



Seminar on

Japan's Immigrant Integration Policy in the Age of Globalization

by Professor YAMAWAKI Keizo

School of Global Japanese Studies, Meiji University

Friday, 4 March 2011, 3-4.30pm

Seminar Room Auditorium, AS7/01-02, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

NUS@Kent Ridge

Chairperson: A/P Thang Leng Leng

Jointly organised by the Department of Japanese Studies and the FASS

Migration Research Cluster

The global age of migration is fast becoming a permanent feature of Japanese life, impacting the country's economic, social, and political landscape. Japan then is moving towards becoming a multi-cultural society with the increasing number of foreign residents, with a background of the ageing Japanese population and low-birth rate. Historically, the Japanese government has not paid enough attention to foreign residents and avoided dealing with the issue of immigrant integration. In January 2009, the government set up an office in charge of policy on resident foreigners in the Cabinet Office, aiming to support foreigners who lost jobs in the current economic crisis and their children, and in August 2010, it made a guideline on measures for foreign residents of Japanese descent. It remains to be seen if the government is ready to promote immigrant integration according to the guideline. Contrary to the government's reluctance to deal with foreign residents, some local governments have acknowledged them as part of their community and gradual progress has been made since the 1970s. Here the keyword is "Tabunka Kyosei" or intercultural community building. Prof. YAMAWAKI's talk will address various issues surrounding immigration and intercultural community building in Japan.

YAMAWAKI Keizo is Professor in the School of Global Japanese Studies at Meiji University, Tokyo. He received his Bachelor of Law from the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, and Masters of International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. After working as a programme officer in the Costa Rica office of the United Nations Development Programme, he became a research fellow at the Peace Research Institute of Meiji Gakuin University (PRIME), Tokyo. He later joined the staff of the School of Commerce at Meiji University, and started to teach at the School of Global Japanese Studies in April 2008.

His research interests include immigrant integration policy and intercultural community building. He has been on the committee on immigration policy of Ministries of Justice, Education and Foreign Affairs. He is best known as the chair of the committee for the promotion of intercultural community building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, which issued a report in March 2006, the first released by the Japanese government dealing with immigrant integration issues. He also advises prefectural and municipal governments and has served as chair of committees on intercultural community building set up by Aichi, Gunma and Miyagi prefectures.