Seminar

The sociocultural effects of returnee overseas Filipino workers in the Philippines

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Date: 14 September 2015 (Monday)
Time: 4 pm – 5:30 pm
Venue: B4-702, AC1, City University of Hong Kong

Abstract
In this talk, I will discuss the sociocultural changes resulting from the return of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), how the changes have impacted on the returnees’ original communities, and the various reintegration challenges posed by those communities. The theoretical framework of the discussion is built upon the concepts of transnationalism and habitus. The methodology employed field research and a village community approach. The study revealed that changes in the personal identities and social behaviour of the returnees are significant. However, the returnees’ family ties and attitudes towards religion were largely the same as before they went overseas. Further, the changes in their local community occurred subsequent to their return revealed both positive and negative influences. Several sociocultural factors impeded their reintegration, and this called for action from all levels of government, local communities, and the returnees themselves in the Philippines.

Short Bio
Dr Yu gained his PhD from Macquarie University, Sydney in 1998. He earlier worked as a public servant at the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and used to be on the academic staff of Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, and the University of Western Sydney. Between 2006 and 2015, he was an Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in the Geography Department at HKBU. His research includes international development, sociocultural studies, and environmental issues in the Pacific Islands, Australia, China, and Southeast Asia. He published a number of articles in a range of international journals, such as Cultural Geography; Journal for Cultural Research, Environmental Management; Energy Policy, and Cities.

All are welcome.
Language: English

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