

## Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

# The Role of Indonesia in Technical Intern Training Program in Japan: Disciplining Pre-Departure Orientation, Normalizing Silence, and Recycling the Dream

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This thesis is about Indonesia's participation in Japan's Technical Intern Trainee Program or TITP. Japan's TITP has been studied by many scholars; most of whom focus on the Japanese side issues—for example, developments of Japanese immigration policies as a receiving country; changes in Japan's socio-politico-economic conditions toward the trainee program; and human rights violations occurred in the workplace against trainee participants. However, few researchers have attempted to examine Japan's TITP from the perspective of a sending country, such as Indonesia. Since TITP involves bilateral arrangements, it is impossible to reveal the complex problems embedded in it without analyzing the role of the sending country. Against the background, this thesis attempts to fill the gap by looking at this program through the eyes of Indonesia as a sending country.

This thesis investigates the roles of various actors, including the Indonesian government, the supervising organization, the Indonesian community, alumni, and the trainees themselves. We examine these actors through three different (but interlocking) stages, namely (1) pre-departure stage, (2) on-the-program stage, and post-program stage. What are the roles of above actors in these stages and how they contribute to the existence and consolidation of Japan's TITP, which has been widely criticized by international community? This is the question throughout this thesis.

We found that different actors in different stages—i.e., pre-departure, during the program, and post-program—have contributed to the systematic 'silencing' of critical voices against the program. We argue that this silencing is the key to understand the 'resilience' of the TITP, and these findings bring new insights into the scholarship of Indonesian studies, particularly for Indonesia's migration studies. Besides, this thesis—which highlights the role of a labor sending country—envisages a broader implication for the study of migration in Japan as it questions the mainstream narrative that tends to see the bilateral relationship between Japan and the sending countries as that of 'exploiting' and 'being exploited.' The mechanism on the ground is highly complex in a way that undermines such a dichotomous perception.