The Construction Process of Wharf Facilities of Nippon Yusen Kaisha in Modern Shanghai Port

This paper clarified the construction process of wharf facilities of Nippon Yusen Kaisha in Shanghai port in 1890s (later Meiji period) by focusing on the international negotiation on how to build the new Hongkew Mail Wharf between Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Japanese government and British authorities.

As mentioned in the paper, wharves and port facilities were regarded as one of the most basic and important issues of Shanghai advancement for Japanese in Meiji period. But Japanese settled into Shanghai from 1870s, over 30 years later than British and American. As a new comer to Shanghai, Nippon Yusen Kaisha was very difficult to build wharf facilities in Shanghai Hongkew harbor. In order to build new pontoons and landing spaces, the company took the following steps.

Step 1: To lend the waterfront of the Shanghai Japan Consulate from Japanese government, next to Hongkew harbor
Step 2: To get construction authorization from the Municipal Council mainly controlled by British

Thus, Nippon Yusen Kaisha succeeded in its new construction in Shanghai port. Japanese could acquire a priority in using Shanghai port as early as Meiji period. Following this, a great number of Japanese landed on Shanghai just from the Hongkew Mail Wharf and expanded their development to the Shanghai.

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