## IDB

Remittances from Japan to Latin America


## Inter-American Development Bank

Annual Meeting Of the Board of Governors


# Remittances From Japan to Latin America 

Study of Latin American immigrants living and working in Japan

## April 6, 2005

Okinawa, Japan

## I. Methodology

| Sample | Latin American immigrant adults <br> living in Japan. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Number of Interviews | $\mathbf{1 , 0 7 0}$ interviews |
| Language of Interviews | Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese |
| Margin of Error | $+/-3 ~ p e r c e n t a g e ~ p o i n t s, ~ m a r g i n ~ o f ~$ <br> error is larger for sub-groups |
| Dates of Interviews | February 2nd - February 28th of <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ |

# Countries represented in the sample 



Brazil
(3) Peru

Argentina

Bolivia
Paraguay

## The Sample Design



# II. Demographics of Latin <br> American Immigrants living in Japan 

- Latin American immigrants are younger on average than the Japanese population overall.
- Peruvian immigrants have lived in Japan longer than immigrants from Brazil and other Latin American countries.
. Most work as laborers or in manufacturing jobs.


## Residency in Japan



Less than five years
$\square$ Ten years or more

Entire life / born in Japan

## Residency in Japan



## Education



Less than high school

High school diploma
$\square$ Some college / Technical school

College graduate or higherNo answer

## Education



## Age of Latin American Immigrant

 Population
$\square \mathbf{1 8 - 2 4}$
$\square \mathbf{2 5 - 3 4}$
$\square \mathbf{3 5 - 4 9}$
$\square \mathbf{5 0 - 6 4}$
$\square 65$ or older
$\square$ No answer


## Gender



Male

## Do you have any children under the age of 18?


$\square$ Yes, living in Japan
$\square$ Yes, living in Latin America
$\square$ Yes, living in another country
$\square$ No children
$\square$ No answer

## Do you have any children under the age of 18?



## Annual Income in Japan



## Annual Income in Home Country



## What type of work do you do?


III. Migration Patterns

Is this the first time that you have come to live in Japan?

$\square$ Yes

No

## What was the main reason you decided to move to Japan?



IV. Banking Practices

## Bank Accounts

* Over 90 percent of Latin American immigrants living in Japan have a bank account in Japan while less than half have a bank account in their home country.


## Do you have a bank account in Japan?


$\square$ Yes

No

## Japanese bank accounts by nationality


$\square$ Yes
$\square$ No

## Do you have a bank account in your

 home country?
$\square$ Yes

No

## Do you have a bank account in your home country?



## Do you have a bank account in your

 home country?

# V. Savings and Future Business Plans 

## Savings and Future Business Plans

- Most Latin Americans are saving money mainly to improve their quality of life, start a business or buy a home.
- Many Latin American immigrants plan to start a business in the future.


## Are you currently saving money?


$\square$ Yes

No

## What is the main reason that you are saving money?

- Improve quality of life (32 percent)
- To start a business in your home country (19 percent)
- To buy a house in your home country (14 percent)
- Education for children (13 percent)
- To start a business in Japan (8 percent)
- So I don't have to work anymore/ retirement (4 percent)
- To buy a house in Japan (4 percent)
- For some other reason/ luxuries (4 percent)


## Do you have any plans to start your

 own business in the future?

## Do you have any plans to start

 your own business in the future?

## Plans to start a business in the future

 By Residency in Japan

# VI. Communication with Family and Remittances 

## Do you have family back home?


$\square$ Yes

No

## How often do you communicate with

 your family back home?
$\square$ Once a week or more
$\square$ Once a month
$\square$ Few times a year

Don't communicate regularly

■ Don't know / No answer

## How often do you communicate with

 your family back home?

* 70 percent of the Latin American adult immigrants living in Japan send remittances on a regular basis.
* Our study indicates that 304,824 Latin

American immigrants living in Japan send about $\$ 2.65$ billion to their families on a yearly basis. Each remittance averages approximately \$600.

* Our study also indicates that these Latin Americans send money home about 14.5 times a year. Those that send to one person send about 11 times a year and send to an additional relative about 3.5 times a year.


## Have you ever sent money to a

 family member back home?

Yes
$\square$ Yes, but more than a year ago

No

## Have you ever sent money to a

 family member back home?

## How much money - on average - do

 you send each time?

## How frequently do you send money

 to your family member?

## How frequently do you send money

 to your family member?

## Do you regularly send money to

 more than one family member?
$\square$ Yes, two
$\square$ Yes, three
$\square$ Yes, four or more

No

Is there anyone else in your family or household who sends money to your home country?

$\square$ Yes
$\square$ No

Don't know /
No answer

## How long have you been sending

 money to your family member?

## How long have you been sending

 money to your family member?

## Methods of Sending Money

- A large majority of Brazilian immigrants living in Japan send their money through Banco do Brazil; while most Peruvian immigrants in Japan send money home through Convenio Kyodai or Aelucoop.
- Over half of these remittance senders pay $\$ 10$ to $\$ 20$ each time they send money.
- Nearly 80 percent of remittance senders say their family members have a bank account in their home country.


## How do you send money to your family member?



## How do you send money to your family member?



## What is the amount of the average fee

 that you pay to send your remittances?

Does your family member that you send money to in your home country have a bank account?

$\square$ Yes
$\square$ No

Don't know /
No answer

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