

Attitudes and Views of Japanese and
Vietnamese Local Government Employees

Submitted by Guy H. Fox - March 7, 1960

The proposed project is a comparative study and analysis of attitudes and viewpoints of local government employments of middle management level in Japan and Viet Nam. The study would be designed to reveal the attitudes and views of such employees toward matters relating especially, though not exclusively, to:

1. The extent and degree of their responsibility to politically responsible officials and to the administrative high command.
2. Their rights and duties with respect to their official subordinates.
3. Their responsibility and responsiveness to the public will.
4. The role of elected assemblies.
5. Proper persons to determine the public will.
6. Factors making for high and low morale in the public service.
7. Desirable degree of local autonomy vis-a-vis centralized control of local government.
8. Prestige of the local civil service as compared with the national civil service and private employment.
9. Relative importance of various values (such as loyalty, efficiency, honesty, etc.)
10. Moral standards in the local public service--actual and desired.
11. Acceptable and non-acceptable changes for improvement of local administration.
12. Locus of decision-making authority on the local level.

Dr. Nobushige Ukai, Director of the Social Science Research Bureau of Tokyo University, has agreed to supervise a survey in Japan, provided I make a similar one in Viet Nam. Indeed, Dr. Ukai and I have already obtained much of the needed data on Japan while collaborating on another survey, the results of which have already been tabulated and cross-checked. Though my application would be for a grant to cover only my own expenses for a year (plus, perhaps,

expenses incurred by Dr. Ukai for postage, supplies, and translations), there is reason to believe our efforts might lead to a more comprehensive study which would include a survey and analysis of local government employees in other countries. It is our hope that we can interest academicians working with other university groups in the Far East to conduct similar surveys; representatives from the University of Indiana projects both in Indonesia and Bangkok and from the University of Minnesota project in Korea have expressed a strong interest in such an undertaking; it is believed, also, that the staff of the Institute of Public Administration in the Philippines and members of Michigan State University missions in other countries might also conduct such a study.

The methodology would consist essentially of the survey techniques of interviews and questionnaires. In Viet Nam, questionnaires would be sent to a cross section of province and district officials in a northern, a middle, and a southern section of the country. In Japan, the questionnaire would go to officials of the shi, son, cho, and ken levels of selected areas; respectively in Hokkaido, northern Honshu, central Honshu, southern Honshu, and Kyushu (and perhaps Shikoku). The information obtained from the questionnaire would be supplemented, insofar as time and resources permitted, by intensive structured interviews with local officials. Data obtained from the questionnaires as well as much of the information obtained from interviews would be recorded on punch cards to permit machine processing. In Viet Nam my former students at the National Institute of Administration, who now hold responsible positions in provinces and districts, would help with the distribution and collection of the questionnaires, and would facilitate the interviews.

The study should be a valuable contribution to our present meager knowledge of comparative local government and administration. There is a remarkable sparseness of literature in the field, especially concerning Far East governments, and empirical studies on the subject are virtually non-existent. The patterns and conclusions which would emerge from the projected study would not only be of interest to scholars and enhance their knowledge but should suggest interesting hypotheses if not actual theories about the countries studied. After studies have been made in several other countries, it should be possible to draw significant conclusions and to construct theories regarding the political and administrative behavior of local officials under given environments.

For the completion of the study it is estimated that a period one year would be needed following January 1, 1962, and it is for that period that I would hope the Ford Foundation might consider favorably an application for a research grant. Time spent on the study would be allocated roughly as follows:

Before period of grant

Present - September, 1960:
(In Viet Nam)

In consultation (via correspondence) with Professor Ukai, design questionnaires for Japan and Viet Nam; plan project; attempt to interest members of other university overseas groups in making similar study; conduct as many interviews as possible while visiting outlying districts.

Sept. 1960 - March, 1961:
(In Viet Nam)

Send out and receive questionnaires; continue interviews.

March, 1961 - Jan. 1962:

Code and punch cards; tabulate as much as possible; continue interviews

During period of grant

January - March, 1962:
(In Viet Nam)

Check materials, fill gaps of needed data; hold interviews.

March - July, 1962:
(In Japan)

Work closely with Professor Ukai in Tokyo; plan organization and content of book; divide labor on general material concerning both countries; coordinate efforts; make analyses and interpretations; decide on cross tabulations and tables; begin writing of book.

July - Jan. 1, 1963:

Write English version of book. Professor Ukai would write a similar, but not necessarily identical, volume in Japanese. He would be senior author for the Japanese version, and I would be the senior author for the U.S. edition.