

COMPLETION REPORT

This research project, based on extensive comparative analyses of Japanese and Chinese civil societies, explored the possible civil society interactions between Japan and China, and the roles such interactions play regarding current Japan-China relations, such as historical reconciliation, territorial and resource disputes as well as conflict prevention/peace maintenance. This research also explored the prospects of an East Asian public sphere between Japan and China, investigating its potential on Japanese-Sino relations as well as East Asian regional integration and regional identity.

This research performed detailed literature review regarding multiple theoretical approaches such as social theories, cultural studies, political theories as well as international relation theories, forming a multidisciplinary analytic framework. This research finds that Japan's civil society organizations (CSOs), which have been in active and healthy development for a long time, thanks to well-established traditions, legislative empowerment, government promotion and civic engagement, played and will continue to play significant roles in the arenas of ultra-nationalism alleviation, historical reconciliation and regional integration. Due to different legislative, political and economic contexts, however, China's civil society has more obstacles to overcome in order to achieve more healthy development, especially in the realm of foreign-relation issues. This research also finds that intranational/transnational civil society interactions will boost public-sphere construction, historical reconciliation and conflict prevention/peace maintenance between Japan and China, which should be taken into adequate consideration during the future policy-making process to forge a tangible East Asian public sphere as well as East Asian community.

This research conducted case studies regarding specific CSOs in multiple cities in China and Japan and presents a first-hand picture of Chinese and Japanese CSOs. For example, the fieldwork survey conducted in March 2012 in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, which included interviews with the local community secretary of Nanjing Young Men's Christian Association (Nanjing YMCA), finds that such CSOs have the will and potential to facilitate China-Japan relations via CSO exchanges and communications. The fieldwork surveys conducted in September 2012 in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, which included interviews with local CSO-activists and researchers, find that due to the institutional fragility of Chinese civil society a long process still awaits Chinese CSOs for them to be able to focus on foreign-relation issues. The fieldwork surveys conducted in April 2013 in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan, which included interviews with local CSO-activists and researchers, find that some CSOs have successfully operated foreign-relation-oriented activities such as dialogues and forums between the private sector and influential elites of both countries (the Genron NPO), as well as face-to-face contact and co-operative activities between CSO-leaders [the CSNet (Japan-China Civil Society Network) NPO], so as to facilitate construction of a shared public sphere between two countries. However, most Japanese and Chinese CSOs are hampered by relative limitations of scale, funding, and employee loyalty and therefore require support from government, the private sector, and ordinary citizens in order to actively and productively engage in the foreign-relation realm.

This research suggests that, for the two great civilizations -Japanese and Chinese - taken individually, as China

develops into a more influential power in East Asia and the world, the Chinese people will be able to become more civil-minded, more rational citizens, taking part in a regional identity as well as bearing more global responsibility; while the Japanese people, considering their democratic accomplishment, civic morality, and aspirations for peace, deserve a brighter, more promising future. It is important to establish deep historical reconciliation, shareable collective memory and common regional identity between Japanese and Chinese people, so as to moderate the undercurrent of ultra-nationalism in both countries and forge a promising Japanese-Sino public sphere, via multiple approaches such as intergovernmental cooperation, economic integration, as well as CSOs transnational interactions, which have been studied in this research and hope to be studied further in future research.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

1. Sep. 20, 2012. Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou. Workshop on Japan-China Comparative Research.
“China’s Civil Society Organizations and Foreign-relation Issues.” Liu Jun.
2. Mar. 5, 2012. Changzhou Institute of Technology, Changzhou. Symposium on Public Arts and Community Revitalization.
“The Role of Civil Society Organizations for Public Art Development in Yokohama, Japan.” Liu Jun.
3. Apr. 29, 2011. Shanghai University, Shanghai. Conference on Public Culture and Public Arts.
“The Role of Civil Society Organizations for Revitalizing Local Community in Japan.” Liu Jun.

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

1. *Hua’nan Riben Yanjiu (Japanese Studies in South China)*. Vol.4. 2013 (accepted, the publication of the journal postponed)
“China’s Development Model in Perspective of Japan-China Comparison.” Liu Jun.
2. *Dushu (Reading Monthly)*. 2013(3), pp37-42. Mar. 2013.
“Is There a China’s Model, and if any, Right? – from the Perspective of Japan-China Comparison.” Liu Jun.
3. *Gonggong Yishu (Public Arts)*, 2011(4), pp58-60. Aug. 2011.
“Public Art as Spiritual Welfare: Public Arts Patronage Experiences in Yokohama.” Liu Jun.

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