

# **A Frontier Area Development System of National Policy Company: The Management System of Eastern Taiwan by the Taiwan Development Company in Wartime**

Yu-ju Lin

## **ABSTRACT**

The business development of eastern Taiwan was left alone to civilian companies in early Japanese colonization rule. Eastern Taiwan needed a huge amount of capital investment and manpower to manage this area, because of the poor natural environment. Since the goal of private companies was to make as much profit as possible, they never invested enough in eastern Taiwan's development. This is the reason why they worked without much result. The Government-general of Taiwan tried to exploit eastern Taiwan with the power of state from the late Taisho period, but due to a limited budget and execution difficulties it failed miserably.

In 1936 a national policy company, Taiwan Development Company (TDC), was established. It was at the same time that the Eastern Taiwan Development Committee was founded and a plan for the mountainous region's development unfolded. For this reason, TDC decided to manage the business of eastern Taiwan. In 1937 TDC set up some offices and begun the undertaking of land in eastern Taiwan under three characteristics of management. First, the heart of business was in land clearing during the primary stage, but following the needs of military industry, the development of the regions business changed from Taitung to Hualien. Second, The management of TDC in eastern Taiwan was obviously official in nature. Third, eastern Taiwan was the headquarters of TDC's tropical cultivation business and the offices of TDC located in eastern Taiwan were the homes that fostered the manpower of agriculture cultivation.

The company's enterprise in eastern Taiwan presents us with an example of a wartime colonizing government that had tapped its resources enthusiastically in its colonized frontier. TDC was simply a substitute of the colonization government, taking the lead to develop eastern Taiwan. The managing structure and operations were of course totally influenced by the colonial government and local authorities.

**Keywords:** Taiwan Development Company, eastern Taiwan, tropical cultivation, regional development, Eastern Taiwan Development Committee, the plan of mountainous region development, National policy company, colonization government