition of the medical business in order to invigorate Korea’s medical industry, in which Korea will become one of major medical tour destinations in Asia.

• As an initial research seeking the future immigration policy direction, this study aims to examine the current status of domestic medical tourism, to estimate the number of out-patient-tourists and their expenses; and to project the impacts on domestic economy with use of industry-related index

Key points

• The current status of global and domestic medical market

• Estimation of the number of out-patient-tourist and its expense

• Estimation of economic ripple effect of out-patient-tourist on domestic economy

:: Debate on the Human Trafficking by Abusing Korea’s Temporary Labor Migration Program

Background and purpose

• Amnesty International released a survey report that interviewed with foreign workers in January 2014, provoking a controversy over the cases of rampant exploitation of foreign workers and mobility restrictions under the current Employment Permit System (EPS), which can be deemed as ‘human trafficking’ according to international labor standards.

• In regard to the above-said issue, this study examines the standard of ‘human trafficking’ defined in international standard focusing on the Palermo Protocols adopted by the United Nations, analyzed in which part of cases under the current EPS in Korea can be applied to the range of ‘human trafficking’ at international standards, and suggested improvement measures for the current EPS

Key points

• Introduced human trafficking-related part in the Palermo Protocol

• Similarity comparison of human trafficking conditions described in the Palermo Protocol and cases found under the EPS

• Indicated that the EPS has insufficient legal framework to restrain forced labor and restriction of physical mobility

• Suggested that strict supervision of employer and punishment regulations are required in order to exempt from international society’s denunciation that the EPS induced human trafficking, the reformation of structural framework that causes inhumane working environment is also required

:: Discussion on the status of Undocumented Youths in the States: Focusing on DREAM Act

Background and purpose

• When it comes to ‘undocumented children’, migrant family need care and protection, and in particular, most of their situations are determined by their parents without their own decision. Therefore, their legal status has been an issue in the United States.

• This act has become a controversial issue in American political debate since its first introduction in 2001 while still remaining as pending bill in the Congress. The controversy over the act reveals a various aspect of the American societies on the status of undocumented migrant youth. Further, this brief draw some policy implications for Korea from the debate on the legal status of undocumented youth.

Key points

• Discussed the details of the Act

• Summarized the reasoning of pros and cons over the Act in the aspect of justification, finance, and humanitarian and morale

• Implications: Dream Act is not universal approach but selective approach for undocumented migrant youth who are only qualified for certain conditions, in which legal status is given to individual rather than family unit. Discussions are required to consider whether such approaches can be applied to Korean society

:: Issue Brief 

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Discussion on the status of Undocumented Youths in the States: Focusing on DREAM Act

Discussion on the status of Undocumented Youths in the States: Focusing on DREAM Act
### The Roles and Challenges of Migration Society's Media for Inter-Cultural Communication

#### Background and purpose
- In inter-culturation, a desirable principle of bilateral communication is inevitable between unfamiliar cultures. Pointing out that in Korea, the role of media is critical in transforming the Korean society into a multi-cultural society where bilateral communication takes place between different cultures. However, the mainstream media spoke for migrants' voice in a limited way.
- The media representing migrant's society has become necessary, the role of migrant media also became crucial. Despite of migrant's media activities, the public's awareness and its influence are under-represented.
- Examined challenges of migrant's media: suggested required efforts for migrant's media that can be influential in Korean society; and finally advised the Korean government on policy measures for migrant's media.

#### Key points
- Discussed the constraint of reporting and program on domestic migrants' media that failed to represent migrants' voices.
- Introduced the role of migrant media in domestic migrant's society and its media activities.
- Analyzed the limitation of current migrants media due to lack of the public awareness and influence.
- New media environment (Internet): Opportunity and Crisis in migrant's media.
- Advised the role of the Korean government: future directions and challenges to become migrant's media that communicates with the Korean society.

### Points-based Immigration Systems of Australia and Canada and Lessons for Korea

#### Background and purpose
- Many countries run a points-based immigration system in order to select a qualified immigrant for their immigration policies by scoring points for those who wish to immigrate into. Although each country has different purpose and system on using the system, but common things found in the system that includes standards such as objective qualification or evaluation to select a merit-based immigrant.
- The Korean government has granted F-2 visa to professionals residing over one year in Korea and who achieved more than overall 80 points in each criteria such as age, education, and income since 2008.
- This study aimed at drawing implications for the Korean government: reviewing points-based system in Australia and Canada.

#### Key points
- General aspect of Points-based system.
- Changes of points-based system operating in Australia and Canada.
- Discuss how to use the system practically in Korea.

### New Experiments of French Government towards social integration for the 2nd generation of immigrants: A Charter of Secularism (Laicite) in School

#### Background and purpose
- The French government looked for various policy measures for social integration of the 2nd generation of immigrants after the riot of 2nd generation immigrants all over the country in 2005. However, after shooting attack of Charlie Hebdo - a French weekly newspaper in Paris - by young Muslim immigrants, debate on the failure of social integration for the 2nd generation immigrants was on fire.
- When considering Korea has an increase in the 2nd-generation immigrants, the France's case study on social integration policy for 2nd-generation will have lots of implications in developing Korea's immigration policy.

#### Key points
- The nature of GFMD and its operational characteristics.
- Korea’s adequate intervention strategy for GFMD.
- The French government looked for various policy measures for social integration of the 2nd generation of immigrants after the riot of 2nd generation immigrants all over the country in 2005. However, after shooting attack of Charlie Hebdo - a French weekly newspaper in Paris - by young Muslim immigrants, debate on the failure of social integration for the 2nd generation immigrants was on fire.
- When considering Korea has an increase in the 2nd-generation immigrants, the France's case study on social integration policy for 2nd-generation will have lots of implications in developing Korea's immigration policy.

### The Involving Strategy in GFMD: Perspective from International Cooperation on Migration

#### Background and purpose
- Korean is one out of 30 steering countries in GFMD. Nevertheless, the concrete efforts have not been made how to make full use of GFMD at the government policy-making level.
- However, as Korea's experience on the 'migration' and 'development' of international society is considered as a meaningful case, this study aims at proposing directive measures that will lead in international migration cooperation and play a role as mediator throughout GFMD.

#### Key points
- The nature of GFMD and its operational characteristics.
- Korea's adequate intervention strategy for GFMD.
- Examined challenges of migrant's media: suggested required efforts for migrant's media that can be influential in Korean society; and finally advised the Korean government on policy measures for migrant's media.
Debate on the Employment of Migrant Care Workers: Case of Hong Kong, Italy, and Singapore

**Background and purpose**
- In responding to low-birth rate, aging, and gender equality at policy level, women’s participation in the labor market is expected to increase. Women’s participation in the labor market led to a gap of housework that had long been undertaken by women in the family. For recent years, suggestions have been made in Korea to open up its housework labor market while criticizing high cost of hiring housekeeper and limitation of child-care policy.
- Discussed the introduction of foreign labor and its controversy in the area of housework in response to increasing demand of housework labor and pressures on the introduction of foreign labor in the long term.

**Key points**
- Introduction of foreign housework laborers’ current status, history, and related laws and regulations in Hong Kong, Italy, and Singapore.
- Discussed issues on foreign housework laborers and employment issues arose from these three countries.

::: Debates on the Employment of Migrant Care Workers: Case of Hong Kong, Italy, and Singapore

::: Implications on Post-2015 Development Agenda to Korean Immigration Policy

**Background and purpose**
- A various kind of migration issues have been highlighted in the discussion of Post-2015 Development Agenda in relation to realizing the development goals. Shortly, this is a viewpoint of “mainstreaming migration into development planning". This study also discussed implications for Korea’s immigration policy as a receiving country.

**Key points**
- Reviewed the recent international debates on immigration issues between Post-2015 and SDGs.
- A policy perspective as receiving country on the strategy: ‘Mainstreaming migration into development planning’
- Several suggestions to realise ‘development through migration’ from the standpoint of Korea as a receiving country.

::: How to run the EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund?

**Background and purpose**
- A joint-fund for promoting joint immigration policy - the European Fund for the Integration of non-EU immigrants (EFI) and European Refugee Fund (ERF) - run by the European Union has been combined into one called ‘Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund’ in larger scale and has been operated since 2014.
- As this fund has a similar nature of the social integration fund for immigrants that the Korean government is considering to adopt. This study will seek for some desirable examples of operating measures for the fund throughout the EU’s cases.

**Key points**
- The background of EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
- Budgets, operating body, and operation system of the fund
- Changes of social integration policy for immigrants after the introduction of the fund
- Implications for adopting Korea’s social integration fund

::: Debates on Foreign Remittance and its Costs

**Background and purpose**
- Since remittance is stable and predictable than any other incoming capital, and it also can promote economic development. From this side, remittances to developing country shall be economically used to the best extent possible during money transfer without loss. Accordingly, international society has highlighted lowering remittance costs.
- The official record of remittance to developing countries increased 5.0 percent in 2014, compared to 2013, and 4.4 percent in 2015 than a previous year, according to the World Bank (The World Bank, 2014)
- This paper discussed domestic remittance and international efforts on reducing its costs as a part of participating in such efforts that Korea should make.

**Key points**
- International society’s efforts on reducing remittance costs
- Actual conditions of foreign remittance in Korea
- Remittance costs (amount) and Laffer Curve
* Laffer Curve: the relationship between rates of taxation and the resulting levels of government revenue, suggesting that tax rates increasing after a certain point would cause reducing tax revenue.
Background and purpose

- The most remarkable outcome would be an economically strengthened regional cooperation while hoping to realize a united single market by 2015 and moving toward free trade in capital, goods, labor, and services in the process of ASEAN integration. Nevertheless, the ASEAN still faces a pile of challenges that they should overcome for regional integration. In particular, regional cooperation on international migration comes to the first to handle with
- This study discussed any linkage between Korea’s immigration policy and skilled-labor mobility according to free trade in goods and services taking place in ASEAN or Southeast countries which has the largest export volume (destination) to Korea

Key points

- Labor mobility issues according to liberalization of trade in goods and services by Free Trade Agreement
- Migration policy-related responses to skilled-labor mobility between Korea and Southeast Asia

Background and purpose

- The Japanese government officially did not approve the introduction of foreign workers into unskilled labor areas despite of clear demand of unskilled foreign workers. Rather, they responded to labor shortage through Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and Nikkeijin (Japanese descendants) migrants mostly from South America. Such policies have been slowly changed in recent days.
- In April 2014, Shinzo Abe’s cabinet decided to expand unskilled foreign laborers to areas in severe shortage of laborers. The government decided to loosen Japan’s existing ‘practical training program’ to allow foreign workers to work in construction industry, house work, and care-services, and considered to introduce Korea’s ‘Employment Permit System’ to allow foreign workers to work in construction industry, house work, home-care services and house work.

Key points

- Current status of Japan’s economy and its labor market
- Current status of using existing skilled foreign workers in Japan
- New schemes to introduce foreign workers in the sector of construction industry, home-care services and house work
- Challenges to Japan and implications for Korea

Background and purpose

- Since the Korean society has turned into multi-cultural society, migrant groups are categorized as marriage migrant, multicultural family and children of immigrant families, and are called in diverse ways. However, due to uncertain naming of the groups, it has led to the public’s unclear understanding about migrant groups. This is because the ministries use the terms in their own way according to their policies.
- Use clear and unified term for migrant groups by each ministry is prerequisite in order to implement efficient and practical immigration policy. Also, collecting immigrant data under the unified definition can prevent confusion

Key points

- Compared differences of term describing immigrants such as ‘foreigner’, ‘multi-cultural family’, and ‘children of immigrant families’ used among the ministries and related laws including ‘Act on the Treatment of Foreigners in Korea’, and ‘Multicultural Family Support Act.’
- Pointed out 1) obstacles to collect correct statistical data on migrant by group as each ministry use different terms, 2) difficulties in developing related policies and its evaluation, and 3) possible blind spot of migrant policies, and finally urged to reach an agreement on migrant-related terms among the ministries

Background and purpose

- This study questioned some claims: ‘foreign crime rates are on the rise’, ‘foreign crime rates are higher than those of Koreans’, ‘higher foreign crimes rates because of undocumented immigrants’, ‘Chinese crime rates are the highest’, and ‘social welfare cost increased because of illegal crimes’. analyzed whether such claims are true or not, and examined the legitimacy of statistical data and analysis results
- This study aims at dispelling a ‘misunderstanding’ of foreign crime and informing the public of ‘truth’ based on statistics of Korean National Police Agency

Key points

- The increase and decrease rates of foreign crime
- Comparison of average/domestic/foreign crime rates by type of offense
- An increase in undocumented immigrants and crime rates
- Average crime rate by country of crime rate by type of offense of foreign resident
- Crime costs caused by foreign crime
:: How to Respond Illegal Foreign Residents: Focusing on Humanitarian Measures

**Background and purpose**
- Various policy measures have been taken by the Korean government to address illegal foreign residents.
- This research focused on statistics of international migration and migrants released by the OECD and European Union in order to grasp international migration’s trends, characteristics and social integration level of migrants in terms of international comparative perspectives and at global level.

**Key points**
- Reviewed the critical concept of international migration statistics used for international comparison
- Discussed the subject, beneficiary, rights, and requirements of humanitarian legitimation
- Introduced the examples of humanitarian implemented legalization by the England and Japan
- Discussed any considerations of the Korean government to control illegal foreign residents

:: Revised Special Act on Korean Russian Residing in Korea: Current Status and its Outlook

**Background and purpose**
- Many ethnic Koreans, who immigrated to overseas at the late of Chosun Dynasty and Japanese colonial period, have migrated back to Korea from Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS).
- Most of ethnic Korean-Russian, so called ‘Goryo-in’, from the Soviet Union countries, who barely speak Korean and managed to make a living under difficult conditions such as working in the 3D sector.
- In celebrating 150 years of Korean diaspora to Russia as the first cornerstone of Korean’s immigration history, the Commission to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Goryo-in Diaspora has been officially launched. Also, the effort to amend the Special Act on Support for the Acquisition of Legitimate Residency Status and Settlement of Korean in the Old Soviet Union has been made in the wake of various movements for resettlement in home and abroad.

**Key points**
- Analyzed the current status of Korean-Russian residing in Korea and its distinctiveness
- Examined legislative survey and its limitation on ethnic Korean-Russian residing in Korea
- Challenges and outlook on solving Korean-Russian residing in Korea

:: International Comparison of International Migration Statistics and Its Implications

**Background and purpose**
- This research focused on statistics of international migration and migrants released by the OECD and European Union in order to grasp international migration’s trends, characteristics and social integration level of migrants in terms of international comparative perspectives and at global level.
- In comparison of international trends on producing migrants’ statistics, this study reflects the current status of producing migrants’ statistics as well as suggests improvements for international migration statistical data production by Korea in preparation for the full-scale immigration era.

**Key points**
- Reviewed the critical concept of international migration statistics used for international comparison
- Analyzed statistical data and information on Korea which is announced from the OECD International Migration Statistics and examined their issues
- Reviewed international migration statistics of immigrant integration for international comparison across the member countries
- Analyzed production status of domestic immigrant integration-related statistics and generated future improvements in the perspective of international comparison
A Study on Entry and Exit of Management Status for International Criminals and Its Improvement Plan

This study analyzed the status of the arrivals and departures of foreigners and the status of international crimes, in particular, examining how the increase of foreigners’ number in arrivals and departures can affect and change international crimes, resting on Routine Activity Theory. Also, this study highlighted the management status of the arrivals and departures of foreign criminals and plans to improve such a status, rather than focusing on international’s targets such as money and possessions.

Crimes Committed Against Korean Nationals Residing in Southeast Asian Nations, Intervention Cases in International Crimes and Responses

This study looked at some of the crimes committed against Korean nationals residing in these five Southeast Asian countries, and what responses are being taken, what crimes are being committed and how. Furthermore, cases where Koreans living in these countries were involved in international crimes were reviewed.

Asian Americans’ Political Participation and Implications for Korea

This study explored why Asian Americans’ participation in politics and voting are very active and drew implications for Korea.

Perspectives on Criminal Offenses Committed by Foreigners

With an increasing number of foreigners, this study focused on deviations and, in particular, criminal offences that violated domestic criminal laws and resulted from social maladjustment in order to analyze causes and effects of foreigners’ crimes. Also, this study analyzed reasons for crimes committed by foreigners in the social, systematical, and policy perspectives and discussed government measures and policies.

History and Current Status of South Korea’s Overseas Korean Policies with Korean-Chinese Cases

This paper examined and introduced the South Korean government’s policies for Chinese people of Korean ethnicity and reviewed the history how the Korean government has changed the policies in accordance with economic conditions, and discussed on the effect of the policies to attract Korean-Chinese into certain sectors in the Korean labor market.

The Roles of Local Governments and Local Non-governmental Organizations for the Local-based Migrant Policy

This study examined the ways in which the migrant integration policies of the Korean government has implemented at the local level and the tensions and competitions between NGOs in the process of policy implementation. Also, this study analyzed policies and its implementing systems in a particular region with the high concentration of migrants.

Korean Perceptions of Foreign Immigrants

This study reflected on Korean society and sought a direction for improving Korean perception by examining the perceptions towards foreign immigrants through various statistical data in terms of society, economy, and policy sector, and discussed any policy challenges on the Korean government.

The SDGs and the Social Foundation for Migrants in Korea

This study examined the current status of the migrants in Korea and issues related to their social settlement. In particular, focusing on migration and diversity, the discussion on development cooperation, and the background that the MDGs and SDGs have been presented as detailed and targeted goals, and their key points were considered.
The Current Status Survey on the Ethnic Korean Chinese-populated area in south-western Seoul

This study, under the theme of 'Improvement Measures on the Middle- and Long-term Immigration Strategy and its Implementation System' led by the Korean Development Institute, seeks to establish a structural framework on the middle and long-term immigration strategy in the perspective of national development agenda. In particular, this study – the IOM MRTC jointly participated in – categorizes under the main topics such as foreign labor, international students, overseas Koreans, and immigrant social integration in major countries, and suggests implications for making future immigration policy of the Korean government.

The Improvement Measures on the Middle- and Long-term Immigration Strategy and its Implementation System

IOM Migration Research & Training Centre

The Current Status Survey on the Ethnic Korean Chinese-populated area in south-western Seoul

This study, commissioned by the Overseas Koreans Foundation, aimed at figuring out the exact status of ethnic Korean-Russians residing in Korea and its policy demands, as well as examined the current status of ‘Goryo-in’ residents, the existing laws, returning program for Korean diaspora in major overseas countries, and conducted a fact-finding survey on the ethnic Korean-Russian residents in Korea.

A Study on the Human Rights Conditions Among Foreign Construction Workers in South Korea

Construction industry has recently proportion of foreign workers in entire construction labor workers and, for recent several years, foreign construction workers have been injured or dead, or have been suffered from poor accommodation, payment delays, and rising tensions existed between domestic and foreign workers in the sector. Despite of such circumstances, the existing studies were conducted only on the labor management, but not on fact-finding survey of human rights of foreign construction workers. This study, commissioned by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, analyzed structural and institutional environment that affect human rights of foreign construction workers in quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Furthermore, policy improvements have been accompanied through researching international laws and other countries’ cases.

This study assessed 2013 and 2014 actual progress and 2014 and 2015 implementation schemes of the central government and local governments based on the 3rd Basic Plan for Immigration Policy at performance level while focusing on whether the ‘detailed action plans’ have been set by adequate performance indicators to performance objective in order to suggest improvements for performance indicators. Leading indicators covering the ‘Implementation Plan of Immigration Policy’ have been presented for improving policy effectiveness, according to the ‘Basic Plan for Immigration Policy.’ Also, this study explored analysis methods considering characteristics of foreign policy and suggested specified measures, establishing a sound framework which can systematically control the implementation for the last half term of the ‘2nd Basic Plan for Immigration Policy.’

The Study on the Analysis Measures of Performance Indicators and Policy Effectiveness for Foreign Policy, Its Detailed Implementation Plan and Projects

In the purpose of overcoming the expected reduction of productive population after 2016 together with low birth rate and aging trend and of estimating the introduction scale of immigrants for improving nation’s driving force, this study, commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, conducted case studies and empirical analysis of estimating adequate introduction scale of immigrants. Case studies including analyzing general factors of immigration policy by country; differentiation method of immigration type and immigrants; immigration policy set by immigration type; and followed by estimated domestic labor supply and introduction scale of foreigners calculated by computer general equilibrium (CGE) model, according to potential growth scenario.
2015 Education & Cooperation Projects

As part of education & cooperation projects, the MRTC, in partnership with scholars and experts as well as relevant organizations in and outside Korea, hosts a wide range of seminars, training programs, workshops and forums to help facilitate policy development and practices. Such educational or training programs are carried out at both regional and international levels with a purpose to substantively contribute to the upgrading of expertise on immigration policies and to create an effective channel for information sharing and dialogues.

In 2015, the MRTC undertook joint projects with relevant organizations, academic societies and colleges, in particular, foreigners residing in Korea who are subject to immigration policy to work together. Throughout these projects, the MRTC took one step forward in bearing more efficient policy development by facing on-the-spot issues and to diversifying ties with partnering organizations.

Also, with more regular events taking place, it led to more consistent contents, contributing to tightened cooperation and to building stronger ties with partnering organizations by improving efficient management of projects.

The MRTC hosted 18 events in the various form of seminars, discussions, forums and workshop, and about 470 persons, including globally recognized scholars and experts, and policy legislators and government officials from home and abroad, were invited to these events.

:: Migration Policy Forum Commemorating the 8th Together Day

- Date: May 19, 2015 (Tue), 10:00~17:00
- Venue: International Conference Room, 6F, Jeonpseok Research Information Bldg. of Inha University
- Hosted by Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice
- Organized by IOM MRTC, Multiculturalism and Social Integration Research Centre of Social Science Institute of Inha University
- Participants: Around 150 people including officials from the Immigration Integration Division of MOJ, migration policy experts, immigrants, college students, and the public

Main Contents
- Eight migration experts presented and discussed the important role of local governments for social integration of migrants
- Raised understanding of social integration of foreigners at local government’s level in major immigrant countries
- Promote understanding of current social integration policy of local government in Korea

:: Invitation Seminar for Hong Kong Immigration Department Officials

- Date: September 3, 2015 (Thu), 15:00~17:00
- Venue: Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- Organized by: Korea Immigration Service, IOM MRTC
- Participants: 20 people including Hong Kong Immigration Department, IOM MRTC, and Korea Immigration Service

Main Contents
- Introduced of IOM MRTC and its role and missions
- Promoted understanding of bilateral policy initiatives by sharing immigration-related information between two countries
:: Invitation Seminar for Hong Kong Immigration Department Mie-level Officials

- **Date:** September 24, 2015 (Thu), 15:00~17:00
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** Korea Immigration Service, IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 19 people including Hong Kong Immigration Department, IOM MRTC, and Korea Immigration Service

**Main Contents**
- Introduced IOM MRTC and its role and missions
- Promoted understanding of bilateral policy initiatives by sharing immigration-related information between two countries

:: International Dialogue on Refugee Support Policies in Japan, Korea, and the U.S.

- **Date:** November 3, 2015 (Tue), 09:00~11:30
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 20 people including experts from three countries, related officials from domestic refugee shelter, and IOM MRTC

**Main Contents**
- Discussed cooperative measures on the development of refugee support programs through three-country comparison of Japan, Korea, and the U.S.
- Built cooperative network among refugee experts in three countries through sharing research works and policies

:: 2015 Invitation Colloquium for Overseas Prominent Scholars

- **Date:** October 19, 2015 (Mon), 11:30~16:00
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 25 people including professor KHAN Nelly, IOM MRTC researchers, and discussants

**Main Contents**
- Promoted mutual understanding of Koreans and Korean Russians through sharing experts’ opinions regarding the characteristics of Korean Russians residing in Korea and Korean Russian society in Kazakhstan
- Built human network for practical policy and research cooperation among domestic and overseas experts

:: The 8th Future Immigration Leaders’ Conference (FILC 2015)

- **Date:** November 17, 2015 (Tue), 10:00~17:00
- **Venue:** Megrez Room (6FL), Imperial Palace Seoul
- **Hosted by:** Korea Immigration Service, IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 34 officials from Korea Immigration Service and IOM MRTC

**Main Contents**
- Shared the latest information of passport forgery in other countries
- Built human network among participants of government and relevant officials from other countries

:: Recent Cases of Passport Forgery Detection

- **Date:** November 17, 2015 (Tue), 10:00~11:30
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 20 people including experts from three countries, related officials from domestic refugee shelter, and IOM MRTC

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- Built cooperative network among refugee experts in three countries through sharing research works and policies
Discussion Forum on the Safety and Protection of Overseas Korean Nationals

Date: December 16, 2015 (Wed), 14:00~16:00
Venue: Conference Room No. 8, National Assembly Member’s Building
Organized by: Rep. Yang Chang Young’s Office, IOM MRTC
Sponsored by: Safetynews
Participant: Around 60 people including Rep. Yang, presenters, discussion panels, IOM MRTC, reporters and the public

Main Contents
- Shared a sense of problem necessary to protect overseas Korean nationals and proposed its alternative policies
- Raised social awareness of legal protection for overseas Korean nationals and built human network among lawmaker and experts in related area

2015 Joint Workshop for Institutes and Centers for Initial Adjustment Support Program

Date: February 10, 2015 (Tue)
Venue: Conference Room, 8FL
Hosted by: Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice
Participant: Overall 70 people from Korea Immigration Service, institutes and center officials of Initial Adjustment Support Program

Main Contents
- Introduced a basic concept of the program and its standards and specifications
- Exchanged ideas and opinions on detailed operation plan between institute and center
- Q & A sessions for further understanding of the program

Workshop for Human Rights Lecturers for E-6-2 Visa Holders

Date: April 13 (Mon) & April 14 (Tue), 2015
Venue: Daejeon Office (National Human Rights Commission) / Conference Room (IOM MRTC)
Hosted by: Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice
Organized by: IOM MRTC
Participant: 16 people from Korea immigration Service, IOM MRTC, human rights lecturers

Main Contents
- Introduced a basic concept of Initial Adjustment Program for foreign entertainers
- Introduced related immigration law for foreign entertainers
- Introduced standard teaching manual and its presentation
Human Rights Instructor Meeting for Foreign Entertainers of the Initial Adjustment Support Program

- **Date:** November 23, 2015 (Mon)
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 21 people from Korea Immigration Service, IOM MRTC, and human rights-related NGOs

**Main Contents**
- Introduced an overview of the Initial Adjustment Support Program subject to foreign entertainers
- Presented program operation result and its analysis in 2015
- Discussed improvement measures and had an exemplary presentation of human rights instructor

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Meeting for Evaluation and Improvement of the Initial Adjustment Support Program

- **Date:** December 14, 2015 (Mon)
- **Venue:** Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- **Organized by:** IOM MRTC
- **Participant:** 20 people from Korea Immigration Service, IOM MRTC, officials and instructors of Institute for the Initial Adjustment Support Program

**Main Contents**
- Introduced an overview of the Initial Adjustment Support Program
- Presented its operation result of 2015
- Discussed improvement measures for its program with experts' comments
:: Refresher Training and Completing Training on Nurturing Multicultural Society Experts

- Date: September 12 (Sat) & September 19 (Sat), 2015 - Total 15-hour training
- Venue: Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- Organized by: IOM MRTC
- Participant: 28 people completed

Main Contents
- Developed sense of pride and necessary knowledge as a multicultural expert
- Raised understanding of government policy through learning about domestic and overseas immigration policies
- Served as an opportunity to listen to those practitioners involved in multicultural support activities and figured out their education needs

:: Policy Dialogue on ODA Academic Activities of ODA

- Date: October 29, 2015 (Thu)
- Venue: Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- Organized by: IOM MRTC
- Participant: Around 40 people from 14 universities, KOICA, IOM Korea Representative, immigrants, and IOM MRTC

Main Contents
- Served as an opportunity for research and project cooperation on migration and development among related experts
- Proposed policy measures linked with migration and development

:: Dialogue with 500 Multicultural Experts

- Date: November 12, 2015 (Thu)
- Venue: Gyeonggi Small and Medium Business Support Center
- Organized by: IOM MRTC, Gyeonggi Provincial Government
- Participant: Around 230 people including vice-governor of Gyeonggi Province and its delegates, council member of Gyeonggi Foreign Resident Support Program, Scholars, NGOs, and reporters

Main Contents
- Proposed various policy measures such as social integration program for foreign residents, administrative system for self-sufficient multicultural household, educational program for children entering Korea following their parent
- Proposed Public-Private-Academic Partnership on immigration and multi-culture policy

:: Policy Seminar on Immigration and Multicultural Research Network in Gyeonggi Province

- Date: October 8, 2015 (Thu), 10:40~18:00
- Venue: Conference Room, IOM MRTC
- Organized by: IOM MRTC
- Co-hosted by: IOM MRTC, Shinhan University, Pyeongtaek University, Hanyang University, Gyeonggi Family & Women Research Institute
- Sponsored by: Gyeonggi Provincial Government
- Participant: Around 70 people including IOM MRTC, immigration experts, multicultural experts, immigrants, college students and the public

Main Contents
- Discussed immigration and multicultural policy from multilateral aspects such as government officials, scholars, and practitioners in local government level, and proposed future policy directions and its detailed measures on immigration and multicultural in Gyeonggi province
- Built research network for sharing study cases and cooperating among immigration and multicultural-related colleges and research institutes
2015 Major Activities

IOM Migration Research and Training Centre (MRTC) actively engages in the exchange of ideas and information about migration policy with policy experts and scholars in and outside Korea, and sponsors a variety of activities and events through a close relationship with both local and overseas partnership organizations.

January 2015
Participated in the policy seminar hosted by IOM Beijing
IOM MRTC participated in the policy seminar organized by IOM Beijing. The Chinese counterpart showed a keen interest in the IOM MRTC’s theme on ‘Managing Marriage Migration and Protecting Vulnerable Marriage Migrants’ due to a recent increase in the inflow of marriage migrants from South East Asia.

February 2015
Designated IOM MRTC as the First Service Corps of the Initial Adjustment Support Program
Initial Adjustment Support Program, supervised by the Ministry of Justice, is a program that helps migrants adapt into Korean society in early stage. The IOM MRTC was designated as one of Service Corps of the program, supporting international students and residents living in areas densely populated with foreigners in the entire program.

March 2015
A visit made by immigration-related government officials from Mongolia
Two immigration-related government officials from Mongolia visited IOM MRTC accompanied by two Korean experts in order to foster collaborative projects between IOM MRTC and relevant agencies in Mongolia.

March 2015
Visiting of UNESCO APCEIU
In March 24, IOM MRTC Director and his delegation made a visit to the UNESCO APCEIU to introduce each institute’s education programs and explore collaborative measures between IOM MRTC and UNESCO APCEIU.

April 2015
Held a Lecture on Multicultural Society for Korean Military Cadets
In April 23rd, a group of cadets attended a support program for multicultural society migrants held in Korea Army Academy at Yeong-cheon. In the increasing inflow of migrants into Korea and in consideration of more soldiers from multiethnic families has an increase, two lectures regarding ‘an understanding of multicultural society’ and ‘raising awareness of multicultural sentiment’ were delivered to cadets.
June 2015
Signed a MOU with IBK Bank
IOM MRTC signed an agreement with Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK) for mutual development. IBK, a financial bank actively engaging in corporate social responsibility activities for underprivileged people, sought any possibility in many cooperative areas with the IOM MRTC including their donation.

August 2015
Signed a MOU on academic cooperation with the University of Kyonggi
IOM MRTC signed an MOU on academic exchange and cooperation with Kyonggi University on the 24th of August. A meaningful dialogue on several cooperative matters was shared between IOM MRTC and the president with his faculty.

November 2015
“Foreign students Got Talent” held in the University of Kyonggi
IOM MRTC attended “Foreign Students Got Talent” held by the International Education Center of Kyonggi University. Thanks to this event, in amazing atmosphere, it was a place to talk with foreign students about multicultural issues of local community.

December 2015
Published ‘The 2nd Migration Policy’
The 2nd Volume of Migration Policy, as IOM MRTC’s professional journal representing various images of domestic migration policy trend and immigration society, has been published in the 2nd consecutive year. This special edition “Prospect for the Future of Overseas Korean,” discusses a diversity of critics and specialized columns, and contains the latest migration policy in ‘migration research trend’ and a special section that reflects the fragment of migration society in Korea.

:: IOM Migration Research & Training Centre

“IOM Migration Research and Training Center (MRTC)
Committed to not only serving as Asian hub of immigration policy, as well as developing and expanding its policy across the international community, government and local communities, and migrants,”