

Message from the New Editor-in-Chief

Japan's current labor policy is based around various government-led initiatives encapsulated with slogans such as "Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens," "Work-Style Reform," and "equal pay for equal work." There is proactive and energetic discussion of major policy measures addressing a full range of labor market and employment system issues, including improving labor share, promoting labor mobility, promoting employment among women, the elderly, and young people, improving the treatment of non-regular workers, preventing excessively long work hours, and improving labor productivity.

We at the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT) have a significant role to play in this process. Our activities include accumulation of basic and innovative labor research grounded in various structural changes and historical and international comparisons. The surveys and research we conduct are used for planning and evaluation of Japan's labor policy, and the practical evidence and data we provide have extensive implications. JILPT brings together its research and training to foster the competency of governmental officials at the core of labor administration and management.

JILPT is the only labor policy research and training institution in Japan with a large number of researchers in a wide range of specialized labor-related fields. By adopting broad-based, interdisciplinary viewpoints on complex labor issues, we aim to elucidate policy issues swiftly and consistently stay "one step ahead of government" so as to make positive contributions to society.

I am honored to have been appointed President of the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training, and editor-in-chief of this journal, as of April 1, 2018. This journal was launched in summer 2017 to disseminate up-to-date information on Japan's ever-evolving labor issues to the world. We believe that in planning and proposing labor policies, it is vital to have an accurate understanding of actual workplace conditions (including clarification of problematic areas) that is global in scope.

In this journal, I aim to make full use of my long-running research and academic teaching, with a focus on econometrics and labor economics, and continue offering valuable information and insights to our readers.

Yoshio Higuchi
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