



COVID-19 and migration between rural regions and cities in Finland, Japan and South Korea - Current research and preliminary reflections

23 November 2021

09:00 - 12:20 CET / 16:00 - 19:20 JST

ZOOM

9.00 Opening words (Dr. Aapo Jumppanen, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute)

Session I: COVID-19 and rural urban migration: Preliminary research results and perspectives

Multilocality and telework have become familiar during the COVID crisis in Finnish, Japanese and Korean societies, and the growth of metropolitan areas have slowed down or even stopped. Migration has turned from urban to rural. Are we witnessing a historical change, or is this just a temporary phenomenon?

9:05 Professor Shinichi Hanada, Hirosaki University: The statistical overview of the effects of COVID-19 on migration between rural regions and cities in Japan: Aomori Prefecture and Tokio as a case example.

9:35 Dr. Jun-young Kim, Leader of Center for Employment Policy Evaluation and Monitoring, Korea Employment Information Service: Brain Drain and Mono-Polar Concentration in Seoul

9:55 Doctoral Student Urszula Ala-Karvia, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute: Reflections of the Finnish Situation – Migration between rural regions and cities during the COVID-19 pandemic in Finland.

10:15 Professor Dr. Sang-woo Park, Kyungpook National University School of Economics and Trade : The effects of COVID-19 on the immigration of young adults in Deagu/Gyeongbuk of South Korea.

10:35 Professor Young-Jun Lee, Hirosaki University: The preliminary results of the survey conducted to the students of Hirosaki University concerning their regional attachment to Hirosaki and Aomori Prefecture and the effects of COVID-19 on it.



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10:55 Senior Researcher Mika Raunio, Researcher Toni Ahvenainen & Adjunct Professor Markku Mattila, Migration Institute of Finland: Transforming the migrations system? Aspirations and opportunities of young people in the context of Seinäjoki region (Finland).

11:15 Associate Professor Fumihiko Koyata, Hirosaki University: The possibility of expanding telework in local cities of the Aomori region.

11:35 Closing of session I

Short break of 5 minutes

Session II COVID-19 and the future of non-metropolitan regions from regional policy makers perspective – New opportunities for regional growth?

Before COVID crisis the population and economy of Japan, Finland and South Korea become continuously more centered around metropolitan regions, especially the capitals Tokyo, Helsinki and Seoul. At the same time many rural areas were suffering from declining population and the loss of economic dynamism. COVID crisis disturbed this development. The future prospects for non-metropolitan regions have looked better, whereas metropolitan regions are not as attractive places to live and work as they used to be. What kind of regional policies should be followed and what practical measures taken to keep up this development?

11:40 Director of Development Erkki Välimäki, The city of Seinäjoki: How COVID-19 affected the development of the City of Seinäjoki?

11:50 Group Manager of Immigration and Exchange Promotion Group, Aomori prefecture, Mitsuaki Hasegawa: Immigration and Exchange Promotion by the top level sales.

12:00 Panel discussion: Where are we going after Covid-19? Participants: Manager Mitsuaki Hasegawa (Aomori Prefecture), Director of Development Erkki Välimäki (City of Seinäjoki), Senior Researcher Mika Raunio (Migration Institute of Finland), Professor Youn-Jun Lee, (Hirosaki University), Dr. Jun-Young Kim

12:20 Closing Words (Dr. Aapo Jumppanen)



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