

Editorial Note

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE PRESENTS a collection of essays that review the movement of Filipino nurses to Japan since 2009 under Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA). The four main articles are based on the papers presented in an international symposium, “Migration of Filipino Nurses under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA): Trends and Challenges” held at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman on 24 January 2013 (co-organized by the Asian Center and Nagasaki University). The papers were converted, updated, and extensively revised to suit the standards of an academic journal. In addition, comments to the presentations and the summary of the panel discussion are included in this volume as commentaries.

The four articles are full of empirical data, their arguments enriched by theoretical reflections. It turned out that the authors of the four articles unanimously highlight the importance of Japanese language in one way or the other, while other aspects are also emphasized in each article. “Chronic First Aid: The Scheme for Movement of Filipino Nurses under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), 2009–2016” by Shun Ohno et al. points out the arbitrariness of the current language training program and proposes the formulation of a more systematic, evidence-based training program. “Double-Standard Employment’ under JPEPA: The Bilateral Agreement and its Implications for Filipino Nurse Migration to Japan” by Yuko O. Hirano underscores the differences of notion of nursing and nursing practices between the two countries beyond language barriers. “An Analysis of the Performance of Filipino EPA Nurses in the Practice National Board Examination of Japan Conducted in English” by Yoshichika Kawaguchi et al. echoes Hirano’s arguments by presenting the result of the mock exam of the national board examination for nurses in English translation. The study

reveals that foreign nurses' low passing rate is not only attributed to language barrier but also to differences in nursing curriculum and practice. "Warmly Received but Still Adjusting: Filipino EPA Nurses in Japan" by Cora Añonuevo et al. conveys the voices of Filipino registered nurses in Japan. They are generally happy working in Japan, but they cannot make long-term career and life plans because of the limitations of Japan's current migration policy.

We express our gratitude to the Japan Foundation for financial support for publication of this special issue (FY 2014–2015 Support Program for Organizations in Japanese Studies) granted to the Asian Center. Similarly, we are grateful to anonymous blind peer referees for their constructive comments to the earlier versions of the manuscript. We also thank copyeditors Nestor de Guzman and Janus Nolasco, and Ariel Manuel, the layout artist. As managing editor, Janus has paid attention to the details of each manuscript and the layouting process throughout the production of this special issue. We would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the commitment of Dr. Eduardo Tadem as editor in chief (2012–2016) of *Asian Studies: Journal of Critical Perspectives on Asia*.

We are confident that this issue sufficiently contributes to the development of scholarship and policy making on migration issues in Japan, the Philippines, and the region. We hope that it can be read by all of those who are concerned about the issues pertaining to demographic transition and migration in the twenty-first century.

Michiyo YONENO-REYES and Yuko O. HIRANO
Issue Editors