



Kansai University – International Labour Organization

## **KUILO Project 2012**

*A Research Collaboration Initiative on Decent Work: New Voices from the Campus*

### **Outline of the Project**

The **KUILO Project** is a research project organized by the Development Economics Seminar at the Faculty of Economics of Kansai University, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ILO ROAP) and the ILO Office for Japan in Tokyo. Under this, the Project's Research Team will conduct independent research on selected Decent Work issues pertinent to Asia and the Pacific, which topic has been decided under consultations with the ILO.

Research Outcomes would include first cut desk top reviews and preliminary analysis as well as policy recommendations. The research will be conducted as part of the regular undergraduate curriculum at Kansai University in Osaka.

The KUILO Research Team will visit Bangkok and present their findings at the ILO ROAP office at **August 28, 2012 (tentative)**. The project commenced in 2009, and KUILO 2012 is the fourth round of the project.

Research Topic for KUILO 2012

### **A New Labour Migration Strategy for Decent Work: Globalization, Drivers of Growth, and Lessons from Osaka**

#### **The Key Question:**

Globalization has proceeded to the extent that factors of production, both capital and labour, have become increasingly mobile. As a result, countries, enterprises and individuals are interconnected through complex socio-economic networks which span across borders. We live in a world where all of us are highly interdependent, and no one is exempt. Within this, labour migration has become increasingly an important issue in the Asia and the Pacific.

Against this background, Japan has traditionally adopted a relatively rigid and closed policy in terms of international labour migration. However, with a rapidly aging society and labour shortages in some of its segments of its economy, it can no longer sustain its old regime, and is now gradually opening up its labour market towards migrant workers. These have been induced from real demand from both the industry and society at large. However, the current related policies lack perspectives on how to promote Decent Work for the migrant workers whilst

realizing dynamic competitiveness of the local economy in Japan.

In connection to this, the KUILO Team 2012 will propose a new strategy to achieve Decent Work involving active participation of migrant workers. The new strategy is derived from international economic theory, and attempts to provide a win-win solution for both the local economy and migrant workers with “targeted intervention” towards the drivers of growth. The proposal is based on extensive literature review, and uses secondary as well as primary data, which is collected through intensive field work conducted in Higashi-Osaka City, which is one of the world’s leading SME cluster.

**Schedule (tentative, subject to change)**

- Research start in Osaka – February 1, 2012.
- Pre-departure presentation at ILO Tokyo – August 3 (Friday), 2012.
- Bangkok Presentation: **August 28 (Tue)**, ILO ROAP Conference Room, 14:00 – 15:00.

**Tentative Program for the Bangkok Presentation (August 28, 2012):**

- 14:00 – Welcome address by ROAP, ILO (tbd)
- 14:05 – Introduction by the Seminar Advisor, Kenta Goto
- 14:10 – Presentation by the KUILO Research Team 2012
- 14:40 – Questions and Answers
- 15:00 – Final Remarks and Closing

**KUILO 2012 Research Team** (All members are third year undergraduate students of the Faculty of Economics of Kansai University):

1. Taichi Hirano (Research Member)
2. Saki Matsumoto (Research Member)
3. Kaori Ochi (Research Member)
4. Koichiro Ozaki (Research Member)
5. Kanta Takatsu (Research Member)
6. Misaki Uwai (Research Member)
7. Kentaro Yamada (Research Member)
8. Naoto Yamada (Seminar Leader)
9. Yusuke Yamamoto (Research Member)
10. Yuta Yanagi (Research Member)
11. Natsu Yonemura (Research Member)
12. Aya Yoshimura (Deputy Leader)

Seminar Advisor: Kenta Goto, Associate Professor of Development Economics.

### **About Kansai University**

Kansai University was founded in 1886 in Osaka, and is one of Japan's most distinguished private universities. It currently has thirteen faculties including Law; Letters; Economics; Commerce; Sociology; Policy Studies; Foreign Language Studies; Health and Wellbeing; Informatics; Safety Science; Engineering Science; Environmental and Urban Engineering; and Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering. The total number of its undergraduate students is approximately 28,000. The University also has graduate programs growing out of the above faculties with approximately 2,500 graduate students. In addition, it has three professional schools - The School of Law; The School of Accountancy; and The Graduate School of Professional Clinical Psychology. The University has, during its long history, produced prominent leaders in such fields as business, government, law, culture, education, science and technology.

**KUILO 2012 focal points** – For further inquiries, please contact:

Naoto Yamada (Mr.): [absbbbcrtfninoubw@gmail.com](mailto:absbbbcrtfninoubw@gmail.com) and/or

Kenta Goto (Mr.): [gotoken@kansai-u.ac.jp](mailto:gotoken@kansai-u.ac.jp)