

Japanese Language Education Symposium

Monash University

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Title: 'Children Crossing Borders' in Japan and their implications for Japanese society.

Speaker: Professor Ikuo Kawakami, Waseda University, Graduate School of Japanese Applied Linguistics)

Abstract:

As a result of the rapid increase in the number of children coming from other countries, schools in Japan have become increasingly multicultural and multi-ethnic. This phenomenon has impacted on Japanese schools in various ways and raised numerous problems in local areas around the country.

In this presentation, I will firstly explain the current situation of foreign residents in Japan and the reasons for the rapid increase of new-comers in the past decade. Secondly, I will analyze the problems faced by new-comer children, particularly those who need Japanese language assistance at school. Thirdly, I will examine government policies regarding these children and the implementation of such policies. Fourthly, I will introduce some new challenges arising from this issue and finally I will discuss the implications for Japanese society as well as Japanese language education.

Professor Ikuo Kawakami is a professor in the Graduate School of Japanese Applied Linguistics, Waseda University, Tokyo. His major is Japanese Language Education as a Second Language, and anthropology. He has worked as a Japanese language advisor at the Department of Education, Queensland government, Australia, sent by Japan Foundation, and also taught at Miyagi university of Education, Sendai, Japan. He has published many books and papers, including *Families Crossing Borders: Vietnamese residents and their life world in Japan*, *'Children Crossing Borders'* and *Japanese Language Education*, both published by Akashi-shoten, Tokyo.

Email address: kawakami@waseda.jp