

lunch seminar

Research Institute
at Maison franco-japonaise
UMIFRE 19 CNRS-MAEE

Tue. April 24th, 2012

12:30 - 14:00 | room 601 | in English (no translation)



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Does Japan Remain Attractive for Skilled and Less-Skilled Migrant Workers?

Speaker Hélène LE BAIL (UMIFRE 19, MFJ)

Discussant Isabelle GIRAUDOU (UMIFRE 19, MFJ)

Japan needs to adapt to the challenges posed by an aging society and rising competition from other Asian countries. The role that migration should play to answer these challenges is rarely debated in Japanese politics. Despite new measures under implementation to attract highly qualified professionals (point system visa, "300 thousand students plan"), very few voices advocate a more ambitious immigration program and even fewer advocate unskilled immigration policy. Among the few voices is the JIPI which called for an inflow of 10 million new immigrants by 2050. But is Japan attractive enough and prepared to welcome so many new residents?

In peripheral areas the foreign population started to decrease even before the 2008 financial shock. As long as Japan is concerned with the sustainability of peripheral areas, it seems important to underline that the migrants needed are not only highly qualified professionals, not only workers, but also residents to counter the shrinking of the local communities.



H  l  ne LE BAIL is a research fellow at the French research center on Japan, MFJ, Tokyo, where she conducts research on new Chinese migrants and expatriates. She holds a doctorate in political science from the Paris Institute of Political Studies and a master degree in Chinese studies.

She is the author of:

- *Migrants chinois hautement qualifi  s. Le cas du Japon*, Paris, Indes savantes, 2012;
- "Integration of Chinese Students into Japan's Society and Labour Market", in Vogt and Roberts (ed.), *Migration and Integration*, Stiftung, 2011.



Isabelle GIRAUDOU (Doctorate Paris II) is researcher at Maison franco-japonaise, Associate Researcher at Hokkaido University, and lecturer at Paul C  zanne University, Aix-Marseille III. She has taught French Public Law in several Japanese universities and her publications have addressed environmental rights, equality between men

and women in the judiciary, and the question of the sources of law from a comparative perspective. Dealing with the expertise of Japan in the field of international cooperation, and focusing on translation as a new epistemological tool in comparative law, her research raises the question of a possible alternative approach to legal transplants.

What is the Lunch Seminar at MFJ?

This typical event has been organized at the Maison franco-japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) since 2004. It offers a presentation followed by a discussion dedicated to a specific issue of the time and it aims at bringing a better understanding of Japanese economy and society.

This is a brown bag lunch seminar (please bring your bento or sandwiches). Coffee available.

How to attend the Lunch Seminar?

The participation to the Lunch Seminar is free but registration is strictly required.

Please apply by e-mail to mikasa@mfj.gr.jp or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your: name, company or institution, position, address, phone and e-mail.

For more information, see: http://www.mfj.gr.jp/web/lunch_seminar/lunch_seminar.html.

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Information

from Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 18:00

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