Migrant Support Organizations in Japan
- A Survey
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Abstract:

**Migrant Support Organizations in Japan – A Survey**

This paper introduces and discusses the results of a 2007 survey (n=18) among migrant support organizations (MSO) in Japan. The main finding of the survey is that MSO in Japan share the characteristic dual structure of civil society organizations in Japan: They predominantly act as service-providers, but rarely as political advocates. They are highly active on a local level, but only seldom engage in national activities. MSO in Japan are bound by the nation’s tight political opportunity structure. Transnational activism, a method said to overcome this blockage of access to the political process hardly occurs.

Key words: migrant support organizations, civil society organizations, dual civil society, service provision activities, political advocacy, transnational activism.
1 Introduction

In 2006, the number of foreigners registered in Japan amounted to just over two million persons, or 1.63% of Japan’s overall population (MOJ 2007).¹ By OECD standards, this is an extremely low percentage of foreign residents.² Modern day Japan is not a ‘classical country of immigration’. Yet, facing a rapid demographic change and the shrinking of its workforce in particular, labor migration to Japan as a form of replacement migration has recently become a controversially debated issue among political elites, in economic circles and in the public.

So far, Japan’s migration policy has been almost exclusively concerned with immigration control. Only in the fall of 2006 did the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications—as the first government agency in Japan—start to take the concept of integration (tōgō) of foreigners into account when formulating legislative proposals related to migration issues. Up until last year, the integration of foreigners living and working in Japan was no matter of political concern. This vacuum has been filled by numerous migrant support organizations and private persons alike.

2 MSO Survey: Theoretical Background

One widely publicized example of a private initiative in enhancing integration efforts for foreigners is that of Mundo de Alegria, a school in the city of Hamamatsu in Shizuoka Prefecture. In 2003, Masami Matsumoto founded the school that provides classes in Portuguese and Spanish in order to educate Hamamatsu’s many Nikkeijin-children³ for whom the language barrier proofed to be a hurdle too high to follow classes in Japanese public schools. In a recent newspaper interview, Matsumoto said she would not have needed to take up this task of founding a school all by herself, “if the government had made an adequate effort to accommodate immigrant children” (The

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¹ According to the Law of registration of foreigners (Gaikokujin tōroku-hō), any foreigner planning to stay in Japan more than 90 days is required to register with his local authorities within 60 days of arrival in Japan.
² For comparative data on migration flows to and from OECD countries, please refer to the OECD International Migration Outlook (OECD 2007).
³ Nikkeijin refers to persons of Japanese descent. While the term itself does not contain any connotations to the nationality of Nikkeijin, most of the Nikkeijin currently living and working in Japan come from Latin American countries, in particular from Brazil and Peru (MOJ 2007, Internet).
Japan Times, 2007/10/8: 2). Matsumoto’s case shows that there indeed are individuals trying to compensate for government’s shortcomings in integration policy with their private resources.

While we acknowledge the importance of these private initiatives, the main concern of this paper lies with the activism of migrant support organizations (MSO) in that field. By focusing on MSO, we aim at identifying the pattern and networks of engagement of so-called new (as opposed to traditional) political actors. We understand MSO as a single-issue group within Japan’s civil society organizations (CSO), which is the “organized, nonstate, nonmarket sector” (Pekkanen 2006: 3, italics in original). CSO can be strong political actors, because they are the ones that have “their feet on the ground.” They know from a grassroots level about the living and working conditions foreigners in Japan cope with, and accordingly are the political actors best equipped to address these issues. With Japan’s framework of migration and integration currently facing reform, more and more MSO—according to their self-perception—attempt to influence the policies in these fields.

In this paper we pose two main research questions: How successful are MSO in Japan when it comes to actually improving the living and working conditions of foreigners? And how successful are MSO in Japan when it comes to political advocacy for foreigners? By posing these questions we put Pekkanen’s (2006) thesis of “Japan’s Dual Civil Society” to a test. Pekkanen (2006: 7) argues that the Japanese state “through legal, regulatory, and financial instruments […] powerfully shapes the organization of civil society.” These instruments Pekkanen refers to are the “resources external to the group” (Tarrow 1998: 20), the so-called political opportunity structure. The political opportunity structure in Japan is favourable to “small, local groups, such as neighborhood associations […] while large, independent, professionalized groups […] have faced a much more hostile legal environment.” (Pekkanen 2006: 7). We argue that for the case of Japan’s MSO we will find this dual structure of Japan’s civil society

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4 We thereby support the notion of multi-layered governance, arguing that it is not only governmental elites that shape the political process (agenda setting, policy making, policy implementation), but that ‘new political actors’ such as lobbying groups or civil society organizations can have a significant impact on the political process.
confirmed. We expect to identify a high number of small MSO that engage in local-level activities supporting the living and working conditions of migrants. Large MSO, active in national-level political advocacy, however, can be expected to be rarer in numbers and relatively weak in terms of direct political influence, if Pekkanen’s thesis on the dual structure of Japan’s civil society holds true.

In recent years, a considerable amount of social movement literature has been arguing that the transnationalization of social movement activities will strengthen CSO situated in nation states with a tight political opportunity structure. Transnational activism opens up an avenue for these groups to form alliances with like-minded CSO abroad. Such alliances may create a boomerang of border-crossing pressure from foreign CSO, foreign national governments and/or international organizations, which can help influence the government’s take on certain political issues (Keck and Sikkink 1998: 1–38). Overcoming the national boundaries of blockage from lobbying access, that is, a tight political opportunity structure, via processes of transnational activism is said to be a “new weapon[s] of mobilization” (Tarrow 1998: 208). In the paper at hand we aim at tracing down elements of transnational activities among Japan’s MSO and ask two additional research questions: Is transnational activism occurring among Japan’s MSO? If so, does this lead to a weakening (or a break-down) of the dual structure of Japan’s civil society, which we expect to be confirmed in the structures of MSO activities?

3 MSO Survey: Research Design

In February and March 2007, the authors conducted a survey of one hundred MSO in Japan, previously identified via a snowball system starting with Internet research and an analysis of pamphlets on display at CSO offices such as the Tokyo Voluntary Action Center in Shinjuku ward. We contacted organizations in the wider Kantō and Kansai areas as well as in numerous other parts of Japan, such as, for example, in the prefectures of Fukuoka and Niigata. We were thus able to collect a sample of organizations from within various regions of Japan. Also, our sample included various kinds of migrant support organizations. Political scientist Apichai Shipper (2006: 275–281) distinguishes six groups of MSO in Japan: Christian Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), community workers’ unions, women’s support groups, medical
NGO, lawyers’ NGO, and concerned citizen groups. For our survey, we contacted organizations that fitted into any of these groups, in order to gain a picture on migration support activism as broad as possible. We received 21 responses. Among those, two organizations that understood themselves to be community workers’ unions and one women’s support group returned our questionnaire refusing to cooperate, in particular, refusing to lay open data on their networking activities. We analyzed a sample of 18 organizations.

Our survey contained 28 questions (in English language only). We started with questions (numbers 1–9) addressing the size of the organizations, their budgets and goals, in order to be able to roughly categorize the organizations themselves. The following set of questions (numbers 10–13) inquired on their legal status. We aimed at identifying in particular whether or not obtaining an NPO status—often said to be a watershed event for CSO in Japan—would indeed have any impact on the size, budgets and goals of the organizations. With the next set of questions we aimed at mapping the networks the organizations maintained to other organizations (numbers 14–18), before we directly inquired on their contacts to political elites (numbers 19–23), thereby addressing their lobbying activities. Finally, we asked questions (numbers 24–27) dealing with the self-assessment of their activities and evaluations of the general living and working conditions of migrants in Japan.

The original survey sheet is attached as Appendix 1. In the following (section four), we will show the results of the survey in graphs and tables, before toying with some of these results in section five. We will discuss the results in section six. Section seven will offer some concluding thoughts.

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5 For an introduction into the NPO Law, for example, Pekkanen (2003: 116–134).
6 In question number 28 we asked whether we could contact the organization for a follow-up interview. Many organizations agreed to this request, creating an opportunity for us to add some qualitative research results to our survey data.
7 The authors wish to express their gratitude to Jens Ostwald for technical assistance with the design of these graphs and tables.
4 MSO Survey: Results

4.1 How many members does your organization have?

4.2 How many volunteers work regularly for your organization?
4.3 How many salaried staff does your organization employ?

- None: 7
- 1 to 3: 1
- 4 to 10: 5
- 11 to 15: 1
- 16 to 20: 2
- More than 20: 2

4.4 Please indicate how many women are active in the respective fields.
4.5 Please indicate the predominant age of the people in the respective fields.

Multiple answers appeared.

4.6 How large is your annual budget (in ¥)?

- More than 200 million Yen: 1
- Less than 1 million Yen: 3
- 1 to 5 million Yen: 4
- 5 to 20 million Yen: 2
- 20 to 100 million Yen: 4
- 100 to 200 million Yen: 3
- [not answered]: 1
- I do not know: 2

Multiple answers appeared.
4.7 Which groups of migrants do you want to help? *(Please answer briefly.)*

Answers **without any specification** included:
- whoever needs our help
- any group
- everybody

Answers with a **specification in terms of language proficiency** included:
- foreigners speaking English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Spanish, Portuguese or Tagalog
- migrants in the Tokyo area without Japanese language skills

Answers with a **specification in area of living** included:
- migrants living in Hamamatsu City
- non-Japanese residents in Hyogo

Answers pointing out **specific groups of migrants** included:
- refugees including asylum seekers
- children from South American immigrants
- women of every nationality, especially victims of DV [domestic violence]

4.8 What is the purpose of your organization? *(multiple answers possible)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help migrants with everyday life issues</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalisation of Japanese society</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change legal framework for migrants</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Japanese culture</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforce human rights</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change the way foreigners are treated in Japan</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help the local community</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other purposes mentioned:**
Settlement of labour conflicts, labour issues, education (Japanese language), refugee protection, providing a site where people can find well qualified professional psychotherapists and counselors, provide support and care, language support to migrants, help migrants with offering medical information, promotion of grassroots exchange and international cooperation
4.9 What means do you apply to achieve your purpose? (multiple answers possible)

- Counselling services
- Language classes
- Cultural exchange
- Financial support
- Translation and interpretation
- Publications
- Networking
- Providing medical care
- Publicity work
- Lobbying
- Other

Other means mentioned:
Labour issues, negotiations/consultation/leaflets, psychological care, workshops,
Local human rights lobbying

4.10 How many people have used your service in the last twelve months?

- [not answered] 1
- 0 to 50: 1
- 51 to 150: 3
- 151 to 300: 1
- 301 to 500: 2
- more than 500: 10
4.11 How do you finance your organization? *(multiple answers possible)*

- Membership fees
- Private donations
- Donations by companies
- Public subsidies
- Various sales, tuition fees
- Other

*Other financial sources mentioned:*
Fees for „commissim“ from ward office, fundraising events, investments and interests, founded by Hyogo Prefectural Government

4.12 Did representatives of your organization attend any conferences, seminars, or meetings in the last year?

- Yes: 13
- No: 4
- [not answered] 1
4.13 How often do you work with your local authorities (e.g. city council, municipal administration)?

4.14 Did you have contact with the Ministry of Justice in the last year?
4.15 Did you have contact with any other ministry in the last year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explicitly mentioned</th>
<th>Yes, often</th>
<th>Yes, regularly</th>
<th>Yes, but only rarely</th>
<th>No, never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs and Comm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency of Cultural Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.16 Did you have contact with any member of the Diet in the last year?
4.17 Which of the following groups are you working with?  
(multiple answers possible)

4.18 Is your organization a member of other organizations or networks?
4.19 Are other organizations members of your organization?

- Yes: 8
- No: 10

4.20 Did you receive funds from other organizations?

- Yes: 6
- No: 10
- [not answered] 2
4.21 What legal status does your organization have?

- Non-profit organisation (NPO)
- Foundation
- Affiliated organisations of municipality
- Incorporated association
- Labour union
- None
- [not answered]

![Bar chart showing the distribution of legal statuses.]

4.22 Have you applied for NPO status?

- [not answered] 7
- Yes, but the application failed: 0
- No: 11
4.23 Why did you not apply for NPO status? *(multiple answers possible)*

Other reasons mentioned:
Part of a labour union, no need to, no benefits, because we are corporate organization

4.24 Why did you apply for NPO status? *(multiple answers possible)*

Other reasons mentioned:
Ongoing of organization
4.25 Are you trying to influence political decision making processes with your work?

![Bar chart for positive and negative influences.]

4.26 How do you assess the overall living conditions of migrants in Japan?

![Bar chart for living conditions assessment.]

21
4.27 Which groups are most likely to help migrants?

- I do not know: 1
- Local groups engaged in everyday issues: 4
- Both kinds of groups are equally necessary: 12
- Supraregional, larger groups trying to change the overall situation of migrants: 0
5 MSO Survey: Toying with Results

5.1 Contact to political actors by number of volunteers
(\textit{multiple answers possible})

5.2 Contact to political actors by number of salaried staff
(\textit{multiple answers possible})
5.3 Of the organizations with respective numbers of salaried staff: Whose purpose is to influence the policy-making process?

![Bar chart showing the purpose of organizations](chart)

**Everyday Issues**: help migrants with everyday life issues, help the local community, other [if applicable]

**Influencing**: internationalisation of Japanese society, change legal framework for migrants, enforce human rights, change the way foreigners are treated in Japan, other [if applicable]

**Left out**: present Japanese culture

5.4 Number of salaried staff and funding (*multiple answers possible*)

![Bar chart showing the number of salaried staff and funding](chart)
5.5 How many salaried staff do organizations employ that try to influence the policy-making process?

![Bar chart showing the number of salaried staff trying to influence and not trying to influence, categorized by the number of staff.]

5.6 How many organizations have purposes related to assisting with everyday issues respectively to influencing the policy-making process?

![Pie chart showing the distribution of organizations with different focuses.]

- Everyday Issues: 6
- Influencing: 2
- Both: 10
5.7 How critical are publicly funded organizations about the situation of foreigners?

![Bar chart](image1)

5.8 How critical are NPO about the situation of foreigners?

![Bar chart](image2)
6. MSO Survey: Discussion of Results

The majority of organizations in our survey gave “help migrants with everyday life issues,” “internationalization of Japanese society,” and “change the way foreigners are treated in Japan” as their main purposes of activism (figure 4.8). These three most often ticked purposes focus on improving the living and working conditions of foreigners in Japan. Most of the groups (53%) had initially assessed the general living conditions for foreigners in Japan to be either “bad” or “very bad” (figure 4.26). Thus concentrating their activities on improving this situation is a consistent decision. Figure 4.8 furthermore tells us that organizations put less effort in purposes such as “change legal framework for migrants” or “enforce human rights.” This means, rather than acting as migrants’ advocates within the political decision making process, MSO engage in activities of service provision on a grassroots-level. The domestic political process (“change legal framework for migrants”) is even less cared for or maybe less accessible than the international one (“enforce human rights”). Two reasons for this divergence might apply: First, the engagement in activities that evolve around securing compliance of national politics with international norms is a task that brings along a high national and international reputation, which is desirable for CSO. This holds true especially since many CSO in Japan are struggling with issues of credibility. Secondly, engagement in these activities is more likely to succeed than engagement evolving solely around national issues, since the former offers many opportunities for transnational alliance building with CSO facing similar issues abroad.

Most organizations (84%) name “counseling services” as means they apply to achieve their purposes. 63% of them provide language classes (figure 4.9). Again, this shows that migrant support organizations in Japan are much more concerned with the day-to-day needs of migrants than with the actual policy formation process shaping the living and working conditions the migrants face. Rather surprisingly, 74% of all organizations name “networking” as a means to achieve their purposes (figure 4.9). Digging deeper into the concept of networking, we asked which groups the organizations were working with (figure 4.17). 89% responded that they were “often” or “regularly” cooperating with “organizations in Japan”. Hardly any of them, however, cooperated with
“organizations abroad”, “international organizations” or “companies”. This shows that MSO in Japan not only perceive themselves to be service-providing institutions but also seek help and cooperation from organizations that are geographically, structurally and ideologically ‘close-by.’

With regard to the goals they pursue, the means they apply and the cooperation partners they choose, Japan’s MSO are very much ‘down-to-earth.’ They choose local and small-scale activities rather than nationwide or even transnational engagement in larger or more abstract activism. Aiming to explore this hypothesis further, we were looking for cross-references between the networking and/or lobbying activities of organizations and their number of volunteers respectively salaried staff and funding. Figure 5.1 shows an increase in contacts to local authorities paralleling an increase in the numbers of volunteers of migrant support organizations. Two reasons may be behind this correlation: Firstly, increasing numbers of volunteers means an organization has more resources at its distribution. These are resources in terms of “workforce” and/or finances—assuming that membership fees are a significant part of an organization’s income, which Figure 5.4 hints at. With the number of volunteers increasing, organizations will be more and more able to take upon larger projects that may include local authorities. Secondly, shifting our viewpoint toward the local authorities, they will be more interested in cooperating with organizations with high numbers of volunteers. These organizations seem to be popular, and more credible and reliable than smaller groups. They are, thus, a better partner in cooperation when it comes, for example, to service provision in the local areas.

An increase in salaried staff does not clearly show the same effects (figure 5.2). We cannot observe an increase in contacts between organizations and local authorities with a rising number of salaried staff; there is, however, a slight tendency of an increase in contacts between MSO and government agencies (mainly the Ministry of Justice) that correlates with rising numbers of salaried staff. And yet the correlation is not as clear as one might have expected. Our survey results show that rising numbers of salaried staff do not necessarily equal a rising level of professionalism in terms of lobbying activities.
to local and national political actors (figures 5.3 and 5.5). Figure 5.4 shows some financial connection in terms of public subsidies between state authorities and MSO with more than four salaried staff members. This connection, however, is not reflected in how these organizations choose their cooperation partners.

The picture of migrant support organizations in Japan which we gained through this survey shows organizations that choose to address issues that are important in terms of improving the living and working conditions of migrants rather than revising immigration policy and/or the legal framework of migration to Japan. The organizations are deeply rooted in their service-provision character and rarely seek to act as political advocates. They almost exclusively cooperate on a case-to-case basis with other organizations within Japan. While organizations with more than 50 volunteers tend to be in frequent contact with the local authorities, neither among those nor among organizations with salaried staff can we observe a significant amount of contact to national political actors. This, too, leads us to conclude that service provision on a local level is what these organizations choose to do rather than political advocacy. We need to ask the following question: Is this choice a voluntary one or is it much more the result of opting for the only available avenue to participate in migrant support? Are the organizations simply blocked from lobbying activities through a tight political opportunity structure? In our survey question on whether or not organizations try to influence political decision making processes with their work (figure 4.25), 63% answered that they do. Accordingly, two thirds of the MSO in our survey name issues related to influencing the political process as their organization’s purpose (figure 5.6). Thus, it seems to be the political opportunity structure that actually prevents these MSO from acting as political advocates. This holds true for small, ad-hoc groups and organizations incorporated as NPO alike. We were unable to identify discrepancies in terms of advocacy activities between NPO and other organizations. Incorporation under the NPO Law does not seem to necessarily provide a more direct lobbying access to political actors. It does, however, and maybe not surprisingly, guarantee a more critical

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8 This result contrasts Pekkanen’s findings on increasing numbers of salaried staff members generally triggering a higher level of professional advocacy activities (Pekkanen 2006: 32–46).
stance on the situation of foreigners living in Japan, compared with how publicly funded organizations evaluate their situation (figures 5.7 and 5.8).

7. Conclusion

In this paper, we initially posed two main research questions: How successful are MSO in Japan when it comes to actually improving the living and working conditions of foreigners? And how successful are MSO in Japan when it comes to political advocacy for foreigners?

Our survey data shows that MSO mainly focus their activities on local-level service provision. Japan’s MSO indeed are highly active when it comes to “helping migrants with everyday life issues” (figure 4.8). They achieve this purpose by offering, for example, “counselling services” (figure 4.9), thus assisting migrants in coping with challenges they might face at their workplace or in the local community where they reside. MSO also, for example, provide “language classes” (figure 4.9), thereby not only addressing a potentially immediate need of migrants, but also supporting what the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications calls the concept of integration (tōgō). Since 2006, this ministry as well as others, such as the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has repeatedly stressed the importance of language education of foreign residents in Japan as a precondition for successful integration of migrants into Japanese society. 9 Japan’s MSO as service-providers not necessarily act in confrontation, but often in cooperation with government agencies. From our survey data we can, however, draw no clear conclusion on how successful MSO are when it comes to improving the living and working conditions of foreigners in Japan. We know that MSO are highly active in this area, but we do not know whether their activity matches the needs of foreign residents. In other words, our study still lacks the ‘other side of the coin’. We will therefore need to complement our study with research data (quantitative and qualitative) on the living and working conditions of migrants in Japan as well as migrants’ expectations of MSO engagement.

9 For example, MIC 2006, MOFA 2006 and MOJ 2006.
Political advocacy among Japan’s MSO occurs on a case to case basis, highly concentrated on a local level. It rarely occurs on a national or even transnational level, not even among MSO with salaried staff, which could be expected to move more skilfully within the political realm. The fact that they do not (figures 5.3 and 5.5), contradicts Pekkanen’s finding on the parallel evolvement of level of professionalism and number of salaried staff an organization employs. Except for this one point, MSO as a single-issue group within Japan’s civil society indeed reflects what Pekkanen calls the dual structure of Japan’s civil society, respectively civil society as “members without advocates” (Pekkanen 2006). Compared to MSO giving activities related to service-provision as purpose of their organization, MSO engaged in activities related to political advocacy, such as “change legal framework for migrants” or “enforce human rights” are relatively few in numbers (figure 4.8). This is also reflected in the means MSO apply to achieve their purposes. Only one third of them engage in lobbying activities (figure 4.9). It needs to be noted, however, that this duality is the result far less of a choice made by CSO, but much more of restrictions laid upon them through Japan’s tight political opportunity structure. Based on our survey data, we need to conclude that MSO in Japan are not successful political advocates for foreigners. Too tightly are they knit into the structure of interdependence that binds together political actors in Japan and excludes CSO from political advocacy.

According to recent social movement research, in order to bypass this political opportunity structure, CSO would need to open up their range of activism beyond the local and the national level. Once CSO engage in transnational activism, they may be able to make use of what Keck and Sikkink (1998) call the boomerang pattern of contentious civil society activism: Transnational alliances among CSO or between CSO and, for example, international organizations strengthen the political pressure which a CSO can put on a national government. With regard to our two additional research question on transnational activism among Japan’s MSO, we can conclude that this form of activism hardly occurs. Only one tenth of the organizations that responded to our survey claimed cooperations with “organizations abroad”; one fifth of the organizations said that they cooperated with “international organizations (e.g. UN)” (figure 4.17). This quantitative result is echoed in a qualitative case study on the activities of Ijiiren, a
Japanese MSO that states as its central mission political advocacy for foreigners. *Ijūren* aims in particular at “prepare[ing] a comprehensive policy for foreign residents in Japan” (*Ijūren* 2007). However, even for *Ijūren*, a political advocate, transnational activism seems to be ‘out of range’. This is the result of a case study addressing *Ijūren’s* activities with regard to information / symbolic / leverage / accountability politics (Vogt 2006). MSO in Japan indeed overwhelmingly ‘act local and think local.’ Given the fact that immigration and emigration are border-crossing issues per se, an approach of ‘act transnational and think transnational’ would seem to be the more natural (and probably more successful) choice for them. People cross borders, cultural identities and economic assets as well. Why should political actors who want to be involved in creating the framework for these border-crossing movements stick to national boundaries for their activities? Case studies from other countries, for example, Korea, show that MSO indeed can be powerful and successful (transnational) political advocates (Lim 2003; Yamanaka 2007). What is it that hinders Japan’s MSO to take up this position? This question will serve as a starting point for further quantitative and qualitative research on Japan’s MSO.
References


Appendix 1: Survey

Please read the following questions carefully and mark the response that is the nearest to your position by ticking the corresponding letter. If more than one response is possible, this will be indicated in the question. Please try to answer all questions. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Name of organisation:___________________________________________
Email:__________________________________________________________
URL:___________________________________________________________
Position of interviewee in organisation:____________________________

1 HOW MANY MEMBERS DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAVE?
   A) 1–30   B) 31–100   C) 101–500   D) More than 500

2 HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS WORK REGULARLY FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?
   A) None   B) 1–5   C) 6–15   D) 16–30   E) 31–50   F) More than 50

3 HOW MANY SALARIED STAFF DOES YOUR ORGANISATION EMPLOY?
   A) None   B) 1–3   C) 4–10   D) 11–15   E) 16–20   F) More than 20

4 PLEASE INDICATE HOW MANY WOMEN ARE ACTIVE IN THE RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>More women than men</th>
<th>More men than women</th>
<th>As many women as men</th>
<th>I do not know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaried staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 PLEASE INDICATE THE PREDOMINANT AGE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under 20</th>
<th>20–30</th>
<th>31–40</th>
<th>41–50</th>
<th>51–60</th>
<th>Over 60</th>
<th>I do not know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Volunteers</td>
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<td>Salaried staff</td>
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</table>
6 HOW LARGE IS YOUR ANNUAL BUDGET (IN ¥)?
_______________________________________________________________________________

7 WHICH GROUPS OF MIGRANTS DO YOU WANT TO HELP? (Please answer briefly.)
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

8 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANISATION? (Please tick ALL matching responses.)
A) Help migrants with everyday life issues
B) Internationalisation of Japanese society
C) Change legal framework for migrants
D) Present Japanese culture
E) Enforce human rights
F) Change the way foreigners are treated in Japan
G) Help the local community
H) Other (please specify):
_______________________________________________________________________________

9 WHAT MEANS DO YOU APPLY TO ACHIEVE YOUR PURPOSE? (Please tick ALL matching responses.)
A) Counselling services
B) Language classes
C) Cultural exchange
D) Financial support
E) Translation and interpretation
F) Publications
G) Networking
H) Providing medical care
I) Publicity work
J) Lobbying
K) Other (please specify):
_______________________________________________________________________________

10 HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE USED YOUR SERVICE IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS?
A) 0–50
B) 51–150
C) 151–300
D) 301–500
E) More than 500

11 HOW DO YOU FINANCE YOUR ORGANISATION? (Please tick ALL matching responses.)
A) Membership fees
B) Private donations
C) Donations by companies
D) Public subsidies
E) Various sales, tuition fees
F) Other (please specify):
_______________________________________________________________________________

36
12 DID REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR ORGANISATION ATTEND ANY CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, OR MEETINGS IN THE LAST YEAR?

A) Yes (please specify the names and dates)  B) No

13 HOW OFTEN DO YOU WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (E.G. CITY COUNCIL, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION)?

A) Often  B) Regularly  C) Rarely  D) Never

14 DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IN THE LAST YEAR?

A) Yes, often  B) Yes, regularly  C) Yes, but only rarely  D) No, never

15 DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH ANY OTHER MINISTRY IN THE LAST YEAR?

(Please tick ALL matching responses.)

A) Yes, often (please specify)

B) Yes, regularly (please specify)

C) Yes, but only rarely (please specify)

D) No, never (please specify)

16 DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE DIET IN THE LAST YEAR?

A) Yes, often  B) Yes, regularly  C) Yes, but only rarely  D) No, never

17 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS ARE YOU WORKING WITH? (Please tick ALL matching boxes and specify the names.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Organisations in Japan</td>
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<td>B) Organisations abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) International organisations (e.g. UN)</td>
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<td>D) Companies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
18 IS YOUR ORGANISATION A MEMBER OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS OR NETWORKS?
   A) Yes (please specify the names of the organisations or networks):
   B) No

19 ARE OTHER ORGANISATIONS MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANISATION?
   A) Yes (please specify the names of the organisations):
   B) No

20 DID YOU RECEIVE FUNDS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS?
   A) Yes (please specify the names of the organisations or networks):
   B) No

21 WHAT LEGAL STATUS DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAVE?
   A) Non-profit organisation (NPO) (please proceed to item 24)
   B) Other (please specify):
   C) None

22 HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR NPO STATUS?
   A) Yes, but the application failed (please proceed to item 24)
   B) No

23 WHY DID YOU NOT APPLY FOR NPO STATUS? (Please tick ALL matching responses and proceed to item 25.)
   A) We have not applied yet, but are planning to do so in the future
   B) The benefits do not match the work
   C) Don’t want authorities to gain influence on our organisation
   D) Don’t want to disclose our funding, work, etc.
   E) We do not work non-profitable
   F) Other (please specify):
24 WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR NPO STATUS? *(Please tick ALL matching responses.)*
   A) To gain legitimacy
   B) To gain financial benefits
   C) To attract new members
   D) To achieve legal security
   E) Other *(please specify)*:________________________________________________________

25 ARE YOU TRYING TO INFLUENCE POLITICAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES WITH YOUR WORK?
   A) Yes
   B) Yes, but only rarely
   C) No
   D) I do not know

26 HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE OVERALL LIVING CONDITIONS OF MIGRANTS IN JAPAN?
   A) Very good
   B) Good
   C) Neither good nor bad
   D) Bad
   E) Very bad

27 WHICH GROUPS ARE MOST LIKELY TO HELP MIGRANTS?
   A) Local groups engaged in everyday issues
   B) Supraregional, larger groups trying to change the overall situation of migrants
   C) Both kind of groups are equally necessary
   D) I do not know

28 MAY WE CONTACT YOU FOR A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW?
   A) Yes
   B) No
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