

COMPLETION REPORT

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Malaysia and Japan are the two attractive destination for many Indonesian workers for work and improving their economic situation. In 2015, approximately 95,785 Indonesian working in Malaysia alone. The Indonesian Embassy Kuala Lumpur reports that Indonesian who worked in Malaysia have reached two million people and half of them work and live undocumented or even did not have any single official identification document. While in Japan it just 2,036 which extremely lower compared to Malaysia. Interestingly, in 1990 the Japan Ministry of Justice have deported roughly 1,217 Indonesian workers or 2.8% of the total number of deported illegal workers by 1996-2000.

In the midst of the increasing number of migrant workers, Indonesian government absolutely gained advantages especially from their remittances. Malaysia has become special attention due to the number of the cases involving migrant workers notably Indonesian informal workers extremely high. In 2010 alone for instance, Indonesian government has released that around 345 Indonesian workers have faced death penalty which mostly from Aceh. In contrast to this, Japan is one of the country with lowest risk use of forced labor.

The three factors portrayed overall condition of Indonesian illegal workers in Malaysia; demanded, exploited and humiliated. In Japan, some employers were also conducted exploitation towards Indonesian workers. Yet, the number is very low and did not gain huge media coverage as in Malaysia. Under this condition, have forced some Indonesian workers to escape from the old employers. They were triggered by some Indonesian colleagues that have promised a better job and salary albeit very risky.

Nonetheless, the researcher propose some recommendations to the government of Malaysia and Japan to improve their service and policy particularly as listed below:

1. The Malaysian government as well as Indonesian government should transform their policy and formulate an effective and accountable policy.
2. The Malaysian government should not serve Indonesian illegal workers under criminal law and neglect their huge contribution toward Malaysian development.
3. The Malaysian government is expected to learn from Japan's immigrant workers policy where Indonesian illegal workers have different experience during their illegal life.
4. The Japanese government should ensure that all Indonesian workers candidates have a minimum Japanese language requirement so as to could communicate with the locals properly.
5. The Japanese government should monitor and supervise the TITP (Technical Intern Training Program) and take action once whether workers or employers abuse the agreement signed.
6. The Japanese government should ensure all problems related to Indonesian workers such as bad treatment, low wages, exploitation and other human rights abuses should be declined, while the NGOs are continuously give assistances to Indonesian workers.

All in all, most of Indonesian illegal workers perceived that the local government whether Malaysia or Japan were marginally positive. Despite the fact that some weaknesses were definitely existed, yet they continue to return to these countries.

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