
History and Contemporary of Japanese Studies in Thailand

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Introduction

The history of the relationships between Thailand and Japan started in Sukhothai period and has been developed from time to time. Sometimes this relationship was strengthened, but sometimes it was static. As the matter of fact, the history of active Japanese studies in Thailand is relatively short.

It is attempted by this article to give the bird's eye views on the history and contemporary of Japanese studies in Thailand which could be divided into 3 parts as followings:

I. The background of Japanese studies in Thailand

- II. The contemporary of Japanese studies in Thailand in the from of
 - 1) Curriculum concerning the study on Japan in secondary school level and University level
 - 2) Materials on Japan written or published in Thailand up to April 1986. The materials are in the from of academic articles, books, research papers, graduate student's Thesis.
 - 3) Academic seminars on Japan
- III. Direction and future prospect.

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I. The background of Japanese studies in Thailand

The background of Japanese studies in Thailand bases upon the long history of the relationships between the two nations since Sukhothai period up to Ratanakhosin period. The relationships have been developed, deepened and finally established for specific study as "Japanese studies" in the early 1970's.

Regrettably, the information on the very early relationships between Siam and Japan could be found from Japanese and Chinese sources only. The relationships in this period was in the form of trade relation conducted through Chinese and Korean merchants. According to Chinese evidence, in the middle of 14th century, six Siamese ambassadors escaped from Japan (Without any declared reason) to Korea. This points out that the diplomatic relation between the two nations was presumably established by that time¹

Continually, approximately 30 years during Ayuthaya period (from 1606–to 1636) beginning from the reign of King Ekathotsarot of Siam or Minamoto Ieyasu Shogunate of Japan to the reign of King Prasart Thong, the relationships became closer in the form of trade and official correspondence as well as visits of missions. Despite the fact that there was no diplomatic relation between Ayuthaya and Shogun Tokugawa due to Japan's decision to close the country from outside world for 200 years up to the middle of Chakkri Dynasty, trade between Siam and Japan had continually carried out through the Chinese.

Noticeably, the relationships during the first 2 periods were stressed on trade aspect and diplomatic relation between the Thai royal court and the Shogunal court. They were simple in the form of bilateral contact with few complicated variables or factors of national interests. Contrary to the following period of Ratanakhosin in which the Thai began to pay more attention to Japan as a special important country among other Asian nations. The variables or important factors were, for example; the rise of western colonialism in Asia, The Thai Revolution of 1932, World war II, the decline of colonialism, the declaration of independence of Southeast Asian countries and the rise of nationalism.

King chulalongkorn and the Emperor Meiji saw a similar essence to reform and modernize the countries along the western line with a similar initial objective of resisting western imperialism, through the so called Chakkri Reformation (1868–1910) and Meiji Restoration (1868–1912). Japan was then recognized as a worthy model for civilization that the Thai would like to emulate. The well know literary repute expressed on the Japanese that only a few centuries earlier, being a backward people on the edge of the civilized world, had grown to the point where they were able to compete on the equal term with the European. Even more they could **defeat** and become **superior** to the westerner after the victory over the Russians 1905.

Consequently, the rapid progress in various field of activities which Japan had been making since the beginning of the Meiji Restoration caught the attention mostly for the Thai ruling elite of the absolute monarchy period. One could find many articles referring to the case of Japan as an example of success. This period of attention notified by Dr. Charnvit Kasetsiri as "**The period of being Civilization (1880–1920)**"².

The important turning period of the Thai history was the Revolution of 1932. The royal courtiers and existing elite were succeeded by a new power structure comprised of civil service officials and military officers. In the meanwhile, Japan, with a rapid progress, had become an industrial and military power of consequence. A result of modernization program had inevitably turned Japan into an imperialist nation. However both Thai civil and military leaders at that time perceived the western Imperialism emulated by Japan in the cases of conquering over China, Korea and lastly Russia as "to revenge the westerner than to interfere with the Asian countries"³. Besides, the birth of nationalism emphasized by the military government of Marshal Pibulsongkram tried to establish the Thai Empire. To support such view was the French–Siamese Conflict in November 1940. This period of attention notified by Dr. Charnvit as "**The period of being the leader of Indo–China Peninsula (1930's–1940's)**"⁴.

After W.W II, the attention on Japan had been broadly expanded. Not only the government leaders and civil officers but also the scholar and the columnist had played an

important role of bringing out published articles and critics. This period was called "**The period of being the leader in ASEAN (1950's–1980's)**"⁵. Many Thai scholars, especially those who work in the university level graduated from foreign countries including Japan. They began to pay an active interest in studying about Japan with the objective of academic purpose. Japan as an image for emulation has been fading away while deep studies in all aspects for academic purpose has become more and more apparent. This knowledge will be applied according to the situation and need in further development of the Thai nation.

In the beginning of this period, the knowledge of Japan was formally introduced to the Thai people through the western eyes. During the last 20 years, there has been remarkably an increasing number of Thai scholars in Japanese studies, covering wide varieties of topics. Most of them have had first hand information or experiences from Japan either through study tour, research or education in that country.

In early 1970's a Thai–Japanese studies Program was formed at Kasetsart University, then in 1976 it was moved to the Institute of Asian Studies at Chulalongkorn University. In 1981, Japanese Studies Center was established as an organization within Thammasat University and gradually expanded its activities to develop Japanese studies in Thailand. The executive committee of the Japanese Studies Center has been trying to promote learning and teaching of Japanese studies at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, to organize academic seminars and

to disseminate knowledge on Japan to both the private and public sectors. A relatively large number of faculty staff in Thammasat who were educated from Japan, have been the core of the group. Lastly in 1985, Japanese Studies Center, a part of the Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University has

been officially established at Rangsit Center. The main objective is to establish the Center of interdisciplinary studies and the information center for the public. This will give mutual benefit and enhance further development of relationship between the two nations.

II. The contemporary of Japanese Studies in Thailand

1. Curriculum concerning the study on Japan in secondary school level and university level

(1) Secondary school level

The study on Japan in secondary school level will be introduced in the social studies course named "Our Neighbour" in the second year of secondary school level which has six years of study. However, more study on Japan is systematically organized in the social studies course "Our World" in the third year of secondary school.

The text book for "Our World" course has divided the world into three groups of countries namely, the first world which consisted of the developed countries, the second world which consisted of the socialist countries and the third world which is the developing countries. Japan is the only country in Asia that included in the group of the first world.

The study on Japan in this course, according to the objective of the curriculum which was adopted by the Ministry of Education since 1978, is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of geographic characteristics, climate, natural resources, population distribution, historical background, economic,

political, social and cultural aspects of Japan as well as Thai-Japanese relations⁶. The content in "Our World" text book is very compact and relatively useful for knowing present situation of Japan. However, there are some weak points concerning on understanding the total process of Japanese development and its problems.

From the forth year to the sixth year of secondary school level, there is an elective course in social studies, namely, "East Asia in Contemporary World". This subject is aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the development and changes of politics, economics, social and culture in Japan after the second World War, recognizing the roles of Japan in contemporary world and using the historical experiences of East Asian countries as a lesson for the development of Thailand.

The curriculum of this course which was adopted by the Ministry of Education since 1981 and the text book for this subject, are well planned and the contents also cover various aspects and problems of Japan in the present day, especially in the text book which

was published by private publishings company.⁷

Judging from the social studies course's text books in the secondary school level, the knowledge and understanding on Japan in Thailand were strongly emphasized by the Ministry of Education since 1978. This new trend is considered to be very useful to pave the way for the development of Japanese studies in the future and for more in-dept studies in the higher level. Nevertheless, in learning the facts and the experiences of Japanese development, we should always check and update the correct statistic data and contents as well as the changing world situations surrounding Japan. And in some aspects there might be too early to has only one conclusion, since the social studies in Japanese secondary school are also subject to change and have some controversial problems.

(2) University level

For Japanese language course, out of total 12 state universities, there are now 9 state universities providing Japanese language courses in which 3 universities, namely, Chulalongkorn, Thammasat and Kasetsart university are offering major programe in Japanese language studies. At the same time, 3 private universities and many commercial colleges are also offering Japanese language courses to respond to the Japanese language boom and its significant in Thailand⁸ However, there are still two most important problems which hindering the qualitative development of Japanese language development in Thailand, namely, the insufficient of qualified teaching staffs and the lack of

suitable materials and text books. There are few text books written in Thai language and have an explanation for the student to study easily by themselves. Most of the materials for the Japanese language education are bringing in from Japan without and modification. Recently, The Ministry of Education of Thailand has promoted Japanese language programme in secondary school from the forth year to the sixth year grade as an elective language, but this ambitious is seemed to be not so successful because of those two most important problems as mentioned earlier.

For the curriculum concerning the study on Japan in various aspects, we found that almost of Thai Universities are providing courses on Japanese Studies. According to the result of survery in early 1986 by the author, all Thai State Universities are offering courses on Japan or partly related to Japan. The Japanese Studies courses which have had in various departments or faculties in Thai State Universities are in the fields of economics, polities, history literatures, philosophy, religion, cultures, geography, sociology, custom and social life, art and architecture, mass communication as well on law (See Appendix) However, the number of lecture courses or subjects are varied from University to University. This also can be said in the scopes, contents and characteristics of each course as well.

Some courses are directly emphasized on the study of Japan, such as the course of "Japanese Economy" in Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, and in Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, and the course of "Economic History of Japan" in

Faculty of Economic, Ramkamhaeng University. In Faculty of Political Sciences of Thammasat University, there are courses concerning on "Japanese Politics, Japanese Foreign Policies" and "Seminar on Problems of Japan's modernization"

Some faculties or universities which have had long history of development trend to have more courses in Japanese Studies directly. On the other hand, the young faculties or Universities as well as private universities which have limited number of staffs in the field of Japanese Studies, are trying to offer lecture courses partly related to Japan in the form of comparative studies and East Asian Studies.

In private universities which the number have increased recently to 15 universities, there are also some signs of improvement and promotion of Japanese Studies. At least 3 private universities are providing Japanese language courses, namely Thai Chamber of Commerce University, Krik University and Payap University. In the other fields of studies, to cite for example. Thai chamber of Commerce University has courses as "Social and Politics of Japan" and "East Asian Civilization", Payap University which had rapidly developed in recent years, has various courses directly to Japanese Studies such as "Japanese History", "Japanese religious literatures" and "Japanese Philosophy"

Concerning to the problems of objectives and motivations in teaching Japanese Studies to Students, it is quite clear that every scholar wants to increase the knowledge and understanding of Japan. Besides, totally

understand the Japanese people and her country development as well as other aspects, we should also try to compare and refer to our society as much as possible. It is worth to mention here that there are some courses on foreign relationship, but on lecture course that specially deals with Thai-Japanese relations, although the two countries have a long and close relationship in all aspects, economics, politics, social and cultural relations.

In the case of text books for those lecture courses, there are only some good text books written by Thai scholars in Thai language, the majority of text books are still the works of western scholars. Nevertheless, recently the number of translation works are increasing and some of them are directly translated from Japanese language and books written in English language by Japanese authors.

According to the recent trend, the development of Japanese Studies in Thai Universities, in terms of both quantity and quality, is in the process of "take off" period. This is because Thammasat University has now offered its Japanese Studies programme as a minor status for students who interested in this area study from this educational year, 1986. And the present situation is quite favourable for expanding and deeping the Japanese Studies in University level because of the number of scholars who are interested in Japanese Studies are much increased, the cooperation among people who are interested in Japanese Studies through the coordinative efforts of Japanese Studies Center of Thammasat University was established, And an organizational support programme as well as

long term development policies for the purpose of increasing and promoting real specialists in Japanese studies was set up and will begin from this year (1986) through the so called "Core University Programme for Japanese Studies and Thai-Japanese Studies "between Thammasat University and The Center For Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University with the support of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) V. At the same time, The Japan Foundation and other organization are also increasing their supports for the development of Japanese Studies in Thailand according to the needs of Thai scholars and institution in the nation wide level as well. Thus, the crucial point is that how the Japanese studies activities will contribute to Thailand's development and Thai-Japanese relationships?

Relating to this matter, the curriculum concerning the study on Japan in the Universities level, the contents of lectures teaching methods, text books and reference readings, the objectives and the needs of providing lecture course on Japan or partly related to Japanese studies must be seriously considered and work out in the proper way that could serve both for academic purpose and contribution to the country development goal or to serve for the society as a whole.

The increasing number of courses on Japanese studies, *per se*, will increase the chance of learning and understanding the fact of Japan and enhancing the knowledge of Japanese studies, but the practical use of Japanese studies for the purpose of serving the society needs and improving better

relationships or solving the problems of economic relations between Thai and Japan, is another matters. In this sense, the objective and the quality of each lecture course and the direction of Japanese studies activities are much concerned.⁹ So far, the Japanese studies activities in universities level are partly done after a fashion and according to the availability of financial and material resources from foreign countries. Thus, the condition of real "take-off" is depend upon Thai scholars to develop more self-reliance Japanese studies programme with the clear objectives of seeking academic excellence and truly serving the society as well as promoting better understanding between Thai and Japanese people in the long run.

2. Materials on Japan written or published in Thailand

In order to analyse the recent trends of Japanese studies in Thailand, we could do in the framework of surveying the numbers and the contents of materials on Japan which were written or published in Thailand in this recent years

(1) Academic articles

According to the survey be Sida (Chety) Sonsri¹⁰ from 1907 to 1980 and from 1981 to 1983, and by the author in early 1986, there are about 1,300 articles in which most of them were published in 1970's and after. The average number of articles published in early 1980's is nearly 200 articles per year. The field of public interest and judging from the number of articles, we may say that the topics on economics and politics are highly

popular, follows by history, travel, social life and custom.

However, in term of content, the quality of articles are varied from general impression to analytical academic work. Generally speaking, about 70 percents of those articles could be classified as academic articles or informative and substantial articles. Recently, articles concerning on Japanese management and business are remarkably increasing in numbers. The chronological trade imbalance problems between Thailand and Japan, especially in 1982-1985 has caused the flood of articles on Thai-Japanese trade, investment and economic relations.

It is also worth to note here that since there are many new weekly magazines and academic journals have published out in early 1980's thus the forums for Thai intellectuals and scholars to present their views and the result of their studies are existed. At the same time, Thai journalists and publishers are also recognizing the economic power of Japan and devoting more pages to articles that related to Japan and on Japanese studies. Particularly, the quarterly journal "Thai-Japanese studies Monograph" which entirely devotes to articles on Japanese studies and Thai-Japanese comparative studies, has been playing the most important role in promoting academic works on Japan.

(2) Books on Japan

Materials on Japan in the form of books and published papers from 1950 to 1985 are roughly about 500 selections. However, more than half of them are published in early

1980's and the popularity field of interest is the same as in the case of articles, which is on economics, business, politics, history, travel, social life and custom as well as literary works.

Comparing to the past, many relatively high quality and substantial books on Japanese studies in various aspects have been written or and translated into Thai language in the first half of 1980's. The increasing support programs from Japan, especially the publication support program of the Japan Foundation, A Joint Translation Project of The Toyota Foundation and the Foundation for the Promotion of Social Science and Humanities Textbooks Project, and The Sanwa Bank Foundation are contributing to the high growth rate of the publication of books on Japan during this period.

Yet, "the Bushido Spirit" which was written by Prof. Sathian Pantharangsi in 1935 and the forth reprint edition in 1965 was still one of the most popular books on Japan among Thai readers. Since books on Japan which has many reprint edition is very rare in Thailand, except some textbooks and Japanese language textbooks, it's worth to mention here that besides the so called "White Paper on Restructuring Economic Relations Between Thailand and Japan" of Thai government in June 1985 which was widely recopied and the big news-maker book in this decade because of its confidential policy, there are now 6 best-seller books on Japan at present.

1. "Qc. Circle Concept" written by Klaharn Voraputaporn, published by Techno-

logical Promotion Association (Thai-Japan), first printing in 1983 and third reprint edition in 1985.

2. "Japanese Style Management" translated and edited by Werapong Chalermjirarat published by Image Publishing House, first printing and second reprint edition in 1983.

3. "Knowing Japan : Economic and Social Aspects" written by Dr. Khoon thong Inthai, published by Sarngsan Publishing House, first printing in 1983 and second reprint edition in 1985.

4. "Thai People and Japanese People who will be.....than other," written by Dr. Khoonthong Inthai, published by Pattayarkam Publishing, first printing in 1984 and second reprint edition in 1985.

5. "Totto chan-The Little Girl at the Window" by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, translated by Bhussadee Navavichit, published by Karat Publishing House, first printing in 1984 and third reprint edition in 1985. More than 10,000 copies were sold out.

6. "Yochien Dewa Ososugiru-Kindergarten is Too Late." by Masaru Ibuka, translated by Theera Sumitra and Pornanong Niyomka, published by Moa Chaoban Publishing House, first printing in 1985 and reprint for the third edition in early 1986. This book is more than 20,000 copies best-seller book.

It is also interesting to note that all books, except the book "QC. Circle Concept.," were published without any support program from the earlier mentioned foundations.

Nevertheless, in response to the increasing interest in Japan and the development

of Japanese Studies Center as well as the promotion of Japanese studies activities in all levels and nation wide perspectives, it is expected that more and more high quality and very substantial books on Japan will be increased in the near future. Actually, there are various fields of books on Japan were just published in 1985 and early in 1986. Some substantial works are in the process of writing and translation. And many books which written by Japanese scholars and intellectuals are also in the list of publication. For example, the work of Prof. Futake Tadashi "Japanese Rural Society," Prof. Minami Ryoshin "The Economic Development of Japan," Prof. Minami Hiroshi "Psychology of The Japanese," Prof. Ouchi Tsutomu "NIHON NOGYO RON" (Japanese Agricultures), and Prof. Odaka Kunio "NIHON-TEKI KEIEI" (Japanese Style Management), are expected to be published soon.

(3) Research papers on Japan

Since Thai-Japanese economic relations is very close and still has many problems to be solved, there are many research papers done by Thai scholars in the field of economics and Thai-Japanese relationships. And recently, there are about 9 research projects studying Japanese style management and production control technique, particularly "Quality Control Circle or Q.C.C." which are now widely introduced in Thai-Japanese joint venture firms.¹¹

According to the registered research projects of Thai scholars in state universities during 1974-1983 which compiled by the Ministry of University Affairs in 1985, there

are 42 research projects concerning on Japanese studies. Since some Thai scholars are also doing researches which receiving financial supports from foreign organizations or foundations and did not register the research projects, the total number of research projects must be higher than that a little.

However, research papers which concentrated in studying on Japan directly and deeply analysis are relatively small in number. And the real meaning of joint research projects between Thai scholars and Japanese scholars are also few. Nevertheless, as the scholarships for advanced education, researches, visiting fellowships and joint research projects as well as exchange of scientist program are more available from various sources, it is expected that more Thai scholars will participate in doing research on Japan in various fields or various topics. In fact, during 1980-1985 Japanese fiscal year, under the Exchange of Scientist Program in Social Science and Humanities between the National Research Council of Thailand and The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, there were about 8 Thai scholars went to do their researchs in Japan per year. However, those research results have not yet totally came out.

At present, some kinds of directive plan and in-dept researchs are necessary because the Japanese Studies Center has had started its basic research projects on Japanese studies in Thailand in various fields since 1985, and now is going to promote research projects which could serve and contribute to the improvement of Thai-Japanese economic relations and the needs of society, while continuing its interdisciplinary basic research programs.

(4) Graduate student's thesis

In Thai university, under-graduate students are not required to write a thesis to fulfil their studies, but graduate students in master degree course have to write a thesis to fulfil their studies. Therefore, graduate students, theses concerning on Japan are another indicators for recent trends and future prospects of Japanese studies in Thailand.

During 1973-1985, there are about 29 master degree dissertations related to Japan and the contents are mainly in the field of economic relations between Thailand and Japan in contemporary and historical perspective. The research works of graduate students on the topic of the history of Thai-Japanese relations in each period such as Ayuthaya period, Ratanakosin period, and during the Second world War could be considered as giving some contributions to the development of Japanese Studies in Thailand. So far, theses on Japan per se are few in number. The reasons of few deeply and analytical works on Japan may be the problem of language barrier and the lack of intention to be specialized in Japanese studies of Thai student. To some extents, this tendency is partly a result of low development in area studies in Thai universities in the past.

3. Academic seminars on Japan

Since the conference on "The Emergence of Modern States Thailand and Japan" which was jointly held by Thai-Japan Studies Program and The Institute of Asian Studies of Chulalongkorn University in 1976, seminars and conferences on Japan were relatively organized from time to time and in small

scale. However, with the support of Japan Foundation, the Faculty of Economic, Thammasat University had organized the conference on "Current development in Thai-Japanese Economic Relation : Trade and Investment" in 1979, since then a series of annual Conference on Thai-Japanese Economic Relation was organizey every year until 1982 and again in 1984. The second in its series of annual conference was on "Comparative Study on Pattrrens of Economic Development of Japan and Thailand". The third one was on "A Comparative Study on Patterns of Labor and Management in Japan and Thailand" And the forth one was on "Industrial Restructuring in Japan and Thailand." The fifth one was on "Manpower in Industrial Development : Japan and Thailand" which was held in 1984.

As Thai-Japanese conference was very popular the Faculty of Economic of Chulalongkorn University had also started to organize the conference on comparative study of Japan and Thailand with the same support from Japan Foundatin. The first year conference was on "A Comparative Study of the History of Rural Development in Japan and Thailand" in 1981, the second year was on "Comparative study of the Role of government in Economic Development in Japan and Thailand" in 1982, the third year was on "Transnational Corporations (TNCs) in Economic Development : A Comparative Study of Experiences between Japan and Thailand" in 1983, and the forth conference was on the topic "Japan, Asia and Thailand" which was held in March 1986.

In these two series of conferences, Thai and Japanese scholars as well as government officers and business men had good chances to exchange of views and comment the very professional papers reported by both sides which enable both parties to learn and understand more about each other. This kind of conference was also a good case for further promotion and for better mutual understanding.

At the same time, Japanese Studies Center of Thammasat University had also started its activities from 1981. In addition to its public lectures, seminars annual conference on Japanese Studies in various fields which including Japanese language, the first "International Seminar on Japanese Studies in Asean" was held in January 1984, with the participation of scholars from Japan, Asean countries and Australia. By refering to Japanese studies in the various countries could serve as one means of projecting our research beyond the narrow confines in each of our own nation's limited heritage in Japanese studies. This might be one of the reults of this seminar¹². Moreover, in order to follow the international seminar, Japanese Studies Center had organized a nation wide seminar on "Japanese studies in Thailand : in search of its Trend and Purpose" during February 20-21, 1986, which gained tremendous benefits from the active reviews of the past activities and the exchange of views among scholars who are interested in Japanese studies from all parts of Thailand.

Recently, many seminars were organized in various institutions, particulary at the Japanese Studies Center and The Institute of

Asian Studies and there is a tendency that these activities will increase in the future because of high public interests in Japanese studies. Nevertheless, the fruitful and practical use oriented results or suggestions from the seminars are also expected by the public and policy makers.

Besides seminars, there are also some training programs on Japanese studies which the Japanese studies Center has been organizing every year, and it is expected that these

activities will contribute toward a better prospect for the study on Japan to the students and general public.

For example, a training seminar for in-service Japanese teachers was held in January 1986 and a training seminar on Japanese studies for high school teachers which jointly organized with the Institute of Asean studies in February 1986 were received a highly evaluation.

III. Direction and future prospect

During the last decade, Japanese studies in Thailand was remarkably developed. The main reasons are that there are many Thai scholars who graduated from Japanese universities are engaging in Japanese studies, and scholarships for advanced education, researches, visiting fellowships and joint research projects are now more available from various sources to Thai scholars who are interested in Japanese studies. Comparing to the past, the number of publications concerning on Japanese studies have been increasing in various field of studies which helping Thai people to understand more about Japan.

However, in what direction should Japanese studies in Thailand be developed in the future is still the question to be answered. The interdisciplinary approaches are widely accepted but how to pursue with efficiency is another matters. And what is the objective of Japanese studies.

Considering the background of Japanese studies in Thailand, the objective of academic purpose is rather far away, particularly when the stage of country development was put into serious consideration. It is rather impossible to promote Japanese studies on the principle of "knowledge for knowledge's sake" at the very beginning of development, because of the availability of financial and human resources as well as the immediate needs of the society. It is generally agreed that the studies of Japan should aim at "understanding Japan in order to be able to use it as a background against which the scholars can project his country in order to have a better understanding of it".¹³

In this sense, the purpose to enrich the country or promote economic and social development in Thailand by learning from Japan's experiences should be spelled out as one of the objectives of Japanese studies. At the

same time, we should aim at promoting mutual benefit and understanding of the international society as well. Thus, the practical and academic interests should be well balanced and the effort to stimulate a good cooperation and coordinating among people and between Japanese people is also important.

At present, Japanese studies in Thailand are still relatively conducted by individual basis. Directive plans of development both short and long terms are not clear in nation wide level because of lacking close cooperation among institutions and scholars in this field.

It is quite happy that there are many foundations which generously supported and promoted Japanese studies for many Thai scholars in various institutions, but in order to pursue an intensive study in various aspects and to up grade the state of knowledge, a forum for discussing and exchanging of views as well as academic cooperation is needed. Regarding to this direction, more supports from all parties concering the Japanese studies are necessary.

The idea of an association of Japanese studies in Thailand should be discussed. Joint research and joint activities among Thai scholars themselves must be developed in the manner that could help the overall development of Japanese studies in the future.

However, for the time being, through cooperative participation in the design, conduct and close contact, the functions of Japanese Studies Center are very important.

Although the Japanese Studies Center is still in the early stage of development and has some problems such as financial resources and limited staff, the possibility of development is high because of its clear cut policies, namely, to be a think-tank of Japanese studies in Thailand, to be a center for mutual understanding for Thais and Japanese people, to serve for public interest and to strive self-reliance in the next 5 years.

In conclusion, we may say that the future prospect of Japanese studies in Thailand is relatively bright as the Japanese Studies Center of Thammasat University has now entered the new phase of its dynamic development and is striving continuously to promote cooperation among Thai scholars and between Japanese scholars who are interested in Japanese studies. With its information center, data and statistics as well as various kinds of informations and books on Japan, would also reduce the problems of information gap. Moreover, the Japanese-Thai translation program would encourage more students and young scholars to learn and do research on Japan, and increasing the knowledge and understanding of Japan in general as well.

At present, the knowledge on Japan for the Thais is of great interest and significance. The main problem is that how to have sufficient information in the correct form regarding to all aspects of Japan. However it should be cautioned that to promote Japanese studies does not mean to become Japanized.

Appendix

Courses on Japan offered in the Institution of Higher Education in Thailand :

Note : This survey is conducted by Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University in June 1986. All courses are gathered from the latest Undergraduate Curriculum from 16 institutions of higher education in Thailand. Four of them are the private universities, one college and the rest are the government owned.

Two Catageries of Japanese Studies courses are covered as follows

1. Directly Japanese studies courses
2. Partly related to Japan courses

Name of Institution of Higher Education	Undergraduate Bulletin's Year
1. Chulalongkorn University	1984
2. Thammasat "	1985
3. Ramkhamhaeng "	1984-1985
4. Kasetsart "	1984
5. Chiangmai "	1983-1984
6. Silpakorn "	1985
7. Khon-Kaen "	1984
8. Prince of Songkla "	1985
9. Srinakharinwirot "	1985
10. Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University	1985
11. King Mongkut's Institute of Technology (Latkrabang Campus)	1985
12. The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce	1983
13. Dhurakijpundit University	1985-1986
14. Krungthep University	1985-1986
15. Payap University	1984-1985
16. Krirk College	1985-1986

Courses on Japan Classified by Subject and Institution of Higher Education

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course number and Title
Economics	Chulalongkorn : Economics	611-327 Development Problems in Asia and Pacific
	: Arts	611-315 Comparative Economics History
	Thammasat : Economics	612-111 Economic Evolution
	Ramkhamhaeng : Economics	612-405 Economic in Selected Countries
	: Humanities	613-441 International Economic Issues
	Kasetsart	124-451 Japanese Studies III (Japanese Economic Study)
	Chiangmai : Social Sciences	EC 365 Japanese Economy
	Silpakorn	EC 395 Japanese Economic History
	Khon-Kaen	HI 466 Economic History of East Asia
	Prince of Songkla	—
	Srinakharinwirot	Econ 220 Economic History
	Sukhothai	—
	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology	—
	Thai Chamber of Commerce :	มศ. 4524 Japanese Economic History
	Humanities	มศ. 4525 Japanese Economic and Trade
	Dhurakijpundit : Economics	น.ร. 203 Economics History
	Krungthep	น.ร. 407 International Economic
	Payap	—
	Krirk College : Economics	EC 112 Economic History

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Political Science	Chulalongkorn : Political Science	311-453 Government and Politics of Asia 311-463 Asian Politic Thought 312-217 Thai Foreign Relation 312-218 Problems and Development in Eastern World I 312-219 Problems and Development in Eastern World II 312-464 Seminar on East Asian Affaires
	Thammasat : Political Science	PO 335 Politics and Government of Japan PO 383 Foreign Policy of Japan PO 437 Seminar on Problems of Japan's Modernization PO 215 History of Eastern Political Thoughts
	Ramkhamhaeng : Political science	PS 446 International Politics in East Asia PS 317 International Economic Relation PS 414 Comparative Public Administration Management
	Kasetsart : Social Science	PO 313 Politics and Government of Japan
	Chiangmai : Social Sciences	Gov 311 Comparative Governments Gov 422 Comparative local Governments Gov 426 Japanese Government and Politics
	Silpakorn : Arts	435-207 Foreign Policy of Great Powers
	Khon-Kaen	—
	Prince of Songkla	—
	Srinakharinwirot : Social Science	POL 322 Politics and Government of Asia

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Political Science	Sukhothai : School of Political Science	82321 Governments and Politics in Asia 82422 Great Powers in World Politics 82423 International Politics in Asia 82319 Comparative Political Systems
	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology	—
	Thai Chamber of Commerce : Humanities	№. 3523 Japanese Society and Politics
	Dhurakijpundit	—
	Krungthep	CA 303 Current Affairs
	Payap	—
	Krirk College	—
History	Chulalongkorn : Arts	116-321 History of China and Japan before Modern Period 116-322 History of China and Japan in Modern Period 116-324 History of Chinese and Japanese in Thailand 116-394 Survey of East Asian History 116-395 China Japan and Korea in the 20 th Century 116-397 History of Economic Development in Asia 116-408 Comparative History : Asia in the 20 th century 116-425 Diplomatic History of East Asia 116-426 Selected Problems in East Asia 116-428 Reading in East Asian History 116-492 Seminar on East Asian History 116-497 Selected Topics in East Asian History 124-351 Japanese Studies I (History and Geography study) 124-352 Japanese Studies II

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
History	Thammasat : Liberal Arts	HS 329 History of Japan After W.W. II JP 351 Japan Today HS 226 Pre-Modern History of East Asia HS 422 History of Modern East Asia HI 102 History of Eastern Civilization HI 362 History of East Asia before 19 th C. HI 461 History of East Asia in Modern Period HI 463 Japanese Modern History HI 468 Reading in East Asian History HIST 341 History of Japanese Civilization HIST 441 History of Modern Japan HIST 444 Japanese Roles in Contemporary World HIST 464 History of East Asia 080-119 Eastern Civilization 415-216 History of East Asia (From the beginning to 19 th c.) 415-236 History of East Asia (From 19 th c. to Present) 415-256 Modern Japanese History 415-257 Seminar on Asian History
	Kasetsart : Social Science	413-131 Eastern Civilization 413-232 Indian, Chinese and Japanese History 413-330 History of East Asia I 413-331 History of East Asia II 425-211 History of East Asia
	Chiangmai : Humanities Sillpakorn : Arts	HIST 331 History of East Asia HIST 381 History of Ancient Asia HIST 382 History of Modern Asia HIST 431 Readings in East Asian History HIST 434 History of Modern Japan
	Khon-Kaen : Humanities and Social Science	
	Prince of Songkla : Humanities and Social Science	
	Srinakharinwirot : Social Science	

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
History	Sukhothai : School of Educational Studies King Mongkut's Institute Thai Chamber of Commerce : Humanities Dhurakijpundit Krungthep : School of Humanities Payap : Humanities Krirk : Liberal Arts	22232 Social Studies 2 – ม.ศ. 2210 Eastern Civilization ม.ศ. 3522 Japanese Geography and History – LB 103 Comparative Civilization AH 102 History of the Eastern World AH 228 History of Japan before the Meiji Restoration AH 328 History of Japan from the Meiji Restoration to the Present AH 476 Contemporary World Affairs AT 341 History of Far East (China, Japan, Korea)
Language	Chulalongkorn : Arts	124-101/-102 Basic Japanese 124-201/-202/-301/-302 Japanese Reading and Writing 1-4 124-215/-216/-315/-316/-415/-416 Japanese Conversation 1-6 124-305/-306 The Structure of Japanese 1-2 124-323/-324 Classical Japanese 1-2 124-411 Japanese Writing Letter 124-412 Japanese Writing Speech 124-431/-432 Japanese Writing Style 1-2 124-417/-418 Japanese Translation 1-2 124-401/-402 Advanced Japanese Reading 1-2 124-405/-406 Advanced Japanese Writing 1-2 124-493/-494 Current Affairs 124-307/-308 Japanese Through Radio and Television 1-2

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Language	<p>Thammasat : Liberal Arts</p> <p>Ramkhamhaeng : Humanities</p> <p>Kasetsart : Humanities</p>	<p>JP 211/212/311/312/411/412 Japanese 3-8</p> <p>JP 221/222/321/322/421/422 Reading 1-6</p> <p>JP 231/232/331/322/436/437 Writing 1-6</p> <p>JP 246/247/346/347/446/447 Listening-Speaking 1-6</p> <p>JP 376/377 Structure of Japanese Language 1-2</p> <p>JP 486/487 Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language to Thai Students 1-2</p> <p>JP 496/497 Translation 1-2</p> <p>JA 101/102/201/202 Elementary Japanese 1-4</p> <p>JA 391/302 Intermediate Japanese 1-2</p> <p>JA 401/402 Advanced Japanese 1-2</p> <p>JAP 111/112/113 Elementary Japanese 1-3</p> <p>JAP 211/212 Intermediate Japanese 1-2</p> <p>JAP 311/312 Advanced Japanese 1-2</p> <p>JAP 221/222 Elementary Reading 1-2</p> <p>JAP 321/322 Intermediate Reading 1-2</p> <p>JAP 421/422 Advanced Reading 1-2</p> <p>JAP 231/232 Elementary Writing 1-2</p> <p>JAP 331/332 Intermediate Reading 1-2</p> <p>JAP 241/242 Elementary Listening-Speaking 1-2</p> <p>JAP 341/342 Intermediate Listening-Speaking 1-2</p> <p>JAP 441/442 Advanced Listening-Speaking 1-2</p> <p>JAP 423/424 Critical Reading 1-2</p> <p>JAP 433/434 Written Communication 1-2</p> <p>JAP 443/444 Simultaneous Translation 1-2</p> <p>JAP 461 Japanese for Tourism</p> <p>JAP 471 Japanese for Hotel Studies</p> <p>JAP 481 Japanese for Secretarial Science</p>

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Language	Ciangmai : Humanities	JA 101/102 Elementary Japanese 1-2 JA 201-202 Intermediate Japanese 1-2 JA 230 Advanced Japanese 1
	Silpakorn : Arts	080-189/080-190 Elementary Japanese 1-2
	Khon-Kaen : Humanities and Social Science	411-116/117/118 Japanese 1-3
	Prince of Songkla : Science	385-131/-132/-133 Japanese 1-3
	Srinakharinwirot	-
	Sukhothai	-
	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology : Industrial Education and Science	35000 Japanese 1 35001 Japanese 2 35002 Japanese and Japanese Culture 35200 Japanese 1 35201 Japanese 2 35300 Japanese Studies
	Thai Chamber of Commerce : Humanities	ม.ศ. 1501/1502/2503/2504 Basic Japanese 1-4 ม.ศ. 1505/2506/2507/3508/3509 Conversation 1-5 ม.ศ. 2510/3511 Writing 1-2 ม.ศ. 3512/3513 Reading 1-2 ม.ศ. 3514/3515/4516/4517 Translation 1-4 ม.ศ. 4518/4519 Reading and Oral Report 1-2 ม.ศ. 4520 Letter Writing ม.ศ. 4521 Report Writing
	Dhurakijpundit	-
	Krungthep	-
	Payap : Humanities	AF 151/152/251/252 Foundamental Japanese 1-4
	Krirk : Liberal Arts	AT. 155/156/255/256/357/358/359/464 Japanese 1-8

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Literature	Chulalongkorn : Arts	124-425 Japanese Poetry 124-361/-362 History of Japanese Literature 1-2 124-409 Modern Japanese Novel 124-410 Seminar in Modern Japanese Novel 124-423/-424 Japanese Drama 1-2 124-455 Seminar in Japanese Studies 124-499 Independent Study-Japanese
	: Political Science	110-161 Evolution of Eastern Literature
	Thammasat : Liberal Arts	JP 366 Japanese Classics JP 466 Modern Japanese Literary Works JP 266 History of Japanese Literature
	Ramkhamhaeng	—
	Kasetsart : Humanities	411/412 History of Japanese Literature 1-2 413 Japanese Literature in the Meiji and Taisho Periods 414 Japanese Literature in the Showa Period
	Chiangmai : Humanities	JA 250 Japaneses Literature 1
	Silpakorn : Arts	449-251 Master Piece of Eastern Literature
	Khon-Kaen	—
	Prince of Songkla	—
	Srinakharinwirot	—
	Sukhothai	—
	King Mongkut's Institute	—
	Thai Chamber of Commerce	—
	Dhurakijpundit	—
	Krungthep	—
	Payap : McGilvary Faculty of Theology	AR 443/444 Literature of Japanese Religious Thought 1-2
	Krirk	—

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Philosophy, Religion, Sociology and Culture	Chulalongkorn : Arts	116-421 History of Religion in China and Japan 116-496 Intellectual History of China and Japan 124-353/-354 Background of Japanese Culture 1-2
	: Political Science	124-452 Japanese Studies (Society and Political Study) 116-396 Social History of China, Japan and Korea 119-472 Japanese Philosophy 120-304 Oriental Theatre 313-314 Society and Culture in China and Japan
	Thammasat : Sociology, and Anthropology, Liberal Arts	SM 323 The Culture and Society of Japan JP 351 Japan Today SM 322 The Culture and Society of Far East HI 327 Intellectual History of East Asia PHI 378 Mahayana Philosophy
	Ramkhamhaeng : Humanities	PY 415 Comparative Religion PY 413 Mahayana Buddhist Philosophy HI 467 Intellectual Evolution of East Asia HIST 434 History and Culture of
	Kasetsart : Social Science	Intellectual in East Asia PHIL 368 Zen Buddhism as a Philosophy of Life
	Chiangmai : Humanities	RE 474 The Religions of China and Japan RE 477 Religious Movements in Contemporary Society
Silpakorn Khon-kaen : Humanities and Social Science		413-143 Principles of Eastern Philosophy 413-147 Comparison of Mahayana and Hinayana

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
	Khon-Kaen Prince of Songkla : Humanities and Social Science	413-246 Mahayana Buddhist Philosophy 425-398 Intellectual History of the East 427-495 Society and Culture in East Asia 437-205 Eastern Philosophy 2 438-417 Religion in China and Japan
	Srinakharinwirot Sukhothai King Mongkut's Institute Thai Chamber of Commerce : Humanities	– – – မန. 3523 Japanese Society and Politics မန. 2526/27 Japanese Culture 1-2
	Dhurakijpundit Krungthep Payap : McGilvary Faculty of Theology : Humanities Krirk	– – AP 369 Japanese Philosophy AH 482 Intellectual History of the Eastern World –
Architecture and Archaeology	Chulalongkorn Thammasat Ramkhamhaeng Kasetsart Chiangmai : Humanities Silpakorn : Archaeology Khon-Kaen Prince of Songkla Srinakharinwirot Sukhothai	– – – – – ARCH 374 Archaeological History of the Neighbouring Countries ART 354 Art and Architecture of China and Japan ARAR 203 Survey of Far Eastern Art History ARHA 403 Japanese and Korean Art ARHA 404 Oriental Ceramic Art – – – –

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
	King Mongkut's Institute	History of Architecture IV Thai Architecture and some East Asiatic Architecture
	Thai Chamber of Commerce	—
	Dhurakijpundit	—
	Krungthep	—
	payap	—
	Krirk	—
Geography	Chulalongkorn : Arts	117-346 Geography of East Asia
	Thammasat	—
	Ramkhamhaeng : Education	GE 454 Japanse Geography
	Kasetsart	—
	Chiangmai : Social Sciences	GEO 361 Geography of Asia GEO 467 Geography of the Eastern Hemisphere
	Silpakorn : Arts	416-233 Geography of East Asia
	Khon-Kaen	—
	Prince of Songkla : Humanities and Social Science	426-224 Geography of Asia
	Srinakharinwirot : Education	GEO 273 Geography of Asia
	Sukhothai	—
	King Mongkut's Institute	—
	Thai Chamber of Commerce	№. 3522 Geography and History of Japan
	Dhurakijpundit	—
	Krungthep	—
	Payap	—
	Krirk : Liberal Arts	AT 182 Geography af Asia and the Pacific

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Mass Communication	Chulalongkorn : Communication Arts	512-545 Comparative International Mass Media System
	Thammasat : Journalism and Mass Communication	511-408 International Press
		JC 408 Mass Communication in Asia
		JC 338 International Broadcasting
		JC 386 International Film
	Ramkhamhaeng	-
	Kasetsart	-
	Chiangmai : Humanities	Mass Com 100 A Survey of Mass Communication
		Mass Com 430 Broadcastsiting Management
	Silpakorn	-
	Khon-Kaen	-
	Prince of Songkla	-
	Srinakharinwirot	-
	Sukhothai : School of Communication Arts	16419 Radio and TV Programming
		16420 The Production of Radio and TV Program
		16421 The Management of Radio and TV Program
	King Mongkut's Institute	-
	Thai Chamber of Commerce	-
	Dhurakijpundit	-
	Krungthep : School of Communication Arts	CA 424 Comparative Mass Communication System
	Payap	-
	Krirk	-

Subject	Name of Institution and Faculty	Course Number and Title
Law	Chulalongkorn	—
	Thammasat	LA 439 Comparative Business Law
		LA 446 International Business
		Transactions
	Ramkhamhaeng	—
	Kasetsart	—
	Chiangmai	—
	Silpakorn	—
	Khon-Kaen	—
	Prince of Songkla	—
	Srinakarinwirot	—
	Sukhothai : School of Law	41402 Thai and Foreign Legal Systems
	King Mongkut's Institute	—
	Thai Chamber of Commerce	—
	Dhurakijpundit	—
	Krungthep	—
	Payap	—
	Krirk	—

Footnotes

1. Hideo Nishioka, *A Chronological History between Japan and Thailand*. (Japan: KEIO University, 1973) P.5.
2. Dr. Charnvit Kasetsiri's comment in seminar on "Japanese studies in Thailand : in search of its Trend and Purpose" during February 20-21. 1986. Held at Japanese Studies Center. Thammasat University, Rangsit Center.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. Dr. Walai Na Pompet and others, "Our World" Social studies text book (1) for secondary school level grade 3 (third year), Academic Department, Ministry of Education, Kurusapa Publishing House, Bangkok, 1985.
7. Dr. Suebsang Prombon "East Asia in Contemporary World" Aksorncharoentas publishing company 1985. The text books for this social studies course have two editions, one published by the Academic Department of the Ministry of Education and another one published by private publishing company. The Secondary school can freely choice and use either edition.
8. See more detail in Banyat Surakanvit "Japanese Studies in Thailand" Monograph Series No. 2 Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 1983.
9. See more detail in Banyat Surakanvit "Present situation of Japanese Studies in University level" Paper presented to the seminar on "Japanese Studies in Thailand : in search of its trend and purpose" held by Japanese Studies Centre, at Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University, Rangsit Center, Febuary 20-21, 1986.
10. Sida (Chety) Sonsri, "An Annotated Bibliography of Materials on Japan Written and/or Published in Thailand" The Japan Foundation, Bangkok, 1980, and "An Annotated Bibliography of Materials on Japan Written and/or Published in Thailand, 1981-1983" The Japan foundation, Bangkok, 1984.
11. See more detail in Banyat Surakanvit "Training and Transfer of Technology in Japanese-Thai Joint Venture Firms," Monograph Series No. 4, Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University, Bangkok 1983.
12. See : Ross Mouer and Banyat Surakanvit "Some Reflections on the Pattaya Seminar on Japanese studies in the Asean Nations" in "Thai-Japanese Studies" special issue : Mar. 1984 pp. 76-82.
13. See more detail in Likhit Dhiravegin "Note From An International Seminar on Japanese studies in Asean : A survey of Strengthsand Weaknesses" in "Thai-Japanese Studies" Special issue : Mar. 1984, pp. 73-74.

Reference

Books

1. Arthur E. Tiedemann. *An Introduction to Japanese Civilization*. Columbia University Press, 1974.
2. Banyat Surakanvit, *Japanese Studies in Thailand*. Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University, 1983. (Monograph Series No. 2).
3. Ezra F. Vogel. *Japan as Number I : Lessons for America*. Harvard University Press, 1980.
4. Likhit Dhiravegin, *Thai-Japanese Postwar Relations*. Japanese Studies Center, Thammasat University, 1983. (Monograph series No. 3).
5. Rong Syamananda, *A History of Thailand*. Chulalongkorn University, 1981.
6. Surangsri Tonsiengsom, *380 Years of Thai-Japanese Relationship*. Mungkorn Publishing, 1985.
7. Sida (Chety) Sonsri, Compiled and annotated “*An Annotated Bibliography of Materials on Japan Written and/or Published in Thailand*.” The Japan Foundation, Bangkok, 1980
8. Sida (Chety) Sonsri “*An Annotated Bibliography of Materials on Japan Written and/or Published in Thailand, 1981-1983*” Faculty of Political Sciences, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 1984.

Articles

1. Banyat Surakanvit and Piyakamol Sindhvananda “*Present Situation of Japanese Studies in University Level*.” paper presented to the seminar on “Japanese Studies in Thailand : in search of its trend and purpose” held by Japanese Studies Center, 20-21 Febuary 1986.
2. Charnvit Kasetsiri “*Japanese Studies in Thailand, its direction*” Paper presented to the seminar on “Japanese Studies in Thailand in search of its trend and purpose,” held by Japanese Studies Center, 20-21 Febuary 1986.

3. Likhit Dhiravegin “*Note From An International Seminar on Japanese Studies in Asean : A Survey of Strengths and Weaknesses.*” in “Thai-Japanese Studies” special issue, March 1984.
4. Ross Mouer and Banyat Surakanvit. “*Some Reflections on the Pattaya Seminar on Japanese Studies in the Asean Nations*” in “Thai-Japanese Studies” special issue : March 1984.
5. Surichai Wan’gaeo “*Present Situation of Japanese Studies in Thailand : Secondary School Level*” Paper presented to the seminar on “Japanese Studies in Thailand in search of its trend and purpose” held by Japanese Studies Center.