

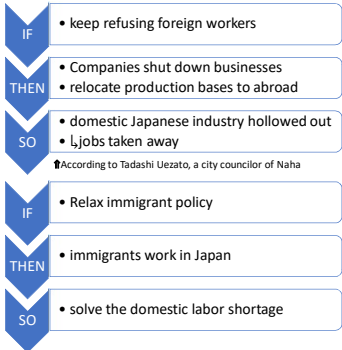
The Social Effects of Relaxing Japanese Immigrant Policy

Purpose: Each year our team studies the theme given by All Japan High School English Debate Association. This year, the theme is about accepting immigrants. It is our significance to think about the structure of the future Japan by looking at diversified perspectives, then debating. Collecting information from the bibliography and internet, we studied about the theme through participating in debate competitions.

Advantage 1: Solve Domestic Labor Shortage

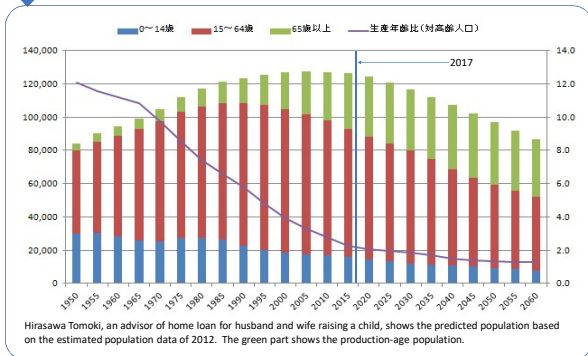
According to the Cabinet Office:

The declining of production-age population will accelerate towards 2030.

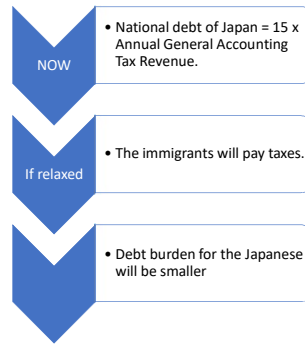


Reception of immigrant workers will solve the lack of workers and a hollowing-out of industry. It will give good effect on the future of Japan's industry and economy.

The wall of language?
↓
Language Schools



Advantage 2: Mitigate Burden of National Debt



(The National Debt of Japan)
≒ 15 x (Annual General Accounting Tax Revenue)
> 2 x (GDP)

Immigrants pay resident tax, income tax, inheritance tax

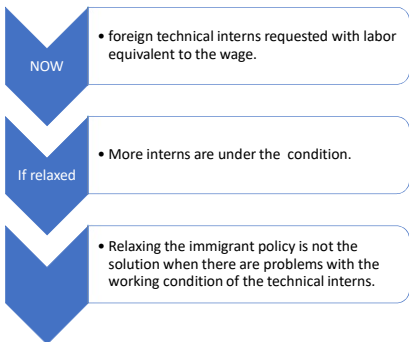
Accepting immigrants costs money.

↓
It is better to maintain GDP is better than leaving GDP dropping.



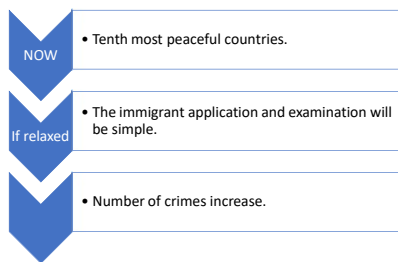
Disadvantage 1: Worse Working Conditions

Today, even if the foreign laborers are applied with the minimum wage, the employers are strictly requesting adequate work performance to the laborers.



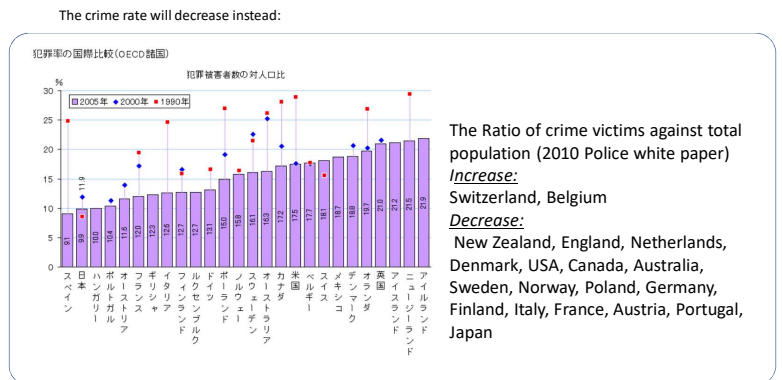
Immigrants come to a country to get a job with better working conditions compared to their mother country. Immigrants judge working conditions based on laws and other's impression. So the problem lies in Japanese Companies with bad working conditions, not Japan.

Disadvantage 2: Increase in Crime Rate



Number of people (Japanese):(Foreigners)=70:1
Arrests of criminal offenses (Japanese):(Foreigners)=38:1
(Ministry of International Affairs and Communications)

Foreigners commit crimes 1.8 times more than Japanese



Conclusion:

If we do nothing against the issue of immigrants, the production-age population will decrease. This will cause more domestic labor shortage and the drop of GDP. The burden of the National Debt will continue to increase. Relaxing the immigrant policy could create worse working condition and increase crime rate in Japan. However the present government seems to put more accent on GDP growth and declining birth rates, which is the cause of the domestic labor shortage. In accordance with the present Japanese policy, the immigrant policy in Japan should be relaxed.