

Building a "user-friendly" Japan for foreign workers

1. Introduction

Inspired by a TV drama depicting the unfair treatment of foreign workers, this research explores ways to ensure that international residents can work in Japan with peace of mind. The study focuses on the transition to the new "Employment-and-Training Program" scheduled for 2027 and addresses current communication and support gaps.

2. Research & Findings

Through a comparative analysis of government data and existing literature, the study identified key merits of the 2027 reform, such as improved job mobility and stricter human rights protections. However, significant challenges remain, including a reduction in eligible job categories (from 90 to 16) and increased financial burdens on employers.

3. Communication Issues

Investigation into current tools like "Kaminashi Jyugyoin" revealed that while digital translation helps, it often leads to a decrease in face-to-face interaction and creates a "text-entry barrier." The lack of non-verbal cues, such as facial expressions, hinders deep mutual understanding.

4. Proposed Solutions

To solve these issues, this paper proposes two core strategies:

1, App-Integrated Live Translation: Utilizing smart headsets (intercoms) equipped with AI voice translation. This allows workers to communicate in real-time while maintaining eye contact and observing facial expressions.

2, Enhanced Nationwide Support: Establishing a robust network of support centers that offer multilingual consultations. This includes creating online forums where workers can share concerns anonymously and organizing physical spaces for direct dialogue

5. Conclusion & Future Tasks

While these hypotheses offer a roadmap for improvement, further verification is needed. Future research will involve direct interviews with foreign workers and employers to gather real-world perspectives and ensure the feasibility of these proposals. This study aims to contribute to a society where diversity is embraced through better technology and stronger human support.