

The Indonesian Technical Intern Trainee Program in Japan: Recruitment Process, Internal Dynamics, and Post-Program Ambitions

Yusy Widarahesty (Ritsumeikan University, Graduate Student)

Technical Internship Trainee Program (TITP) is a cooperation between the Japanese government and various countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Following the official launch of the program in 1993, the number of Indonesian migrant workers in Japan increased. The main objective of this program is to “transfer knowledge” from Japan to the developing countries (JITCO). While there are studies on migrant workers in Japan from South Asian countries or those of Japanese descent (*nikkeijin*), still very limited research has been conducted on Indonesian workers in Japan, and there is no study that tries to understand the entire process of this unique bilateral relations. Thus, the main aim of my research is to reveal the comprehensive pictures of this training program in Japan, by examining three different actors, namely the governments, the recruitment agency and Indonesian workers who are engaged in this program. I analyze how these actors play respective roles in different periods of time, i.e., pre-departure, during the program and post-program time. My investigations of these actors and time-periods show that there are many socio-cultural devises both in Indonesia and Japan that help silence workers’ discontents, manipulate work experiences, reproduce success stories, and stabilize the entire system of this bilateral program in a way to maintain the benefits of business circles long engaged in the program.

Reference:

1. JITCO, Japan International Trainee & Skilled Worker Cooperation Organization.
<https://www.jitco.or.jp/en/> Retrieved June 2018