

FOREWORD

We are pleased to announce the second research publication for the National Institute for the Humanities (NIHU) Area Studies Project for Northeast Asia, jointly organized by the Center for Northeast Asian Studies (CNEAS), Tohoku University and the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (SRC), Hokkaido University. This issue comes as a special edition of the on-line journal *Northeast Asia Today* (<https://hokudaislav-northeast.net/en/publication/>), part of the Slavic Eurasia Papers series.

This edition covers the international symposium “Migration, Refugees and the Environment from Security Perspectives” held on October 29, 2017 at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan. This symposium was a collaborative event between the CNEAS and the SRC for comprehensive studies for Northeast Asia. During the NIHU project, the CNEAS is focusing on environmental studies while the SRC is examining international relations. This symposium targeted the interactive aspects of environment and security in/beyond the region, consisting of sessions on “Migration and Refugees in Northeast Asia” and on “Migration, Refugees and the Environment.”

The first session included three papers on Northeast Asian migration dynamism: marriage migrants and care workers in Japan and South Korea, North Korean workers in Mongolia and Chinese immigration in Russia. The second session paid attention to the nexus of climate change and migration, including the case of Oceania and institutional views beyond the region. The intensive discussion in both sessions led by moderators and commentators brought a new perspective for identifying the security and environment interaction for area studies.

We conclude that we need to find a way to overcome these challenges in Northeast Asia and the surrounding regions through a deep empirical and institutional but also philosophical analysis of the topics. Our mission is yet to reach its distant goal but we are approaching our destination of reshaping Northeast Asia for the future. Finally, the editors would like to thank the symposium participants and local coordinators, particularly, Dan Jin (CNEAS) and Mihoko Kato (SRC) for their contribution.

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