

## ***Engokake* and the Control of *Rinya* — the Formation of *Rinya* Ownership in Taiwan During the Japanese Rule**

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### ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the problems emerged from the land ownership and official solution during the time when the Government-General of Taiwan attempted to put the *rinya* (forest and wild land which were un-registered, whether under reclamation or un-reclaimed) under control. The author considers that the Qing Government held a very simple attitude by limiting the management of territory to merely the idea of “reclamation” and “prohibit.” The Qing Government granted reclamation permits, which allowed people to actively cultivate land. The government then classified the developed land into paddy and dry fields so developers could take the land. On the other hand, The Qing Government never minded those un-developed land and prohibited areas.

During the Japanese rule, the Government-General of Taiwan tried to put all lands of Taiwan under control. On the one hand, the Government admitted people’s rights to use the land according to the types and proper registration. On the other hand, it named the un-reclaimed and un-registered land as *rinya*. Although under the land management during the Qing Dynasty, they were not allowed to own *rinya*, people had obtained some kinds of legal rights to use *rinya* under the reclamation permit system. Since their claims were not legally strong enough to declare their ownership on *rinya*, the Government-General of Taiwan worked out a unique system called *engokanke-rinya* (occupation relationship) to classify and arrange these *rinya* lands.

In conclusion, under the consideration of maintaining political stability and satisfying people’s demand in ownership, the Government-General of Taiwan not only continuously adjusted its principles, trying to make all the rules more flexible, but also used such a moral reason as “goodwill” to conclude a very generous explanation to those illegal forest land occupants since the Qing times. Through these, the government expected to control over *rinya* smoothly and overwhelmingly.

**Keywords:** *rinya*, colonial control, arrangement of land ownership, land administration, *engokanke*

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