

International Migration in Korea: 2002-2003

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I. Introduction

There was a big turning point in Korea's foreign worker policy in 2003. The Korean government has finally decided to accept unskilled foreign labor as a worker.

The new work system will become effective from August 1, 2004 (next year). Under the new system, foreign workers will have the same rights as domestic workers. The work contract period is one year at a time and the maximum work period is 3 years.

Under the new scheme, qualified Korean employers (Korean employers with less than 300 employees in the areas of manufacturing, construction and servicerelated will be given a priority) must show that they have attempted to find domestic workers through public employment center offices for one month without success. Then, the Korean employers can receive what is a certificate of shortage of employees and then enter into employment contracts with those foreign workers who meet the qualifications.

Most foreign workers who were in illegal status was able to apply for work permits under the current system, depending on how long the workers had been in illegal status from March 31, 2003, which was the crucial date for the calculation. The foreign workers who had been in Korea less than 3 years from this date were able to stay in Korea for 2 years at the maximum. The foreign workers who had been in Korea between 3 to 4 years could leave Korea with an advance approval certificate to re-enter and if they re-enter Korea within 3 months of their departure date, they can work for the maximum period of 5 years including the period of their illegal stays in Korea. The foreign workers who had been present illegally in Korea for over 4 years since March 31, 2003 must leave Korea, since the Korean government would take actions to deport them. Under the government program, 189,769 undocumented foreign workers reported to the authorities. Out of 110,000 who did not report to the authorities, 20,000 left Korea by November 15. The rest of them have decided to stay. They seem to believe that they can bypass the government deportation this time, too.

Now Korea has a dual scheme of unskilled foreign labor: employment/trainee scheme and work permit system since the government has decided to keep the foreign employment/training scheme which has been run by the Small Business Federation with the Small Enterprise Office for the last ten years or so.

II. General economy and the labor marker

The Korean economy began to recover from the poor performance of 2002 (The GDP growth rate of 2001 was 3.0 percent). The GDP growth rate went up to 6.3 percent. The construction and service sectors were an engine for the outstanding economic outcomes. The labor market became even tighter. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.1. Even in some months of 2002, the unemployment rates were below 3.0 percent for the first time after the 1997 financial crisis. The real wage increased 8.7. The labor shortage problem is the most serious in the small and medium industry.

III. International labor movement

6,693,029 Korean residents went overseas which increased by 16.6 percent. In all purposes except employment and lecture/research, more Koreans went abroad. Particularly, visit and sightseeing purpose went up by 30.0 percent.

For destination country, China became the country, which the largest number of Koreans visited, with its proportion going up from 20.4 percent to 25.9 percent. The importance of Japan increased (its proportion increased from 21. 0percent to 21.5 percent), while the USA (its proportion went down from 11.7 percent to 11.6 percent) continued to decrease. The proportions of Thailand and the Philippines also increased.

On the other hand, in 2002 a total of 5,204,670 foreigners came to Korea, which increased 3.3 percent from the pervious year. In 2001 3.3 percent less of

foreigners came compared to 2000.

In terms of staying qualification status, short-time visits of journalists increased the most (183.4 percent up), then short-time employment and study increased by 37.2 percent and 31.4 percent, respectively. The most decreased qualification status was entertainment (24.9 percent down). Tourism that still comprises more than 50 percent of foreign visits also decreased by 1.1 percent.

By nationality of foreigners coming to Korea, Japanese (44.8 percent), Chinese (10.8 percent) and American (10.7 percent) included almost 70 percent. The most increased nationalities included Mexicans (66.3 percent up), Brazilians (51.3%) and Malays (47.9 percent up). On the other hand, 22.9 percent more of Chinese came.

62.8 percent foreigners stayed less than six days in Korea.

The registered foreign population in Korea increased 9.9 percent from 229,648 in 2001 to 252,457 in 2002. All major countries' nationals increased. Particularly, Chinese went up from 73,567 in 2001 to 84,590 in 2002.

The number of the registered legal workers increased by 43.6 percent from 28,195 in 2001 to 40,485 in 2002. The workers who changed its status from a trainee to a worker took the largest proportion (45.9 percent). Language teachers (26.8 percent) and entertainers (13.1 percent) also took large shares. The number of the registered trainees decreased slightly. But, many of these trainees overstayed. The number of the overstayed foreigners continuously increased from 188,995 in 2000 to 255,206 in 2001m then to 289,239 in 2002. As a result, the proportion of the over-stayers in the whole foreign labor continued to remain more than 70 percent.

<Table 1> Foreign workers in Korea

(Unit: persons, %)

| | | Tra | inee | Over-stayers |
|-------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Total | Skilled labor | Companies with factories abroad | Employment/ training scheme | |

| 1004.12 | 01.024 | 5 265 | 0.512 | 10.016 | 49.021 |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1994.12 | 81,824 | 5,265 | 9,512 | 18,816 | 48,231 |
| | (100.0) | (6.4) | (11.6) | (23.0) | (58.9) |
| 1995.12 | 128,906 | 8,228 | 15,238 | 23,574 | 81,866 |
| | (100.0) | (6.4) | (11.8) | (18.3) | (63.5) |
| 1996.12 | 210,494 | 13,420 | 29,724 | 38,296 | 129,054 |
| | (100.0) | (6.4) | (14.1) | (18.2) | (61.3) |
| 1997.12 | 245,399 | 15,900 | 32,656 | 48,795 | 148,048 |
| | (100.0) | (6.5) | (13.3) | (19.9) | (60.3) |
| 1998.12 | 157,689 | 11,143 | 15,936 | 31,073 | 99,537 |
| | (100.0) | (7.1) | (10.1) | (19.7) | (63.1) |
| 1999. 12 | 217,384 | 12,592 | 20,017 | 49,437 | 135,338 |
| | (100.0) | (5.8) | (9.2) | (22.7) | (62.3) |
| 2000. 12 | 285,506 | 19,063 | 18,504 | 58,944 | 188,995 |
| | (100.0) | (6.7) | (6.5) | (20.6) | (66.2) |
| 2001.12. | 329,555 | 27,614 | 13,505 | 33,230 | 255,206 |
| | (100.0) | (8.4) | (4.1) | (10.1) | (77.4) |
| 2002. 12. | 362,597 | 33,697 | 14,035 | 25,626 | 289,239 |
| | (100.0) | (9.2) | (3.9) | (7.1) | (79.8) |
| 2003.4. | 373,467 | 33,030 | 13,212 | 37,731 | 289,494 |
| | (100.0) | (8.8) | (3.5) | (10.1) | (77.5) |

Note: Numbers in parenthesis are proportions to the total numbers.

IV. Government polices concerning unskilled foreign labor

Unskilled foreign workers began to enter Korea from the late 1980s. In the beginning their number were only a few thousands. But, soon their number increased substantially since many employers could not find Korean workers who wanted to work for them. Now it comprises about two percent of the Korea's labor force. But a big problem with Korea's foreign labor is the size of undocumented workers. Its number is large. The undocumented workers increased from 100,000 in 1998 to 189,000 in 2000, then 289,000 in 2002. Moreover, its proportion in the total labor force is more than 70 percent. The large presence of undocumented foreign labor was largely attributed to that Korea did not allow unskilled foreign workers as workers.

But, recognizing the seriousness of the presence of undocumented foreign workers, in June 2002, the Korean government shifted its position concerning the use of foreign unskilled labor. It allowed the presence of foreign unskilled labor as workers for the first time, even though it was confined to the service sector. Now foreigners with Korean ancestors can apply for work permit only in the service sector. It is called "employment management scheme". Only foreign workers with Korean ancestors are eligible for work permit. At the same time, it enlarged the foreign trainee scheme. The number of foreign trainees increased from 126,750 to 145,500 and more sectors (agriculture) became allowed to use foreign labor. However, the situation had not improved.

Finally, in July 2003 Korea introduced a new work permit system for unskilled foreign workers. Foreign workers will be brought to Korea from August 2004. Under the new scheme, qualified Korean employers (Korean employers with less than 300 employees in the areas of manufacturing, construction and service-related will be given a priority) must show that they have attempted to find domestic workers through public employment center offices for one month without success. Then, the Korean employers can receive what is a certificate of shortage of employees and then enter into employment contracts with those foreign workers who meet the qualifications.

Most foreign workers who were in illegal status was able to apply for work permits under the current system, depending on how long the workers had been in illegal status from March 31, 2003, which was the crucial date for the calculation. The foreign workers who had been in Korea less than 3 years from this date were able to stay in Korea for 2 years at the maximum. The foreign workers who had been in Korea between 3 to 4 years could leave Korea with an advance approval certificate to re-enter and if they re-enter Korea within 3 months of their departure date, they can work for the maximum period of 5 years including the period of their illegal stays in Korea. The foreign workers who had been present illegally in Korea for over 4 years since March 31, 2003 must leave Korea, since the Korean government would take actions to deport them.

Under the government program, 189,769 undocumented foreign workers reported to the authorities. Out of them, 147,340 stayed less than three years and the rest of 42,429 did between three and four years. 83. 6 percent of the undocumented foreign workers who stayed less than four years turned out to reveal themselves to the authorities.

Out of 110,000 who did not report to the authorities, 20,000 left Korea by November 15. The rest of them have decided to stay despite that the Korean government is expected to strengthen efforts to deport them. They seem to believe that they can bypass the government deportation this time, too. Since foreign labor began to come to Korea beginning from the late 1980s, the Korean government tried to implement deportation programs more than ten times, but none of them were successful.

The shift of the government policy concerning foreign workers is partly due to the new government. President Roh Moo Hyun promised to introduce a work permit scheme for foreign labor when he ran for the President. When he started his office in February 2003, President Roh planned to replace the work/trainee scheme with the work permit scheme. Under the employment/trainee scheme, an unskilled foreign labor has one year of training and is employed for another two years as a worker after he or she passes some testes.

But, President Roh retreated his position. Small employers in manufacturing who now enjoy low costs of foreign trainees have been opposing the work permit scheme. President Roh could not overcome this hurdle, either. His party does not hold the majority seats in the National Assembly. Now Korea has a dual scheme of unskilled foreign labor: employment/trainee scheme and work permit system. The employment/training scheme is run by the Small Business Federation with the Small Enterprise Office, while the work permit system is going to be under the guidance of the Labor Ministry. While deciding to keep the employment/training scheme, the Korean government also plans to have the employment/training scheme operate according to its original purposes.

V. Program for certifying employment status and offering sojourn period to undocumented foreign workers

i. Eligibility

Foreign workers' illegal staying period should be less than four years as of Mar. 31, 2003 and should be employed as of the application dates.

Those who were illegally staying for less than three years were eligible for sojourn status. Those staying between three years and four years were eligible for visa issuance certificate which would be used when he or she try to reenter Korea.

But, those who are not reported as illegally staying foreign workers by March 31, 2003, those whose sojourn period is four years or more, smugglers, those who travel with falsified or forged passports, and those who transgress domestic laws could not enjoy this offer.

Undocumented workers also should work for the following industries at the time of application

- Small-and-medium-sized manufacturing companies employing less than 300 regular workers

- Construction businesses whose construction project costs 30 billion won under the Basic Act on Construction Industry (available only to ethnic Koreans with foreign nationalities)

- Six occupations in the services industry (available only to ethnic Koreans with foreign nationalities); restaurants (restaurants, lunch counters), Business support service (building cleansing services, cleansing of industrial equipment), social work activities, cleaning services, private households with employed persons, and private nursing and similar services.

- Inshore fisheries businesses including fisheries using bottom trawls weighed 10 to less than 25 tons

- Agricultural and livestock farming (businesses of a certain scale engaged in protected cultivation and livestock raising.

Those foreign workers who are employed for the jobs not permitted to them as of

application dates could apply only after being employed for the jobs listed above. They also may inquire the Employment Security Centers about a job referral if they had difficulties in getting a job at the permissible businesses listed above.

ii. Procedures

In order to obtain permission to change status of sojourn or to receive a visa issuance certificate, an eligible applicant should follow two procedures: one through the Ministry of Labor and the other through the Ministry of Justice.

First, he or she should request a competent Employment Security Center of the Ministry of Labor to issue a document confirming his/her employment and then submit the issued confirmation document along with other required documents to an Immigration Control Office under the control of the Ministry of Justice.

For the Employment Certificate, the applicant should to go to competent Employment Security Center of the applicant's workplace from September 1 to October 31, 2003. Foreign workers should present themselves to the authorities. No proxy was allowed.

Documents to be submitted to the Employment Security Center were as follows.

- Passport or travel certificate

- The Employment Verification Report issued by employers

- A copy of the Business Registration Certificate (the Resident's Registration Certificate for home-making assistants, the Construction Business Registration Certificate and the Supplying Contract specifying construction project's costs for the construction business) and the Business License stating the business type

- The standard labor contract

- Documents proving ethnic Koreans with foreign nationalities (the Identification Card and the Census Register)

- A letter of oath

- One photo (colored and in half the size of a business card)

A Certificate on Employment Status was issued within three days after application.

In cases the workplace of an applicant operates multiple types of businesses, the applicant had to prove by submitting certificates (ex. a certificate on revenues and a document proving the number of full-time workers) that its main business was in the list of "Eligible Businesses" illustrated above.

After the obtaining the Certificate on Employment Status, the applicant should go to the competent Immigration Office of his or her workplace from September 1 to November 15, 2003. Foreign workers or employers on behalf of them could go to the Immigration Office.

Documents to be submitted to the Immigration Office were as follows.

For a foreign worker staying less than three years;

- Passport or travel certificate
- One photo (colored and in half the size of a business card)
- The Certificate on Employment Status issued by the Ministry of Labor

- The application paper for the sojourn status' change and registration of a foreigner

- 60,000 won for administrative stamps

For a foreign worker staying three years to less than four years;

- Passport or travel certificate
- One photo (colored and in half the size of a business card)
- The Certificate on Employment Status issued by the Ministry of Labor
- Application paper for approval on issuance of visa issuance certificate

A foreign worker staying less than three years were allowed to change a sojourn status and register as a foreigner. A foreign worker staying three years to less than four years had an approval paper for visa issuance

Those issued with the approval paper for visa issuance may be employed after departing from Korea, getting visa from the Korean mission to their nations and reentering Korea.

Foreigners who were permitted to stay until March 31, 2004 thanks to the grace period before voluntary departure should apply during the period mentioned

earlier. Once they submit an application, the permitted grace period would be ended.

Employers and foreign workers who had the Certificate on Employment Status issued in writing, and submitting false Employment Verification Report and other application papers through falsification or other illegal methods would face punishment according to relevant laws. Especially, the employee concerned would face deportation.

iii. Sojourn period

Foreigners who completed changing their sojourn status and alien registration were allowed to work for a maximum of two years from promulgation of the Act on Employment etc., of Foreign Workers within a total of five years of stay. Meanwhile, in order to avoid the mix-up for the uniformed expiry of sojourn periods of foreign workers, the Ministry of Justice granted individual foreign workers with different expiry dates for their first sojourn period, depending upon their entrance dates.

Foreign workers who received the approval paper for the visa issuance may work until their five-year stay expired, and the period after departure to re-entrance was not included in the period of the five-year stay.

iv. Period for voluntary departure

Undocumented foreign workers who voluntarily departed from September 1 to November 15, 2003 were exempted from fines imposed for the violation of the Immigration Control Act and from disadvantages for the past illegal stay in cases of employment under the Employment Permit System in future.

Those who did not depart during the period stated above became subject to forced deportation by joint crackdown on illegal employment.

VI. Work permit scheme for unskilled foreign labor

i. Aim

The new work permit scheme for foreign labor aims to allow Korean employers who experience labor shortage channel to employ unskilled foreign labor through legal process.

ii. Government role

The Korean government is directly involved in bring and managing foreign labor. In bring foreign labor into Korea, the government will sign MOU with sending countries' governments for them to be responsible for selecting and managing their nationals who will work in Korea.

The MOU (the details of which will be released in 2004) will include the following elements.

- Only government agencies in sending countries will be involved in selecting labor that will work in Korea.

- Objective criteria for selecting candidates are provided by the Korean government; the criteria will include education, experiences and Korean test.

- The selected candidates will not be guaranteed employment in Korea.

- In renewing the MOU every two year, problems concerning selecting and sending labor, the number of overstaying workers, preferences of Korean employers toward their nations will be considered.

- The governments of the sending countries will have to work hard to prevent their nationals to leave their workplace without permission.

The Korean employers have to find foreign labor through public employment centers and the Korean Manpower Agency under the Labor Ministry is responsible for bring foreign labor into Korea on behalf of the government.

iii. Requirements for Korean employers.

The Korean employers who want to employ unskilled foreign labor must show that they have attempted to find domestic workers for one month without success by requesting public employment centers to find Korean workers for them.

The qualified Korean employers select their foreign employees among a list of candidates who meet their requirements such as job skills and Korean language competence.

iv. Employment period

After the maximum three-year employment period, foreign workers will have to go out of Korea and stay outside Korea for one-year period before being able to come to Korea to work again for another 3-year period.

Family members of foreign workers will not be allowed to enter. This is designed to dissuade foreign workers from permanently staying in Korea.

v. Rights of unskilled foreign labor

All labor rights including union rights will be guaranteed to the foreign workers. Their wages and working conditions may be different from those of Korean workers based on their productivity and experiences, but not by their nationality.

vi. Procedures

Procedures for selecting and bring foreign labor will be different between ordinary foreign workers and foreign workers with Korean ancestors.

- (1) Procedures for ordinary foreign workers
 - 1) The Foreign Labor Policy Committee determines which businesses wi ll use foreign labor and which countries can send their nationals.
 - 2) The Korean government and the government of selected sending countries sign the MOU.
 - 3) The concerned public agencies of the sending countries make a pool of candidates who can work in Korea. In selecting candidates they must use objective criteria. If they cannot select by using the objective criteria, they must do so randomly, i.e. by using computer selection process. The sending countries' government agencies must send the

list of candidates to the Korean Manpower Agency regularly.

- 4) The Korean public employment centers nationwide issue a Certificate of Labor Shortage to the Korean employers who have attempted to employ Korean workers for one month without success. The Korean employers who obtain the Certificate apply for unskilled foreign labor with their requirements for foreign labor employment to the public employment centers.
- 5) The public employment centers recommend multiple candidates of foreign workers to the employer and the employer select one of them.
- 6) The Korean employer and the selected foreign worker sign a labor contract.
- 7) With the Certificate of Labor Shortage and the labor contract the Korean employer applies for a visa recognition certificate of the foreign worker.
- 8) The Korean employer sends the visa recognition certificate to the foreign worker. The foreign worker obtains visa from the Korean embassy in his or her country and comes to Korea. After entering Korea, the foreign worker should receive training for a certain period to have a pre-knowledge about Korea.
- (2) Procedures for foreign workers with Korean ancestors
 - 1) The Foreign Labor Policy Committee determines which businesses will use foreign labor and which countries can send their nationals.
 - 2) The Korean embassies will issue a visa for the purpose of visit to qualified foreign workers with Koran ancestors, but if those who wish to come to Korea are more than the allowed number, Korean test will be given or computer will be used to select the candidates.
 - 3) The foreign workers come to Korea and receive training for employment. For workers who wish to work for the construction sector may be given labor permit, which means that they can freely choose their jobs without going through the following procedure.
 - 4) The foreign workers after receiving training apply for jobs to the public employment centers.
 - 5) The Korean public employment centers nationwide issue a Certificate of Labor Shortage to the Korean employers who have attempted to

employ Korean workers for one month without success. The Korean employers who obtain the Certificate apply for unskilled foreign labor with their requirements for foreign labor employment to the public employment centers.

- 6) The public employment centers recommend multiple candidates of foreign workers to the employer and the employer select one of them.
- 7) The Korean employer and the selected foreign worker sign a labor contract.
- 8) With the Certificate of Labor Shortage and the labor contract the foreign worker applies for change of visa status for him or her to work in Korea.
- 9) The Ministry of Justice issues a new visa status to the foreign worker with Korean ancestors.

vii. Comparing with employment/training scheme

The differences between the new work permit scheme and the existing employment/training system are as follows.

| 1 | 1, 0 | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Work permit scheme | Employment/training scheme | | | |
| Status of worker | Trainee for the first year and workers for the next two years | Worker for three years | | | |
| Responsible agency | Public authorities | Small Business Federation | | | |
| Labor allocation system | Employers chance to choose their workers. | Neither employers nor workers have chance to choose their workers or jobs | | | |
| Protecting employment opportunities for domestic workers | 1 2 1 | 1 5 | | | |

<Table 2> Work permits scheme and employment/training scheme

(1) Status of worker

Under the employment/training system, foreign labor works as a trainee for the first year and after passing a test he or she will be given worker status. One the other hand, foreign labor brought through the employment permit system will be given worker status from the beginning.

(2) Responsible agency

The Small Business Federation is mainly responsible for managing the work/employment scheme, while public authorities will manage the work permit system.

(3) Labor allocation system

Under the employment/training scheme, neither Korean employers can select their foreign workers, nor foreign workers can choose their employers. On the other hand, the work permit system will give employers chance to choose their workers.

(4) Protecting employment opportunities for domestic workers

Under the employment/training system, in selecting qualified Korean employers industrial policy-related considerations are given priority without regard to the labor shortage, while Korean employers must attempt to find domestic workers for a certain period.

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Real GDP growth | 5.5 | 8.3 | 8.9 | 6.8 | 5 | -6.7 | 10.9 | 9.3 | 3.1 | 6.3 |
| Real GNP growth (%) | 5.8 | 8.4 | 9.6 | 7.1 | 4.9 | -6.7 | 10.7 | | | |
| Current balance (billions, US\$) | 990 | -3,867 | -8,508 | -23,005 | -8,167 | 40,365 | 24,477 | 122,241 | 9 | 6 |
| Producer price index (1995=100) | 93.0 | 95.5 | 100.0 | 103.2 | 107.2 | 120.3 | 117.8 | 120.2 | 122.5 | 124.5 |
| Consumer price index (2000=100) | 74.2 | 78.8 | 82.3 | 86.4 | 90.2 | 97.0 | 97.8 | 100.0 | 104.1 | 106.9 |
| Exchange rate of currency toward (Won/US\$) | 808.1 | 788.7 | 774.7 | 844.2 | 1,415 | 1,208 | 1,145 | 1,195 | 1,291 | 1,251 |
| Real GDP per person | 7,822.2 | 9,013.9 | 10,853.1 | 11,417.3 | 10,367.2 | 6,842.6 | 8,679.4 | 9,779.0 | 9,000.0 | 10,013.0 |
| Real wage growth (%) | 7.0 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 6.7 | 2.4 | -9.3 | 11.1 | 5.6 | 1.5 | 8.7 |
| Population (1,000: 15years old and over) | 32,528 | 33,056 | 33,664 | 34,285 | 34,285 | 35,362 | 35,765 | 36,139 | 36,484 | 36,963 |
| Labour force (1,000) | 19,879 | 20,396 | 20,853 | 21,243 | 21,662 | 21,456 | 21,634 | 21,950 | 22,181 | 22,877 |
| Number of employees (1,000) | 19,328 | 19,905 | 20,432 | 20,817 | 21,106 | 19,994 | 20,281 | 21,061 | 21,362 | 22,169 |
| Number of the unemployed (1,000) | 551 | 490 | 420 | 426 | 556 | 1,461 | 1,353 | 889 | 819 | 708 |
| Rate of unemployment (%) | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.1 |
| Number of lay-off | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emigration flow of nationals | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of nationals residing abroad | | | | | | | | | | |
| Immigration flow of foreigners | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of foreigners residing (1000) | | 84.905 | 110.028 | 148.731 | 176.890 | 147.914 | 168.950 | 210.249 | 229.648 | 252.457 |
| China | | 11.264 | 19.192 | 26.732 | 35.371 | 30.938 | 39.718 | 58.984 | 73.567 | 84.590 |
| of which, with Korean ancestors | | 4.667 | 7.367 | 9.345 | 11.800 | 11.769 | 20.305 | 32.443 | 42.827 | 48.293 |
| United States | | 19.611 | 22.204 | 26.413 | 27.882 | 26.051 | 25.827 | 22.778 | 22.018 | 22.849 |
| Chinese Taipei | | 23.259 | 23.265 | 23.283 | 23.150 | 22.928 | 22.985 | 23.026 | 22.791 | 22.699 |
| Indonesia | | 1.553 | 3.434 | 9.632 | 13.628 | 9.714 | 13.635 | 16.700 | 15.617 | 17.14 |
| Japan | | 8.436 | 9.365 | 12.366 | 13.741 | 12.985 | 13.199 | 14.013 | 14.670 | 12.05 |
| Philippines | | 5.704 | 9.004 | 10.837 | 13.065 | 7.960 | 10.797 | 15.961 | 16.361 | 17.296 |

Table - continued

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Vietnam | | 2.660 | 5.663 | 10.328 | 13.480 | 8.144 | 10.021 | 15.624 | 16.048 | 16.901 |
| Bangladesh | | 1.272 | 2.700 | 6.258 | 7.907 | 5.744 | 6.732 | 7.882 | 9.097 | 8.99 |
| Canada | | 1.243 | 2.962 | 3.704 | 4.216 | 2.994 | 2.986 | 3.296 | 4.029 | 4.977 |
| Uzbekistan | | 0.051 | 0.810 | 1.008 | 2.185 | 2.023 | 2.327 | 3.737 | 3.952 | 4.186 |
| Sri Lanka | | 1.200 | 1.674 | 2.870 | 3.676 | 2.397 | 2.243 | 2.544 | 2.481 | 2.72 |
| Thailand | | 0.362 | 0.478 | 1.197 | 1.948 | 1.598 | 1.843 | 3.240 | 3.616 | 4.79 |
| Pakistan | | 0.433 | 0.803 | 1.063 | 1.663 | 1.274 | 1.775 | 3.215 | 3.347 | 3.707 |
| Russian Federation | | 0.363 | 0.503 | 0.787 | 1.018 | 1.016 | 1.531 | 2.581 | 3.296 | 4.019 |
| France | | 0.584 | 0.685 | 0.852 | 0.989 | 1.096 | 1.298 | 1.466 | 1.350 | 1.43 |
| Nepal | | 0.570 | 0.827 | 0.963 | 1.231 | 0.976 | 1.190 | 1.966 | 2.104 | 2.342 |
| Germany | | 0.859 | 0.989 | 1.195 | 1.297 | 1.210 | 1.174 | 1.076 | 1.001 | 1.06 |
| United Kingdom | | 0.835 | 0.857 | 1.175 | 1.247 | 1.017 | 1.056 | 1.269 | 1.565 | 2.014 |
| Australia | | 0.528 | 0.614 | 0.821 | 0.920 | 0.871 | 0.919 | 1.022 | 1.254 | 1.623 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of legal foreign workers (ovestayers included) | | 33,593 | 47,040 | 81,440 | 105,024 | 75,357 | 12,590 | 17,702 | 128,529 | 137,342 |
| -employed | | 5,265 | 8,228 | 13,420 | 14,655 | 11,143 | 12,590 | 15,634 | 28,195 | 40,485 |
| −Teaching (E−1) | | 511 | 647 | 793 | 862 | 790 | 821 | 687 | 713 | 800 |
| −Language (E−2) | | 2,241 | 4,230 | 7,473 | 7,607 | 4,927 | 5,009 | 6,414 | 8,388 | 10,864 |
| −Research (E−3) | | 125 | 290 | 539 | 657 | 591 | 522 | 763 | 901 | 1,152 |
| -Technology (E-4) | | 396 | 599 | 918 | 997 | 471 | 347 | 338 | 206 | 195 |
| −Professional (E−5) | | 145 | 198 | 254 | 267 | 339 | 360 | 373 | 407 | 396 |
| -Entertainment (E-6) | | 563 | 598 | 1,017 | 1,444 | 1,133 | 2,265 | 3,916 | 5,092 | 5,285 |
| Specific occupation (E-7) | | 1,284 | 1,666 | 2,426 | 2,821 | 2,892 | 3,266 | 3,143 | 2,904 | 3,184 |
| training/Employment (E-8) | | | | | | | | 2,068 | 9,684 | 18,609 |
| -trainee | | 28,328 | 38,812 | 68,020 | 90,369 | 64,214 | 78,945 | 104,847 | 100,344 | 96,857 |
| Number of ovestayers | | 75,533 | 133,727 | 195,379 | 177,471 | 99,537 | 135,300 | 188,895 | 255,206 | 362,597 |
| -China | | 19,149 | 36,462 | 50,620 | 57,722 | 55,628 | 68,798 | 95,625 | 130,291 | |

Table - continued

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|----------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| -Philippines | | 7,614 | 10,323 | 14,602 | 13,909 | 6,404 | 9,213 | 12,890 | 16,843 | |
| -Bangladesh | | 5,244 | 5,547 | 9,610 | 9,033 | 7,462 | 10,884 | 14,475 | 15,538 | |
| -Mongolia | | | | | | | | | 15,280 | |
| -Nepal | | 2,072 | 2,259 | 2,388 | 1,059 | 606 | | | | |
| Number of ovestayers | | 27,302 | 51,834 | 66,325 | 29,423 | 99,537 | 135,300 | 188,955 | 255,206 | |
| -Pakistan | | 2,276 | 2,952 | 5,455 | 5,935 | 3,090 | 4,286 | 6,054 | 6,651 | |
| -Thailand | | 1,305 | 2,071 | 6,276 | 8,200 | 2,372 | | | | |
| -Others | | 10,571 | 22,279 | 40,103 | 52,190 | 23,961 | 25,107 | | | |