Research Workshop

Reframing Migration Discourse in Asia and the Middle East: Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion

UBD-IAS in conjunction with JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Research Project on Neo-Plural Society: Migrant Workers and Ethnic Relations in the Arab Gulf States

7 - 8 September, 2015

Venue: Seminar Room, Institute of Asian Studies

This **two-day** workshop brings together migration scholars from several Japanese universities and Universiti Brunei Darussalam, who have been actively researching in East/Southeast Asia and the Middle East, to reflect on their work in relation to the acceptance or rejection of migrant workers in selected receiving countries. The understanding of integration outcomes is usually framed within two dominant models of immigration, namely temporary immigration (Asia and the Middle East) and settler immigration (Western countries). While the receiving countries of the West are concerned with policies of settlement and incorporation of migrants, the policies in the Middle East and Asia are largely driven by the rationale of exclusion and control. Hence the discourse on migration outcomes has largely been dominated by issues of 'integration' in the West, but it is more relevant to examine the situation of migrants in non-Western societies in relation to practices of exclusion and inclusion in its various forms.

The participants of this workshop will attempt to take a more critical and nuanced approach toward the reception policies of the host countries of the Middle East and Asia, identifying similarities and differences, and suggest explanations. It is hoped that the outcome will be the first step toward introducing an alternative

discourse in making sense of the migration phenomenon in economies that are permanently dependent on migrant workers even if they choose not to accept and integrate the latter.

As there are limited seating at this Workshop, please contact Prof. Lian (kwenfee.lian@ubd.edu.bn) to reserve a place if you are interested to attend.