

## Research Summary

Under the financial support from the Sumitomo Foundation, from April 2008 to April 2009 I have been doing my research project entitled *Engineering Socio-Economic Transformation: the Impact of Japanese Monetary Metals on Seventeenth-Century Northern Vietnam*. Thanks to this research project, I have been able to accomplish a variety of research themes. Herewith in this report I would like to inform you about my scientific achievements in the past year under the generous support of the Sumitomo Foundation.

### 1. Fieldwork

Shortly after the commencement of my research project, between 22 and 25 May 2008 I cooperated with the Department of History, VNU-H to co-organize a fieldwork to the ancient anchorage of Domea (Tien Lang, Hai Phong), where foreign merchants and sailors in the seventeenth century used to anchor their ships and reside there. The Vietnamese and Dutch archaeologists and historians have found several interesting objects relating to commercial activities such as pieces of foreign porcelain, some stained copper coins which needed further analysis and experimentation in the coming months to check their date, etc.

In July, I organized another fieldwork, invited seven researchers from various institutions such as Department of History, Institute of Historical Studies, and Institute of South-East Asian Studies, to survey the northeastern seaport system of Van Don and Co To (present-day Quang Ninh Province). We have also collected a good amount of porcelain pieces and stoneware, some stained seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Chinese and Vietnamese copper coins, etc.

The fieldwork information is of importance for understanding the other historical aspects and is utilized now and then in my research papers.

### 2. Archival research and data analysis

From April 2008 I started to order the records of the Dutch and English East India Companies on Tonkin. Since then a large number of records has been read and analyzed in order to extract information relating to the research project. During my visit to Leiden (Netherlands) in August and September 2008, I was also able to spend five weeks to do research in the National Archive in Den Haag. I have collected and analyzed most of the documents relating to my research project in order to extract relevant information for my research project. This collection of data was checked/edited by two of my Dutch colleagues before eventually used in my articles.

### 3. Conference presentation

On the basis of the information and data extracted and analyzed from the archival materials and fieldworks, I wrote an article entitled “Vietnamese–Japanese Diplomatic and Commercial Relations in the Seventeenth Century” for my participation at the international workshop *Cultural Reproduction on Its Interface: An Approach from East Asia* at Kansai University on 13 and 14 December, 2008. This paper received good attention and discussion from participants and audiences. In March 2009 I have revised this article to be translated into Japanese and published in Japan in the coming months.

### 4. Article for Journal of Historical Studies

From late 2008, based on the result of my research project, I began to write the research paper in Vietnamese entitled “Kim loại tiền Nhất Ban van chuyen bien kinh te xa hoi Dang Ngoai the

ky XVII [The Impact of Japanese Monetary Metals on the Seventeenth-Century Vietnamese Economy and Society]. This 25-page article plus a two-page English summary has been accepted by the Journal of Historical Studies (the leading journal in the field of historical sciences in Vietnam) to be published in the coming month.

### **5. Teaching syllabus**

The latest academic achievement of this research project has been included in my teaching syllabus of the subject “seventeenth-century foreign trade and socio-economic transformations in northern Vietnam”.

### **6. Self-evaluation and proposal for future research**

After one year doing research under the financial support of the Sumitomo Foundation, I am of confidence that I have achieved all the works I had proposed in the application form.

Further more, during the exploration and analysis of English and Dutch documents, I have realized that the relationship between Japan and Vietnamese by no mean limited only in the exchange of Japanese monetary metals for Vietnamese silk and silk piece-goods. There was a large range of commodities exchanged between the two countries by the Dutch, Chinese and the other foreign traders. Consequently, the impact of the so-called “Japanese factor” upon seventeenth-century Vietnam did not confine only in social and economic transformation; it influenced the other aspects of the Vietnamese cultural life as well. Many sorts of Japanese products such as finished textiles and embroideries, swords, kettles and so forth were also attractive to the Vietnamese consumers. On the other hand, there are also signs of Vietnamese cultural features presented in Japan through the consumption of Vietnamese goods. In the early 1640s, for instance, the Dutch merchants in Nagasaki reported that the Japanese people have so interested in the Vietnamese silk stuffs that their colleagues in Hanoi should increase the import of these products as high as they could endeavor to do.

I am therefore planning to pursue another research project entitled, tentatively, *Cultural Commerce and Commercial Culture: Shipping and Exchange of Goods between Japan and Vietnam in the Seventeenth Century*. I am of expectation that the Sumitomo Foundation will take into consideration my successful research project in the fiscal year of 2008 to provide me necessary support once I apply for research grant this year.

### Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

“Vietnamese–Japanese Diplomatic and Commercial Relations in the Seventeenth Century”, paper presented at the international workshop *Cultural Reproduction on Its Interface: An Approach from East Asia* at Kansai University on 13 and 14 December, 2008.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

- “Vietnamese–Japanese Diplomatic and Commercial Relations in the Seventeenth Century”  
(to be published online in Japanese language by Kansai University, forthcoming)
- “Kim loai tien Nhat Ban van chuyen bien kinh te xa hoi Dang Ngoai the ky XVII [The  
Impact of Japanese Monetary Metals on the Seventeenth-Century Vietnamese Economy  
and Society], *Journal of Historical Studies*, Hanoi (forthcoming).

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)