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Young China Watchers

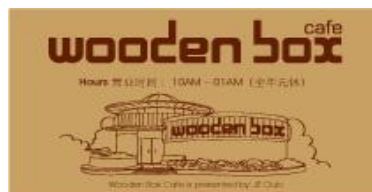
cordially invite you to:

Chinese Workers in Japan: Interns or Cheap Labor?

Alexandra Harney

Special Correspondent for China
Reuters

Thursday, September 25th, 2014
19:15pm – 20:30 pm



9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)
青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 – Doors Open
19:15 – Lecture
20:00 – Q&A
20:30 – Mixer/Drinks/Dinner
21:30 – Live music at the Wooden Box

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

Every year, about 50,000 workers, most of them Chinese, arrive in Japan to work as "interns" through a shadowy Japanese government program. Many are considered bonded labor, having paid a large sum, or put up their family home as a guarantee, for the chance to work in Japan. In the factories and farms where these interns work, labor abuse is endemic. Critics say that these workers have become a source of exploited labor in a country with a deepening labor shortage and where discussion of immigration is taboo. Alexandra Harney, who investigated this issue for nearly a year for Reuters, will speak for us on the causes and implications of this program.

[Alexandra Harney](#) is Special Correspondent for [Reuters](#) in China, based in Shanghai. A Mandarin and Japanese speaker, she was previously a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, based in Tokyo. She is author of [The China Price: The True Price of Chinese Competitive Advantage](#) (2008), an exploration of the human cost of China's success as a manufacturer, which was translated into six languages and named a best book of the year on globalization by Library Journal. Her recently-published special report for Reuters, [Foreign Interns Pay the Price for Japan's Labor Shortage](#), is the basis of tonight's talk. A former reporter and editor for the Financial Times in China, Japan and the UK, Harney has also contributed to the New York Times, Atlantic, and Wall Street Journal.

About Hopkins China Forum: Hopkins China Forum events are organized under the auspices of The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at editor@shanghai-review.org.

About Young China Watchers: Young China Watchers is an informal group of professionals living in and working on China. Through regular roundtables and talks, it provides a chance for dynamic individuals of all nationalities and employment backgrounds to interact, broaden their professional networks, and discuss the most pressing political, economic, and foreign policy issues relevant to China today. Please contact youngchinawatchers@gmail.com.