

On the workshop for studying the legislation of the Republic of China (*Chuka Minkoku Hosei Kenkyukai*)

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Abstract

A workshop for studying the legislation of the Republic of China (*Chuka Minkoku Hosei Kenkyukai*) was established by Teikichi Murakami and Joji Matsumoto around 1930. The members of the workshop consisted mainly of young professors and associate professors of the Faculty of Law at Tokyo Imperial University, including Sakae Wagatsumk, Kotaro Tanaka, and Seiichiro Ono. The workshop mainly did the translation-and-annotation work of each regulation of the ROC, and published a vast quantity of books until 1945.

The workshop received subsidies from the Chinese Cultural Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as working funds, and also received financial support from some *Zaibatsu* (*financial conglomerates*). According to the memoranda of the workshop, they did the translation and annotation work of important statutes and gave expert criticisms of them, and sometimes investigated the history of the legislations. They also published many books, made academic exchanges between China and Japan, and offered legal information to concerned persons.

Their activity soon attracted great publicity in China. They were also know among the legislation authorities at the ROC, and the magazines published in the ROC also introduced them to a wider audience. It seemed that the activities of this workshop also

affected the legislative work of the ROC. In 1938, several themes of new research programs such as the settlements, the *bao-jia* system, and the right of navigation on inland rivers, were added as a result of the workshop.

In 1939, the Board of Development of Asia (*Koa-in*) took over control of the workshop from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 1942, the Ministry of Greater East Asia (*Dai-Toa-Sho*) took over control. During this period, no details about the workshop are known because no historical records exist. However, some unpublished manuscripts were submitted to an editor and some on-going research projects also existed just before the end of the war. It seems that the workshop ceased its activities at the end of the war.