ABSTRACT

In 2014 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed to let foreign workers into Japan as help with housekeeping. This proposal was aiming to encourage Japanese women who have trouble with keeping a balance between work and domestic duties to engage them in further working career. In addition, there was another opinion that supported this proposal: by claiming that in order to solve Japan's low birth rate issue, the government should help out Japanese women who give up having a baby because of difficulties of doing house chores while also establishing a career. In 2016, the government came up with a solution to help combat the high workload Japanese women suffer from if they want to establish or keep up a career while also starting a family. They implemented a project which made it easier to hire foreign domestic workers, especially Filipinos. This is so far implemented in a couple of national strategic special zones, namely: Kanagawa, Osaka and Tokyo. This dissertation aims to predict problems and discuss possible prospects with this project I believe that if this project succeeds, we could lighten the burden of domestic duties imposed on working Japanese women, which could improve the low birth rate in Japan. Additionally, this project could mean a lot in the history of Japanese immigration policy since it could widen the possibilities of accepting foreign workers without university degrees.