

COMPLETION REPORT

Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences,

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【Subject of Research Project】

Educational Co-Operation in War-Torn Countries: Japan and The Republic of Vietnam in The 1960S-1970S

Changes in international relations during the Cold War led to the official reconnection between Vietnam and Japan, beginning with the Republic of Vietnam in South Vietnam and later including both North and South Vietnam after 1973. Cooperation between Vietnam and Japan, particularly in education, was significantly influenced by the context of war. The wars not only rekindled relations between the two countries but also shaped the nature of their cooperation during the 1960s and 1970s. From Japan's perspective, the severe consequences of World War II prompted the country to focus on economic development as a means of recovery. Consequently, Japan's ties and cooperative initiatives with the Republic of Vietnam centered around non-military programs and projects, which included humanitarian, medical, economic, cultural, and educational efforts.

The wartime context in the 1960s and 1970s in South Vietnam also influenced the specific methods of educational cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Vietnam. Educational projects aimed at establishing vocational training centers for orphans, expanding adult education networks, and constructing community-based training facilities directly addressed the social and educational challenges resulting from prolonged conflict in South Vietnam in the twentieth century.

Although the scale of cooperation was relatively modest compared to Japan's economic cooperation, the initiatives implemented during this period were notably diverse. They included training programs conducted both in Vietnam and Japan, the provision of educational equipment and learning materials, support for institutional development, and the exchange of experts, lecturers, and technical advisors. These activities not only met immediate needs but also created lasting legacies for Vietnam's postwar educational reconstruction by contributing to human resource development, improving teaching capacity, and establishing the foundations for several important educational institutions.

Overall, these early forms of cooperation demonstrate that educational collaboration played a crucial role in maintaining continuity in Vietnam-Japan relations, despite political instability and wartime fragmentation. Educational cooperation served as a non-controversial and mutually beneficial area that promoted trust, expanded people-to-people connections, and gradually deepened bilateral understanding. It can thus be affirmed that Japan's educational engagement during the 1960s and 1970s helped lay the groundwork for the more comprehensive and institutionalized cooperation frameworks that emerged in the post-Cold War era, contributing to the long-term development of a stable, resilient, and increasingly close Vietnam-Japan partnership.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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