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Multiculturalism and Migrant Workers: Field Work Investigations in Ansan, South Korea and Kawasaki, Japan

In this presentation, we consider three points: (1) We describe present status of the Japanese multiculturalism with an example of Kawasaki-shi and consider the new situation of the multiculturalism movement in Japan. (2) We describe an action of the multiculturalism in Ansan, Korea, and summarize problems and future tasks there. (3) We show the prospects of the multiculturalism theory from new colonialism theory and a viewpoint of the city idea.

(1) In Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, the movement against Hitachi employment discrimination trial in 1970 started the struggle for the abolition of discrimination. In addition, in the Sakuramoto district, which is known as a slum of Zainichi Korean [Korean in Japan], a kindergarten was established on the site of the Korea Christ Church, and the social welfare corporation Seikyuu-sya was established and demanded the social welfare and the abolition of the nationality clause to the administration. As a result of their movement, an operative rule was made between Kawasaki-shi and Seikyuu-sya, and it was introduced to the whole country as an advanced case of the multiculturalism. However, an agreement of administration and the movement has not abolished the discrimination on the type of jobs or promotion. Some critical campaigners have left the existing movement for such a "symbiosis" relationship with the administration. They face Kawasaki municipal administration, which is showing an aspect of neoliberalism, with an organic network of new movement over the redevelopment of the city and grope for the new horizon of Kawasaki.

(2) In Ansan-city, Korea, Pang-Woru industrial area was built in 1976, and small to medium-sized metal machine system factories moved from Seoul to Ansan-city. They moved out of Seoul because environmental pollution of the city worsened there. In 1980s, these companies underwent serious lack of work force by a pay gap with the big business and the decrease of the new work force. They came through the problem by employing foreign laborers. In 1992, the Korean government approved the employment of foreign laborers by "an industrial trainee system", and the number of foreign laborers has been increasing. Such workers live in Wongok-dong, near the Ansan station. Churches work as foreign laborer center and help them with work counseling and

education to obtain the civil rights. In addition, churches carry out the multicultural project "the village without the border" and organize local residents and educating them. On the other hand, the administration of the Ansan-city professes "multiculturalism", and pushes forward redevelopment of the city as a bed town of Seoul and aims to invite overseas IT industries by the favorable taxation system. There is also a new movement against the administration over the plans to fill up the gulf, which once became a dead sea by industrial drainage.

(3)The problem of the multiculturalism is related with globalization and problems of colonialism. As a conclusion of this presentation, referring to the new colonialism theory of Nagao Nishikawa to ask new colonialism of the globalization times, grope for an ideal method of new multiculturalism while investigating "colonialism without the colony".