

# The Effects of Regional Characteristics on Interregional Out-migration among International Return Migrants in Japan: A Multilevel Analysis

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This paper demonstrates an empirical examination of the linkage between international and internal migration, analyzing regional factors associated with interregional out-migration among international return migrants in Japan. The results of the Seventh National Migration Survey find higher propensities of internal migration among overseas return migrants, in terms of their past migration experience and future migration possibility, as well as their concentration in the metropolitan areas and higher socioeconomic status. Matching the micro data to contextual factors reflecting regional characteristics, a multilevel analysis is conducted to examine the effects of regional-level industrial structure and labour market characteristics on the future possibility of out-migration among return migrants from foreign countries. The results of the multilevel estimation confirm that: 1) even after controlling for other individual-level socioeconomic characteristics, international return migrants are significantly more likely to have positive prospects of out-migration from the region of current residence, and 2) growth of employment opportunities in the tertiary sector and flexibility in the regional labour market attenuate the effects of international migration experience on the likelihood of future interregional out-migration. These results imply that destination choices upon return from foreign countries reflect these regional characteristics of potential destinations.