

OISCA and Taiwan

A group of well-wishers of the Republic of China (ROC) was present, among more than 470 participants from 18 countries, at the inauguration of OISCA-International on October 6th 1961, that took place in Atami, a hot spring resort south of Tokyo (ref: Bulletin Board No.120). When Founding President Rev. NAKANO Yonosuke led a 16-member goodwill mission in spring of 1967 to East Pakistan (Bangladesh), Nepal, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Hong Kong, the last destination was the ROC. In those days, Taiwan was a sovereign state as the Republic of China and had a formal diplomatic relation with Japan. The “people-to-people” bilateral friendship with the ROC, which was established then, was steadily cemented through the OISCA initiative and has continued to this day.

Birth of OISCA ROC Chapter

When OISCA ROC national chapter was inaugurated in Taipei on January 16th 1973, OISCA Japan sent a 100-member delegation to join more than 1,000 ROC OISCA members and supporters. The OISCA ROC chapter has continued to be very active in 2021, bridging Taiwan and Japan in collaboration with OISCA-International headquarters in Tokyo.

Rev. Nakano's determination to keep friendly ties with Taiwan

In September 1972, Rev. Nakano visited Washington, D.C. to inform the U.S. Government that OISCA-International would continue “people-to-people” relations with Taiwan even after Japan-ROC diplomatic ties would be terminated. OISCA being a non-political and non-governmental organization, there was no diplomatic nor legal obligation to inform the US government on OISCA's position to Taiwan. But, OISCA-International's Founding President had opted to do so. He was 86 years old then.

Then, he flew from Washington DC to Taipei where he advised Republic of China leaders to be patient and assured them that OISCA would continue friendly relationship with the people of their country.





The birth of OISCA Republic of China (ROC) Chapter attracted a large number of like-minded Taiwanese including government officials. January 16th 1973 in Taipei.

This founder Nakano's determined actions connecting Tokyo-Washington-Taipei-Tokyo in September 1972 were really meaningful.

OISCA's Development Cooperation to Taiwan

With the birth of OISCA national chapter in Taiwan in January 1973, OISCA-International began a program of receiving young Taiwanese farmers visit Japan every year. This program has been continued from 1973 to 2019, totaling 606 participants. Through exchanges, groups of young Japanese farmers visited Taiwan for goodwill promotions and field studies of agricultural development in Taiwan. These exchange programs, too, have been organized every year up to 2019 until the COVID-19 pandemic had compelled the program to be temporarily suspended.

A Japanese OISCA member, who once served as UN agricultural expert, contributed his findings and impressions on Taiwan's agriculture in the OISCA monthly October 1973 edition (albeit it was published in Japanese). Taiwan is geographically located within semi-tropical climatic conditions. Rice, locally called 'horai-mai (蓬莱米)', a bred of Japonica and Indica rice, was grown on 540,000 ha.

Upland area was 360,000 ha, with 850,000 farming families. The rate of yield of the rice was about 60% of the average yield of that in Japan. The technical level of Taiwan farmers was still at a developing stage. But Taiwanese farmers were so hard working that it did not take so much time for them to reach the level of Japan, he concluded. As we see agriculture of Taiwan today, his conclusion in 1973 has indeed been proven true.

In March 1973, OISCA-International assigned Japanese experts for agriculture, horticulture, pig raising, foundry and bicycle fabrication, to name a few, to Taiwan for technical skill training in the coordination of OISCA ROC Chapter. As Taiwan's beneficiaries acquired skills so quickly that the technical cooperation from Japan terminated in years. As of 2021, Taiwan is no longer a developing economy, rather a developed one in many areas.



OISCA Founding President with Ambassador Marshall Green at the State Department, Washington DC, in September 1972. Sitting behind Rev. Nakano is the OISCA Secretary-General.

Emergency Food and Agriculture Confab in Taiwan

In November 1973, Asian Pacific Emergency Conference on Food and Agriculture took place in Taipei, organized by OISCA-International with the cooperation of Taiwan's agriculture authority and OISCA ROC Chapter. A report indicates that about 1,500 participants assembled from many countries in the region. The importance of organic farming and the skill training on organic farming to young farmers was confirmed at the Conference. In fact, OISCA has been implementing practical skill training on organic farming to young resourceful nation builders of developing countries ever since its foundation in 1961 (ref: Bulletin Board No.143).



A scene of sugarcane plantation in central region of Taiwan. Buffalos were an important work force in 1973.

Taiwan hosted Youth Forum twice

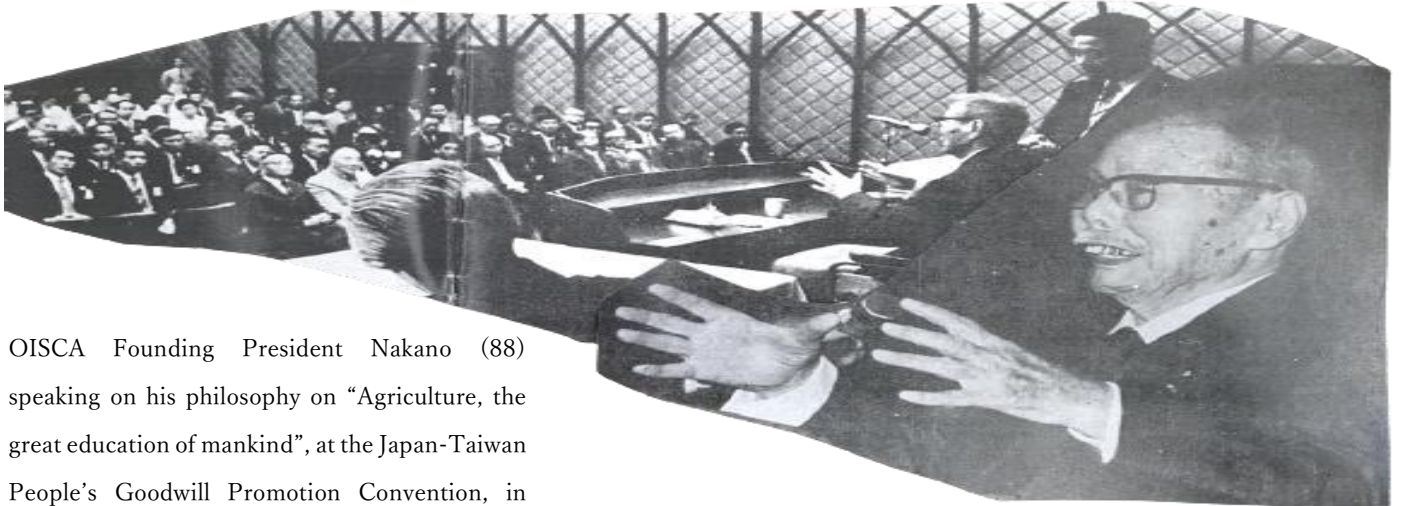
Because of the existence of national counterparts in Taiwan, OISCA-International was able to organize 2nd Asia Youth Forum for Community Development in April 1977 and 13th Asian-Pacific Youth Forum for Community Development in May 1995 (ref: Bulletin Board No.142). Participating youth leaders and workers from many countries in the region were able to witness, in addition to advancing friendship among themselves, the steady progress in agriculture and industry that this small island territory had been making.



Taiwanese farmers attentively listen the grape growers' explanation at Okazaki, central Japan, in October 1974.



Asian-Pacific Regional Emergency Conference on Food and Agriculture in Taipei, November 1973.



OISCA Founding President Nakano (88) speaking on his philosophy on “Agriculture, the great education of mankind”, at the Japan-Taiwan People’s Goodwill Promotion Convention, in Taipei, on May 23rd 1974.

“Agriculture, the great education of mankind” was advocated

In May 1974, OISCA-international Founding President Rev. NAKANO Yonosuke led a delegation from Japan again to Taiwan. At the Goodwill Promotion Convention, held in Taipei on May 23rd with thousands of well-wishers from all over the Island, Rev. Nakano passionately spoke on the unique value of Japan-Taiwan “people-to-people” partnership, and then described his philosophy, “Agriculture-the great education of mankind”.

He was at the advanced age of 88 then. His physical and spiritual energy ceased to survive and a month later on June 24th 1974, his soul returned to Mother Earth, leaving “Agriculture, the great education of mankind” to be the principal philosophy of OISCA-International.

OISCA - International is going to mark its 60th landmark on October 6th 2021.

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OISCA ROC joined LOVE GREEN drive in 1980

OISCA ROC Chapter immediately joined LOVE GREEN campaign when OISCA-International launched it in 1980. The island of 35,961 km² has been implementing it every year ever since its inception, including the Children’s Forest Program. Japanese volunteers very often join their Taiwan counterparts to plant trees of friendship, too.



School children of Taiwan, too, are active in planting trees. Their contribution is highly appreciated by their parents, community residents and by local and national governments.

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