

Comments on Cooperation for Developing Human Resources

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Cooperation for developing human resources is needed in Northeast Asia. The region is diverse in political, social, and economic systems. It is also diverse in population, with some countries seeing high growth, Japan seeing slow growth, and Russia experiencing a decline. The region also has a history of conflict, and it is therefore necessary to work on changing perceptions. Otherwise it is difficult to talk about cooperation.

It is also somewhat difficult to speak of balanced future economic development in terms of labor, but we can speak of the impact of labor, particularly cross-border movement, which has already become quite intensive. Therefore, now is the time to develop purpose-oriented visa-free exchanges. The case of Russia and China shows that a visa-free agreement actually lowers the number of illegals.

Research and education, including the natural sciences, hold great potential for this region. Cooperation in natural-disaster prevention and management and in environmental protection is especially promising. More exchanges in higher education, between Japan and the Russian Far East for example, would be very welcome. Language is another area with good potential for cooperation. At this point, it still seems like a dream, but in the future we can envision the universities of the region coordinating the higher-level education for all the countries of Northeast Asia.