

Social Integration Policy: South Korea Cases

JANG Juyoung, Ph.D.

Policy Researcher

Migration Research & Training Centre

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1 About Migration Research & Training Centre

Research institute specializing in immigration policy in South Korea

- ◆ Established based on the MOU between the Ministry of Justice, Gyeonggi Province, and the IOM in 2009
- ◆ Support the development and implementation of immigration policy
- ◆ Provide education and training programs for public officials, activists, students, immigrants, etc.
- ◆ Conduct joint research on international migration phenomenon and policies

1 About Migration Research & Training Centre

Research areas of immigration policy

- ◆ Immigration law & administration
- ◆ Social integration
- ◆ Human rights & refugees
- ◆ Immigration & economy
- ◆ International cooperation on immigration
- ◆ Survey of immigration trends

2 Overview of Social Integration Policy

Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners residing in the ROK (2007)

Article 11 (Support for Social Adjustment of Foreigners in Korea)

The State and local governments may provide foreigners in Korea with **education, information, and counselling services** with respect to basic common knowledge necessary to live in the Republic of Korea.

Immigration Act

Article 39 (Social Integration Programs)

(1) The Minister of Justice may implement social integration programs,, in order to support the social adaptation of foreigners who intend to acquire Korean nationality or to obtain the status of permanent residency, etc.

2 Overview of Social Integration Policy

Backgrounds

- ◆ Rapid increase in foreign population, especially marriage migrants, in mid 2000s
- ◆ Proactive policy implementation required to minimize tensions and conflicts
- ◆ Change of perspectives from the management of foreigners to the integration of foreign residents
- ◆ Aimed to support foreign residents' settlement and cultural adjustment
- ◆ Launched government-led education programs improving Korean communication skills and understanding of Korean society

2 Overview of Social Integration Policy

Initial Orientation

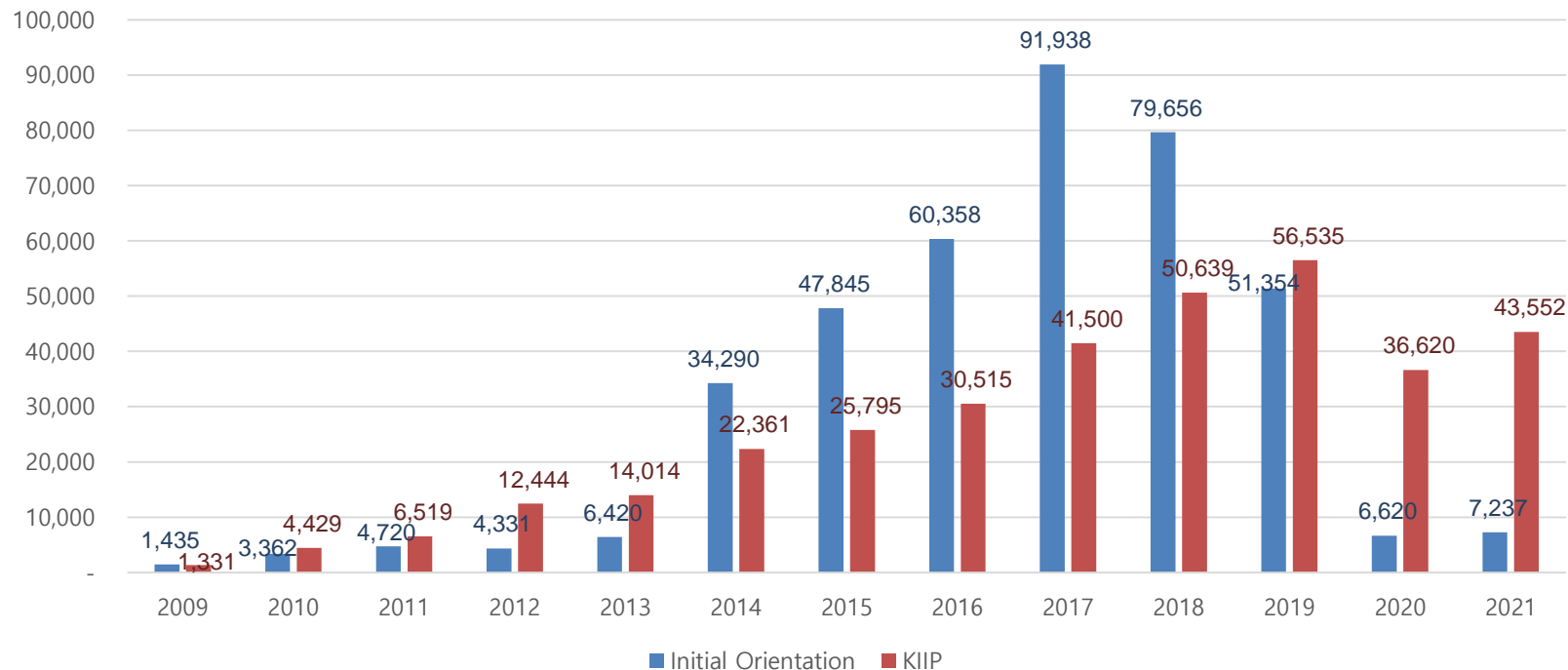
- ◆ Orientation for newcomers
- ◆ Implemented in 2009
- ◆ Mandatory for certain visa holders
- ◆ Introduction of registration, basic Korean law & order, information of daily life
- ◆ Tailored information by visa types

Social integration program

- ◆ Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)
- ◆ Korean language and culture
- ◆ Implemented in 2009
- ◆ Mandatory for naturalization
- ◆ Korean language and culture education, civil education, local participation, & mentoring

2 Overview of Social Integration Policy

Participants of Social Integration Programs



3 Initial Orientation Program

Outline of the Program

- ◆ “Happy Start Program” for newly arrived marriage migrants in 2009
- ◆ Expanded to all new immigrants in 2013
- ◆ Recommended to take the course before foreign registration
- ◆ Budget in 2022: 1,053 million KRW (approx. 110 million JPY)
- ◆ Mandatory: Work & Visit visa (ethnic Koreans), Hotel & Adult Entertainment visa, & Marriage Migrant visa from 7 countries
- ◆ Program participation including guidebook (13 languages) is free of charge
- ◆ Benefits: granting longer stay period (2 years) for marriage migrants counting as 2-hour attendance of KIIP

3 Initial Orientation Program

Outline of the Program

- ◆ Institution eligibility: (a) offering education programs for immigrants regularly, (b) enough lecture rooms, & (c) qualified lecturers
- ◆ 142 participating institutions in 2022: mostly immigrant support centers or universities having international students
- ◆ MOJ assigned universities and MRTC for screening and training lecturers
- ◆ Korean-speaking lecturers: 1 yr lecture experience with immigration-related laws (# of lecturers: 339)
- ◆ Foreign language-speaking lecturers: 12 languages, various qualifications (# of lecturers: Chinese 99, English 49, Russian 45, Vietnamese 39, other 30)
- ◆ Delivered in Korean or a foreign language of the majority of participants
- ◆ Assign mentors (up to 2 mentors) as translators

3 Initial Orientation Program

Type of course	Tailored contents (1 hour)	Common contents (2 hours)
International students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career pathways Campus life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic law and order misdemeanor, garbage rules, sexual assault, drug policy, driving rules, etc. Foreign registration, change of status, KIIP Daily life information emergencies and disasters, transportation, foreigner support programs
Residents of immigrant enclaves	None	
Hotel & adult entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights protection 	
Marriage migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family relations Prevention of family violence 	
Children of immigrant parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean education systems Youth programs 	
Ethnic Koreans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of status for ethnic Koreans 	

4 Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)

Outline of the Program

- ◆ Expansion of Korean language program for marriage migrants
- ◆ Initially targeted applicants of naturalization by exempting evaluation or interview: expanded to all migrants pursuing social integration without discrimination by immigration status
- ◆ Completing the highest level or passing the level test required for naturalization
- ◆ Courses are free of charge
- ◆ Textbooks standardized by the MOJ are available for purchase
- ◆ KIIP courses are not tailored by immigration status

4 Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)

Outline of the Program

- ◆ Budget in 2022: 9,987 million KRW (approx. 1,043 JPY)
- ◆ 340 participating institutions
- ◆ **“Korean Language and Culture”** lecturers: (a) Korean language education certification, (b) completing Korean teaching course (120 hrs) & Korean teaching experience (500 hrs), or (c) certified schoolteachers completing Korean teaching course (120 hrs)
- ◆ **“Understanding K Society”** lecturers: certified Social Integration Educators

4 Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)

Regular Programs

Korean Language and Korean Culture					Understanding of Korean Society	
Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Beginner	Elementary		Intermediate		Pre-advanced (permanent residency)	Advanced (naturalization)
15 hrs	100 hrs	100 hrs	100 hrs	100 hrs	70hrs	30hrs
Greetings	Work & life, table manners, holidays, transportation, medical services, emergency	Garbage rules, popular apps, Korean “we” norm, immigration services, company cultures	Social activities, immigrant support center, consumer protection, installment accounts, cellphone services	Population policy, national health insurance, Korean proverbs, election, pension, naturalization	Education systems, traditional values, government systems, economies, history, geography	Constitutional law, history, political participation, civil rights, laws

4 Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)

Special Programs						
Civil Education					Local participation	Mentoring
Law for daily life	Consumer education	Financial education	Crime prevention	Disaster & safety		
Ministry of Justice	Korean Consumer Agency	Financial Supervisory Service	National Police Agency	National Fire Agency	Local governments	Immigrant mentors
Basic law and order, misdemeanor	Consumer protection	Banking services, insurance, financial scams and frauds, housing lease and loan	Sexual assault towards female migrants, etc.	Disaster and safety, fire protection, emergency, first aid	Field trips, cultural activities, volunteering, etc.	Lectures by mentors about social adjustment

4 Korea Immigration & Integration Program (KIIP)

Outline of the Program

- ◆ Korean Language and Culture courses include “culture and information” section in each chapter
- ◆ Re-take courses if fails level test
- ◆ Hours taken by special programs (i.e., civil education, local participation programs, & mentoring) can be transferred to regular education hours
- ◆ Opening special programs on a regular basis is not mandatory for cooperating agencies

5 Challenges and Future Directions

Initial Orientation Program

- ◆ Program participants cannot enroll a course by language preference
 - Should provide courses by language groups
 - Need to train lecturers with immigration background
- ◆ Contents do not reflect local community characteristics
 - Should include information about local community and settlement
- ◆ Geographic distributions of participating institutions are not sufficient
 - Consider the population size by status and sub-regions when selecting participating centers and courses

5 Challenges and Future Directions

KIIP

- ◆ Civil education by other government agencies are available only weekdays
 - The agencies need to train regular program lecturers for covering civil education or open online / hybrid courses
- ◆ Contents of “culture and information” section might not be relevant to needs of immigrants in the course levels
 - The contents should reflect the standard characteristics of immigrants (i.e., time in Korea, social roles, etc.) in each level
- ◆ Feedbacks from participants are not a criterion of institution selection
 - Participants’ evaluation of course at institution should be considered