

COMPLETION REPORT

My research explores Taiwanese sekimin (Taiwanese who registered as Japanese citizens) who went to the Chaoshan area, including Chaozhou and the treaty port of Shantou in southern China during the Japanese colonial period in Taiwan (1895-1945). To explore this topic, I have examined various materials in Japan and Taiwan. First, I examined Japanese governmental records, such as Tsūshō isan, a volume of economic reports issued by overseas Japanese consulates to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan. Second, I have examined records of Taiwan Sōtokuhu, such as the publication by Chōsaka and Gaimubu. Third, I have used news reports from major newspapers in the Japanese homeland (e.g., Yomiuri Shinbun) and colonial Taiwan (e.g., Taiwan Nichi Nichi Shinbun). Fourth, I have examined personal records (e.g., poetry).

By using such a great variety of materials, I have explored the issue on two levels. The first level is an overview of Japanese influence in the Chaoshan area. Beginning in 1904, when Japan established the imperial consulate in Shantou, Japan also began establishing banks, transportation systems, companies, educational institutions, and hospitals in the area. With the influx of both Japanese inlanders and Taiwanese sekimin, a primary Japanese community formed in the Chaoshan area. The second level of my research provides details about activities of Taiwanese sekimin in this area. I posit that Taiwanese sekimin occupied a space within a triangular framework, comprising Japan, colonial Taiwan, and southern China. The situation of sekimin was ambiguous: on the one hand, they enjoyed extraterritoriality in China because of their status as Japanese nationals; on the other hand, they were ethnically and culturally Chinese, and were regarded as “not” Japanese both in the eyes of local Chinese and in the eyes of local Japanese residents. Regarding the topic of vocation, sekimin undertook a variety of occupations. The majority of sekimin were shop owners and clerks, earning a living by exporting Japanese and Taiwanese goods to the Chaoshan area; some of the sekimin were teachers, teaching at Japanese-founded institutions, including Toēi School and the Japanese elementary school in Shantou; some were poets, antiquaries, and artists who traveled in China and had close connections with the Chinese local literati. From my examination of the stories concerning Taiwanese sekimin in the Chaoshan area, I show that a triangular framework encompassed the Japanese empire in the homeland, the colonial government in Taiwan, and a sekimin community in China.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

(1) March 24, 2012, Taipei, TAIWAN, The 5th International Junior Scholars on Taiwan History, “Travelers under Imperialism: “Japanese” Teachers between Colonial Taiwan and the Treaty Port Shantou in Southern China (1915-1937).”

(2) May 27, 2012, Jiayi, TAIWAN, The 11th International Junior Scholars on Sinology, “People of Trans-boundaries: The History and Writings of Taiwanese Sekimin in the Chaoshan Area (1900-1930)”

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

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