

Examining the Present Conditions of Foreign Care Workers
as a part of 'Utilization of Foreign Human Resources' Policy

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In June 2014, in a cabinet decision regarding the 'strategy for revitalizing Japan', the Japanese Government put forward a plan for the 'utilization of foreign human resources' as part of its '10 strategies towards reform.' The purpose of which is to the advancement of women's roles in the work force. Central to this plan is the "review of the Technical Intern Training Program for foreigners" and the government's proposal to add care work as a designated category to this program. In addition, there is a clause included in the policy allowing the employment of foreign students who have attained the national qualification for care workers following graduation. Until now, care work was not admitted as a specialist or technical field for residency purposes. This meant that foreign students were not able to seek employment following their graduation in Japan - even if they had qualified as a care worker. These policy changes come within the context of a severe labor shortage in the care work sector.

Under this context, foreigners already settled in Japan, as well as newly arrived Filipino women with their Japanese-Filipino children are increasingly mobilized to work in care sector. In this report, I will focus on the situation of foreigners residing in Japan currently working as care and domestic workers.