

COMPLETION REPORT

[Research Summary]

This project set out to investigate an interrupted relations between Japan and the East Malaysian state of Sabah (formally known as North Borneo), Japanese presence in Sabah went back to the late 19th century with the arrivals of business entrepreneurs and laborers. This relationship blossomed and Japanese companies thrived in the state. At one point, there were more than 1,000 Japanese living in Sabah. The Pacific however, abruptly ended this long standing relationship, initial post-war situation did not allow the resumption of this relationship. It was not until the 1950s when Japanese firms and ships once again tried to make an inroad to the rich natural resources of Sabah. The intial reaction was less than enthusiastic. This perception began to change especially after the successful Tokyo Olympic and the full rehabilitation of Japan into the international community. Relations between Japan and Sabah began to pick up during the late 1960s and throughout 1970s to 1990s especially in the timber business and the successful copper mines in Mamut Ranau. This was further enhanced by the presence of Japan aid agencies which strived to help to improve on the quality of life in Sabah. The project is also to show the human-to-human dimension of this relationship. The Look East Policy introduced by the Malaysian government also further helped to rekindle the relationship between Sabah and Japan as more Sabah students received scholarship to study in university in Japan. Another area which have not receive sufficient attention is the presence of former members of the Japanese Imperial Army or their descendants who came to Sabah as a way to remember the past. Their visits have helped to further cement the people-to-people relationship between Japan and Sabah. This project concludes that by the late 1980s, relationship between Japan and Sabah has returned to the pre-war level. In fact it went beyond what were achieved during the earlier period.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

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

In preparation

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

In progress of preparation: Sources pertaining to Japan and Sabah as reported in North Borneo News and Sabah Times, 1958-1994