

Research on the Linkage between Industrial Development and Migration Networks



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● Research Outline

My research has explored the representation of the history and culture of the localized immigrants like Peranakan Chinese in Singapore and Ryukyu Chinese in Okinawa.

My current research project focuses on the development of the pineapple processing industry and the linkage to migrant networks in the places considered as the periphery of the empire, like Hawaii, Taiwan, British Malaya, and Okinawa. As for the pineapple industry in US-occupied Okinawa, it can be attributed to Taiwanese immigrants' contribution to the development of the industry in prewar period, as well as foreign investment policies by USCAR (United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands) which was the governing body at the time, and preferential treatment by the Japanese government.

The introduction of new technology was greatly influenced by US-led training programs, such as technical trainings in Hawaii by USCAR. Even though a considerable number of Okinawans joined these training programs in collaboration with Okinawans in Hawaii, research based on the perspectives from the extensive immigrants' networks and the development of industries has only just begun.

My current research project is to clarify the development of the industry by focusing on the linkage with immigrant networks in the Asia-Pacific region during the Cold War period.