

# International Migration between China and Japan –An Economic Analysis on “Chain Migration”-

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Key words: chain migration, status change, location choice, Chinese diasporas, student mobility, permanent residents

## 1 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to 1) investigate recent trends of international migration between China and Japan (especially from China to Japan) through economic analysis based upon a model of chain migration and to 2) make policy recommendations for better management of migration and migrants themselves.

## 2 Former studies

Former studies on migration from China to Japan have explored 1) factors affecting growing movements of Chinese especially of Chinese students to Japan (ex. Shoko and Iguchi 2004), 2) those affecting Chinese permanent residents in Japan (Wan 2011, Zhu 2013) as well as those affecting Technical Internees (Iguchi 2011) and 3) those of uneven regional economic development in China affecting student mobility to Japan (Shiho 2013). Different from former studies, this study focuses on “chain migration” of Chinese diasporas as well as immigration and integration policies.

## 3 Methods of this study

The author tries to 1) explore the balance between inflows and outflows of Chinese to Japan and their background, 2) to build a model of “chain migration” of Chinese diasporas, who can change status from student to specialist, entrepreneurs or to permanent residents Japan, 3) to make theoretical considerations on location choice of Chinese migrants in Japan and 4) to implement econometric analyses based on “chain migration” and “location choice”.

## 4 Recent trends: Flows and stocks of Chinese and their relationship

Through statistical analysis on inflow and outflow, status changes or stocks of Chinese as well as on their geographical distribution, the author demonstrates 1) for the past one decade, net inflow of Chinese specialists, engineers or entrepreneurs have turned to negative, 2) inflow of Chinese students has been increasing and compensating net outflows of Chinese highly skilled, because students can change their status after graduating from universities, 3) Chinese permanent residents have been increasing especially because of status changes from specialist besides international marriages, which are reflected in their geographical location.

## 5 Theoretical explanation: A model of “chain migration” and a theory of “location choice”

To theoretically explain the facts mentioned above, the author tries to build a model of “chain migration” of Chinese and to apply the theory of “location choice”, which can be complementary with each other.

## 6 Econometric analyses and their results

Based upon theoretical analysis, the author tries to demonstrate several hypotheses and to conduct econometric analyses on determinants of “location choice” of Chinese students, specialists, engineers and entrepreneurs and permanent residents etc.

As a result, location of Chinese of students is affected by labor market factors. They concentrate themselves especially in Metropolitan areas which are well equipped with economic, social and educational infrastructures. Locations of Chinese specialists, engineers and entrepreneurs strongly correlate with those of students. Concentration of entrepreneurs in Metropolitan areas is very distinctive. Location of permanent residents is not affected by labor market factors and correlates with location of Chinese schools in Japan.

## 7 Policy recommendation

With the rise of Chinese economy, Japan may be losing its attractiveness of employment and business opportunities for Chinese migrants. In consequence, a result, net immigration of Chinese has been minus for the past one decade. But, increasing Chinese students who change status after graduating universities should compensate the loss of Chinese talents moving outside. Permanent residents also seek for better economic and social infrastructure especially education opportunities.

The Government of Japan should 1) give more assistance to foreign students, who compensate net outflow of Chinese talents, 2) take strong measures to attract foreign engineers and entrepreneurs, who tend to leave Japan after short period of stay, 3) improve medical and educational infrastructures for foreign residents to make family formation in Japan. With the permanent resident status, Chinese diasporas can move freely between China and Japan to develop economic and social ties between China and Japan. It is also beneficial for Chinese migrants themselves to find better opportunities for career and life.

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