

Completion Report

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Under the sponsorship of the Sumitomo Foundation, from April 2021 to April 2022, I carried out the research project entitled: Becoming new citizens or excluding from society: A study of a postcolonial history of Japanese community in Vietnam, 1940s-1960s. In the frame of this research project, I would like to report the academic result which I have achieved:

1. After the end of the Second World War (1945), a number of Japanese soldiers and civilians for various reasons did not return to their homeland but continued to stay in Vietnam. The number of these Japanese was not accurate because of the turbulent context at that time. The majority of Japanese married Vietnamese women and become “new Vietnam citizens”.

These Japanese migrants participated in supporting the new Vietnamese government. For their wishes, during the period from 1954 to 1960, there were a total of five repatriations for Japanese returning hometowns. The Vietnamese government had policies to support the return to Japan. By the end of 1960, the last Japanese soldiers and civilians in North Vietnam were repatriated with their families to Japan.

2. During the time of doing this research, I found that the Vietnam National Archives Center 111 is preserving many important documents on the Japanese people, records of background, as well as quite detailed statistics on names, ages, and hometowns of the Japanese staying in Vietnam. The extraction of valuable information from these archival materials enabled me to draft a research paper on the repatriation of Japanese in Vietnam from 1954 to 1960.

3. Through the surveys, I obtained a great deal of information about the life of these Japanese soldiers as well as their spouses. These days, most of the wives of the Japanese soldiers are too old and died. However, their grandchildren started to reconnect with their relatives in Japan and Vietnam.

In conclusion, it is interesting to highlight the existence and the contribution of the Japanese to Vietnam in the decades after 1945. By deeply understanding this subject, it would encourage me to conduct more research to find out more connections between Vietnam and Japan during this historic period. The data and references collected from archives and secondary sources will be utilized for research papers in the coming years.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.):
* A study of the Japanese community in Vietnam during the 1950s-1960s -
Presentation at the workshop which was held at Modern History Department, Institute of History
(Hanoi, January 2022)