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Yumiko Nakahara

# International Labor Mobility to and from Taiwan

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Yumiko Nakahara  
Faculty of Management  
Kyushu Sangyo University  
Fukuoka  
Japan

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# Preface

My interest in the subject of international labor mobility to and from Taiwan dates back to my tenure in the Computer Division at Sharp Corporation in the 1990s, where I worked in several joint projects with Taiwanese ICT companies for the advancement of personal computers. These companies comprised returnees from the US, who were well equipped with the acquired knowledge of advanced technologies, and spoke English fluently. Contrastingly, in the factory attached to the office, many foreign laborers constituted the unskilled labor in the manufacturing line. These two opposing aspects of international labor mobility in the Taiwanese industries particularly impressed me, and could be considered the starting point of some of my most significant research.

This book is a product of my long exploration of international labor mobility to and from Taiwan since the starting point.

I am deeply indebted to my supervisors in both my master's and doctoral degrees, Prof. Hitoshi Hirakawa and Prof. Osamu Ishida, respectively. Without their guidance, my research would not have been possible. Prof. Hirakawa shared his expert knowledge on Asian economics and international labor mobility, and provided valuable guidance for my research. Prof. Ishida encouraged me to widen my scope to analyze Taiwanese economies within the wider range of international economies, and helped develop and convert my interest into a doctoral thesis.

I would like to express gratitude to my professors in both my master's and doctoral degrees, Prof. Kazushi Shimizu, Prof. Hiroshi Fukagawa, Prof. Akinori Isogai, Prof. Kunio Hisano, Prof. Hitoshi Osaka, Prof. Kenji Iwata, Prof. Ryuzo Kuroki, Prof. Masataka Kimura, Prof. Etsuko Katsu, and Prof. Rei Seiyama for their valuable support. I am also sincerely grateful to my college mates while pursuing the master's and doctoral degrees, Mr. Ronald Yeung and Prof. Michihiro Hino, respectively, for sharing their knowledge on various subjects during our graduate school days.

After I got a tenure post at the Kyushu Sangyo University, I gained significant knowledge from various joint research projects with many professors. I am grateful to Prof. Keiji Natsume, Prof. Etsuro Ishigami, Prof. Ryoji Nakagawa, Prof. Naoki Hayashi, Prof. Song Nang Ok, Prof. Takashi Habuchi, Prof. Takashi Hosokawa,

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I am also sincerely thankful to my supervisor at Sharp Corporation, Mr. Yasumasa Imose, for providing me with several opportunities pertaining to international projects with companies from emerging economies, especially Taiwan.

In addition, I appreciate the support of my Taiwanese friends, Mr. Carl Tsai and Mr. Vincent Wang.

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Lastly, I am eternally grateful to my family for their continuous support and patience.

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Yumiko Nakahara

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Literature Review</b> . . . . .	3
2.1	Theories of International Labor Mobility . . . . .	3
2.1.1	Early Work of Theory of International Labor Mobility . . . . .	4
2.1.2	Theories of Reasons for International Labor Mobility . . . . .	4
2.2	Features of Current International Labor Mobility . . . . .	6
2.2.1	Shift from Construction to Manufacturing, also to Services . . . . .	6
2.2.2	Feminization of International Labor Mobility . . . . .	6
2.2.3	The Effect of Unskilled Labor Mobility to the Employment of Host Country . . . . .	7
2.3	Features of Labor Mobility in Asia . . . . .	7
2.3.1	Non-permanent Mobility . . . . .	7
2.3.2	Features of the Work Migrants Perform in Destination Countries in Asia . . . . .	7
2.3.3	Feminization of Labor Mobility in Asia . . . . .	8
2.3.4	Importance of the Role of Migration Agents . . . . .	8
2.4	Skilled Migration . . . . .	9
2.4.1	Brain Drain . . . . .	9
2.4.2	Brain Circulation . . . . .	10
2.5	International Labor Mobility of Taiwan . . . . .	11
2.5.1	About Unskilled Labor Mobility to Taiwan . . . . .	11
2.5.2	Brain Circulation in Taiwan . . . . .	13
2.5.3	Skilled Migration Around Taiwan and Policy Changes in the Twenty-First Century . . . . .	14
2.5.4	Shortage of Highly Skilled Personnel in Taiwan in the Twenty-First Century . . . . .	15
2.5.5	Migration Between Taiwan and China . . . . .	16
2.6	Research Question . . . . .	16
	References . . . . .	17

<b>3</b>	<b>Background of the Foreign Worker Introduction</b> . . . . .	21
3.1	The History of Introducing Foreign Workers into Taiwan . . . . .	22
3.2	Supply and Demand in the Taiwanese Labor Market in Twenty-First Century . . . . .	22
3.2.1	Condition of Labor Shortage . . . . .	22
3.2.2	Job Categories in Short . . . . .	24
3.2.3	Reasons for Labor Shortages by Job Category . . . . .	24
3.2.4	Unemployment Rate . . . . .	25
3.3	Reasons for Labor Shortage from the Macro Viewpoint . . . . .	29
3.3.1	Low Labor Participation Rate Because of “Late Participation in and Early Retirement from the Labor Market” . . . . .	29
3.3.2	Reasons for Unskilled Labor Shortage: Popularization of Higher Education . . . . .	31
3.3.3	Reason for the Shortage of Highly Educated Workers . . . . .	31
3.4	Background of Increasing Demand for Care Work . . . . .	34
3.4.1	The Development of an Aged Society . . . . .	34
3.4.2	Rise in the Labor Participation Rate of Female Workers . . . . .	35
3.4.3	Maintenance of the Traditional Concept of Caring for the Aged and Changes in Family Values . . . . .	35
3.5	Conclusion . . . . .	35
	References . . . . .	36
	Periodicals . . . . .	37
<b>4</b>	<b>Skilled Migration to and from Taiwan</b> . . . . .	39
4.1	Brain Drain to Brain Circulation Trends . . . . .	40
4.1.1	Brain Drain . . . . .	40
4.1.2	Transformation from Brain Drain to Brain Circulation . . . . .	40
4.2	Brain Circulation in Taiwan in the 1980s–1990s . . . . .	41
4.2.1	Taiwanese Students Studying Abroad (1950s–1980s) . . . . .	42
4.2.2	The Taiwanese Government’s Recruitment Process and Future Preparations for Returnees . . . . .	42
4.2.3	Impact of Returnees . . . . .	45
4.3	Brain Circulation in Taiwan in the Twenty-First Century . . . . .	47
4.3.1	Government Policies Encouraging Students to Study Abroad . . . . .	47
4.3.2	Ratio of Students Studying Abroad . . . . .	48
4.3.3	Reduction of the Proportion of Students Studying in the US . . . . .	48
4.4	Policies to Invite Overseas Workers in Twenty-First Century . . . . .	50
4.4.1	Policy Outline for Attracting Overseas Human Resources . . . . .	50
4.4.2	Two Specific Methods for Recruiting Overseas Workers . . . . .	51



4.4.3	Recruiting at the National Applied Research Laboratories . . . . .	52
4.4.4	Preferential Treatment to Overseas Recruits . . . . .	53
4.4.5	Measures to Encourage Foreign Students to Come to Taiwan . . . . .	53
4.4.6	Other Policy Developments to Attract Overseas Workers . . . . .	53
4.5	Introducing Workers from Different Overseas Countries . . . . .	54
4.5.1	US . . . . .	54
4.5.2	Japan . . . . .	55
4.5.3	India . . . . .	55
4.5.4	China . . . . .	56
4.6	Changes of Skilled Migration to Taiwan . . . . .	57
4.7	Brain Drain in the Twenty-First Century . . . . .	58
4.7.1	Possibility of Brain Drain . . . . .	58
4.7.2	Taiwanese Workers Leaving for China . . . . .	59
4.7.3	Taiwanese Workers Moving to Other Countries . . . . .	63
4.7.4	Reasons for Brain Drain . . . . .	63
4.7.5	The Second Brain Drain . . . . .	64
4.8	Conclusion . . . . .	65
	References . . . . .	66
	Periodicals . . . . .	67
<b>5</b>	<b>Foreign Laborers: Status and Problems . . . . .</b>	<b>69</b>
5.1	Number of Foreign Laborers in Taiwan . . . . .	70
5.1.1	Changes in the Number of Foreign Laborers . . . . .	70
5.1.2	Foreign Laborers by Nationality . . . . .	70
5.1.3	Foreign Laborers by Gender . . . . .	73
5.2	Foreign Labor Policy . . . . .	73
5.2.1	Foreign Industrial Laborers . . . . .	74
5.2.2	Caregivers . . . . .	75
5.2.3	Foreign Worker Employment Stability Fee Tax . . . . .	76
5.2.4	Work Terms for Foreign Labor . . . . .	76
5.3	Costs of Foreign Labor . . . . .	77
5.3.1	Financial Compensation . . . . .	77
5.3.2	Housing and Meals . . . . .	78
5.3.3	Employers' Support of Foreign Laborers . . . . .	79
5.4	Relationship Between Employing Foreign Laborers and Labor Shortages . . . . .	80
5.5	Does Hiring Foreign Caregivers Influence Job Opportunities for Taiwanese? . . . . .	82
5.6	Problems Faced by Foreign Laborers . . . . .	84
5.6.1	Work Hours . . . . .	84
5.6.2	Expense Burden on Foreign Laborers . . . . .	84
5.6.3	Missing of Foreign Laborers . . . . .	86

5.7 Problems of Foreign Caregivers . . . . . 88

    5.7.1 Few Days Off/Holidays, and Long Workdays . . . . . 88

    5.7.2 Low Wages . . . . . 89

    5.7.3 Performing Tasks Outside the Stated Job Requirements . . . . . 90

5.8 Solving the Problems of Foreign Laborers . . . . . 90

    5.8.1 Reduce the Mediation Fee Through Direct Hiring . . . . . 91

    5.8.2 Lower the Incidence of Missing Foreign Laborers . . . . . 93

    5.8.3 Give Foreign Laborers a Voice . . . . . 94

    5.8.4 Provide Caregivers with Regular Days off Work . . . . . 96

5.9 Conclusion . . . . . 97

References . . . . . 98

Periodicals . . . . . 99

**6 Conclusions and Policy Implications . . . . . 101**

    6.1 Findings of This Book . . . . . 101

    6.2 Dependence on Foreign Workers to Supplement  
        the Decreasing Workforce . . . . . 103

    6.3 Limitations of the Research and Issues for Future Research . . . . . 104

    Periodicals . . . . . 104

**Index . . . . . 105**

## About the Author

**Yumiko Nakahara** is a Professor at Kyushu Sangyo University. She has been involved in joint projects with companies worldwide, including those from newly industrializing economies in Asia in the 1990s, when she worked in the Computer Division at Sharp Corporation, and earned her Ph.D. in economics at Kyushu University. Her main concerns are the international migration to and from Taiwan, the development of Taiwanese IT companies, and the global R&D activities of Taiwanese companies.

# Acronyms

AUO	AU Optronics Corporation
CNY	Chinese Yuan
HP	Hewlett-Packard Company
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IMD	International Institute for Management Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITRI	Industrial Technology Research Institute
LED	Light-Emitting Diode
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
NARL	National Applied Research Laboratories
NSF	National Science Foundation
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation
R&D	Research and Development
S&E	Science and Engineering
TSMC	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd
TWD	Taiwan Dollar
UMC	United Microelectronics Corporation
US	United States
USD	US Dollar