

Year 2021

**A Call for a Campaign to Eradicate Wrongdoing related
to the Technical Intern Training Program**

National Association for Global & Open Minded Communities
(NAGOMi)

**To Supervising Organization and Implementing Organization Please cooperate with
us to eradicate illegal activities for proper technical intern training**

In the past few years, the number of criminal arrests, disappearances, and illegal stays have increased, especially among Vietnamese, and the technical intern training program has been severely criticized both at inside and outside of the country. In particular with corona disaster, there has been an increase in news reports on the plight of foreign human resources (technical intern trainee, etc.), many of which refer to (1) the harsh working environment, (2) debt upon departure from their home countries, and (3) the abolition of the technical intern training program.

The increase in the number of foreign criminals and disappearances is not only a destabilizing factor for public safety in Japan, but also a problem that has a negative impact on Japan's security, as it increases the number of foreigners who distrust Japan.

In addition, with the growing international criticism of human rights violations, there has been a strong international emphasis for "respect for human rights in business". In Japan, an action plan on "Business and Human Rights" was formulated by a liaison meeting of relevant government ministries and agencies in October last year, which includes strengthening the protection of the rights of foreign workers and technical intern trainees.

Furthermore, "E (Environmental), S (Social), and G (Corporate Governance)" investment has been emphasized but "S" is also an important aspect of how well the company respects human rights. If the criticism of human rights violations continues, it will have an impact on the survival of the technical intern program itself.

From this kind of circumstance, since its establishment in October last year, NAGOMi has been explaining to the government, experts, and others the contributions of the



technical intern training program over the past 30 years (see NAGOMi website). At the same time, we are requesting the Japanese government to strengthen specific measures to rectify human rights violations, including the strengthening of the Organization for Technical Intern Training. In addition, supervising organization and implementing organization need to reaffirm their commitment to the proper use of the technical intern training program so that technical intern trainees can enjoy a better life in Japan.

In March of this year, the Vietnamese government released the report of the Office of Inspector General. In the report, the government mentioned that the debt had reached \$7,000-\$8,000, far exceeding the stipulated fee (\$3,600 for three years), and that the responsible parties should be identified and punished. The Vietnamese side has taken an important step toward rectifying the situation. It is very important to strengthen cooperation between the Japanese and Vietnamese governments on this matter.

On this occasion, we would like to take this opportunity to urge the Japanese side to eradicate any wrongdoing, and to promote an appropriate technical intern training program for six months from June to November, starting with a concerted effort by the supervising organizations and implementing organization involved. We sincerely ask for the cooperation of all concerned.