

Experiences of Japanese Families in Taiwan: Case Study of Ikenoue Kuwae Family

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ABSTRACT

Migrants from Japan who moved to Taiwan during early Japanese colonization or came to seek opportunities under more stable colonial rule might have offspring born or grown up in Taiwan. Those who remained until Japan surrendered in 1945, ending World War II (WWII), would have three to four decades of experiences in Taiwan. This study traces the history of the Ikenoue Kuwae family as an example.

Ikenoue Kuwae (1883-1946) moved to Taiwan in 1912 and held a position in the Taiwan Governor General Monopoly Bureau. After resigning in 1920, he worked at Taisei Fire and Marine Insurance Company. In 1940, he joined the Kaiyokogyo Company. This study discusses the changes in his job description from a public officer to a private company employee, with focus on his personal connections and financial strength. Among the four sons and two daughters of the second-generation Ikenoue family, five were born in Taiwan. They all received higher education, which played a key role in their future development. By detailing the academic achievements of the second-generation Ikenoue family, this study enriches the research on Taiwan's education history. Furthermore, the history of the Ikenoue family during the war and after their return to Japan to rebuild their lives after WWII can enhance our understanding of the relationship between Taiwan and Japan during and after WWII.

Keywords: Ikenoue kuwae, Taiwan Governor General Monopoly Bureau, Taisei Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Taihoku Higher School