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Korea's Immigration Policy and the Current Situation of Children with Immigrant Backgrounds

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**Ministry of Justice / Korea Immigration
Service (KIS)**



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I Background of Implementing Immigration Policy

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1-1

Immigration Policy

The policy comprehensively covers matters related to granting official temporary · permanent status to foreigners and their children planning to immigrate to Korea including politics, economics, society, and culture to create the necessary environment for them to live in Korea as a member of society.

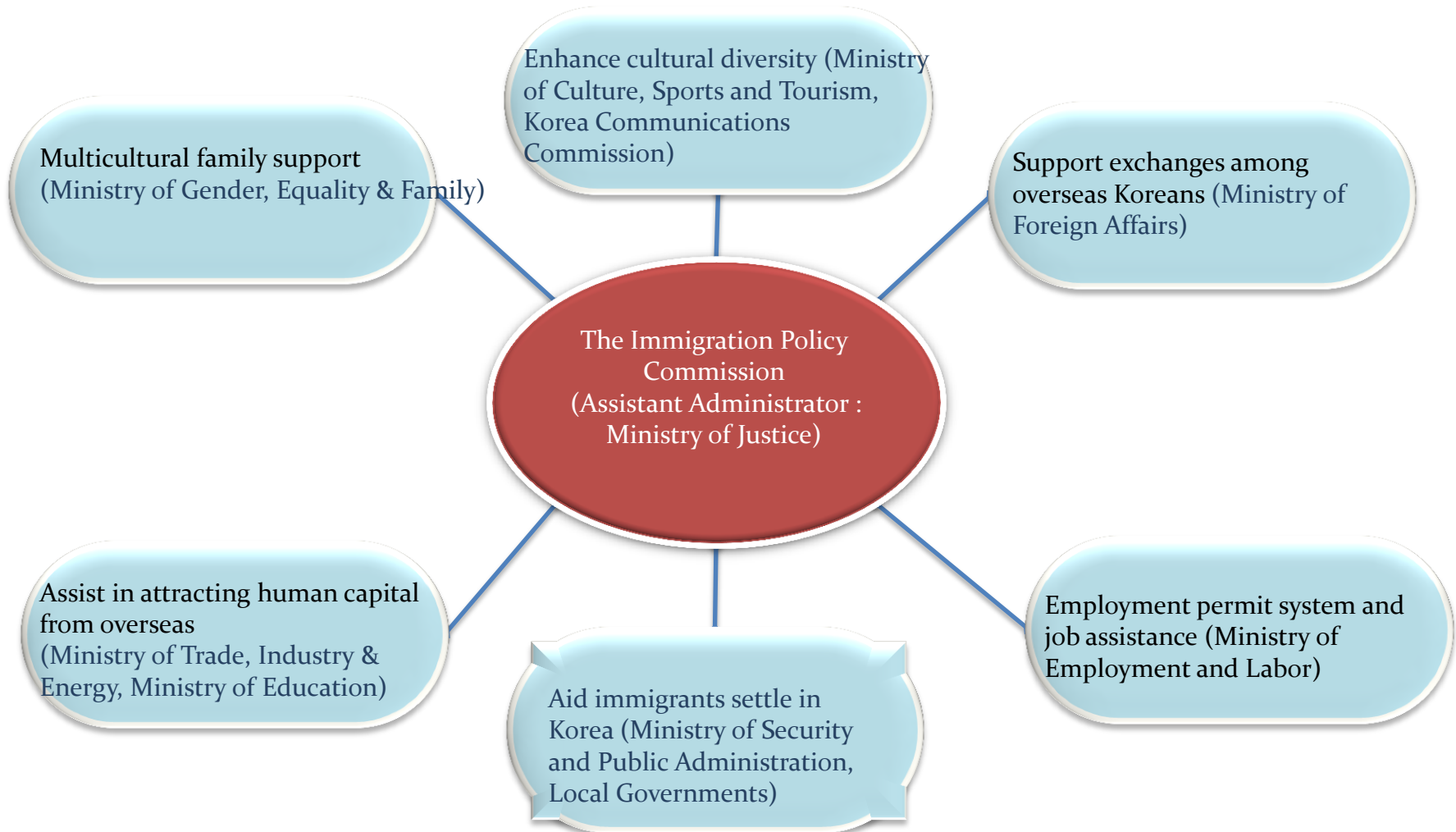
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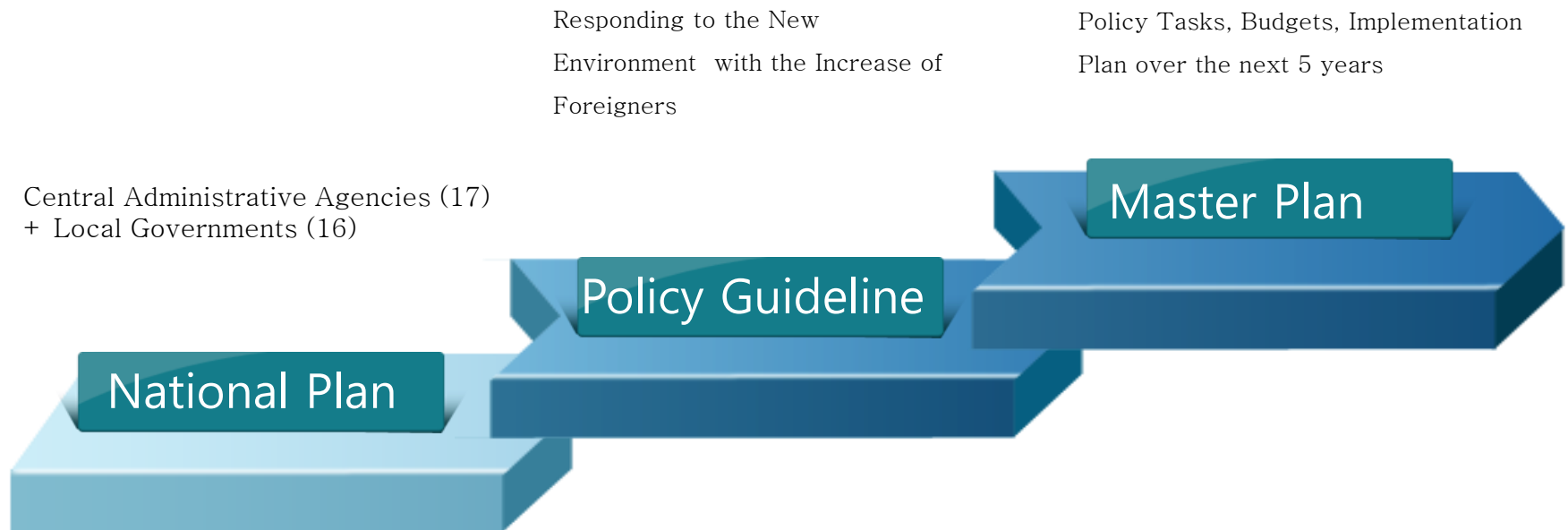
Significance of the Basic Plan for Immigration Policy

Basic Plan for Immigration Policy : The national plan for Immigration Policy established every 5 years based on Article 5 of the 「Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in Korea」

「Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in Korea」 Article 5 (Basic Plan for Immigration Policy) The Minister of Justice shall establish a basic plan for immigration policy every 5 years in consultation with the heads of the relevant central administrative agencies

※ Significance of comprehensively and systematically moving forward with the policies established by each relevant central administrative agency for the previous years from the perspective of medium to longer-terms.





2-1

Environment of the First Basic Plan for Immigration Policy(2008~2012)

1. Vitalize personal exchanges among countries
 - Promote Globalization (Pursue Visa waiver agreement with the USA),
 - Open the service market (FTA)
2. Decrease in economically active population and in the potential for economic growth due to low birthrates and a rapidly ageing society
3. Diversification of foreigners' sojourn statuses and their settlement : foreign workers, ethnic Koreans with foreign nationalities, marriage migrants, etc.

2-2

Environment of the Second Basic Plan for Immigration Policy (2013~2017)

1. Reinforce the social integration of immigrants
 - The admittance of failure in promoting "Multiculturalism" by European countries,
 - Enhance the role of the central government in immigration policy
2. Fierce competition for attracting talented workers : decisive role of immigrants in social reform and job creation
3. Accelerating competition to attract tourists : highlight efforts to induce tourism through visa policy
4. Trend of pursuing trans-national immigration policy

II

Current Situation of Children with Immigrant Backgrounds

1. Policy Background
2. Types of Children with Immigrant Backgrounds in Korea
3. Immigration Motive
4. Current State

- Concerns over social maladjustment of children with immigrant backgrounds who entered Korea following their father or mother married to a Korean national regardless of their personal will
 - Children with immigrant backgrounds have difficulty in going to a public school due to lack of Korean language abilities and understanding of Korean society, and even though they go to a public school, they may quit their studies due to maladjustment. In this regard, they need support so that they become a contributing member of Korean society.
- ※ According to the "Analysis on Support for Foreign-born Children of Marriage Migrants by Region," published by the Korean Office of IOM in 2013, the percentage of school attendance of newly arrived youth was merely 30%.

Voice of a foreign-born
child of a marriage
migrant

"I couldn't speak Korean...I stayed at home alone for a long time. I was afraid I would get lost and could not come back home whenever I was out because I could not speak Korean at all."

<A foreign-born child of a Chinese marriage migrant, 19 years old, Dong-A Ilbo, Oct. 23th, 2013>

- Support in the development of children with foreign backgrounds as contributing members of society can prevent social and cultural conflicts.
 - ※ The French 'Banlieue' case in 2005 was a riot caused by children with foreign backgrounds who could not be integrated into French society due to the 40% of unemployment rate and poverty.

2-1 Children from Multicultural Families(191,328)

- ☐ A family formed via an international marriage between a Korean national and a foreigner

2-2 Foreign-born Children of Marriage Migrants(7,171)

- ☐ Child sponsored by a foreigner who remarried a Korean national. In most cases, these children enter Korea following their remarried father or mother regardless of their will

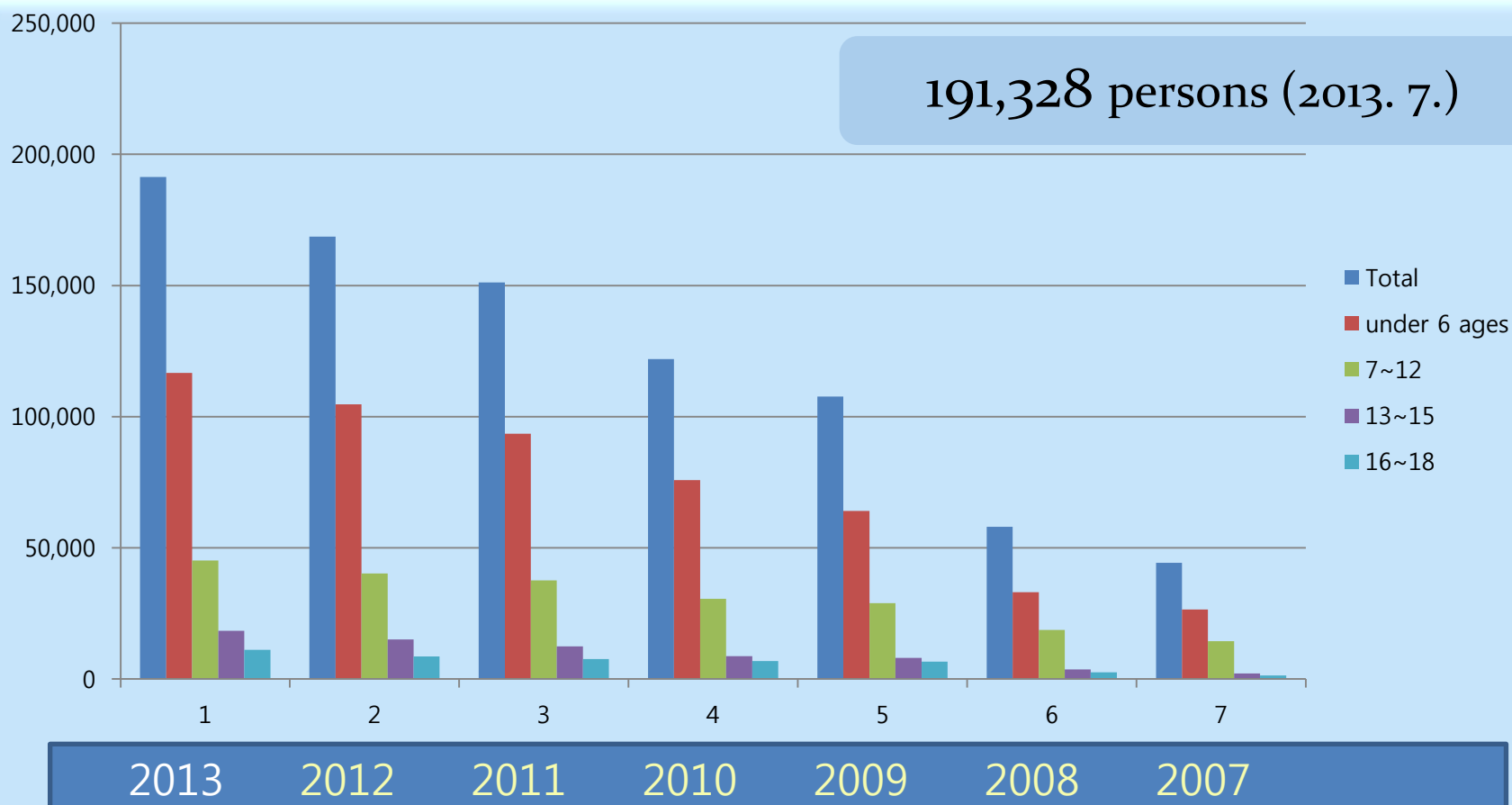
2-3 Ethnic Korean Children with Foreign Nationalities(7,288)

- ☐ Children accompanied by parents residing in China and CIS countries when the parents enter Korea for employment

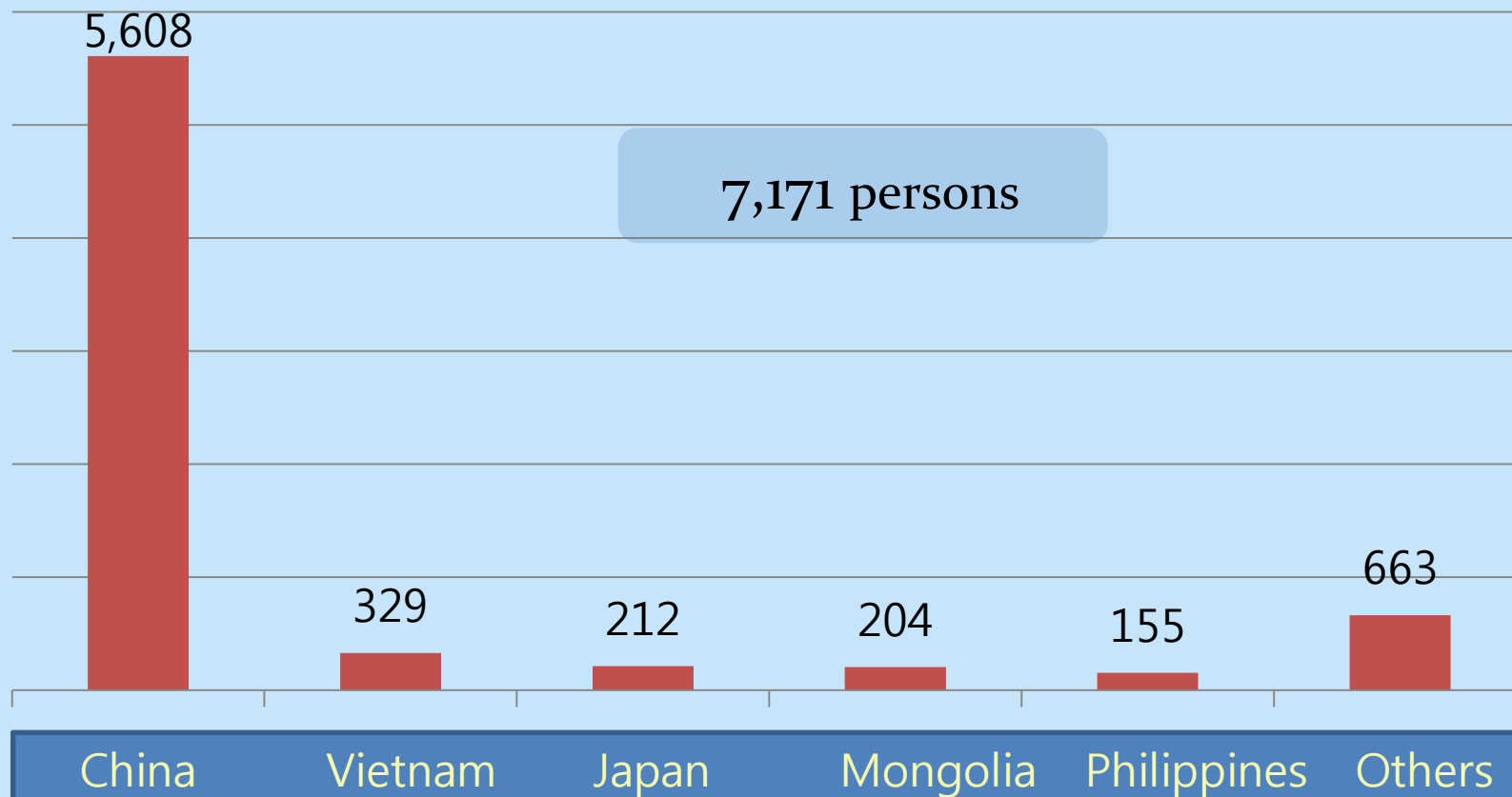
More than half of children with immigrant backgrounds (52.8%) enter Korea to live together with their parents, but 13.1% of other children with immigrant backgrounds come to Korea because they don't have anyone to take care of them in their home country and 9.9% come to Korea because their parents want them to enter Korea even though they do not want to come to Korea. Children defecting North Korea enter Korea because they are influenced by South Korean culture, and they have a desire for a better education.

(Source) "Research on ways to assist in the initial adjustment of foreign-born children of marriage migrants of multicultural families"

4-1 Children from Multicultural Families

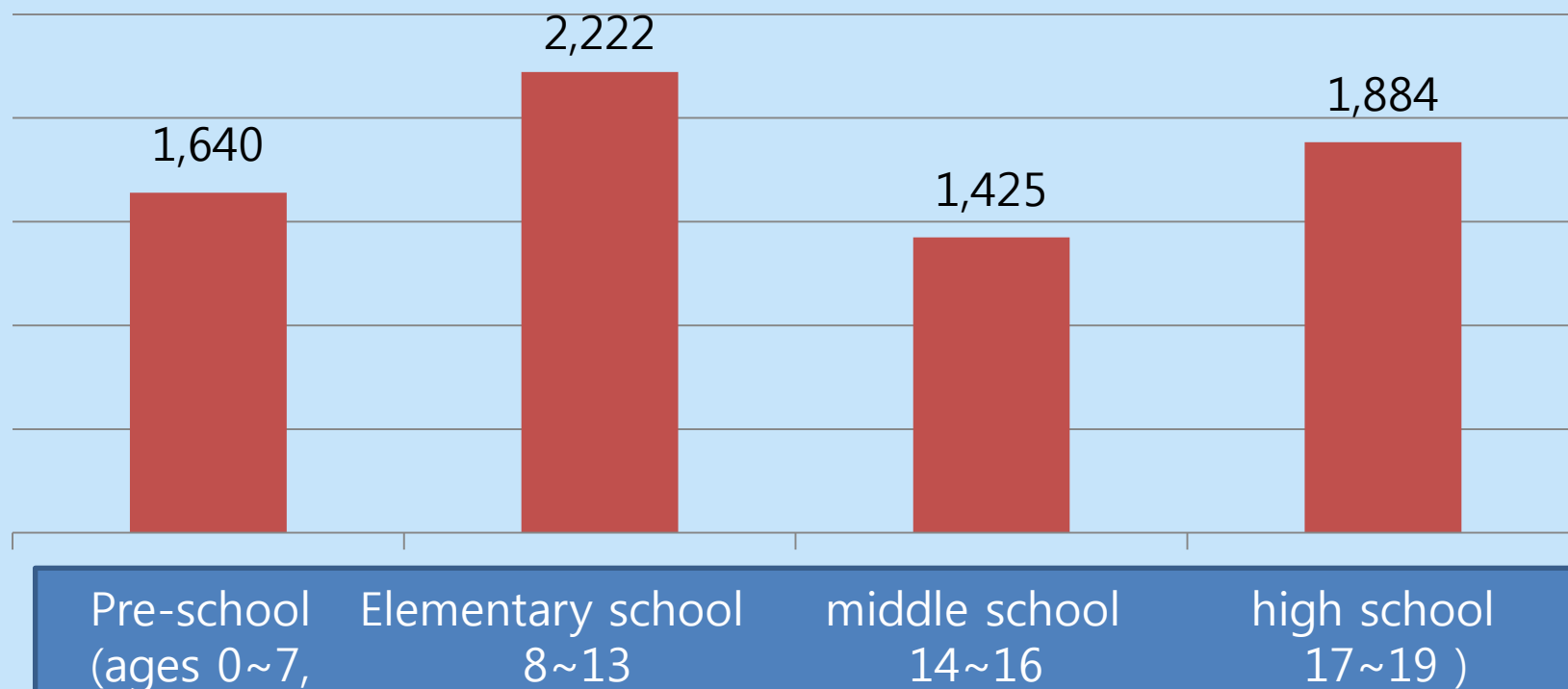


4-2 Foreign-born Children of Marriage Migrants (by Nationality)



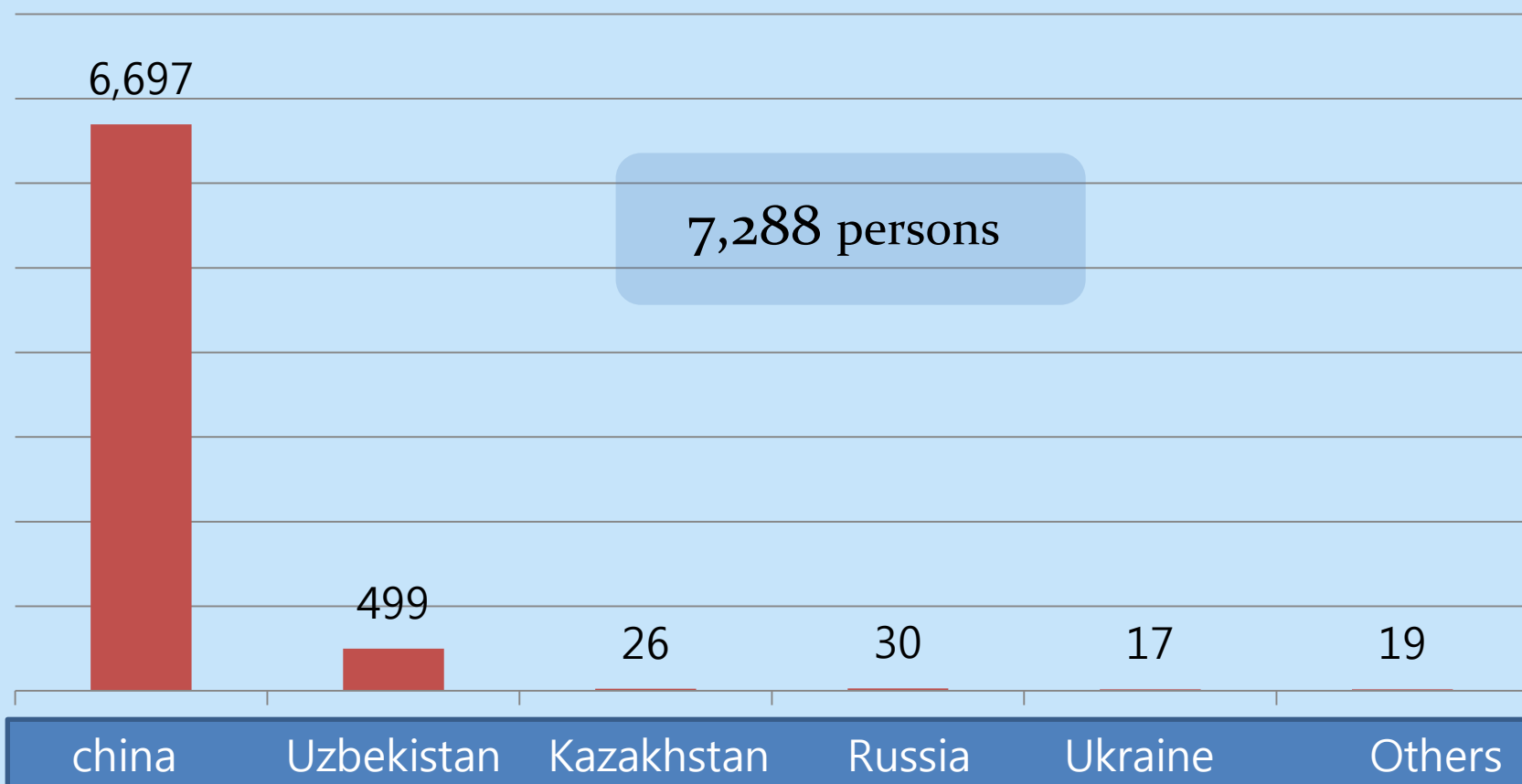
4-2

Foreign-born Children of Marriage Migrants (by Age)



4-3

Ethnic Korean Children with Foreign Nationalities



III

Major Tasks and Policy Regarding Children with Immigrant Backgrounds

1. Assist the initial adjustment of children with immigrant backgrounds
2. Offer better career services for youth with immigrant backgrounds
3. Establish a friendly educational environment for multi-cultures

Assist in the Initial Adjustment of Children with Immigrant Backgrounds

☐ Assist in the initial adjustment of children with Immigrant backgrounds

- Implement initial adjustment program : program to provide education for Korea's basic laws and institutions, information necessary to live in Korea, counseling service, etc. to children with immigrant backgrounds at the initial stage of entering the country so that they can successfully adjust to life in Korea and safely settle in Korea.
- Increase enrollment in the public education system (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice)
The multiculturalism coordinators in local immigration offices serve as a guide for enrollment in preparatory and formal education institutions, when children with immigrant backgrounds register as a foreigner and acquire nationality.
- Form the basis of monitoring newly arrived children with immigrant backgrounds by establishing a system sharing information about those children's residency and school life.
- Grant differentiated sojourn benefits to children enrolled or not enrolled in the public education system through the stay permit authority given to the Ministry of Justice.

☐ Offer better career services for youth with foreign backgrounds

- Manage alternative schools including vocational schools (Korea Poly Tech Dasom School, Seoul Dasom School) to support self-reliance of children with foreign backgrounds
- Manage RainBow School : offer a full-time, four-month program, after-school program, summer program, and weekends program for children with foreign backgrounds (ages 9-24). The curriculum includes the Korean language, Korean life and culture, identity establishment, educational plans, and employment search.

☐ Establish multiculture-friendly educational environment

- Create a fixed system for foreign school announcements : provide notification service for students with foreign backgrounds and their parents via the homepage of “International School Information” or each school homepage.

☐ Create a bilingual educational environment

- Train and place bilingual instructors including marriage migrants at various schools and levels, for foreign language instruction.

Thank you.

