

Japan-Taiwan JOINT SEMINAR	
Discussion Group “The History of Cultural Exchange between Japan and China — A Comparative Study of Chinese and Japanese Ancient Legal Codes”	
Date	November, 1 st (Sunday) and 2 nd (Monday), 2009
Place	National Taiwan University, The Humanities Research Center, Conference room (Taipei, Taiwan)
Participants	FURUSE, Natsuko (Professor, Ochanomizu University), NODA, Yukiko (Research Fellow, Ochanomizu University) YAGOSHI, Yoko, SHIGETA, Kasumi, SOMEI, Chika, NAGAI, Mizue, FURUUCHI, Eriko, MENG, Jing, NAMBA, Mio, HAMASAKI, Rumi (Doctoral students, Ochanomizu University) GAO, Dandan (International student, Graduate school, Ochanomizu University)

The Joint Seminar “Discussion Group: The History of Cultural Exchange between Japan and China – A Comparative Study of Chinese and Japanese Ancient Legal Codes” was held at National Taiwan University, on November, the 1st and the 2nd, in 2009. On the topic of the history of cultural exchange between Japan and China, a classical yet new topic, graduate students and teaching staff from Ochanomizu University, National Taiwan University, and other institutions had lively discussions, in particular on the text of a new code of the T'ien-sheng Statutes which has been found recently in China and draws attention among scholars. We'd like to express our appreciation to Professor SHYU, Shingching, Chairman of the Department of Japanese Language and Literature at National Taiwan University – the institution that affiliated us – for cooperating with professor Gao, Mingshi, Emeritus Professor of the Department of History at National Taiwan University, to organize the program for us who major in Japanese history. For this program, the graduate students majoring in history from National Taiwan University and other institutions made extra efforts in reading documents in a comparative study of Chinese and Japanese ancient legal codes. The graduate students from Ochanomizu University too had organized their research papers by connecting their topics to the cultural exchange between Japan and China or the comparison of Chinese and Japanese ancient legal codes. All these efforts brought on the uniformity in their themes, and led to quite fruitful discussions.

In academic conferences in Taiwan, it has been a long time custom to put a *yodan-jin* (discussant) in each presentation session, who makes comments on the presentation. This time too, they arranged as a *yodan-jin* teaching staff from National Taiwan University or a researcher from Taiwan or Japan for a speaker from Ochanomizu University, and a graduate student from Ochanomizu University for a speaker from Taiwan; as we had to read in advance presentations to serve as a *yodan-jin*, it was necessary to send our papers very early. Also to do *yodan-jin*, it is mandatory not just to read a presenter's article but to study its research history beforehand. This must have required much work for the graduate students. It was a precious experience that we had an opportunity to study articles from the Statutes codes such as those for paddy fields, for barn animals, and for the treatment of criminals, which we hardly have an occasion to read otherwise.

The professors from National Taiwan University gave us pieces of advice to the point. Also they complimented our graduate students on the quality of their presentations. The graduate students from Taiwan made their presentation in Chinese, while the graduate students from Ochanomizu University mainly in Japanese. Some graduate students from the Department of Japanese Language and Literature at National Taiwan University translated the discussions; though we were impressed by the level of accuracy of the interpretation, I still ponder on the language that should be used in this type of seminar.

The temperature in Taiwan is normally 20 degree Celsius, but when we visited, it was unusually cold with the temperatures of 12 to 13 degrees. The two-day seminar, however, was full of heated discussions and presentations with a large audience of graduate students and researchers. I was grateful that Ms. WONG, Yuxuan, who received a PhD at Ochanomizu, participated in the seminar. I'd like to express our gratitude to the teaching staff from Taiwan University for warmly accepting us despite their tight schedule. As Professor Gao, Mingshi suggested, I hope we continue this exchange between Ochanomizu University and National Taiwan University long in the future.

(Professor, Ochanomizu University, FURUSE, Natsuko)