

Migration Governance: Migration within and from Africa

Yumi Nakayama

Lecturer for African Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan

Abstract:

Recent significant increase of migrants from the Global South to the Global North has caused serious issues such as illegal migrants, smuggling and brain drain. As the migration problem has become one of the global issue, the multilayered migration governance includes inter-regionalism, regionalism and bilateralism emerged rapidly.

In Africa, regional efforts for facilitating free movement of persons and improving border control have been making progress gradually in several decades. For instance, ECOWAS agreed on introducing common passports in 2000. These are results from neoliberalism on the one hand, from external pressure exerted especially by Europe on the other hand. EU funded to support technical assistance and capacity-building of the ECOWAS Commission. Furthermore, confronted with illegal migrants from Africa, EU developed inter-regional approach contribute to the externalization of migrants control beyond its regional framework. The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), since 2005, focuses on continuous dialogue and conclusion of readmission agreement with non-EU countries.

Apparently, migration governance in Africa is strongly affected by European preference. However, this essay argues that African countries are no longer merely rule takers, and they try to seek leverage from European countries both in inter-regional and bilateral approach. Furthermore, it raises issues of migration governance for migration within and from Africa.