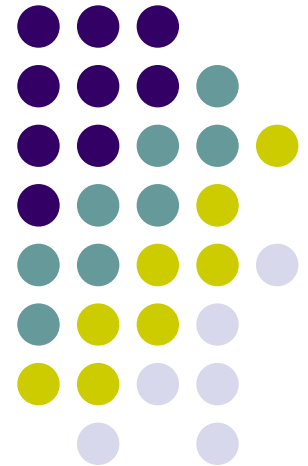


# Civil Activism for Migrant Workers' Rights in Japan, Korea and China

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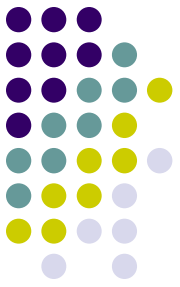


# Common Immigration Policies



- In E and SE Asia, economic goals precede the human rights of unskilled transnational migrant workers.
- Migrant workers are entitled to few rights and public services.
- In China, rural migrant workers are not entitled to “citizenship rights” in cities.

# Common Immigration Policies in E and SE Asia

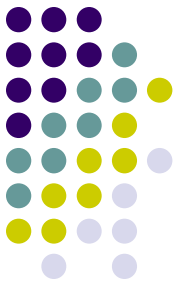


- Skilled workers
- Unskilled workers (the majority)
  - Temporary, short-term stays
  - Limited rights and welfare benefits
  - No family reunification
  - (No social integration)

# China



- Rural migrant workers in cities
  - Unskilled
  - Without household registration (*hukou*)
  - Few entitlements to public health services, housing, schooling for children



# A Question

- In E and SE Asia, including China, where can a migrant worker turn for assistance in time of need?

# Civil Society Response



Depends on:

1. Government tolerance for civil activism
2. History of civil activism
3. Rights conferred to migrant workers
4. Migrant workers' activism

# Impact of Civil Activism on:



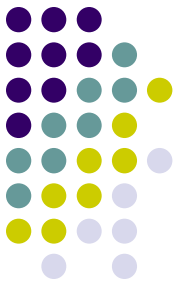
1. Immigration policy of the national government
2. Administrative procedures of local governments
3. Employers, employment
4. Court rulings
5. Public opinion

# Japan & Korea: Convergence



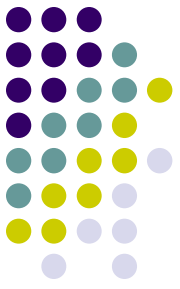
- Until recently, these two shared similar immigration policies on unskilled migrant workers.
  - Tight border controls
  - Absence of contract labor systems
  - Large numbers of *de facto* immigrant workers:
    - Industrial trainees
    - Undocumented residents
    - Foreign nationals whose ancestors had once been nationals, such as Japanese-Brazilians in Japan and Korean-Chinese in Korea

# Japan & Korea: Convergence



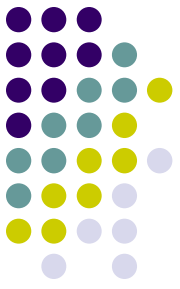
- Both of these have a democratic constitution that includes civil activism.
- Both have relatively active citizens' groups advocating for migrants' rights.
- In both, migrant workers actively seek their own rights.

# Japan and Korea: Divergence



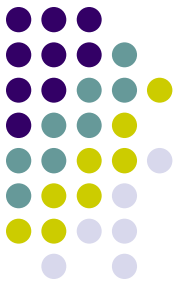
- These two diverge in the nature, form and intensity of civil activism for migrants' rights by citizens and migrants.
- Consequently, the impact of civil activism on change in immigration policies varies significantly.

# Japan



- Migrant NGOs (NPOs):
  - are run by small numbers of dedicated immigrants and citizens;
  - lack expertise, funding and networking;
  - focus on cultural and social issues.
- Local governments are relatively receptive to migrants' rights.
- Some NGOs engage in rights and policy advocacy.

# Japan



- An example: “Solidarity Network with Migrants in Japan,” Tokyo (D. Milly, “Policy advocacy for foreign residents in Japan” 2006)
- Advocacy activities characteristically link specific problems of implementation at the local level.
- Advocates’ interactions with public officials have resulted in bridging various state agencies.
- Their impacts on policies are often invisible and incremental.



さんかし  
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 なかじま 大きなのんで 大きい子 カザクかん とプラネタリウム

そのの

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 中 390月×2

8:30 しゅうごう  
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 てつや  
 セルジオ





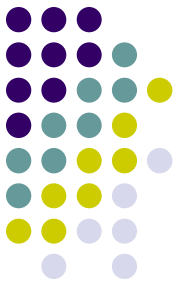
外国人無料検診会会場  
CONSULTA GRATUITA SOBRE A SAUDE E  
ATENDIMENTO MEDICO AOS ESTRANGEIROS  
FREE HEALTH CONSULTATION AND  
CHECK-UPS FOR FOREIGNERS

開催日時 平成10年10月18日(日) 9:00~15:00  
DATA 18 de outubro de 1990 (domingo), 9:00~15:00  
DATE Sunday, 18 October, 1990, 9:00~15:00

開催会場 浜松赤十字病院健診センター  
LOCAL Hamamatsu Hospital Cruzada Vermelha  
(Nisseki) Kenshin Sentu  
PLACE Hamamatsu Red-Cross Hospital  
(Nisseki) Kenshin Center

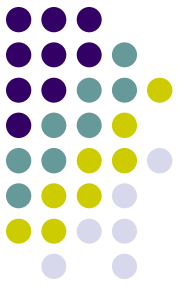
浜松外国人医療援助会  
MAF Hamamatsu

# Korea



- Many NGOs are run and supported by religious, labor or human rights organizations that include immigrants.
- Major NGOs are endowed with manpower, funding, facilities, and expertise.
- They advocate for migrants' rights, negotiate for immigration policy change, and address social needs of migrants.

# Korea



- Networks of NGOs are well coordinated.
- NGOs exert pressures on the government.
- Court rulings have favored migrants' rights.
- Employment Permit System (EPS), 2004
- Abolition of industrial trainee system, 2006



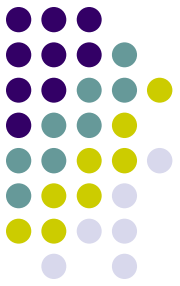
# Mini Concert 이주노동자 작은음악회 designed by Migrant Workers

한국이주노동자인권센터 · 인천문화재단





# China



- Civil society is in an embryonic stage.
- Government is wary of NGOs.
- Migrants have developed organizations for well-being of women, children and workers.
  - Clubs for social and educational goals
  - Hotline for emotional crisis
  - Schools for children

# China



- Urban residents provide assistance to migrant workers.
  - Legal aid organization by lawyers
  - Educational assistance for children and mothers by university students
  - Information & knowledge by professionals
  - Art performance training by foreign residents





路，走得轻  
车，也要轻  
孩子作我  
主。

活动目的：让幼儿  
了解车的构造  
及车的种类，并  
让幼儿了解车  
的种类。





帮残助弱

赠北京市农民工法律援助工作站佟丽华主任时福茂律师

无私 一心为民

河北省

感谢时福茂及全体人员的无偿服务

法律公正的天平  
农民工的守护神  
青少年的代言人

济宁市 匡衡故里 周均良律师事务所

赠北京市法律援助事务所法律师 及全体律师

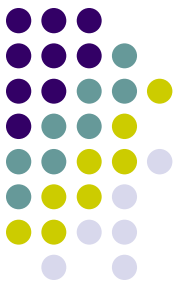
高尚的品德  
民工的福音

感谢时福茂及全体人员的无偿服务

受益人 王彬  
二〇〇五年八月二十四日

伸张正义  
品德高尚

感谢 姜文超法律援助站全体人员



# Conclusion

- Lack of basic rights for migrant workers has prompted civil activism in East Asia.
- History of civil society in each country has a different impact on levels of activism for migrants.
- Impact of civil activism on policy varies depending on responses among major institutions, including the government, the courts and public opinion.