

A Study of Taiwanese Skilled Immigrants in the United States

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The United States (U.S.) is a nation of immigrants. Since Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was signed, Taiwanese immigrants who have invested or engaged in technology industry in California have received the attention from the U.S. high-tech industry. As generations alternate, the current Taiwanese immigrants are different from the first generation. This study uses in-depth interview and questionnaire to investigate the status quo of contemporary Taiwanese high-tech immigrants living in the U.S. According to our research, this group of immigrants mostly belong to the Internet generation, and they are currently in young adult ages with high productivity in industry. They are well educated and with professional skills. Most of these Taiwanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. as international students and entered the high-tech industry after graduation. It is worth noting that although the Silicon Valley area, which is dominated by the integrated circuit (IC) industry, is still the most prosperous area for high-tech immigrant employment, current Taiwanese high-tech immigrants have expanded their career horizons to the industries throughout the entire U.S. On the other hand, the active interaction inside Taiwanese networks also helps on the immigrants' adaptation in the new country. Comprehensive words, this study conducts a series of investigations on the career, life, and immigration intentions of contemporary Taiwanese high-tech immigrants in the U.S. There are two inferences concluded: First, the Internet has changed the models of Taiwanese immigrants, in the aspects of interpersonal relationships and job-seeking employment. Second, the high-tech immigrants of the Internet generation are more flexible on their immigration intention, and they tend to not immediately decide on a permanent settlement.

Keywords : Net Generation, High-tech immigrants, Taiwanese immigrants, the United States