

Discussion on Dynamics and Consequences of International Marriage Migration to Japan: The Philippine Perspective

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International Marriage Migration has grown considerably in Southeast Asia in recent years. The phenomenon is not new and is often viewed as another means of migration. Notwithstanding, current flows of cross-cultural marriage are highlighted by the emergence of new origin and destination countries, increased participation of traditional and syndicated marriage brokers, prominence of multimedia and social networks as means of matchmaking, restrictive policies of receiving countries, advocacies for multiculturalism and social integration and growing activism of women marriage migrants. Data from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas indicate that the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, Germany and South Korea remain as the primary receiving countries of Filipino spouses / other partners since the early 80's. However, recent trends show that other countries like Japan emerged as major destination for Filipino spouses.

There is a plethora of studies on international marriage migration particularly on factors that encourage Filipinos to enter into cross-cultural unions. Several studies have been undertaken focused on the conditions of the spouses in the receiving states – actual experiences of women, intersection of class, gender, education, state and ethnicity, including the role of the women marriage migrants on state policies that directly affect their rights and status. However, there is insufficient literature on the actual consequences of international marriage migration on the spouses' families and children. The role of sending countries vis-à-vis policies of receiving states also remains to be further explored.

Specifically, the objectives of the discussion forum are:

1. To describe the profile, characteristics and trends of international marriage in Japan;
2. To discuss and analyze the consequence of inter-marriage on the Filipino spouse's children, community and state;
3. To review existing policies and programs of the state (Philippines and Japan) for Filipino spouses of Japanese nationals ;
4. To recommend policies and programs to address the issues and problems of Filipino spouses and other partners of Japanese; and
5. Trafficking in the guise of Intermarriage in Japan: Action Line 1343, Human trafficking and brokerage system.

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