



## **Germany's Acceptance of Migrants and Refugees: the Development of the German Migration and Refugee Policy in the Last Decade** **(Summary)**

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Germany has continuously been accepting migration workers at latest since the mid-19th century and is the country with the large scale of migrant workers. Further the country after WWII has the unique Constitution with the stipulation to protect the refugees politically persecuted. At moment Germany faces with the record increase in refugees to the country. However, Germany has experienced repeatedly the mass influx of refugees: in the post war period, Germany accepted ca. 25million refugees and integrated them to the society. As result, Germany has been taking a step to the co-existence with and social integration of migrants and refugees, repeating failures and conflicts. Nowadays, one in five have backgrounds as migrants, and among younger generations, one in three, in Germany. Germany became the country with the great scale of migrants.

The German state, facing with the problems of population decline and declining birth rate and ageing population, as well as shortage in the skilled work forces, actively has been attempting to gain the highly skilled and skilled from the third countries outside the EU, by step by step reforming immigration control policy and legislations from the last 2000s onward. For example, the German state grants residence permits for seeking jobs to the third countries' graduates from the Germany universities and colleges, and grants permanent residence permits to them after working for 2 years; The graduates from the universities and colleges in the third countries gains residence permit for seeking job and are granted opportunity more advantageous than in other EU countries to gain the 'Blue Card', the special residence permit for working of the graduates from the universities and colleges from the third countries ruled by an EU Directive, and are granted permanent residence permits after working only for 21 months at the earliest: The state promotes entrepreneurs' migration to Germany to encourage them in establishing enterprises. Furthermore, the German government introduced the list of understaffed professions and occupations, and the skilled and highly skilled who will work in the jobs in the list are exempted from labour market test and can work in Germany after uncomplicated procedure.

On the other hand, the German state embarks on directly recruiting the skilled and highly skilled in sending countries outside the EU. The government is promoting the projects to select nurses, care workers, and engineers in Viet Nam, Indonesia, China, Tunisia and others to train them in sending countries and Germany for working later in Germany.

Nevertheless, despite these deregulations of immigration control and active policies for recruitment of the skilled and highly skilled, the labour migrants from the third countries mainly composed of the skilled, highly skilled, and entrepreneurs have surely increased, but still are only ca.40, 000. While the

most part of the migrants to Germany are migrant workers from other EU countries mainly engaging in non-skilled labour.

Meanwhile, Germany accepted ca. one million refugees in 2015. The government and enterprises vocationally train those among them who are considered to stay permanently in Germany (particularly from Syria, Iraq, Iran and Eritrea), in order to foster the skilled work force in future. Some leading members of the conservative government party propose the immigration policy of ‘immigration countries’ by adopting a point system to gain settlers as permanent resident.

We should pay attention to how Germany takes a step to an ‘immigration country’, further a country with big scale of migrants. Japan, faced with the same problems like population decline and declining birth rate and aging population, can learn much from the development of migration policy in Germany and Germany’s experiences on migration affairs.



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### Major Publications and Conference Papers

- 2016    (Japanese). Hiseikiimin no Citizenship: Doitsu no Kokka to Shiminsyakai wa Dou Mukiattekitaka (Citizenship of Irregular Migrants: How State and Civil Society Have Responded to Them), Ishida, Y, et.al. eds, *Gendai Doitsu no Shiza vol.1 (Perspectives of Modern Germany)*, Tokyo: Bensei Shyuppan, Ltd, forth coming .
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