

The Project of Dispatching Labor Overseas in China's Jilin Province

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Summary

With the pressure of an increasing population as a backdrop, Jilin Province is actively working on a project to dispatch labor abroad. The relief of employment pressure and the increase of workers' incomes, etc., can be given as advantages thereof. While the opening up of Jilin Province to the outside world has lagged behind compared to the coastal areas, in its project to dispatch labor abroad it can be said to be making headway.

Since the 1990s the number of workers dispatched abroad from Jilin Province has continued to increase, and according to the figures for 2008 by province, autonomous region and municipality it was ranked seventh nationally. As regards the country dispatched to, there are many dispatches to the geographically close countries of Northeast Asia, such as the ROK and Russia. In particular, for the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Jilin Province the income from labor sent to the ROK exceeds tax revenues.

Meanwhile, in spite of the number of workers dispatched abroad from Jilin Province being large, there exists the issues that there are few powerful companies for dispatched labor sources, and that competitiveness is low. Moreover, within Jilin Province there is the problem of the dispatch of labor abroad being unequal between regions, and the numbers of people dispatched are concentrated in some regions, such as Changchun and Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in particular. Looking at the industrial sector dispatched to, the industries of construction, textiles and clothing, and machining, etc., predominate, and the average income has remained at a low level. For Jilin Province henceforth the striving for an upgrading of the labor force utilizing the project to dispatch labor abroad, and not only a simple increasing of incomes, is important.

Through the unchanging nature of the increase in population, it is thought that the situation of a labor surplus in Jilin Province will continue for the next 10 to 20 years. Consequently the dispatching abroad of labor can be stably provided. There is also the possibility, however, that the project to dispatch labor abroad will change greatly, affected by adjustments to the industrial structure and policy changes in the countries receiving the workers. The ROK, Japan and Russia, while having the problem of a structural lack of labor, have not reduced their cautious positions on accepting foreign workers. In the future, intergovernmental cooperation among the nations concerned will be required, including systematic moves toward the gathering of information on the demand for labor, the joint fostering of technical workers, and the movement of labor.

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