

# 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.

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