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Title	日中間の歴史和解は可能か ： 中国人強制連行の歴史和解を事例に
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the territorial dispute over the Senkaku Islands (Chinese name, Diaoyudao). The PRC sees Diaoyudao as a “China’s sanctuary” and is taking the same position with Taiwan in principle on this dispute.

Is Sino-Japanese Reconciliation Possible? A Case Study of Forced Chinese Laborers in the 1940s

LI Enmin

Serious war history issues have marred Sino-Japanese relations and public opinions since the 1980s. The Chinese grievances about wartime suffering and the lack of Japanese contrition became major sources of Chinese popular animosity toward Japan. Is Sino-Japanese reconciliation possible in the future? Based on findings of a case study on the Hanaoka Incident, this paper suggests that it is possible. It uses a wide selection of primary sources in Japanese and Chinese languages, including documents of NGO or NPO organizations, diplomatic archives and interviews with attorneys representing both the victims and the perpetrators of the incident.

During World War II, Japan forced a large number of Chinese commoners and war prisoners into slave labor in Japan. There were 986 forced Chinese laborers in Hanaoka in northeastern Japan, working on a river project run by Kajima-gumi, the wartime predecessor of Kajima Construction Corporation, the largest general contractor in Japan now. The forced laborers rioted in June 1945, protesting against their ruthless Japanese overseers, the cruel working conditions and the inadequacy of food. But the Japanese military police suppressed the rebellion and 113 laborers were killed. By the end of World War II, a total of 418 Chinese laborers in Hanaoka had allegedly died. This is known as the Hanaoka Incident.

In November 2000, Kajima and the Committee of the Sodality of Hanaoka Victims, which represents all survivors and the families of the perished laborers, succeeded in reaching a conciliation agreement at the Tokyo High Court, ending a five-year court battle over a lawsuit filed by 11 Chinese plaintiffs. According to the conciliation

documents, Kajima agreed to establish a fund with 500 million yen, or $4.6 million, for compensation payment or postmortem consolation payment to all 986 Chinese victims of the Hanaoka Incident. The International Committee of the Red Cross in China and the newly established Hanaoka Peace and Friendship Foundation in Beijing have been administering the fund for the past ten years. They have been making efforts to reach conciliation through offering compensations and providing memorial services as well as scholarships. In April 2010, many NGOs and NPOs jointly founded the Hanaoka Peace Memorial Museum at the site of the Hanaoka Incident. The money for this museum came from civic movement organizations and their campaigns. This is the first war memorial museum constructed by perpetrators rather than victims in Japan. This paper argues that the core context of the Hanaoka conciliation consists of three elements: the compensation payment, the construction of a memorial museum and making public apologies to victims by a corporation. These are different from what Germany did in the 1990s (both the German government and corporations accepted joint responsibilities for the lawless acts of the Nazis conducted on forced foreign laborers).

The Hanaoka conciliation was the first time that a major Japanese corporation has compensated foreign wartime victims through a fund. Looking through the lens of resolving war history issues, it can be seen as providing a new framework or model for reaching conciliation. It is really a bold effort to develop a universal approach to reaching conciliation in Asia.

The central point of this paper is that a court-connected reconciliation must be understood fundamentally as a process, not as an end result because a purely judicial approach to reconciliation is limited. The central aspects of real reconciliation, which should be understood as heart-to-heart reconciliation, are recognition of truth, which serves to redress the past, giving voices to victims in the present, and creating a communal memory for the future. Establishing truth is the cornerstone of reconciliation. As the case study indicates, there is still a long way to go for China and Japan before real reconciliation could be reached.