

Panelists' Profile

◆ Ms. Wu Xiaobei (China) ~ A hardworking foreign employee of a citizen center

◇ Ms. Wu Xiaobei was born in Suzhou and raised in Chongqing. After graduating from the engineering department of a university in Guangzhou, she came to Japan in 1993 to learn production management. She studied, worked for a company, got married with a Chinese man, and gave birth to her first child in Hokkaido. In 2003, she came to Kitakyushu City due to her husband's transfer, and she started working as a court interpreter and a Chinese language teacher at a citizen center.

Since this year, when her second child entered kindergarten, she has worked regularly at the Orionishi Citizen Center. It is the first time in ten years for her to work outside the house full time. Since she is employed under the same conditions as Japanese staff and not given special treatment as a non-Japanese, the job is not easy in terms of Japanese language and working practices. However, she is expected by many to overcome her difficulties and play a vital role in the future with her sense of responsibility and positive attitude. She is the mother of a third grader of elementary school and a kindergartner.

1993: Came to Japan to study at a Japanese language school and Hokkaido University Graduate School

1997: Started working for Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Inc.

2000: Married and quit the job, moved to Ashibetsu City, gave birth to her first child

2003: Moved to Kitakyushu City, gave birth to her second child

2007: Registered as an interpreter at the Fukuoka District Court

2009: Became a member of the Kitakyushu Foreign Residents Opinion Exchange Meeting

2010: Started working at Orionishi Citizen Center

◆ Ms. Indriyani Rachman (Indonesia) ~ Preparing for study at graduate school

◇ Ms. Rachman is from Cilegon, about two hours from the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

She came to Japan four years ago and is going to enter the Graduate School of the University of Kitakyushu to study pedagogy next April. She came to Kitakyushu in 2006 because her husband, who has been in Japan for 11 years, entered the doctoral course of the Graduate School of Kyushu Institute of Technology.

She majored in pedagogy at her university in Indonesia. She is studying Japanese and pedagogy while raising a fifth grader and a second grader of elementary school. Her goal is to make an environmental education curriculum for elementary school students by taking advantage of her studies in Kitakyushu.

She takes a leadership role in the group of Indonesians working or studying in the city by helping

them with translation and giving advice. Also, she tries to introduce more about Indonesia to the local citizens through showcasing its folk instruments and food.

1995: Participated in a short-term study program in Australia

1996: Studied at a Japanese language school in Shizuoka

1998: Returned to Indonesia and taught Japanese at a high school in Cilegon

2006: Came to Kitakyushu with her children to live with her husband who entered the Graduate School of Kyushu Institute of Technology

2008: Attended the Japanese language class of the University of Kitakyushu as an auditor

2010: Passed the entrance exam of the Graduate School of the University of Kitakyushu

◆ **Ms. Arlene Higashi (Philippines) ~ Assimilated into the community**

◇ Ms. Arlene Higashi came to Japan from Manila in the Philippines in March 2003 and married a Japanese man in April 2005. She is now a housewife, raising a four-year-old and a fifth grader of elementary school.

Since she finds some difficulty in understanding Japanese, she is attending *Seishun Gakko* (School of “Youth”) in Anoo, Yahatanishi Ward, every Thursday as well as evening junior high school on week days, except Thursday, to learn Japanese reading and writing with the local elderly.

She also deepens exchanges with local people as a female fire volunteer in Nakama City. Through various experiences of Japanese culture and customs, she realizes the importance of the community bond.

2003: Came to Japan

2004: Joined the Nakama City Female Fire Volunteer Corps

2005: Got married, started attending *Seishun Gakkko* (School of “Youth”) in Anoo

2006: Gave birth to her second daughter

2008: Started attending the evening junior high school in Anoo

◆ **Ms. Tomoko Doi (Japan) ~ A leader deeply rooted in the region**

◇ Ms. Doi has long been involved in the community through her many duties, which include the director of the KFAW, president of the Council of Women’s Groups of Kitakyushu, an independent committee member of Kikugaoka Nursery School, an auditor of the Kokuraminami Ward Council of Social Welfare, chair of her neighborhood association, and a local welfare commissioner.

She used to work as a social education instructor and the director of a citizen center while raising children and nursing her mother. Considering her knowledge and experience, she will help form a bridge between the resident foreign women and the community from a multidimensional approach.

The Council of Women’s Groups of Kitakyushu that Ms. Doi is serving as the chair of consists of

about 120 women's groups (about 50,000 people) in the city including the Women's Education Research Association, the Mother's Group, and the Nursery Teacher Association. It also promotes gender equality through enlightenment activities.

As the rate of participation of foreign citizens in the women's groups in Kitakyushu is still low, resident foreign women are warmly welcomed to join a group as the first step to engage in the community.

◆ **Dr. Hwa Sung Cho (Korea)**

Chungcheongnam-do Women's Policy Development Institute (CWPDl)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ethnic politics: overseas Koreans and immigration

Labor Migration and its policy in Korea

Multiculturalism in Korea

PUBLICATION

"The North Korean Supreme Leaders' Operational Code and its Causal Effect on Negotiation Strategy," *Journal of the Korean Political Science Association*, No. 44-1 (2010).

"Ethnic Policies in the U.S. and Germany," *Ethnic Studies*, No. 6 (March, 2001).

"Overseas' Koreans and Ethnic Policies in China and Soviet Union," *East Asia Study*, No. 1 (August 2000).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Researcher, The Institute for Democracy and Policies, April 2006 – April 2009.

Visiting Researcher, Global Affairs Institute, Syracuse University, 2002- July 2003.

Lecturer, Department of Ethics, Kang won University, Korea, 1999-2001.

Researcher, Institute for Peace Studies, Korean University, 1999-2001.

Administration Assistant, Graduate School of Political Science, Korea University, 1997.

*** Chungcheongnam-do Women's Policy Development Institute (CWPDl)***

The policy and education think tank established by Chungcheong South Provincial Government in July, 1999, is working towards the building of a "Gender-Equal Welfare Society in Chungcheong South Province." The Institute's activities are creating and developing gender-sensitive policies and education programs; holding workshops and seminars as well as providing programs for effective human resources development for women.

Currently CWPDl has 10 researchers and consists of four teams: Women's Policy and HR-D Team; Social Welfare Team; Multiculturalism Studies Team; and Administrative Team. There are four affiliated centers: Gender Impact Assessment Center; Chungnam Children's Humanity Education Center; Chungnam Childcare Information Center and Chungnam Volunteer Center. (Location at Gonju, Chungcheongnam-do <http://www.cwpdi.re.kr/>)



* Profile of Chungcheongnam-do, Korea *

◇ Location

Located in central Korea. About 3 1/2 hr by car from Incheon International Airport. (Map)

◇ Area

8,585 km² (Approx. 1.7x the area of Fukuoka prefecture.)

◇ Population

Approx. 2 million (Jan. 2006)

◇ History

Chungcheongnam-do thrived as the central area of the Baekje Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms Period. Gongju was its capital for 63 years from A.D.475. Buyeo was the last capital of the Baekje Kingdom where a Buddhist culture flourished. The Baengmang River that flows through it used to be known as the Haksukinoe where once Japan, which shared friendly relations with the Baekje Kingdom, went to battle against the joint armies and navies of the Tang and Silla Kingdoms. The area became known as Chungcheongnam in 1896 when Korea created its 13 provinces. Later, in 1932, the provincial seat of government was relocated from Gongju to Daejeon.

◇ Sightseeing

The Great Baekje World Festival that will introduce the Baekje culture which flourished about 1600 years ago is scheduled to open for one month from September 18, 2010. Concurrent with this, the Korean government is promoting the 2010 Visit Chungcheong Korea tourism campaign.

The Baekje culture, which is deeply related to Japanese history, is said to be the seat of Asuka Period (593-694). This year, a spotlight is on Chungcheong, with Chungcheong Week which is being feted as a part of the 1300th Anniversary Celebrations of the Nara Heijo-kyo Capital in Nara Prefecture.

◇ Check this out!

The Mecca of Asian Ginseng

Geumsan in Chungcheongnam is the world's largest market for Asian ginseng, producing between 80 ~ 90% of all Asian ginseng grown in Korea. It is also famous for the World Ginseng Expo held every year.

Beautifying mineral-rich mud

Located on the western coast of Chungcheongnam, Boryeong is known for its mud packs full of natural minerals to prevent aging of the skin and make skin flexible.



◆ Dr. Keiko T. Tamura

Professor at the University of Kitakyushu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations

Southeast Asian Studies

PUBLICATION

National-Building in Singapore: Nationalism, Ethnicity, Gender, 2000

62 Chapters to Know Singapore, 2009, editor

NGO and Gender in Southeast Asia, 2004, co-editor

Border Crossing in Asia, 2009, co-editor

RESEARCH PAPER

"The Mainstreaming of Gender and Democratization in Southeast Asia : The Role of NGO," Alexander Duleba & Tadashi Hayashi eds., *Regional Integration in the East and West: Challenges and Responses*, Slavic Research Center & Hokkaido University, 2005