

Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution and Forced Labor: Korea-Japan NGO Guidebook



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**The Center for Historical Truth and Justice, Republic of Korea
Network for Fact Finding on Wartime Mobilization and Forced Labor, Japan**

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Contents

Introduction	4
1. Composition and Characteristics of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’	7
1-1 Composition of the Sites on the World Heritage List	8
1-2 Characteristics and problems of the nominated Sites	11
1-3 Current situation of the explanation of the industrial heritage facilities in the Kyushu Area	15
2. The History of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ – Wars of Aggression, Colonization and Forced Labor	19
2-1 The modernization of Japan in the Meiji period and the aggressive wars in Asia	20
2-2 The reality of forced mobilization of Koreans during the colonial period	24
2-3 Forced labor of Chinese and Allied prisoners of war in the Asia-Pacific War period	28
3. Sites of Forced Labor - Steel Works, Shipyard, Coal Mines	33
3-1 Yawata Steel Works: Built with the war reparations of the First Sino-Japanese war (1894-1895)	34
3-2 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.’s Nagasaki Shipyard: From torpedoes and warships to the Atomic bombing	46
3-3 Takashima and Hashima Coal Mine: Hell Island, a symbol of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.’s tyranny	57
3-4. Miike Coal Mine: The growth of Mitsui Group with forced labor	70
4. The History of Forced Labor and World Heritage Sites	81
4-1 Forced labor at World Heritage sites	82
4-2 The unresolved issue of post-war compensation: Human rights of forced labor victims	85
4-3 Memories of the forced mobilization and activities to ensure that it is not forgotten	88
Appendix: Korea-Japan Joint NGO Statement of 5 July, 2017	92

Introduction

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, at the 39th session held on July 5, 2015 in Bonn, Germany, made a decision to inscribe the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining' on the World Heritage List. The nomination of the Sites as a UNESCO World Heritage means that the Heritage has been recognized as a common heritage of humanity with 'Outstanding Universal Value'. The designated heritage is not the exclusive property of a state or nation, but a heritage to be valued and protected by all human beings and to be transmitted to present and future generations.

The NGOs in both Korean and Japan have been critical of the decision and demanded that the sites should also reveal the dark history to be remembered, such as Japanese wars of aggression, colonization, forced mobilization and forced labor. The question is whether the principles and values of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention are embodied at the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution'.

In nominating the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', the World Heritage Committee recommended particularly that the Japanese government should prepare an interpretive strategy for the presentation of the Sites which allows an understanding of the 'full history' of each site. In response, Mrs. Kuni Sato, Ambassador of the Japanese Delegation stated that "Japan is prepared to take measures that allow an understanding that there were a large number of Koreans and others who were brought against their will and forced to work under harsh conditions in the 1940s at some of the sites, and that, during World War II, the Government of Japan also implemented its policy of requisition." The Ambassador also said that "Japan is prepared to incorporate appropriate measures into the interpretive strategy to remember the victims such as the establishment of information center."

Therefore, the Japanese government must show the full history of the industrial facilities and is scheduled to report on progress with the recommendations to UNESCO by December 1, 2017. However, considering the attitude taken by the Japanese government so far, it is highly doubtful whether the Japanese government will faithfully implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

We, the citizens of Korea and Japan who have worked with the victims of forced

labor to reveal the truth of their sufferings and fight for reparations for them, believe that the explanation on the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ should include ‘the dark history’ of the sites such as forced labor which is uncomfortable, yet must not to be evaded. Victims of Japan’s colonial rule and wars of aggression are still calling for justice. Even if more than 70 years have passed since the end of the Second World War, the sufferings of forced mobilization and forced labor still have not been resolved. Truth-finding of the dark history, apologies, reparations, commemoration and remembrance for the victims should still be followed through at the same time. These are both the reasons why we are critical of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ and the purpose of this guidebook.

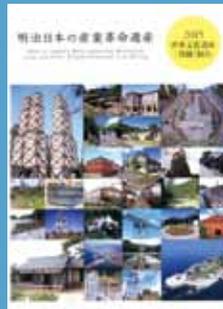
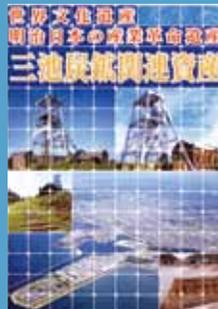
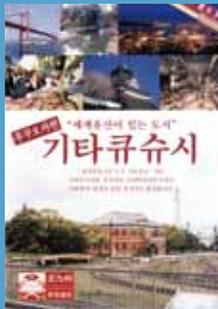
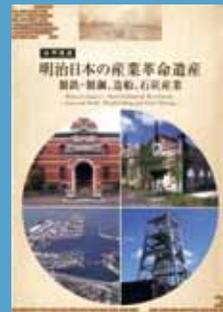
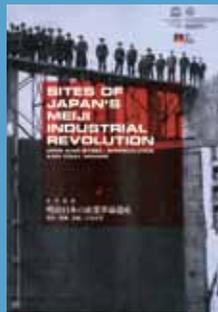
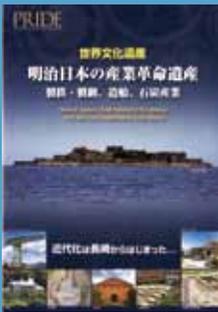
In this book, we will check what kind of industrial facilities are bound together under the name of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ and what are the problems of the composition of this heritage. While listening to the hidden history of each industrial facility, which had also been the site of forced labor, and the testimonies of its victims, we will also examine why the issue of forced labor in the World Heritage should be highlighted. By showing the history of industrialization, war, state violence and human rights abuses all connected with these sites, we hope that this guidebook will provide material to reflect on for the future.

As the saying goes that “the opposite of forgetting is not memory, but justice”, our call to remember the history of forced labor at the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ is an appeal for justice. We would like to emphasize that this industrial heritage should not be treated as a war booty on the part of the victor, and that the memory of the powerful is not the only one to be remembered nor imposed. This guidebook contains our hope that the spirit of UNESCO should be realized here and now.

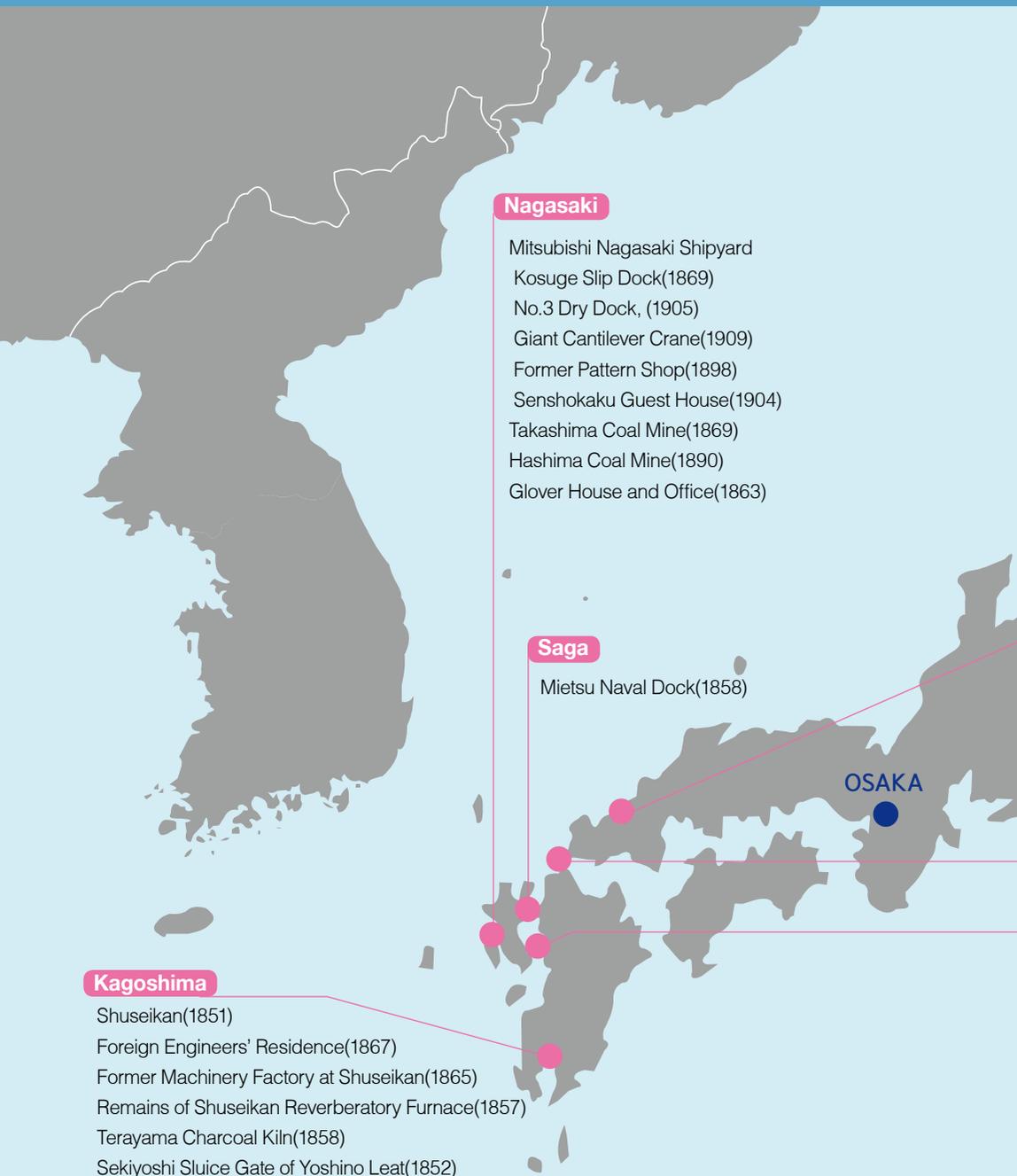
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Network for Fact Finding on Wartime Mobilization and Forced Labor**

1

Composition and Characteristics of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’



Distribution Map of 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution'





Kamaishi

Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site(1858)

Hagi

Hagi Reverberatory Furnace(1856)
Ebisugahana Shipyard(1856)
Ohitayama Tataro Iron Works(1855)
Hagi Castle Town(17-19c)
Shokasonjuku Academy(1856)

Nirayama

Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace(1857)

Yawata

The Imperial Steel Works, Japan(1901)
First Head Office(1899)
Repair Shop(1900)
Former Forge Shop(1900)
Onga River Pumping Station(1910)

Miike

Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port
Miyanojima Pit(1898)
Manda Pit(1902)
Miike Coal Railway(1905)
Miike Port(1908)
Misumi West Port(1887)

1-1 Composition of the Sites on the World Heritage List

The 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining' is a group of facilities relating to the industrial revolution dating from the end of the Edo period (1850s) to the late Meiji period (1910), which are concentrated mostly in the Kyushu and Yamaguchi areas.

The 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' is grouped together with twenty three sites, scattered over eight prefectures (administrative districts). These sites are mostly concentrated in the Kyushu and Yamaguchi regions.

- Hagi (Choshu Domain), Yamaguchi Prefecture: Hagi Reverberatory Furnace (a smelting furnace used in the casting of iron cannons), Ebisugahana Shipyard, Ohitayama Tataru Iron Works (iron material for ship parts), Hagi Castle Town, and Shoukasonjuku Academy.

- Kagoshima Prefecture (Satsuma Domain): Shuseikan (warship building and cannon manufacture), the ruins of the Terayama Charcoal Kiln (charcoal fuel), and Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate of Yoshino Leat (waterpower supply). The Shuseikan facilities include the Shuseikan Reverberatory Furnace, Shuseikan Machinery Factory, and Kagoshima Cotton Mill Foreign Engineers' Residence. The Terayama Charcoal Kiln and Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate were included by Japan in the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' as early industrial heritages of the late Edo period.

- Nagasaki Prefecture: Nagasaki Shipyard and the Takashima Coal Mine. The shipyard comprises 5 facilities: Kosuge Slip Dock, Mitsubishi No.3 Dry Dock, Mitsubishi Giant Cantilever Crane, Mitsubishi Former Pattern Shop, and Mitsubishi Senshokaku Guest House. There are two coalmines offshore from Nagasaki: Takashima Coal Mine and Hashima Coal Mine. Also included is Glover House and Office which was involved with the Takashima Coal Mine development.

- Fukuoka and Kumamoto Prefectures: Miike Coal Mine and Port and Misumi West Port. Miike Coal Mine includes Miyanojima Pit, Manda Pit, and the Miike Coal Railway.

- Fukuoka Prefecture: the Yawata Steel Works and Onga River Pumping Station (delivery of industrial water to Yawata). The Yawata Steel Works facilities also include Yawata Steel Works First Head Office, Yawata Steel Works Repair Shop and Yawata Steel Works Former Forge Shop.

- In addition to the sites above, three further sites, in other prefectures, were added as the World Heritage Site: Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace in Shizuoka Prefecture, Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site in Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture, and Mietsu Naval Dock in Saga Prefecture.

Among the various sites, Yawata Steel Works and Miike Coal Mine in Fukuoka Prefecture, and Nagasaki Shipyard and Takashima Coal Mine (encompassing the Takashima and Hashima Coal Mines) in Nagasaki Prefecture show the industrialization of steel, shipbuilding and coal in the Meiji period.

1-2 Characteristics and problems of the nominated Sites

The nomination process: making changes and the initiative of the Prime Minister

The Japanese government's preparation for the nomination of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' dated back to 1999. Initially, the Japanese government promoted the nomination under the title of 'Industrial Heritage of Modernization', but in January, 2014, they changed the name and the period to the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution- Kyushu-Yamaguchi Area'. Japan also changed its Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties to overcome the difficulty that many facilities to be inscribed on the World Heritage List were in operation(still so currently).

The preparatory works for the World Heritage listing had previously been conducted by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs in cooperation with the relevant local authorities. In relation to the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', however, notably the Japanese Prime Minister took the initiative. The new title of the application for the nomination, 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' was given at this time, especially as the issues of war responsibility and forced labor were raised in connection with the nomination campaign.

Myth of Success of the Industrial Revolution in a 'bright Meiji'

The 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' as inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List aims to present a narrative of a successful industrialization by connecting the industrializing efforts in Choshu and Satsuma domains with iron and coal production and shipbuilding at Yawata Steel Works, Nagasaki Shipyard, Takashima Coal Mine, Miike Coal Mine and other facilities. The narrative of the Sites is nothing but a eulogy to Japan's industrial development written solely from the point of view of technological innovation and the accumulation of capital. It falls far short of perspectives to view the history holistically in the context of such issues of laborers, wars and colonial rules, not to mention human rights and international relations implications.

Calling it an industrial revolution, the attitude that emphasizes only the 'capital' aspect of technology and facilities while ignoring the labor of those who buttressed them can also be observed



Tomioka Silk Mill (Photo of August 2107)

in the case of the Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites in Gunma Prefecture, which were registered as World Heritage in 2014. The Japanese government explained these Sites as having the requisite universal value to be a World Heritage on the basis that the mill introduced western technology to improve the technology of sericulture and silk milling in Japan, contributing to the development of the world silk industry and the popularization of its consumption. However, they did not explain the conditions of the silk mill workers, the widening disparity between the rich and the poor caused by industrialization, the introduction of Japanese capital into Korea or the military production during the war period. While merely praising the industrialization of the Meiji period, the nominated sites of World Heritage are utilized as a means for tourist attractions.

The official story of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' emphasizes that the industrialization that took place at the end of the Edo period and in the Meiji period prevented Japan from being colonized. However, the industrialization of coal, steel, and shipbuilding in Japan made progress with, if it is not the direct result from, the various wars Imperial Japan had conducted, such as the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War and the First World War. It was accompanied by a series of aggression, occupation and colonial domination of Korea, China and Taiwan. It is not surprising that the expansion of its industries led to yet further aggressive wars.

The slogans of the Meiji period such as "Shukusan-kogyo" (promotion of industry) and "Fukoku-kyohei" (rich country, strong army) show that the composite facilities of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution had a strong military character from the beginning. Moreover, its major industrial facilities were the historical places where Koreans, Chinese and Allied prisoners of war had been encamped to work as forced laborers during the Second World War.



Entrance and the inside, Mikawa Pit of Miike Coal Mine (Photo of September 2017)

'Meiji Japan': Edited deliberately to conceal history

The unbalanced view of history produced another abnormality in the periodization of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution'. As the Japanese government set the time limit to 'Meiji' (from 1850s to 1910), most of the remaining modern industrial facilities came to be paradoxically excluded from the nomination process of World Heritage sites. Historically speaking the Meiji period began from 1868 when the Meiji Restoration overturned the Shogun system and installed a new government, ending in 1912 with the death of Emperor Meiji. It is not clear why the Japanese government set the period of the Sites to 1850-1910.

The Kawachi Reservoir at Yawata Steel Works which was completed in 1927, was not included, although it is held to be an indispensable industrial heritage. Also excluded was the Mikawa Pit of Miike Coal Mine, widely known as the site of a terrible coal dust explosion in 1963, as it began operation in 1939. All the coalfields of the Chikuho area were also excluded. 150,000 Koreans had been used as forced laborers in the Chikuho coalfields in Kyushu. The state-owned Yawata Steel Works operated the Nittetsu Futase Coal Mine in the Chikuho area. In terms of its time period and its significance, the Futase Coal Mine was ruled out in the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution'. There appears no apparent reason for its exclusion. Nor the fact that 64 people died in a fire at the Futase Coal Mine in 1903.



Newspaper articles critical of the Abe statement of 14 August 2015 on the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

Back to the ‘State capable of waging war’

The statement of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2015, reflects the historical perception of the revisionist. In the statement, Prime Minister Abe made no mention of the colonial rule of Korea and considered the Russo-Japanese War as giving “encouragement to many people under colonial rule from Asia to Africa”. While he stated that Japan took the wrong course after “the Manchurian Incident”, he made neither apology nor repentance for the past in his own words, merely recapitulating the remarks of the former governments.

Moreover, no reference was made to reparations to the victims of the past. Although Prime Minister Abe said that the Chinese “underwent all the sufferings of the war”, he did not make it specific that Japan was responsible for these sufferings. There was no concrete acknowledgement of wrongdoings of Japan against Asia. On the other hand, with respect to the “former POWs of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia and other nations”, he expressed his gratitude for their “manifestation of tolerance”. He insisted that “We must not let our children, grandchildren, and even further generations to come, who have nothing to do with that war, be predestined to apologize.” Calling prosperity as “the very foundation of peace”, the statement suggested to make “Proactive Contribution to Peace”.

However, this kind of conception of peace is none other than the neologism to express the willingness to strengthen the US-Japan military alliance and to revise the Peace Clause in the Japanese constitution. The historical perception which tries to memorize its proud part with no repentance, is closely connected with the project to make Japan once again a country capable of waging war. The story told in the nomination of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ can also be seen as part of this. In this context, what is happening in relation to the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ can be better understood.

1-3 Current situation of the explanation of the industrial heritage facilities in the Kyushu Area

Is the UNESCO Recommendation being implemented?

One of the recommendations in the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2015, which had been accepted by the Japanese government, required the Japanese government prepare an interpretative strategy which will allow “an understanding of the full history of each site” of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’. It is doubtful whether the Japanese government or local authorities are faithfully implementing the recommendation.

The on-site investigation carried out 1-5 September, 2017, shows that most of the signboards and materials introducing the industrial heritage facilities in the Kyushu area, are full of dry and dull explanations consisting mainly of mere chronologies. For example, the signboard of the Yawata Steel Works First Head Office, as shown in the photograph below, is written in both Japanese and English. However, the two versions are different in content.

Translation of the Japanese version:

“The state-owned Yawata Steel Works is one of the constituent properties of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ inscribed on the World Heritage List. In the middle of the nineteenth century, a country in the East, which had hitherto closed its doors to the West, embraced the wave of the Industrial Revolution of the West and laid the foundation for the entry into industrialized countries. The ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ testify the industrialization within a half-century that changed Japan’s heavy industries (steel, shipbuilding, coal industry) as well as the quality of the country from the 1850s to 1910s.”

English version: “One of a series of properties that form a World Heritage



a photo on the Onga signboard omitted while editing

Site that reflects the rapid industrialization of Japan from the 1850s to 1910, founded primarily on iron and steel, shipbuilding and coal mining. This successful industrialization was achieved in just a little over 50 years without colonization, and on Japan's own terms.”

The explanations of the sites as they stand today, are nothing more than half-truths without the story of the laborers who sustained the basis of the industrial development of modern Japan, focusing solely on machinery and equipment. There is no history about Japanese workers, women, children, and prison laborers, still less the history of resistance that declared their humanity through solidarity and unity. Also missing is the history of Koreans, Chinese, and Allied prisoners of war who were forcibly deported and put to forced labor regardless of their will.

The pamphlet on Hashima made by Nagasaki City is also the same case (as of September 2017). The pamphlet written by the Nagasaki City Tourism Promotion Department transmits only one side of the truth, telling merely that the consciousness of crisis stemming from “foreign threats” led to the reception of western knowledge and technology resulting in the Japanese modernization. This consciousness, however, changed immediately into that of expansionism which led to the aggression and the colonization of neighboring countries such as Taiwan and Korea. For the “full history”, it is essential to explain that these World Heritage industrial facilities supported also the war economy.

The “New Nagasaki City History” Volume 3 (Modern period part, 2014) points out that the Takashima Coal Mine is a venue of social education that represents the “history of hardships” and the “negative heritage” in Japanese modern history. It makes clear that



Pamphlets made Nagasaki City relating to the modernization heritage and Hashima island (September, 2017)

many people had been deceived and enticed into the coalmines since the Meiji Period and forced them to work under brutal conditions with high casualties. It also reveals that the people deported from the Korean peninsula and China underwent similar experiences in the wartime period. In particular, the testimonies of Chinese and Koreans who had been forcibly mobilized, are provided. Likewise, when explaining the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’, are not the “history of hardships” and the “negative heritage” to be told?

Explanation full of the glorification of history

The way of explanation excluding completely the dark side of the sites’ history can be confirmed repeatedly in the commentaries given by local guides at these sites. Naturally most guides provide information based on their wide knowledge of the industrial heritage, but when it comes to the questions of war and forced labor, they do not give a direct answer, saying evasively that they do not know anything about it.

The Japanese version of the pamphlet on the History of Miike Coal Mine and Manda Coal Mine issued by Arao City, Kumamoto (September, 2017) reads that “Korean people under the Japanese rule, Chinese, and Allied prisoners of war were forced to work.” In the foreign language version, however, regrettably there is no explanation on forced labor. As to the question of whether there were Korean laborers at the coal mine, the local guide told that “it is set to give no answer”, let alone an explanation.

It will be hard to deny the suspicion that there is either a cartel of silence or invisible control over the explanations to be given in relation to the issue of forced la-



Pamphlets made by Arao City

bor. Currently, there is no explanation of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ that concurs with the spirit of UNESCO. There are found only the commercialization of the World Heritage sites as tourist attractions and the praise of the industrial history. Then, what and how it should include are the questions to look closely in the next Chapter.

2

The History of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ – Wars of Aggression, Colonization and Forced Labor



Triumphant march in the streets of Nanam, Korea (“Collection of Photographs in Memory of the expedition during the Manchurian Incident”)

2-1 The modernization of Japan in the Meiji period and the aggressive wars in Asia

Wage of aggressive wars and the beginning of modernization

Japan was the first country in East Asia to achieve the Western-style modernization. Under the Meiji Restoration in Japan, a modern reform of the country's political structure to form a new centralized state was promoted in place of the Shogunate or the 'han' (domain) system. In the process of industrialization, the Meiji government took hold of the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, and Korea.

The industrial revolution in Japan accompanied the First Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War. With the money for war reparations from the Qing Dynasty following the First Sino-Japanese War, Japan established the gold standard system and constructed the Yawata Steel Works, among others. Evidently, the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', dating from the 1850s to 1910, indicate not only the industrialization, but also the beginning of Japan's successive aggressions.

The cradle of "Seikanron" is now a World Heritage site

The Shokasonjuku Academy, one of the 23 properties included in the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', is a private school opened by Yoshida Shoin. Yoshida Shoin argued for Japan's military expansion and foreign aggression. His ideas influenced the Meiji government in favor of the "Seikanron", the doctrine of the conquest of Korea. Its advocacy of aggression against neighboring countries was realized in the Ganghwa Island Incident, the First Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War, and the forced occupation of Korea.

Yoshida Shoin's ideas were put



Postcard commemorating the forced annexation of Korea by Japan



Gyeongbokgung Palace with the Japanese flag



Portrait of Yoshida Shoin

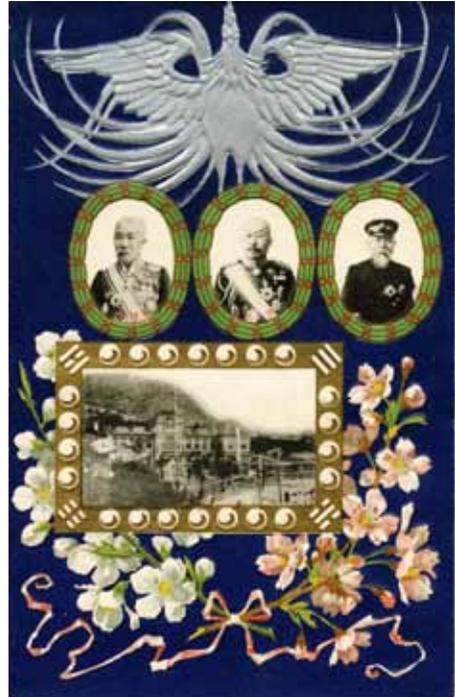


Shokasonjuku Academy

into practice by Ito Hirobumi and Yamagata Aritomo. Ito Hirobumi was the mastermind of the invasion of Asia of the Japanese imperialism and the colonization of Korea. He was instrumental in making Korea a Japanese “protectorate” with the imposition of the Japan–Korea Treaty of 1905 (the “Eulsa” Treaty), himself becoming the first Resident-General of Korea. When the Emperor of the Korean Empire, Gojong, dispatched special emissaries to the Second Peace Conference at The Hague in 1907, with the intent to make public the illegality of the protectorate, Ito forced Emperor Gojong to dethrone and disbanded the Korean army.

These events caused the struggles of the people organized as the Righteous Soldiers to become widespread in the whole country. Ito instructed their forcible suppression which was conducted by Hasegawa Yoshimichi, the commander of the Japanese Army

garrisoned in Korea. According to the Japanese government’s records on the struggle of the Righteous Army, at least 140,000 people participated in the struggle and more than 17,000 people were put to death between 1907 and 1910. Hasegawa was a military man belonging to the clan of Yamagata Aritomo who laid the foundation of the Japanese Imperial Army. Hasegawa later became the second Governor-General of Korea succeeding Terauchi Masatake, and suppressed the March 1st independence movement that



Postcard commemorating the forced annexation of Korea by Japan: (from the right) Ito Hirobumi, the first Resident-General of Korea; Terauchi Masatake, the third Resident-General; Sone Arasuke, the second Resident-General

arose in Korea in 1919.

The inclusion of Shokasonjuku Academy in the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' shows that the government of Japan evaluates it as an institution of cultivating persons who pursued the industrialization. However, Shokasonjuku Academy is not an industrial facility, but the place where was made the view of history that justifies the ideology and the history of Japan's invasion of Asia. The inclusion

of the Academy of Yoshida Shoin, who advocated Japan's external expansionism, indicates that there is neither reflection on Japan's past wars nor awareness of the areas subjected to the aggression. Such attitudes are criticized as both an insult and a deception to the neighboring countries. There have been attempts in Japan to revise the Peace Constitution to enable the use of military force overseas. This kind of moves lies behind the exaltation of Shokasonjuku Academy and Yoshida Shoin.



Shokasonjuku Academy with the placard celebrating the World Heritage registration (Photo of March 2016)

'Negative heritage' and UNESCO spirit

UNESCO was created in order to reflect on the two World Wars and their accompanying calamities undergone by the humanity, and not to repeat them. UNESCO is an international organization that aims to construct the defences of peace in the minds of human beings, to diffuse culture for the dignity of man, to pursue education for justice and liberty and peace, to strengthen the intellectual and moral solidarity between the peoples and consequently to realize international peace and the common welfare of humankind (the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), adopted in 1945).

The "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage"(the World Heritage Convention), adopted by the 17th UNESCO General Conference in 1972, sets out the standards for the common heritage of humankind and principles for its protection.

While UNESCO World Heritage sites are mostly of beautiful and positive values, there are heritages symbolizing such tragedies that should never be repeated by the humankind. These are called 'negative heritage' destined to serve as an example not to follow.

The wounds left by a ‘negative heritage’ cannot be easily erased or healed. And this is why it should be constantly remembered.

On the basis of the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO has also designated and preserved humanity’s ‘negative heritage’ as World Heritage. The most notable examples are Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland, a German Nazi concentration and extermination camp where Jews and others were brutally killed; the island of Gorée in Senegal, which was the largest slave-trading center on the African coast; and the Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site, where 67 nuclear tests were carried out. These have been nominated as World Heritage for present and future generations to reflect on the dark aspects of the past and to resolve not to repeat the same mistakes

‘Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ as conceived by the Japanese government is an attempt to forget and hide the history that must be remembered – a history not solely of entrepreneurs and technicians, but also the blood and sweat of numerous laborers, as well as successive wars of aggression, colonial domination and the forced labor of Koreans, Chinese and Allied prisoners of war. It will be only when its ‘negative history’ is properly explained while remembering the victims and learning its lessons, that the universal value of the Sites as a genuine World Heritage can be shared with the world.



Auschwitz Birkenau camp and its exhibition room



2-2 The reality of forced mobilization of Koreans during the colonial period

Mobilize them all!

Among the facilities registered as the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', those such as Yawata Steel Works, Mitsui Miike Coal Mine, Mitsubishi Takashima Coal Mine (Takashima and Hashima), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.'s Nagasaki Shipyard, and Kamaishi Coal Mine and Iron Works were also the sites of forced mobilization and forced labor of Koreans.

Following the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, Japan waged a total war of aggression against China in 1937. Japan established 'labor mobilization plans' covering a wide range of areas including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Sakhalin, and the South Sea Islands in the Pacific. In colonial Korea, Japan strengthened the system for the mobilization of human and material resources, while pursuing the policy of 'making subjects of the emperor', an assimilation of Koreans into Japanese.

Over 800,000 workers Korean had been deported to Japan. The Korean Women's Volunteer Labour Corps were one of the pretext for sending young girls as factory workers. More than 360,000 people were mobilized to serve the Japanese army as soldiers and civilians attached to the military. Some women had been turned into 'comfort women' for the Japanese army. Within Korea itself, more than 6 million Koreans were also forcibly mobilized to work.



Oath of the Imperial Subject



Postcard promoting military conscription

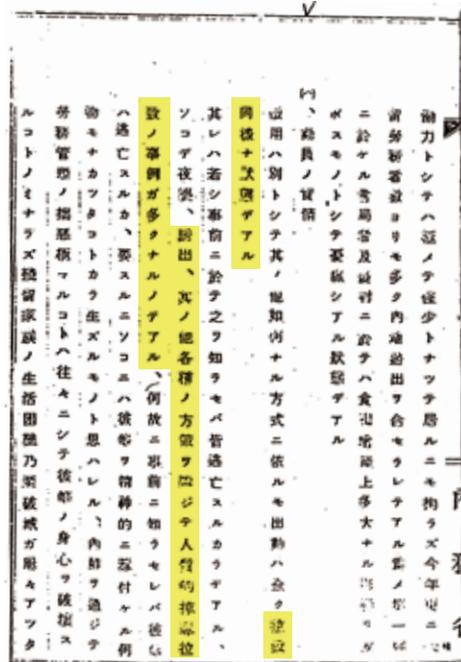


Photographs of forced mobilization of Koreans ("Fighting Korea" issued in June 1945)

Forced labor, with routine surveillance and violence

The labor mobilization that took place in 1939 had been planned and carried out by the Japanese State and Japanese businesses in an organized and systematic manner to make up for the shortage of labor. By means such as enticement, deception and violence, Japan forcibly had drafted people in Korea. They had been deported to coalfields, mines, construction sites, munitions factories, harbors and other workplaces in various parts of Japan. The mobilized people had been subjected to violent surveillance without liberties and proper wages.

They were put to work under the harsh and abject conditions of work and subjected to severe racial discrimination. They suffered from malnutrition and starvation, and even when their mobilization period expired, they were often not allowed to return home. The family members who had been left behind had to undergo dire poverty without any source of income to sustain their lives. Some of the records at the time described the situation of such mobilization as "spoliation akin to hostage taking" and "kidnapping".



Report by a contractee of the Home Ministry, sent to the administrative bureau, the Home Ministry(31 July, 1944) stated that the reality of mobilization was "the condition similar to kidnapping" and that "as all sort of methods such as night raids and allurement were employed, there are increasing the cases of "spoliation akin to hostage taking" and "kidnapping".

The companies relating to the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ and the estimates of Koreans, Chinese and Allied Forces prisoners of war mobilized for forced labor

Companies that used forced labor	Korean forced laborers	Chinese forced laborers	Allied POWs
Yawata Steel Works	4,000	—	1,353
Yawata Harbor	4,000	201	
Nittetsu Futase Coal Mine	4,000	805	601
Nagasaki Shipyard	6,000	—	500
Takashima Coal Mine (Takashima & Hashima)	4,000	409	—
Miike Coal Mine	9,264	2,481	1,875
Kamaishi Mine	1,000	288	410
Kamaishi Iron Works	1,263		401
Total	33,400	4,184	5,140

Note: As Yawata Harbor and Nittetsu Futase Coal Mine were closely related with the Yawata Steel Works, the numbers of forced laborers at those sites have been included. The number of forced laborers at the Miike Coal Mine also includes those forced to work at Manda, Miyaura, Yotsuyama and Mikawa Pits.

In the case of the facilities included in the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’, it is estimated that approximately 33,400 Koreans were subjected to damages incurred from forced labor.

If only the known cases of death are taken, they were about 50 people at the Mitsubishi Takashima Coal Mine’s Hashima Pit, about 50 at Miike Coal Mine, and about 60 at Nagasaki Shipyard. In the case of the Takashima Coal Mine’s Takashima Pit and the Yawata Steel Works, only a small number has been identified so far. It has not been possible to know the exact number and the aftermath of the Koreans who had to suffer from the atomic bombing in Nagasaki.

Violation of the Forced Labour Convention

The issue of forced labor of colonial Koreans at the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ is not a problem only for UNESCO. Already in 1999 in the International Labour Organization(ILO), the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations held that “the massive conscription of labour to work for private industry in Japan under such deplorable conditions was a violation” of the Forced Labour Convention. From then on, the Committee has continued to recommend that the Japanese government take action to resolve the problem. However, the Japanese government remains to be silent.

Instead, the Japanese government took the course for the nomination as World Heritage of those industrial facilities of Mitsui Group, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation that have been criticized in Korea as 'companies involved in war crimes'. It does not acknowledge that there had been forced labor at these sites. The Japanese government should give recognition to the history of forced labor and make clear the negative heritage of wars of aggression and the accompanying forced labor.

No forced mobilization or forced labor?

When the decision of the inscription of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' on the World Heritage List was adopted in July, 2015, the Japanese ambassador to UNESCO made the following statement:

Japan is prepared to take measures that allow an understanding that there were a large number of Koreans and others who were brought against their will and forced to work under harsh conditions in the 1940s at some of the sites, and that, during World War II, the Government of Japan also implemented its policy of requisition.

The underlined part became a source of conflicting translations and interpretations. The word "others" in this context is taken to referring to Chinese and Allied prisoners of war. The Japanese ambassador also promised to take appropriate measures to remember the victims, such as the establishment of information center.

The words used in this statement could be accepted as acknowledging the forced mobilization and forced labor of Koreans. However, after this statement was made, the Japanese government argued that the expression of "forced to work" "does not necessarily mean forced labor," and that "The conscription of people from the Korean Peninsula at the time of the war does not equate to forced labor under international law." The assertion is that, while there had been the conscription of Koreans against their will, it cannot be said to be illegal forced labor. The Japanese government's argument that Korean people were made to work but there was no forced labor, and that the conscription was not criminal but lawful, is an attempt to rewrite history in its favor.

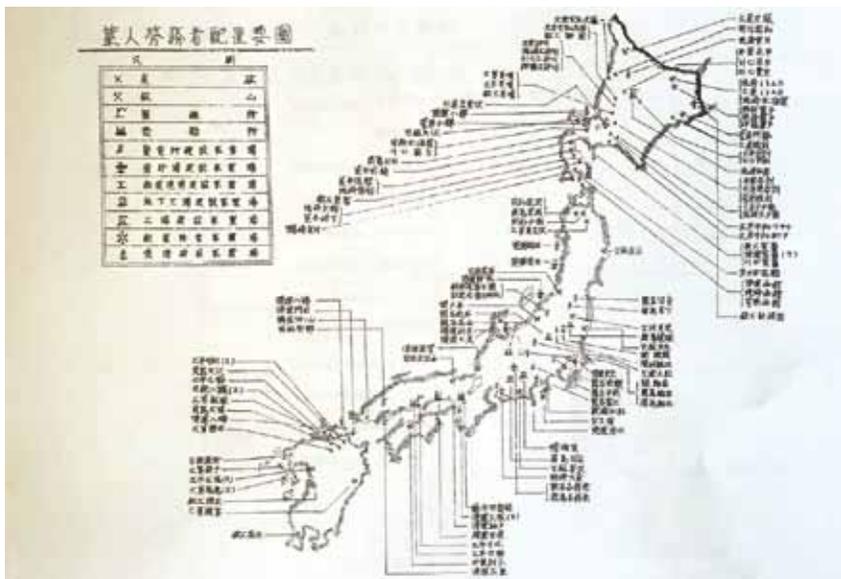
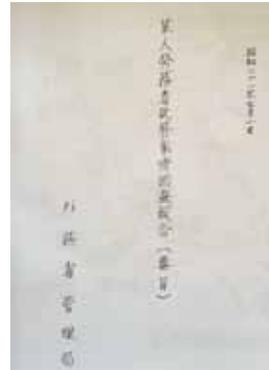
The Japanese government does not yet reveal the number of Korean forced laborers and their deaths. Japan and its companies are not fulfilling their responsibility to investigate the truth of how many Koreans were killed and how many were injured. Furthermore, the issue of the forced mobilization of Koreans and their use as forced labor is also an issue of the restoration of the victims' deprived human rights as discussed in Chapter 4.

2-3 Forced labor of Chinese and Allied prisoners of war in the Asia-Pacific War period

Chinese forced laborers

As the wars of aggression became prolonged and extended, Japan began to mobilize Chinese forcibly in addition to Koreans in order to alleviate the labor shortage. After the war ended, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote a report on the situation concerning the use of Chinese laborers ('kajin roumusha shuurou jijou chousa houkokusho') in March 1946.

According to this report, the Japanese army and the local organ for labor control, Labor Association for North China, deported a total of 38,935 Chinese to 135 worksites across Japan from April 1943 to June 1945. 17.5 percent of the deportees, numbering 6,830, died. The entry for the cause of death in the death certificates indicated that some people died of colitis and gastrointestinal inflammation, but it is believed to have concealed that they died from malnutrition, excessive work and ill-treatment. At the camps in China, people were also treated harshly and



Cover page (above) and Distribution map of Chinese laborers (below): Administrative Bureau, Foreign Ministry, "Report on the situation concerning the use of Chinese laborers", March 1946

many were killed in transportation.

Japan did not treat the Chinese as prisoners of war and deported them in the guise of contracts making use of the form of 'requisition' or 'recruitment'. The struggles of resistance by Chinese deportees were repressed by the police and the military.

To the places that are included in the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' were sent a total of 3,896 Chinese including 2,481 to Miike Coal Mine, 409 to Mitsubishi Takashima Coal Mine, 201 to Yawata Port relating to the Yawata Steel Works of the Imperial Steel Works and 805 to Futase Coal Mine. Some 500 Chinese laborers lost their lives at Miike, 30 at Takashima and Hashima Coal Mines, some 20 at Yawata Port, and 89 at Futase Mine. 288 Chinese were also deported to work at the Kamaishi Mine run by the Imperial Steel Works.

Li Qing Yun, a Chinese taken from Hebei Province

Li joined the Eighth Route Army in 1942 and was surrounded and captured by the Japanese army in November, 1943. The Japanese army was raiding his village, marauding and burning everything in the house. He had been tortured by the Japanese, losing consciousness several times. He was transferred from a prison to a concentration camp, from where he was eventually shipped to Hashima Island. On the island, Li was encamped in a shabby wooden house with some forty to fifty people sharing a single room. He worked 12-hour shifts without a day off.

Inside the mine, Li and others were forced to work wearing nothing but a loincloth, or sometimes completely naked. One day when Li became dizzy causing a delay in the coal loading work, the supervisor hit him on the head from behind with a wooden stick. Even when sick, he could not get a rest nor medical treatment; contrariwise his food rations were reduced. When a gas leak killed two people, a group of seven laborers refused to work demanding a negotiation with the head of the mine. They were rounded up and beaten indiscriminately by the police. The policeman cut with a knife around the throat of someone with blood gushed out. When they returned home, they were not welcomed being branded as Japanese collaborators.

- The Nagasaki Associa-



From the right, Li Qing Yun taken to Hashima Island and Lian Shuang Yin to Takashima (Report on the remembrance monument to the Chinese victims of the Atomic Bombing in Urakami prison branch, 2008)

tion to Protect Human Rights of Koreans in Japan, “Listening to the whispers from the Warship Island”, revised and expanded ed. 2016.



Former Chinese laborers calling for the restoration of historical justice and human dignity before the District Court of Nagasaki (Report on the remembrance monument to the Chinese victims of the Atomic Bombing in Urakami prison branch, 2008)

Allied prisoners of war as forced laborers

As many as 350,000 Allied Forces prisoners were taken by the Japanese during the Asia-Pacific war. These included approximately 150,000 prisoners from the US and various countries in Europe, such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Due to the harsh treatment, the number of Allied Forces survivors from these countries was reduced to 111,902 by the end of the war. The death toll amounted to more than 30,000.

Japan sent 36,000 Allied captives for forced labor to 130 concentration camps in Mainland Japan. According to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau's report titled "Treatment of Prisoners", 3,415 prisoners died at the camps. Over 10 thousand were drowned to death during the transfer when the transport ships were attacked and sunk. These ships became known as "hell ships."

Among the facilities of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', 1,875 Allied prisoners underwent forced labor, being deployed at Miike Coal Mine, some 500 at Mitsubishi's Nagasaki Shipyard, 1,353 prisoners at the Yawata Steel Works and 601 at Futase Coal Mine, the sum total being 4,329. The number of death among them is 138 at

Miike, 113 at Nagasaki, 158 at Yawata and 54 at Futase, 463 in total. Kamaishi Steelworks of the Imperial Steel Works also used about 800 Allied prisoners as forced laborers.

Lester Tenney, captured in Bataan, the Philippines

He became prisoner of war in Bataan, in the Philippines, in April 1942. After escaping from the prisoner-of-war camp and joining the guerillas, he was captured and brought to torture. He was transferred from Bataan, via Cabanatuan, to Omuta Camp in Manila from which he was sent to Miike Mine to be put into forced labor. While working for 12 hours a day, he had been maltreated and beaten occasionally with a shovel or a pickaxe.

- Lester Tenney, "My Hitch in Hell: The Bataan Death March," 2003



Lester Tenney (2010)

Paul Daniel, captured in Java, Indonesia

He was captured in Java and sent to work at the airfield construction site in Fukuoka in December 1943, before being transferred to Miike Coal Mine in December 1944. As for the maltreatment and torture, Mr. Daniel stated:



Friendship Meeting for Better Understanding between former Prisoners of war and their families. The former American POWs who were taken to Miike Mine of the Mitsui group, participated in an exchange program with citizens at the invitation of the Japanese government.

2 “A hose was put into my mouth and once my stomach was full of water they would stand on it. Sometimes, I was told to hold a bucket filled with water above my head, while kneeling with a rod placed behind my knees. We would work in a team with several of the Japanese miners and several of us captives. The work was arduous.”

The conditions of prisoners of war were horrific as told to his family. Even after he came home, he had to struggle with nightmares. Screams and so much sweat in his sleep made his wife alarmed.

- Investigation by POW Research Society, testimony of a family member 2017

3

Sites of Forced Labor - Steel Works, Shipyard, Coal Mines



"Airlanes, warships and bullets, all start from the coal. Take care of coal!"
(Rear cover of the Bulletin of the Coal Control Association, Ministry of Munitions, March 1944)

3-1 Yawata Steel Works: Built with the war reparations of the First Sino-Japanese war (1894-1895)



Full view of Yawata Steel Works (Procure Department of the Steel Works Cooperative, "Collection of Photographs", 1932)

Korean Peninsula became battlefield of the First Sino-Japanese War

The picture on the right is titled “Fierce Fighting at Anseong Crossing in Korea”, a ‘nishiki-e’, a multi-colored woodblock print. It depicts a scene from the First Sino-Japanese War. On 29 July, 1894, the Japanese army attempted to cross the Anseong River, located 60 km south of Seoul, to attack Chinese troops in Seonghwan. Japan started the First Sino-Japanese War to secure control and to eliminate China's influence over Korea. The Japanese army occupied the Korean royal palace and attacked the Donghak peasant army. The Korean peninsula was the main battleground of this war.



The growth of Yawata Steel Works with wars

After winning the First Sino-Japanese War, Japan received a huge amount of reparations from China. China paid Japan a war indemnity of 200 million Kuping taels, which was equivalent to 4 times Japan's annual national budget at the time. Japan spent 80% of these reparations on military expansion, and the remaining 20% on the construction of the state-owned Yawata Steel Works, together with railway, telegraph and telephone services for the enterprise. The reparations were paid in pounds, which provided the basis of the gold standard in Japan.

The Yawata Steel Works began operating in 1901, and the stabilization of its operation took 10 years. They led the development of Japan's heavy industry and accounted for 90% of Japan's domestic steel production in 1906. Iron ore, the raw material, was imported from the Daye mine in China. For



Ito Hirobumi and others visiting Yawata Steel Works during the construction of furnace (photo of the billboard at the former First Head Office of Yawata Steel Works taken in September 2017)



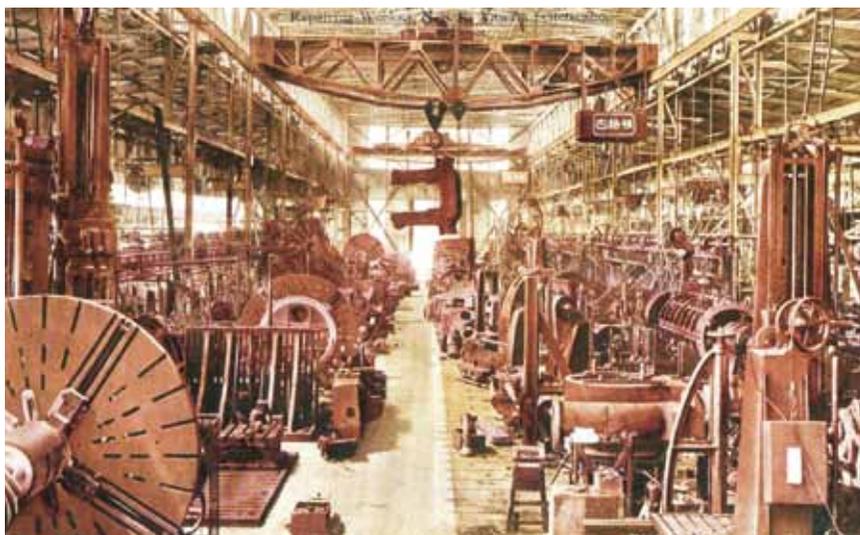
Futase Coal Mine (Procure Department of the Steel Works Cooperative, "Collection of Photographs", 1932)

the supply of coal, the Yawata Steel Works bought a coal mine in the Chikuho area and ran the Futase branch office, the Futase Coal Mine. At this mine, there was a fire accident in the Uruno Pit in January 1903, resulting in the death of 101 people. The gas explosion in the colliery's central shaft of February 1913 took 64 lives.

Quenched Smelter, Struggles of Laborers for Rights

The Yawata Steel Works became the largest iron and steel factory in Asia, but the lives of its workers were arduous. Laborers had to work twelve hours a day in two shifts, and wages were low. As the consciousness for democracy and rights had heightened in many parts of the world since the First World War, the Yawata workers also became more aware of their rights. In 1919 Kentaro Nishida, employee of the Yawata Steel Works, called for the 8-hours day and the improvement of labor conditions and working environment. He submitted petitions, but his demands were not realized. Later he and Kenzo Asahara organized a labor union, called the Friend of Labor Society in Japan. With the two strikes in February 1920, they won the 8 hours day, a wage increase and the improvement of welfare facilities.

In 1923 at Yawatagu Edamitsu, the Kitakyushu Machine and Ironworks Union was founded, later becoming the Kyushu Alliance of the Japanese Federation of Labor. In 1928, Kenzo Asahara was elected as a member of the House of Representatives representing the Kyushu Democratic Constitutional Party (min-ken-dou). While conducting its war of aggression against China, the Japanese government oppressed the rising labor movements.

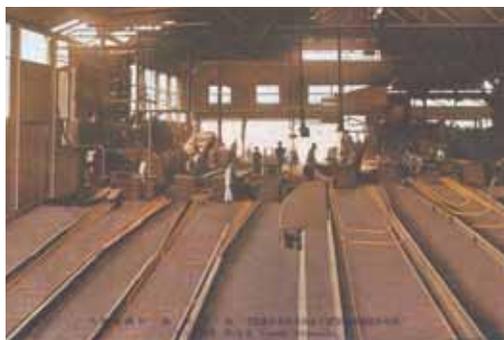


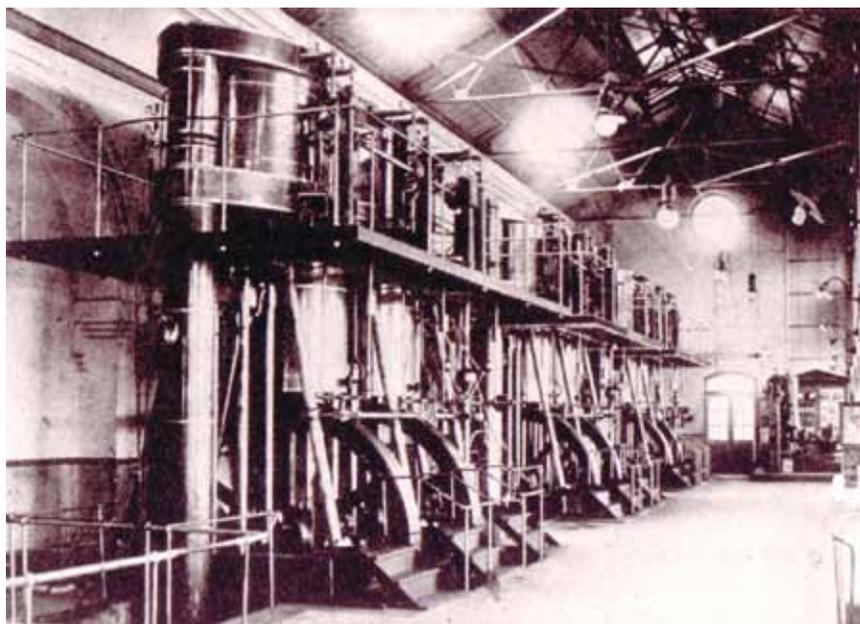
Inside of the Repair Shop (postcard, 1935)

Expansion of war, explosive increase of steel production

With the expansion of the war against China, the demand for steel had dramatically increased. In 1934, centering on the Yawata Steel Works, the Japanese government merged the state-owned and privately-owned iron and steel enterprises and established the monopolistic Imperial Steel Works. After the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937, the Japanese army occupied the Daye mine in China in the next year which eventually became the property of the Imperial Steel Works. From the Daye mine, a large amount of iron ore was transported to Yawata. With the steel products from Yawata, Japan made battleships, torpedoes, war planes and other war material until its defeat in 1945.

Yawata Steel Works of the Imperial Steel Works used the labor force mobilized from all over the Empire to cope with the explosively increased demand for steel products. About 4,000 of the people mobilized forcibly from colonial Korea were distributed to Yawata Steel Works, some 4,000 people to Yawata Harbor and 4,000 people to the Futase Cole Mine, more than 12,000 people in total. There were also 201 Chinese people at the Harbor, 805 Chinese and





Inside of Onga River Pumping Station (Procurement department of the Steel Cooperative, “Collection of Photographs”, 1932)

600 Allied prisoners at the Mine, and 1,350 Allied prisoners at the Steel Works who were forced to work.

Following Japan's defeat, the US Military Government in Japan pursued the policy of breaking up the 'zaibatsu', conglomerates. In 1950, the Imperial Steel Works was divided into four separate companies – Yawata Steel Works, Fuji Steel Works, Harima Refractories Co., Ltd., and Nittetsu Steamship Co., Ltd. In 1970, Yawata Steel Works and Fuji Steel Works merged into New Nippon Steel and in 2012 New Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal merged to become Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation. Currently, the Yawata Steel Works is affiliated with Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation.

Kamaishi and Iron Works

Hashino Iron Mining and Smelting Site (the oldest western-style blast furnace in Japan), in Kamaishi, Iwate, is one of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution. The furnace was built during the final years of the Edo period. It melted down iron ore and produced pig iron. In 1880, the Japanese government established the Kamaishi Iron Works, the first iron works factory in Japan. In 1883, this was to become the Tanaka Iron Works of

Kamaishi Mine.

After the Second Sino-Japanese War, forced labor was also used at the Kamaishi Mine of Nittetsu Mining CO., Ltd., and Kamaishi Iron Works of the Imperial Steel Works. Kamaishi Iron Works were destroyed with two naval bombardments by the US in July and August 1945. More than 1,000 people are estimated to have died in the bombardments, including Korean forced laborers and Allied prisoners.

The number of Koreans who were taken to the Kamaishi Mine and Kamaishi Iron Works is estimated to have been about 2,200. Those deaths which were confirmed by records are numbered 18 at the Kamaishi Mine, 39 at the Kamaishi Iron Works, and 13 others elsewhere in Kamaishi.

In September 1995, the families of the Koreans who had been victimized because of the bombardments and other reasons, joined in filing lawsuits against both the Japanese government and the New Nippon Steel (the successor of the Imperial Steel Works). They claimed the return of the remains of the



Kamaishi Mine



Site of the blast furnace in the Hashino Iron Mine



Gathering for commemoration of Kamaichi victims held in Korea on 2 October 1997. The lawsuit against the New Nippon Steel in Japan ended with the settlement out of court. The claimants lost the case before the Osaka court. In the Korean action, they are still waiting for the judgment of the Supreme Court after long years.

deceased, the payment of non-paid wages, compensation for mental damages as well as the publication of apology in newspapers. In one case, New Nippon Steel made a settlement with the bereaved families providing 20,050,000 yen and a memorial monument.

The number of Chinese forced laborers in the Kamaishi Mine was 197 in November 1944 and 91 in February 1945, 288 in total. Among them, 123 people died there. In the case of Allied prisoners, the number is 401 at Kamaishi Iron Works, and 410 at the Kamaishi Mine, over 800 in total. 65 of them died with 34 people dead in the US naval bombardments.

Mr. Kyusu Kim, sent to the Yawata Steel Works at the age of 17

In around January 1943, he was taken to the Yawata Steel Works from Gunsan, Jeollabuk-do Province of Korea. He didn't know where and what he was going to do until he arrived at Tobata Port in Fukuoka, Japan. After the moral and military training for 2 weeks at the training center called Myoken, he was deployed in the Yawata Steel Works. He was in charge of operation and management of the line switching equipment at the signal station for communications with the trains carrying the various raw materials and products within the factory. He worked in two shifts a day with no permission for outings and private liberties.



Having been compelled to work in a foreign country at an early age, he cried most of the time from hunger and loneliness. After 3 months, he tried to escape with a friend, but was caught and tortured for several days. He did not receive any explanation from the company on his wage.

- From the testimony given as a claimant for the lawsuit against Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, 15 June 2007

Mr. Sukbong Ju, mobilized twice, labor and military conscription

At the age of 19 in 1943, he was sent from Jeonju, Jeollabuk-do Province of Korea, to the Yawata Steel Works. He could not evade conscription because, if he did not go, food rations would be stopped and his family would be starved to death. At the Yawata Steel Works, he did simple manual works such as shoveling coal on three shifts per day. Koreans were not placed in positions where they could learn skills. The atmosphere was discriminatory against Koreans considered as a low-level nation. The rations were so insufficient that he was always hungry. He witnessed that Allied prisoners working in the nearby furnace picked up and ate the peel of tangerines on the roadside.

As he had to wear a cloth lettered with the word "Conscripted", he could not run far away. If caught, they would be beaten badly near to death. The wage was not paid under the pretext of remitting to home. To him, the most painful thing was hunger, the most frightening the air raids. With the frequent air raids on the ammunition factories around Yawata, he spent many nervous days. When he reached the age of 20, he received yet another notice for military conscription and left the Steel Works.



Mr. Kyusu Kim, Mr. Sukbong Ju and other 10 Korean victims demanded apology and compensation from the New Nippon Steel (the successor of the Imperial Steel Works), and still keep on suing. Since 2005 in the midst of 3 cases pending, 6 plaintiffs have passed away and 3 others are in a difficult condition to testify due to old age.

- From the interview in preparation for the additional lawsuit against New Nippon Steel Works on 17 September, 2009.

Mr. Cheongu Lee, sent to Yawata Steel Works at the age of 17

He was sent from Seocheon, Chungcheongnam-do Province of Korea to Yawata Steel Works in September 1942. The clerk of *myeon*, the township office, came with a Japanese policeman and told him to come to the office for the labor conscription by certain date. He had to comply because his parents would get harassed if he did not answer. At the Yawata Steel Works, he worked at a factory that produced ammonia fertilizer. He saw the Allied prisoners put to hard labor. In 1943, he escaped from the factory and worked as an odd-job man at the Imamura Workshop in Wakamatsu.



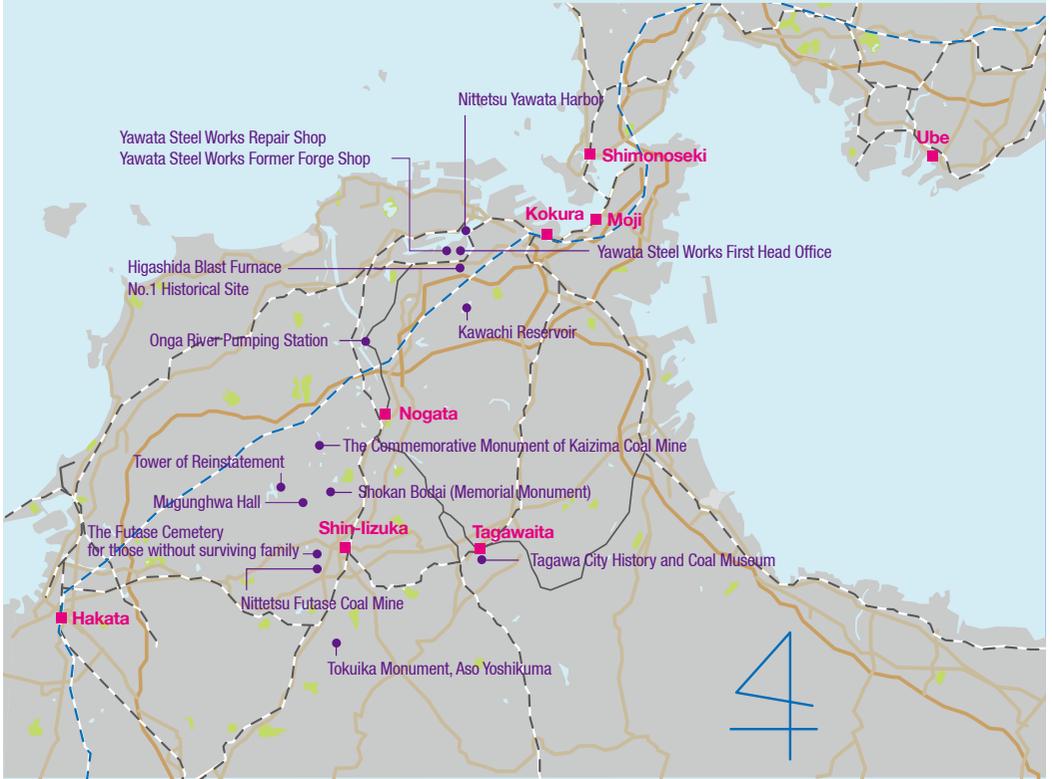
Young look of Cheongu Lee at the time of forced mobilization

After the liberation, he went to Shimonoseki to return home, but he could not get passenger tickets. Other returnees poured into the port city of Shimonoseki. While waiting, tens of people died of starvation, diseases and epidemics on a daily basis. He heard that tickets could be obtained quickly if he helped to remove the dead bodies. He took the work for 10 days and could go home.

- The Commission on Verification and Support for the Victims of Forced Mobilization under Japanese Colonialism, "Oral Archives of the Victims of Forced Mobilization", Vol. 3: On board the steamboat, I might have become a sea ghost, 2006 [in Korean]



Map relating to Yawata Steel Works and Chikuhō coalfields



Information for Visitors



Mugunghwa Hall

The charnel house established by the Korean-Japanese Executive Committee to Establish a Monument to the Victims of Forced Labor in the Charnel House style (currently the Mugunghwa Hall Friendship Group) at the Iizuka Cemetery in December 2000. Around the hall, there is a gallery with carvings about the site's history of forced labor.



1594-1 Shoshi, Iizuka-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** Take a JR bus in front of JR Shin-Iizuka Station and get off at the Kasagibashi stop **Opening Hours** 08:30~17:00 **Closed** around the end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Free



Tagawa City History and Coal Museum

Opened in 1983, the museum is situated at the old Mitsui Tagawa Mine Ita pit which celebrates the largest in the Chikuho area. It has collections of about 15,000 materials relating to the coal industry including the annotated paintings and diaries of Yamamoto Sakube, inscribed in 2011 as the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. In the park, there are the monument of consolation for the deceased victims of the Korean conscript and the monument of requiem for the Chinese forced laborers.



2734-1 Ita, Tagawa-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** 8 min. walk from JR-Heisei Chikuho Railway Tagawa-Ita Station **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:30 (entrance until 17:00) **Closed** Every Monday and around the end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Adult 400 Yen, high school students 100 Yen, middle and elementary school students 50 Yen



Yawata Steel Works First Head Office

Constructed in 1899, and used as the head office of the Yawata Steel works until 1922. View is allowed only in the designated place without special permission.



Edamitsu, Yawata Higashi-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** 10 min. walk from JR SPACE WORLD station **Opening Hours** 9:30~17:00 (entrance possible until 16:30) **Closed** Every Monday **Entrance Fee** Free ✓Commentator available



Onga River Pumping Station

Began operations in 1910 to bring water from the Onga River to the Yawata Steel Works. The pumping station is still operating and the inside is not open to the public. View is allowed only in the designated place where a display panel is set up.



1 Chome-3-1 Dotenouchi, Nakama-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** 25 min. walk from JR Chikuzen-Habu Station **Opening Hours** N/A **Entrance Fee** Free ✓Commentary is available on weekends and holidays (10:00~16:00)



Higashida Blast Furnace No.1 Historical Site

Began operations in 1901. The existing blast furnace is the one that had operated from 1962 to 1972. The site is made public now as a historical park with panel exhibitions.



2 Chome-3-12 Higashida, Yawatahigashi-ku, Kitakyūshū-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** 5 min. walk from JR SPACE WORLD **Opening Hours** 09:00~17:00 **Closed** around the end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Free

3-2 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.'s Nagasaki Shipyard: From torpedoes and warships to the Atomic bombing



Mitsubishi Nagasaki Shipyard building the warship Tosa

Where there is Mitsubishi, there is a war

Mitsubishi is the representative of the conglomerates grown with the aggressive wars of Japanese imperialism. Mitsubishi's mining and heavy industries were indispensable to Japan in warfare. During the expansion of aggression, Mitsubishi's Nagasaki Shipyard produced 82 warships and more than 10,000 torpedoes. The Musashi, a warship built here, was propagated as the 'pride of the Japanese battleship'. The torpedoes used in the attack on Pearl Harbor were also made in Nagasaki.

At the time of opening to foreign trade, the Edo shogun government established with the guidance of Dutch engineers the Nagasaki Naval Training Center and the Nagasaki Yotetsusho, a repair shop of naval vessels. These were the beginning of Nagasaki Shipyard. The Meiji Government put it under the management of the governmental Bureau of Nagasaki Shipbuilding.

Rapid growth from a small shop to a munitions conglomerate

In 1873, Yataro Iwasaki established Mitsubishi Shokai. Next year when Japan invaded Taiwan, the company raised enormous profits mainly by procuring ships for the transportation of soldiers. In 1881, Mitsubishi took over Takashima Mine, while in 1884 it ran Nagasaki Shipyard entrusted by the Bureau of Nagasaki Shipbuilding which was eventually bought in 1887. Making profits from shipping, coal and shipbuilding, Mitsubishi grew into a conglomerate.



Mitsubishi Shipyard (postcard)



Dock No.3 Mitsubishi Shipyard (postcard)

Mitsubishi built shipyard docks No.2 and No.3 in 1896 and 1905 respectively, and bought its Giant Cantilever Crane from the United Kingdom in 1909. With the establishment of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. in 1934, the shipyard took a new name Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipyard. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was Japan's largest manufacturer of ships and airplanes, Nagasaki being the shipbuilding strongpoint. During the wartime, Mitsubishi's factories of weapons, steel, shipbuilding and electricity were concentrated on the plain near Urakami River in Nagasaki, while the large factories of Mitsubishi Shipyard lined along the Nagasaki harbor. Warships and torpedoes were produced at Nagasaki Shipyard, military aircrafts at Nagoya Aircraft Corporation, tanks and other military vehicles at Mitsubishi Tokyo. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries owned Mitsubishi equipment factories in northeast China and docks in Taiwan.

Forcible exploitation of human and material resources

In the Asia-Pacific War, Mitsubishi exploited resources and the people on the spot under severe conditions in various parts of Asia. Approximately 6,000 Koreans were forcibly mobilized to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipyard alone. Korean people were also transported to work at Mitsubishi's Nagasaki Weapons Factory, Steel Works, and Electric Works. Their labor was further used to build underground factories and for port transportation.



Nagasaki Shipyard repairing the aegis ship (2003)

The atomic bombing on Nagasaki made also Korean workers mobilized forcibly suffer. While the exact number of Korean victims is still unknown, it is believed that Koreans took 10% of the more than 300,000 victims of the bombing. Allied prisoners were also forced to work at the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipyard. At the nearby shipyard of Kawanami Industry, Koreans and Allied prisoners were also forced to work.

Mr. Hansu Kim, a forced laborer at Nagasaki Shipyard in 1944



Hansu Kim at the testimony hear in June 2010

Hearing that he wouldn't be drafted if he had a job being an only son, he was employed at the state monopoly branch in Yeonbaek, Hwanghae-do Province of Korea. But in August 1944, he was forcibly deported to Nagasaki Shipyard. About 200 gathered in the township of Yeonbaek were all put into the train to Busan, from where they were headed by a ferry to Shimonoseki. He was assigned to a quarters and received moral education and military training. During the education, the Japanese platoon commander made intimidating remarks publicly about the rapes and massacres committed in China during the Sino-Japanese War.

3

He worked in the factory plating with copper and zinc. While doing the work of bending copper pipe, a chain was cut and his toe was broken by this accident. Though he visited a hospital, I was just given an injection. As they did not give permission for leave, he was made to continue to work with swollen foot. On his way to and from the plating laboratory, he could see the place where they built aircraft carriers and mini-submarines. Repairing ships with holes made by bombings, he saw many dead bodies of soldiers who had drowned while trying to stop the ship from sinking. Though he was exposed to radiation in the midst of working 3.2 km away from the hypocenter of the atomic blast at Nagasaki, he managed to survive with luck as a thick steel plate covered the whole body. To his estimation, 80% of his fellow conscripted might have been killed.

- The Commission on Verification and Support for the Victims of Forced Mobilization under Japanese Colonialism, "August Engraved on My Body", 2008.

Mr. Sungil Kim, compelled to work under surveillance and control

He was the head of a household supporting family livelihood with a clerk job at the Herbal Medicine Control Union in Gyeongsangnam-do Province of Korea. When he received a writ of conscription in December 1944, I hid to avoid the conscription. In the following January, he was caught by the police and handed over to the staff of the Total Force Department of the Busan City Hall and then to the staff sent by the Mitsubishi group. The very next day, he was shipped by ferry from Busan to the Mitsubishi Nagasaki Shipyard.

He was deployed as a member of the water ranger section, the Supplementary Work



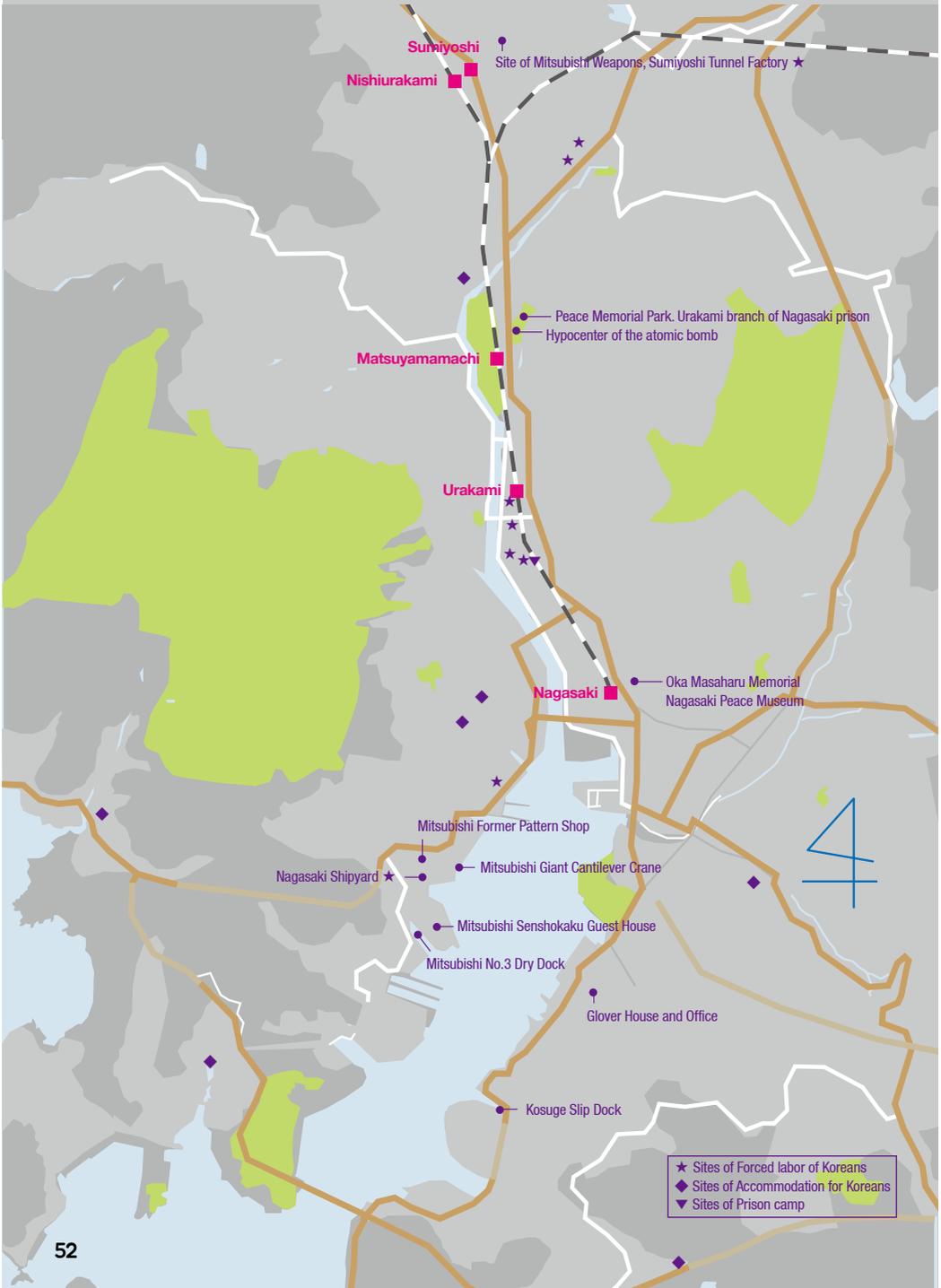
Part of the Shipbuilding Department at Nagasaki Shipyard. The quarters were cut off from the outside, and naval guards patrolled. They were under the constant surveillance and control of the Military Police. The conscripted were supposed to receive, after three months, both monthly wages and other payments such as family allowance, allowance for non-absence work and over-time allowance. But as deductions were made on various pretexts such as contributions to retirement reserve fund and national savings, they could scarcely get practically any cash money.

On August 9, 1945, he was exposed to radiation of the Atomic bombing at the workplace of transporting steel for tunnel building. Since he had seen the hellish Nagasaki, he was quite determined to survive and to come home. Together with some colleagues, he escaped from Nagasaki and returned to Korea.

- Judgment of the First Instance for the Damages Claim brought by Mr. Sungil Kim (Nagasaki District Court of Japan, 2 December 1997)



Map of Nagasaki Shipyard related facilities and surroundings



Information for Visitors



Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum

Museum built by Nagasaki citizens to continue the will of Oka Masaharu who dedicated his life to reveal the historical facts relating to Japan's war responsibility and wrongdoings, and to transmit Japan's history of wrongdoings.



9-4 Nishizakamachi Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** 5 min. walk from JR Nagasaki Station **Opening Hours** 09:00~17:00, **Closed** every Monday and around end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Adults 250 Yen, High School Students 150 Yen, Children free



Site of Mitsubishi Weapons, Sumiyoshi Tunnel Factory

A factory in evacuation of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Weapons Plant, built at the end of the Asia-Pacific War contracted to the Nishimatsu Construction. Accepting the demands from citizens, Nagasaki City placed an information board at the site that states “Many of the residents here were Korean workers. Some of them were forcibly conscripted and labored under harsh conditions to construct this tunnel.”



《動員された人々》

記録や遺跡を知る人の目によると、当時の現場には、重工業が多数あり、学徒、雇身労働、強制労働が動員されて各地で働いていました。トンネル工場では軍の管理下で兵器(弾薬)生産に関わる作業が行われており、その作業に動員された人達として従事していました。トンネル工場周辺には工員として動員された人達のための寮が建てられていました。また、土木工事をする人達等のための現場がいくつかあり、その居住者の中には朝鮮人労働者でした。

その中には、強制的に動員された者もあり、トンネルの掘削工事で過酷な労働に従事していました。戦後は交代で、戦後のトンネル内での掘削作業や、戦後により跡出される土や石もトラックで搬出したり、トラックに積んだりするような野外作業も主に行っていたと書われています。

Mobilized Workers

According to records and traces left, knowledge of the period, there were a number of ongoing military conscriptions in Nagasaki at that time. Students, conscripts, and drafted workers went off mobilized and went to work at work in various parts of the city.

In the Sumiyoshi Tunnel, operations related to the manufacture of armaments (ammunition) were being carried out by mobilized workers under the supervision of the military.

Around the tunnel construction site, dormitories were set up for those mobilized to work at the factory. There were also several living quarters for conscripted workers. Many of the conscripts of these quarters were Koreans. A number of the Korean laborers had been forcibly drafted, and they were made to engage in extremely hard labor, constructing the tunnel. They worked in these shifts, starting early the others after the tunnel was finished, taking the house and the land outside the factory, and carrying them out, as well as work outside the factory, such as loading the rubble onto trucks (in the summer).

搬出された人々

戦時中動員された人々の中には、学徒、雇身労働、強制労働が動員されて各地で働いていました。トンネル工場では軍の管理下で兵器(弾薬)生産に関わる作業が行われており、その作業に動員された人達として従事していました。トンネル工場周辺には工員として動員された人達のための寮が建てられていました。また、土木工事をする人達等のための現場がいくつかあり、その居住者の中には朝鮮人労働者でした。

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18 Sumiyoshimachi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** Take the tram in front of JR Nagasaki to the Sumiyoshi stop, 5 min. walk **Opening Hours** Open at all times **Entrance Fee** Free



Kosuge Slip Dock Site

Ship repair facility established by the Satsuma Clan and Thomas Glover in 1869. The facility was acquired by Mitsubishi in 1887 and closed in 1953.



5 Kosuge-cho, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** Take a Nagasaki bus in front of JR Nagasaki Station and get off at the Kosuge-machi bus station, 1 min. walk **Opening Hours** Weekends and Holidays, 10:00~16:00 **Entrance Fee** Free **Commentator** Available



Peace Memorial Park

A park covering the hypocenter and surroundings of the atomic bomb blast on August 9, 1945, and Urakami branch of Nagasaki prison. There are the Monument Commemorating Korean Victims of the Atomic Bombing built in 1979 by the 'Group for the Protection of the Human Rights of the Korean-Japanese Community in Nagasaki, Japan,' the Monument Commemorating Foreign Victims of War and for the Nuclear Abolishment and No War for Humanity' built in 1981, and the Monument Commemorating Chinese Victims of the Atomic Bombing built in 2008.



9 Matsuyamamachi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** Take the tram in front of JR Nagasaki Station and get off at the Matsuyamamachi stop, 3 min. walk **Opening Hours** Open at all times **Entrance Fee** Free



Mitsubishi Former Pattern Shop

Established in 1898 with the increased demand for casting products. It reopened as the Nagasaki Shipyard Museum in 1985 and open to the public.



1-1 Akunouramachi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** Take the museum bus in front of JR Nagasaki station (reservations required in advance by telephone, bus operates 6 times a day) **Opening Hours** 9:00~16:30 **Closed** Every second Saturday, and around end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Adults 800 Yen, Elementary and Middle School Students 400 Yen **Telephone Bookings** 095-828-4134 (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Nagasaki Shipyard Museum)



Glover House

Built in 1863 by Thomas Glover, a merchant who made a fortune with the importation of weapons. The house is located on a hill, overlooking the Nagasaki Shipyard. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. bought the house in 1939 when the battleship Musashi was in construction. The house was donated to Nagasaki city in 1957.



8-1 Minamiyamatemachi Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken **Transportation** Take the tram in front of JR Nagasaki Station and get off at the Ouratenshudoshita Station, 8 min. walk **Opening Hours** 08:00~18:00 (subject to seasonal variation, entrance allowed until 20 min. before closing) **Entrance Fee** Adults 610 Yen, High School Students 300 Yen, Elementary and Middle School Students 180 Yen

Takashima used prison labor in mining

The island of Takashima lies 14.5km away from Nagasaki port and the island of Hashima 4km from Takashima. Since 1881 Mitsubishi had managed the Takashima Coal Mine and in 1890 purchased Hashima expanding its operations.

While the mining of coal in Takashima went back to the early 18th century, its development was fully fledged with the modernization of Japan. In 1868, it was run by the Saga Domain and Glover & Co. Glover introduced the modern coal mining technology to Takashima, and this technology was also used in Chikuho and Hokkaido. In 1874, the Takashima mines became state-run and began to use prisoners in mining. Mitsubishi took over the Takashima Coal Mine in 1881 and the Hashima Coal Mine in 1890.

Mitsubishi's tyrannical labor management

Many workers lost their lives in the Takashima Coal Mine. In 1885 when Mitsubishi was operating the mine, the outbreak of cholera resulted in the death of 561 people. Sanitary conditions were appalling and violence against the miners and deadly accidents was rampant.

The miners made collective resistance several times and the Takashima Coal Mine became widely known as a 'symbol of tyranny'. Koichi Matsuoka, a journalist, was able to infiltrate the Takashima Coal Mine with the help of an agency for employment mediation. In June 1888, he wrote an article titled "The Miserable Condition of the Takashima Coal Mine" in the "Nihonjin" (Japanese), a mouthpiece journal issued by the Seikyo-sha, a political critical organization. The oppressive attitude of the Takashima Coal Mine towards the 3,000 miners became a social issue.



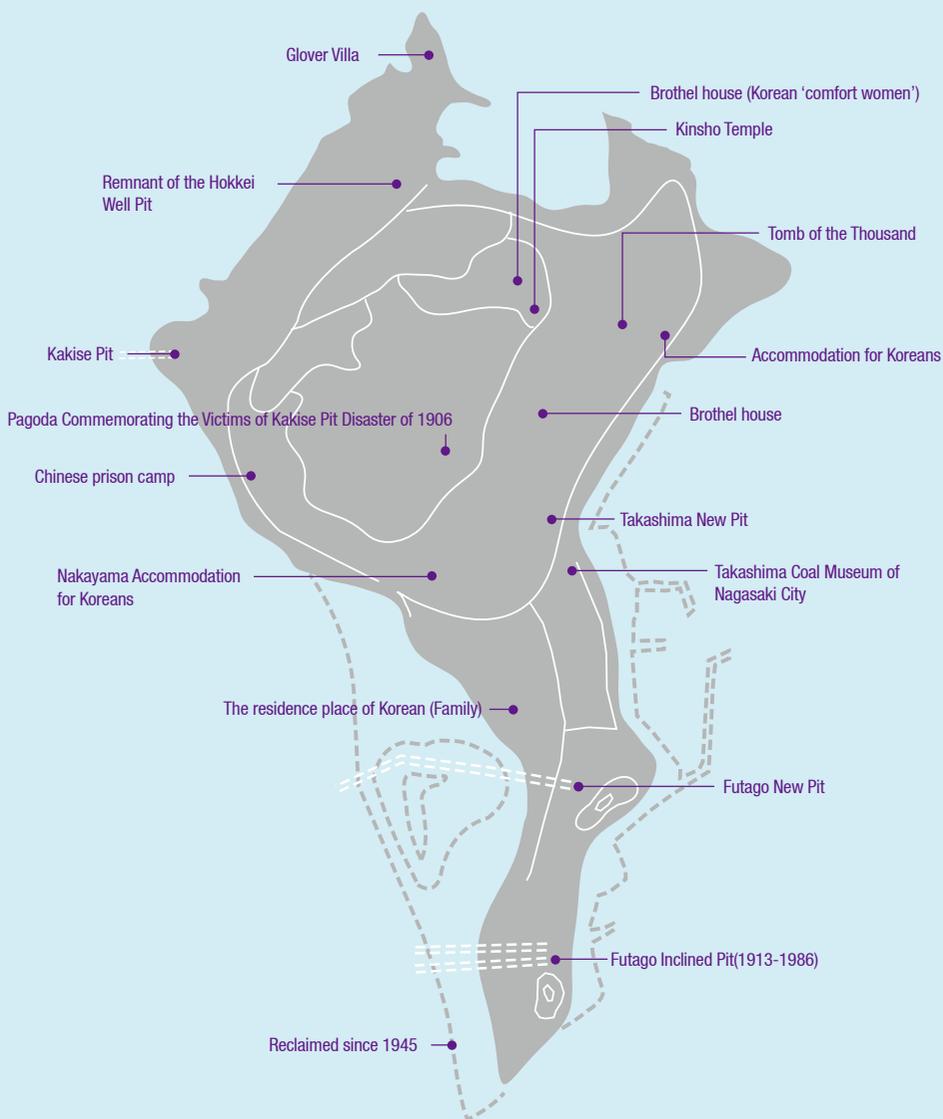
Pagoda and its inside, with the name the Tomb of the Thousand which contained the remains of the dead with no relatives, built in 1920 (Takashima Coal Labor Union, "30 Year History", 1977). With the closure of Hashima, the remains from Hashima were collected here, but the closure of Takashima Mine led to the destruction of the charnel house. The remains were then moved to the Kinsho Temple. The Korean remains are supposed to have been here.

As the violent labor management heightened the consciousness of resistance on the part of the workers, strikes broke out at Takashima and Hashima in 1897. In addition to continuous industrial accidents, 307 people were killed in an explosion at Kakise Pit of Takashima in 1906. From the beginning of the Mitsubishi management to the end of the Second World War, more than 1,000 mine workers died of industrial accidents and illnesses.



Distribution Map of Takashima

4





Hashima and Nakanoshima, Takashima (photo of September 2017). Hashima is a small island with the distance of 160 meters from East to West, 480 meters from North to South and the circumference of 1,200 meters.

Colonies as provider of low-wage workforce

Due to the shortage of workers, Mitsubishi Takashima Coal Mine commenced recruiting from all over Japan. On 21 September, 1917, it received the permission to recruit in colonial Korea, bringing about 150 people to Takashima. In an effort to keep on hiring Koreans, Mitsubishi came to deploy the recruitment personnel in Korea.

Naturally, the number of casualties among the Korean workers began to rise in the Takashima Mine. 2 Korean workers were amongst the injured in a gas explosion at the Futago Mine in May 1918. At the Kakise Pit, too, a worker died in a fall in February 1919 and the incident of a roof falling happened in December 1919.



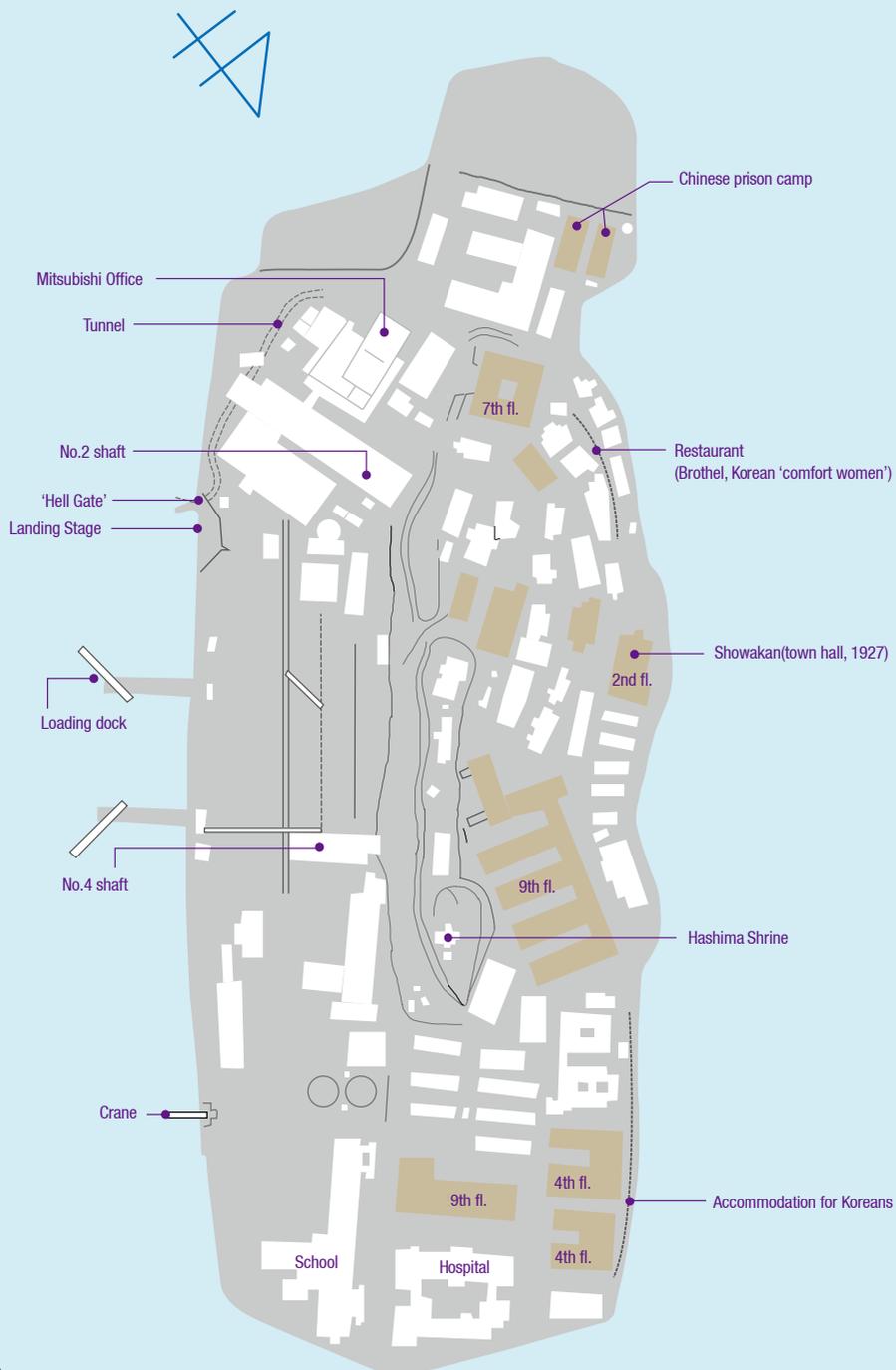
Pagoda Commemorating the Victims of the Kakise Pit Disaster of 1906("30 Year History", 1977)



Full view of the Kakise Pit, Takashima (postcard)



Distribution Map of Hashima (circa 1945)



Gunkanjima – the “Battleship island” with high story apartments

Hashima is also called as “Gunkanjima” (Battleship Island) as its look resembles a warship. The whole island itself was a coal mine with pit shafts spread going through deep into the subsoil of the sea. Mining at Hashima began in modern times when Mr. Magorokurou Nabeshima dug the first shaft in 1887. Since Mitsubishi took over the mine management in 1890, the mining had rapidly expanded with the second shaft opened in 1895, the third 1896, and the fourth 1925. The coal from Hashima was used particularly for coke making at Yawata Steel Works.

The expansion of mine facilities was followed by the sea reclamation and the construction of sea walls. The housings for mine workers were built, even high rise apartments up to 7 and 9 stories. In bad weather, the waves rose as high as the ninth floor. In 1960, when it was most populated, around 5,300 people lived in this tiny island.

The only escape from Hell Island is death

At the Takashima and Hashima Coal Mines, a UNESCO World Heritage site, more than 4,000 Koreans had been forcibly mobilized to work since 1939. For the mobilized Koreans, Takashima was a prison without iron bars and a workplace of horror. The entrance gate still existing



Bird-eye view of the Hashima Pit (ca. 1938)

on the quayside was called the ‘Hell Gate’ and the high embankment surrounding the island prevented the workers from running away. Escape was almost impossible and it was none other than the “Hell island” for the dragged people.

Korean laborers mobilized in Hashima were placed in the lodgings such as the four-story building facing northward. In the case of Hashima, the number of mobilized Koreans is estimated to be over thousand from 1939 to 1945. The number of deaths which could be identified through the documents relating to cremation, is about 50. More than half of the deaths were caused by accidents. The records wrote down the causes of death simply as asphyxiation due to mine collapse, crushing, external injuries and drowning with no further explanation.

Those Korean laborers had to spend the days of life and death under the harsh working



4 story building for encamping Koreans



Underground of the above building

conditions and violence. One of the survivors testified that life on Hashima was so hard that he had even deliberated on whether to amputate his body parts in order to make an excuse for getting out of the island. After the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki in August 1945, some of the Koreans were sent to work for the reconstruction of the city and were exposed to the nuclear radiation.

Mr. Chun-gi Yoon, dragged into Hiroshima from Kimjae-gun, Jeollabuk-do Province in 1943

He was placed in the building behind the hospital. One third of his wages went to forced savings and another third was said to be remitted to his home. When he returned to Korea, he found that there had been no remittances at all. For meals, the workers had only a bowl of steamed rice from overseas with a soup. As there was a potato about the size of a fist in the bowl, it contained only about three spoonful of rice.

He worked in three shifts under low ceilings and had to extricate the amount of coal equaling more than ten wagon loads a day. After the surrender of Japan on August 15, 1945, the conscripted laborers gathered their money together and were able to board a ship to Masan, Korea.

- "Song of Lament by a Million People", a documentary 1999

At the age of 14, Mr. Jangseob Choi was forcibly mobilized to work in Hashima

He was forcibly sent to Hashima from Insan, Jeollabuk-do Province of Korea in 1943. When the county governor scolded his staff severely saying "Why did you bring a child like that?", he answered back saying "To make up for the assigned number of the people." The next day he was dragged off to Busan by train. While no explanation was given of



Mr. Jangseob Choi forcibly mobilized into Hashima (July 2016)

what kind of place Hashima was, the authorities told him and other mobilized Koreans simply that they were going somewhere nice and used every other deceptive means to prevent runaways.

Mr. Jangseob Choi was put into the underground lodging of a 9 story building. He belonged to the 2 company of the Harada Corps and forced to work on the mining ground. If caught in escaping, the person would be tortured and beaten with a rubber tube till the skin peeled off. The situation was not so composed enough to raise any collective resistance, being nothing better than in a prison cell. On 18 August, 1946, a few days after the Atomic bombing, he went to the

Nagasaki city to clean up and thought that “This is the human hell”.

- The Nagasaki Association to Protect Human Rights of Koreans in Japan, “Listening to the whispers from the Warship Island”, revised and expanded ed. 2016

A World Heritage site that does not meet the UNESCO standard

Both Takashima and Hashima of the Takashima Coal Mine are included as the constituent properties of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’. It is to be noted that the constructed structures relating to coal mining on Takashima were torn down with the closure of the mine pits. Most of the structures at Hashima were built after 1910.

Since the Japanese government set the period of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ up to 1910, only such remnants as the Hokkei Well Pit in Takashima, the vertical shaft pit of the Meiji era as well as the coastal embankment in Hashima belong to the sites registered as UNESCO World Heritage. In other words, the entire islands of both Takashima and Hashima are not part of the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’. Nevertheless, the current website for the ‘Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution’ presents the whole Hashima as a World Heritage site.



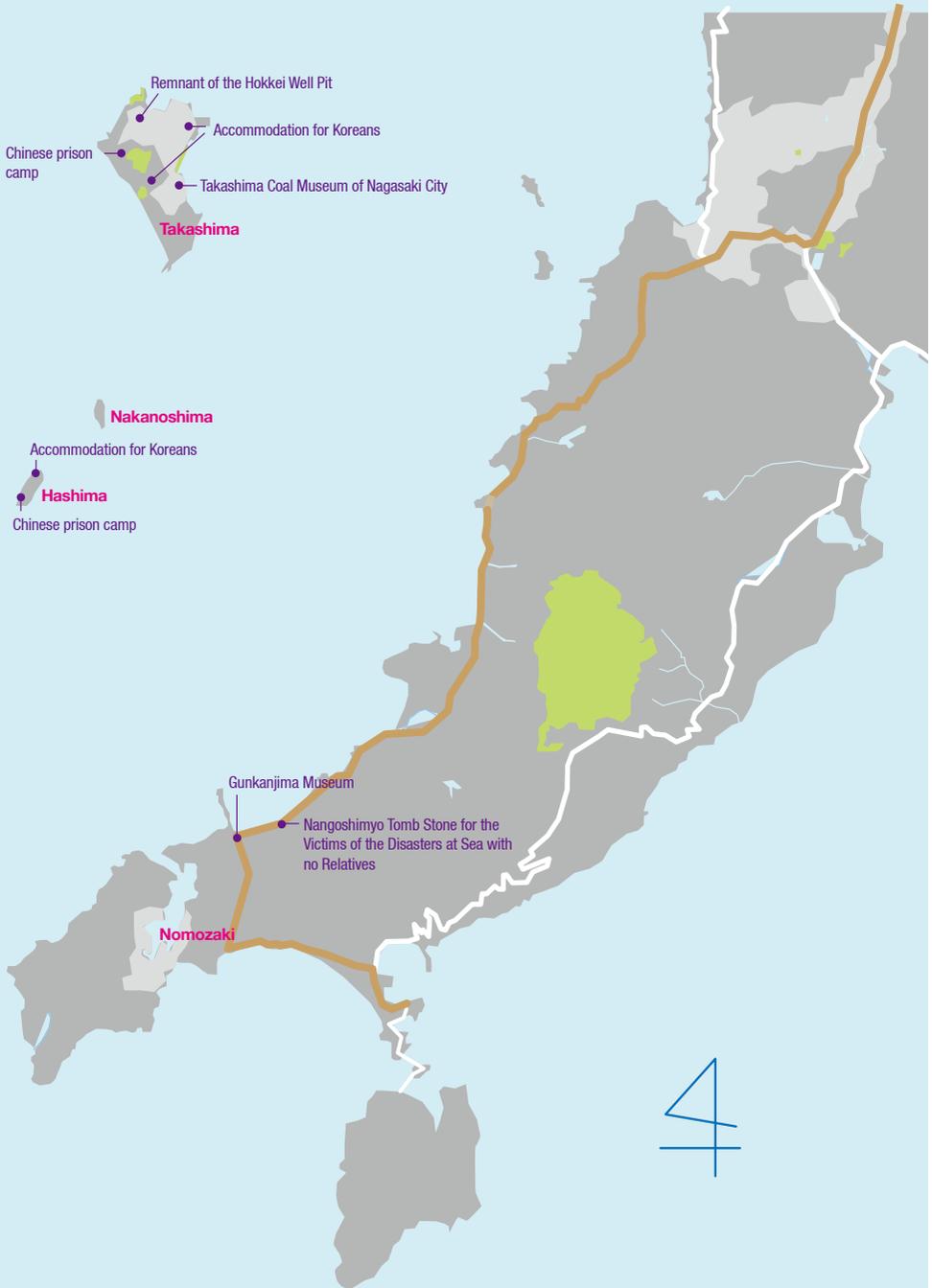
Remnant of the Hokkei Well Pit, Takashima in '70s (“30 Year History”, 1977)



Coastal embankment of Hashima (Photo of September 2017)



Map of the related facilities in Takashima and Hashima



Information for Visitors



Takashima Coal Mine

There was a vertical shaft pit using a steam engine for the first time in Japan (Hokkei Well Pit) which had been developed since 1869. It was bought by Mitsubishi in 1881 and closed in 1986.

Takashimamachi, Nagasaki-shi **Transportation** 35 min. from Nagasaki Port and 12 min. from Iojima Port by high-speed boat **Entrance Fee** Free



Takashima Coal Museum of Nagasaki City



This museum preserves and exhibits materials relating to the coal industry. Opened in 1988, it presents the history of the Takashima Coal Mine, including a labor union flag here shown in the pictures.

2706-8 Takashimamachi, Nagasaki-shi, **Transportation** 2 min. walk from Takashima Port **Opening Hours** 09:00~17:00 **Closed** around end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Free



Hashima Coal Mine

In 1887, it opened the first mine pit and was sold to Mitsubishi in 1890. Ceased operations in 1974 and opened to the public in 2009 in the ownership of Nagasaki City now. At present, the remains of the Chinese prison camp can be viewed.



Remains of the Chinese Camp

Takashima, Takashimamachi, Nagasaki-shi **Transportation** It is essential beforehand to apply for the permit for disembarkation tour. The tour course, the schedule of sailing and the ship fare all varies depending on the shipping company. **Entrance Fee** Adults 300 Yen Elementary School Students 150 Yen



Gunkanjima Museum, Nangoshimyo Tomb Stone for the Victims of the Disasters at Sea with no Relatives

The Gunkanjima Museum was originally opened in 2003 using part of the Nomozaki Town Local Museum. With the enlistment of the facilities of the Hashima Coal Mine as UNESCO World Heritage, it reopened in the present location in 2016. It is now managed by Nagasaki City. A 10-minute walk along the coast from the Museum towards Nagasaki Station will lead to the Nangoshimyo Tomb Stone, which was built over the grave where bodies that had drifted from Hashima were buried. In 1985, the tomb itself was excavated by the 'The Nagasaki Association to Protect Human Rights of Koreans in Japan' and the human remains were found.



562 Nomomachi Nagasaki-shi **Transportation** 60 min. by Nagasaki bus. Take the bus in front of JR Nagasaki Station and get off at the Undokoenma stop **Opening Hours** 09:00~17:00 **Closed** around end of year and the New Year's day **Entrance Fee** Adults 200 Yen, Elementary and Middle School Students 100 Yen

3-4 Miike Coal Mine: The growth of Mitsui Group with forced labor



Miike Coal Mine developed with prisoners' labor

Kyushu is the region where there are a number of coalmines together with Hokkaido. The Miike Mine run by the Mitsui Group was the largest in Japan. When the Japanese government developed the coal mine, prisoners were used. The Mitsui & Co. profited from selling the coal from Miike. In 1889, it bought the mine from the government.



The Shuzikan, the prison exclusive for the Miike Mine (Photo of September 2017)

Since 1873, the forced labor of prisoners had been used at the Miike Coal Mine for the transportation of coal. In 1883, a 'riot' was broken out at the Oura Pit by the prisoners from Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Kumamoto, demanding an improvement in treatment. When the smoke from ledger books set on fire by the prisoners filled the inside of the pit, the management side sealed off the mine's entrance, leaving ordinary mineworkers and prisoners still inside. In the same year, a prison was set up exclusive for the Miike Coal Mine, where prisoners were treated like slaves. The labor of prisoners went on until 1931 and the number of their deaths exceeded 2,400 over the years.

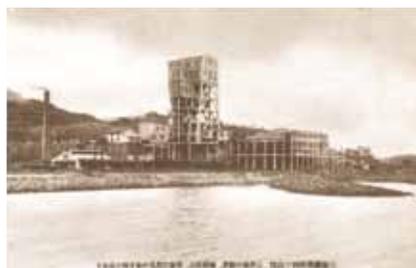
The Mitsui Group was grown into the largest conglomerate in Japan with business in various industries, including trade, banking, mining, shipbuilding and railways. In full cooperation with the policies of the Japanese Imperial government, the Group made profits from the wars. The Miike Coal Mine was the center of the coal-chemical industrial complex in the Omuta area. Being the largest coal mine in Japan, it producing more than 3,000,000 ton of coal a year during the wartime. The major mining areas were Manda Pit, Miyaura Pit, Yotsuyama Pit and Mikawa Pit.



The Pagoda of Nirvana and the Monument of Group Burial in commemoration of Miike Mine Prisoners in Omuta City



Manda Pit of the Miike Coal Mine (postcard)



Yotsuyama Pit (postcard)

3

Since the beginning of the 20th century, ordinary workers had increased more than prison laborers at the Miike Coal Mine. After going through World War I, the awareness of workers' rights had heightened. During the rice riots in Japan in 1918, the laborers at Miike Coal Mine rose up, demanding higher wages. As the strikes spread widely with the Manda Pit as the center, the army was needed to repress them. In 1920, in the name of the harmony between labor and management, the Mitsui Group established a *Kyoai* (literally 'love together') union to appease its workers from the perspective of capital.

In June 1924, laborers rose again and organized groups for strike action at the Miike Workshop, Miike Dye Works, Yotsuyama Pit, Miyaura Pit and other workplaces. These groups demanded particularly a 30% increase in wages, payment amounting to 30-days of work per year for retirement allowance, the abolition of the existing *Kyoai* union, payment of wages for the victims of industrial accidents, and disability and death benefits. At the time, 6,800 laborers out of 19,000 in the Miike region, participated in the strike. The environmental pollution such as obnoxious fumes and polluted water caused by the Mitsui Coal-Chemical was another issue to be dealt with.

After the suppression of these strikes, the Mitsui conglomerate strengthened its control over its laborers by such measures as the investigation of thought of laborers, the moral education and the expansion of status differences. In 1940, when the wartime regime took hold ever strongly, a branch of the Association for the Industrial National Service, a nationwide war cooperation organization, was set up in the place of the *Kyoai* union. In this atmosphere of emphasizing the nationalistic industrial cooperation in war efforts, Koreans were forcibly mobilized *en masse*.

To the Front of 'Industrial National Service' - Forcibly mobilized Koreans

Coalmines were the workplace where the labor intensity was high and the death rate highest. About 40% of the Koreans who had been deported to the Japanese mainland were sent to coal mines. At the Miike Coal Mine alone, more than 9,000 Koreans were forced to labor. The Miike Coal Mine is well known as a place where a number of Koreans,

Chinese and Allied prisoners were used as forced labor.

A staff of personnel management for the Coal Mine confirmed the forced mobilization, stating that “we say that we brought along the workers, but in reality, we captured and brought them. Everywhere we went, we got cooperation, with money and presents, of the head of a *myeon* (township), the Japanese Military Police and other powerful people. If we went to the villages during the daytime, all males would have already run away and be absent. So we went at night. Sometimes we caught Koreans who passed on the road and loaded them into our truck.”

At the site of forced labor, those Korean workers who did not follow the instructions were treated no different from prisoners or slaves. They had been subjected to cruel violence, for example, being forced to kneel down with a bamboo rod behind their knees, beaten up with a



Full view of the Miike Port (postcard)

and hit in the stomach after forcible drink of water. Amidst of everyday verbal abuse, violence and discrimination, accidents were rampant and escapes occurred one after another.

Koreans were also mobilized at other Mitsui affiliated companies such as Miike Dye Works, the Omuta Factory of the Electro-chemical Industry (Denka), the Omuta Works of the Orient High Pressure Industry (later Mitsui Chemical Industry). The Omuta Factory used Allied prisoners of war as forced laborers.

Mr. Jongpil Lee who escaped from the Miike Coal Mine and

He was taken to Mitsui’s Miike Coal Mine from Goesan, Chungcheongbuk-do Province of Korea in 1943 and stationed to live in the dormitory for Koreans at Yotsuyama Pit. He did the mining work in the underground tunnel about 500 meters below the surface which could be reached by elevator. The norma, the daily assignment, was 15 loads of mine wagon. It was the amount that could not be met unless one worked 10 to 12 hours a day.

As safety facilities were not properly equipped, injuries arose at the rate of a person every two days. If a worker had to take the work off due to injury or disease, he had to shout out, “Reporting! I am short of working spirit,” and then received the meal reduced by one third. As he would be beaten by the Japanese labor commissioners unless he

worked at least 20 days a month, the supposed working terms, he had no choice but to head into the mine even if he had a high fever.

Around July, 1944, there was one Korean laborer who appealed to us saying, "Before long, Korea will eventually become independent. Do not become a henchman of Japan. The way to resist now is to slow down the work." This person was arrested by the military police and said to be sentenced to life imprisonment. Although 30 to 40 percent of wages went to forced savings as a means to prevent escapes, there was a flow of run-aways.

The workload for the remaining Koreans increased to 20 mine wagons. When there was a bombing of Fukuoka by the US B29 bomber, he thought that "Now the day is near when Japan will surrender. It would be foolish to die in a place like this". In February 1945, he ran away with his fellow laborers.

Mr. Junggu Sohn, forced to labor at Miike Coal Mine in 1944

When he was working at a textile factory at Gaepung-gun County, Gyeonggi-do Province of Korea, he was forcibly mobilized to work at the Miike Coal Mine at the age of 21. His work was to install supporting posts in the mine tunnels to prevent collapse. As he carried the wooden posts on his back into narrow tunnels, he had a severe back pain. In the steamy and hot underground tunnels, he had to work two shifts a day. As the frequent leak of gas in the tunnels made the risk of explosion high, he testified that there were many cases of death because of the collapse of tunnel or explosions.

- Testimony on 7 May 2017





Map of the related facilities and surrounding of the Miike Coal Mine



Information for Visitors



Remnant of the Miike Shuzikan Prison

Built in 1883 by the Japanese government to obtain labor force for Miike Coal Mine. Having been renamed as Jail or Prison, it was closed in 1931. At present there remains an outer wall made of brick and a stone wall survive in the Miike Technical High School. The site was registered as Tangible Cultural Heritage of Fukuoka Prefecture in 1996.



4 Chome-77 Jokanmachi Omuta-shi **Transportation** 20 min. walk from JR Omuta Station
How to Tour You can visit the outside of Miike Technical High School freely, but must contact the school office if you want to enter the school.



Mawatari Monument, Mawatari Daiichi Park

With the urban improvement of the Mawatari Daiichi Park, the Mawatari private house of the Mitsui Coal Mine, an accommodation facility for the Korean forced mobilized laborers, was brought down. The monument was established in 1997 at the request of the citizens who had called for its preservation.



Mawatari Daiichi Park 39-14 Mawatari-machi, Omuta, Fukuoka Prefecture **Transportation**
Take a Nishitetsu Bus in front of JR Omuta Station and get off at Kawahara stop, 5 min.
walk **Opening** at all times **Entrance Fee** Free



Omuta City Coal Industry and Science Museum



A science museum on energy resources opened in 1995. Exhibits include a wall scribble found in 1989 at the Mawatari house that shows the longing of the Korean workers for their hometowns.

6-23 Misakimachi Omuta-shi **Transportation** 23 min. walk from JR Omuta Station West Exit **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:00 **Closed** Every last Monday of the month and around end of year and the New Year's Day **Entrance Fee** Adults 410 Yen, Middle School Students or younger 200 Yen, 3 years or under Free



Miyaura Pit of Mitsui Miike Coal Mine Monument to Chinese Victims

Established in 2013 at Miyaura Sekitan Memorial Park, Omuta City by the Fukuoka Liaison Association of the Japan-China Friendship Association, and others. The monument inscribes that 2,481 Chinese people were deported and 635 were killed at Manda Pit, Yotsuyama Pit, Miyaura Pit and other places.



132-8 Nishimiyauramachi, Omuta-shi **Transportation** 15 min. walk from JR Omuta Station **Opening** at all times **Entrance Fee** Free



Monument to the Victims of Conscription

Commemorating the Koreans who were mobilized at Miike during the Second World War, it was established in 1995 at Amagi Park by the 'Korea in Omuta, Japan' with the cooperation of Omuta City, Mitsui Coal Mine, Mitsui Chemicals and the Electro-Chemical Industry.



Amagi, Omuta-shi **Transportation** 10 min. walk from Higashi-Amagi Station **Opening at all times** **Entrance Fee** Free



Miike Coal Mine Manda Pit

One of the main pits of the Miike Coal Mine, active from 1902 to 1951.



200-2 Haramanda Arai-shi **Transportation** Take a Sanko Bus in front of JR Arai Station and get off at the Mandakoma stop, 3 min. walk **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:00 (entrance possible until 16:30) **Closed** Every Monday and around end of year and the New Year Day **Entrance Fee** Adult 410 Yen High School Students 300 Yen Elementary and Middle School Students 200 Yen ✓Commentator available, guided tour available six times a day



Mikawa Pit of Miike Coal Mine



Excavation of an inclined shaft began in 1937 and the pit was closed in 1997. Well known as the site of labor disputes, and a coal-dust explosion in 1963. Right next to the pit is the Mitsui Port Club (opened in 1908), a guesthouse for the Mitsui Group. There is a monument to the victims of the 1963 coal dust explosion in Enmei Park, Omuta City.

Nishiminatomachi Omuta-shi **Transportation** Take a Nishitetsu Bus in front of JR Ōmuta Station and get off at the Mikawa-Machi 1-Chome stop, 3 min. walk **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:00 (entrance possible until 16:30) **Entrance Fee** Free ✓Commentator available



Miike Port (Observatory)

The port was opened in 1908 for the shipment of coal. There is the enclosed dock with an adjustable water level, the only one in Japan. As it is still in use, it can be viewed only at a distance. View is possible from the Aiai Square of Miike Port as well as the Observatory.



Shinkōmachi, Omuta-shi **Transportation** Take a Nishitetsu Bus in front of JR Omuta Station and get off at the Mikawa-Machi 1-Chome stop, 8 min. walk **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:00 (entrance possible until 16:30) **Closed** Every last Monday of the month **Entrance Fee** Free ✓Commentator available at weekends and holidays



Miyanojara Pit of Miike Coal Mine and the Remains of the Miike Coal Railway

The Pit was the first developed by Mitsui in 1889. Known as “Hell Pit,” where prisoners from Miike Prison were forced to labor in severe conditions. The remains of the Miike Coal Railway leading to Miike Port in 1905, could be found around Miyanojara Pit, Manda Pit and the area near to Miike.



1 Chome-86-3 Miyaharamachi Omuta-shi, Fukuoka-ken **Transportation** Take a Nishitetsu Bus in front of JR Omuta Station and get off at the Suehiro-machi stop, 10 min. walk **Opening Hours** 09:30~17:00 **Closed** Every last Monday of the month **Entrance Fee** Free ✓
Commentator available

4

The History of Forced Labor and World Heritage Sites



Items for peace donated by middle and high school students, Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum

4-1 Forced labor at World Heritage sites

The history of forced labor is a type of 'negative heritage'. Keeping records and archives of such heritage contributes to the formation of universal values as emphasized by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. UNESCO World Heritage sites include many examples of sites that show a history of forced labor or slave labor. For example, the city of Potosi, in Bolivia, tells the story of its silver mining industry under the Spanish dominion and forced labor of the indigenous. Liverpool, a port city of the United Kingdom embodies a history involving immigration, the slave trade, and the industrial revolution, while the site of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland is a place that testifies the Holocaust and forced labor.

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen, Germany, presents a 150-year history of heavy industry in the Ruhr Coalfield. During the Second World War, it was the site where people deported from Poland, France, and other areas, as well as prisoners of war, had been subjected to forced labor. An exhibition at the site shows that Zollverein had been the center of munitions production in the Ruhr, sustaining the two World Wars, and that it was the site of forced labor by Jews, foreigners and war prisoners.

Völklinger Ironworks, located in the Saar Coalfield in Germany, also sheds light on the history of heavy industry. Here about 70 thousand people were subjected to forced labor. The history of forced labor of people from many different countries, including



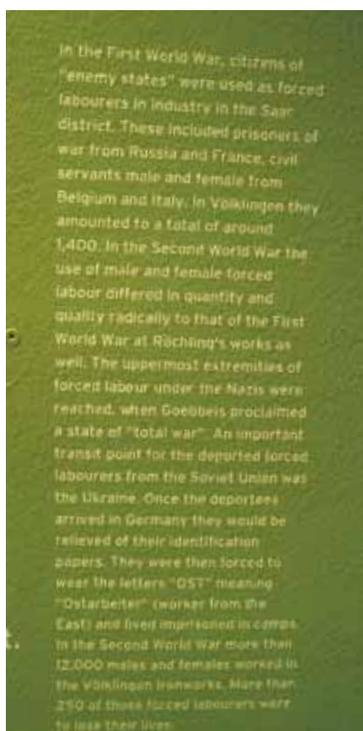
Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site



An exhibition room of Zollverein Site

Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg, is exhibited at the site.

As can be seen from these examples of 'negative heritage,' UNESCO World Heritages do not confine themselves to a mere praise of one's own nation or people. In addition to the history of industrialization of its own State, they also try to realize universal values to be shared with the world humanity in acknowledging and giving expression to the fact that there was a 'negative history' such as forced labor. The history of industrialization can be approached diversely from different perspectives on capital, labor and international relations, and is shadowed thick with 'negative history' such as forced labor and human rights violations through modernization and industrialization. Not only by highlighting bright sides, but also dark history, industrial heritages can only reveal international and universal values. In this way, the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' will then enhance their value as historical heritage sites and be shared with a better understanding of history.



In the First World War, citizens of "enemy states" were used as forced labourers in industry in the Saar district. These included prisoners of war from Russia and France, civil servants male and female from Belgium and Italy. In Völklingen they amounted to a total of around 1,400. In the Second World War the use of male and female forced labour differed in quantity and quality radically to that of the First World War at Röchling's works as well. The uppermost extremities of forced labour under the Nazis were reached, when Goebbels proclaimed a state of "total war". An important transit point for the deported forced labourers from the Soviet Union was the Ukraine. Once the deportees arrived in Germany they would be relieved of their identification papers. They were then forced to wear the letters "OST" meaning "Ostarbeiter" (worker from the East) and lived imprisoned in camps. In the Second World War more than 12,000 males and females worked in the Völklingen Ironworks. More than 250 of those forced labourers were to lose their lives.

Völklingen Ironworks and the exhibition panel on forced labor

4-2 The unresolved issue of post-war compensation: Human rights of forced labor victims

The Japanese colonial rule of Korea led to the deprivation of lands from many Koreans, who were then driven to become low wage workers at Japan's coal mines, construction sites, factories and other workplaces. When Japan's wars of aggression expanded, not only Korean men but also women and children were forcibly mobilized and forced to work. Mitsubishi Mining, Mitsui Mines, the Imperial Steel Works, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries were the major companies that used forced labor. The number of Koreans who were deported to various mines belonging to Mitsubishi Mining or Mitsui Mines exceeded 150,000. Over 9,000 Chinese were also brought to these mines for forced labor. The victims of forced labor from Korea, China and elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific have continued to demand that the Japanese government and companies should apologize and provide compensation since the 1990's.

In order to respond to the victims' appeals, Japanese citizens and lawyers have carried on a variety of activities such as researching the evidence necessary for the conduct of lawsuits that have been brought in Japan, collecting money and campaigning. By realizing the so much delayed judicial justice, they are endeavoring to heal the traumatic wounds of the forced labor that arose from Japan's colonialization and aggressive wars. The Japanese government and the judiciary, however, rejected these calls from the victims and the citizens supporting them. The society that does not remedy the violation of the invaluable rights of individual victims, cannot be said to be a democratic society protecting



Press conference on the filing of the case against New Nippon Steel before the Korean court, February 2005

human rights. The forced labor issue is a human rights issue that cannot be abandoned.

The rights of forced labor victims are not simply a civil matter of claims for damages in tort, nor claims in war reparation agreements. Their rights are human rights of victims of crimes against humanity that has been recognized by the international community. These are rights that should be guaranteed no matter how much the time has passed, and require not only compensation equivalent to the now impossible restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, but also that the truth should be remembered ('Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law,' United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/147, December 16th, 2005).

Before the Japanese courts, approximately one hundred lawsuits for postwar compensation have been brought, but most of them have been rejected with the exception of those brought by atomic bomb victims. The Japanese government did not conduct thorough investigation on the issue of forced mobilization, and still maintains the position that the issue has been "settled completely and finally" through the Korea - Japan Claims Agreement of 1965. However, the Claims Agreement cannot be said to have solved the issue of compensation for individual victims caused by Japan's aggressive wars and colonial domination.

The Korean Supreme Court passed a judgment in 2012 stating that "it is difficult to consider that the right to compensation for damages in tort, directly connected with inhuman wrongdoings or colonial rule involving the State authorities of Japan, was included in the objects of application of the Claims Agreement". The Court held that the claims of individuals are not extinguished by the Agreement. The judgment recognized the right



Group of people tracking the Korean mobilized at the memorial ceremony in the Kaizima Coal Mine site (May 2014)

to compensation for damages for wrongful acts closely related with the colonial domination including forced mobilization. It has become clearer that the measures taken by the Japanese government do not meet the international standard for reparation, and that those Japanese companies which used forced labor are also responsible for reparation.

The Korean victims of forced labor have filed a suit against various companies involved in the use of forced labor, including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Nachi-Fujikoshi Corporation. As they won cases at the district and High Courts, and, at the time of the publication of this guidebook in 2017, they are expecting to win at the Supreme Court of Korea. In a 2007 case involving the Chinese victims, the Supreme Court of Japan also acknowledged that the claims of individuals remain while the competence to bring a suit before law courts could be said to be lost by the Japan-China Joint Communiqué. The Japanese government as well as the involved Japanese companies must respond to this.

With respect to the remains of deceased victims, there are still many that have been abandoned and not returned to their homelands. Tens of thousands of passbooks savings account, which can also be considered the victims' relics, are kept in the Japan Post Bank without being delivered to their family members. There remain still other unsolved issues.

4-3 Memories of the forced mobilization and activities to ensure that it is not forgotten

To coal mines, ports and munitions factories in various parts of Japan, Koreans were brought forcibly and sacrificed. To remember these victims and to learn lessons from this history, citizens have joined hands in setting up memorial stones and Information boards. These can also be found in the vicinity of the industrial heritage areas in Kyushu and Yamaguchi regions.

Chikuho coalfields and Memorial Stone for Koreans

Chikuho, inland Fukuoka, is a major center for Japan's coal industry. During the war-time era, 150,000 Koreans were brought here. The industrial heritage of the Chikuho coalfields is not included in 'the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution.' On the other hand, Sakubei Yamamoto's drawings and paintings of the coal mines in the region are entered as documentary heritage on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Here will be looked at some of the memorial works in Chikuho.

The 'Mugunghwadang' was established in 2000 at Iizuka Cemetery located in Iizuka, Fukuoka. Around this house, a 'Gallery of History' was constructed in 2004. While collecting the abandoned remains of victims even after Korea's liberation, the 'Korean-Japanese Executive Committee to Establish

a Monument to the Victims of Forced Labor in the Charnel House style' stood this memorial house. This organization with a new name 'Mugunghwadang Friendship Group' since 2004, continues to carry out the collection of remains in pursuance of peace and friendship. Research results confirm that part of the remains in the Mugunghwadang belong to those of Koreans who were taken to the Mitsubishi Namazuta Coal Mine, the Futase Coal Mine of the Imperial Steel Works and the Hisatsune Coal Mine.

The Tokuka Monument at the Aso Yoshikuma mine in Iizuka Yasaka was rebuilt in



Inside of 'Mugunghwadang'

1985, and is a memorial to the victims of the Yoshikuma Coal Mine accident in 1936. Of the 29 killed in the accident, 25 were Koreans. During the period from 1939 to 1945, the number of Koreans brought as laborers to the Aso Yoshikuma Mine exceeded 10,000.

Yet another memorial to the Korean victims of conscription, built in 1988 could be found in the Coal-Mining Memorial Park located at the Mitsui Tagawa Coal Mine in Tagawa-Ita. The inscription of the stone writes “In memory of those who died as a result of forced mobilization and labor, we shall never repeat this.” There is the ‘Memorial for the repose of dead souls’ that commemorates Chinese forced laborers, built in 2002. The ‘Korean Dead on Duty in Coal-Mining Memorial’ of 1975 is situated at Hokoji temple in Kawamiya, Tagawa City.



Shokan Bodai



Tower of Reinstatement



Mawatari Memoria

In Kotake-machi, Kurategun, there is a memorial tower built in 1994, called the ‘Shokan Bodai.’ Located at the Furukawa Shakano Coal Mine, it records the history of young men who were brought by force to harsh work.

Miyawaka City was the site of the Kaijima Onoura Coal Mine where over 10,000 thousand Koreans were taken during the war. Sengoku Park in Miyata of this City, has a ‘Tower of Reinstatement’, built in 1982. “Reinstatement” here refers to demands for the restoration of the violated rights and calls for solidarity and human dignity in memory of all coal mine workers.

Omuta and Nagasaki citizens' memorial activities

In Omuta, Fukuoka Prefecture, site of the Miike Coal Mine, and Nagasaki, site of the Nagasaki Shipyard, there are memorials to both Koreans and Chinese. In Omuta City's Mawatari Park, which was the site of a camp for Koreans, there stands the 'Mawatari Memorial', established in 1997 in remembrance of Korean forced laborers. Omuta City's Amagi Park also has a memorial to Korean victims. Moreover, the citizens of Omuta have published guidebooks both in Japanese and Korean to enable people to learn about the history of coal mining from the human rights perspective.



Citizen's Guidebook of Omuta

In Nagasaki Peace Park, there is a memorial to the Korean victims of the atomic bomb (1997), a memorial to the Chinese victims of the atomic bomb (2008) and a memorial to the Allied prisoners of war, known as the Memorial of the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Renunciation of War by Humanity (1981). An information board in the Sumiyoshi Tunnel placed by the Nagasaki City, explicitly indicates the history of forced mobilization of Koreans. All of these were established owing to the strength and the demands of the victims and supportive citizens.

In the on-site information on 'the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution', explanations should include these memorials and the activities of victims and local citizens, and provide opportunities to learn on the history of forced labor.



Memorial to the Chinese victims of the atomic bomb



A monument engraved with names of all the victims

Located in Yamaguchi, Ube, close to Nishikiwa beach, is a monument built in February 2013 by a Japanese civil group. It was established in order to commemorate 183 people who were stuck and died from drowning in the tunnel at Zosei Coal Mine on February 3rd, 1942 in a flooding accident. Among the 183 victims, 136 were Koreans.

Along with all of the victims' names, the following text has been engraved on the monument, in both Korean and Japanese: "Japan pursued a national policy that promoted increased production of coal, and the Korean victims here were people who had lost their land and property under Japanese colonial rule in Korea, and people brought here by force. We pledge to reflect upon such history and strive with all our strength never to accept an emergence of a heinous power that seeks to destroy another nation." In Yawata, Nagasaki and Miike, too, it is necessary to commemorate the victims with their names engraved in memorials.



Memorial monument to Victims at Zosei Coal Mine

Let's overcome the crisis of history and justice! Acknowledge and reveal the history of forced labor!

What shall we remember and inherit, and how? UNESCO aims for the realization of human dignity, education for justice, freedom, and international peace through intellectual and mental connections among peoples, and the welfare common to all humanity. Remembering the history of forced labor, as well as its victims, requires an international cultural effort for peace and the restoration of human dignity.

By remembering and inheriting the history of forced mobilization and labor, we hope that 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' will strengthen 'the intellectual and moral solidarity' with the world citizens, and become a foundation for peace building in Asia.

Japan should record the history on forced laborers' blood, sweat, and tears

On the current holding of the Krakow session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the like-minded NGOs of Korea and Japan make the present statement to express concerns over the recent developments on the follow-up measures of the inscription on the World Heritage List of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining. The Japanese government is scheduled to submit a report outlining progress with the various recommendations of the World Heritage Committee by 1 December 2017. The government report is expected to include the question of 'the interpretative strategy' on the Sites, and will be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

These industrial sites had been put on the List by the World Heritage Committee on 5 July, 2015 at its 39th session in Bonn (Decision: 39 COM 8B.14). In this decision, the Committee recommended also that Japan give consideration particularly to "[p] repar- ing an interpretive strategy for the presentation of the property, which gives particular emphasis to the way each of the sites contributes to Outstanding Universal Value and reflects one or more of the phases of industrialisation; and also allows an understanding of the full history of each site"(paragraph 4.g).

In the statement made after the adoption of the decision of the inscription, her Excellency Ms Kuni Sato, ambassador of Japan to UNESCO, said that "The Government of Japan respects the ICOMOS recommendation that was made from technical and expert perspectives. Especially, in developing the 'interpretive strategy,' Japan will sincerely respond to the recommendation that the strategy allows 'an understanding of the full history of each site.'" She further added that "More specifically, Japan is prepared to take measures that allow an understanding that there were a large number of Koreans and others who were brought against their will and forced to work under harsh conditions in the 1940s at some of the sites during World War II, the Government of Japan also implemented its policy of requisition." Concrete steps were also suggested saying that "Japan is prepared to incorporate appropriate measures into the interpretive strategy to remember the victims such as the establishment of information center" (the Summary

Records, document WHC-15/39.COM/INF.19, p. 222).

Subsequently, Ms Koko Kato, who led to the inscription of the Sites, was appointed to the Special Advisor to the Cabinet. The Japanese government also initiated 'the first investigation' on 'forced laborers' mobilized in these sites during the war. Despite these seemingly positive measures, however, there are other developments of negative impacts on the World Heritage List related programme of Japan.

Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Shinzō Abe, emphasized 'Great Japan' in relation to the inscription of the Sites, saying that "Japan has become an industrial country through introducing western technology and nurturing people by means of its own strength" and "Japan has achieved industrialization in only 50 years by combining foreign technology and domestic traditional technology". From the very next day of the inscription decision, the Cabinet members have made statements that "Japan do not recognize forced labor at the Sites". These denial of the existence of forced labor and even national discrimination has also been repeatedly made by the Japanese right-wing press. This nationalistic and revisionist perception of the Abe government is also alleged to be reflected in the guidelines for making Japanese history textbook which was announced this year.

The current situation in Japan shows that it is highly unlikely that the history of forced laborers will be included in the government program relating to the Sites. The said 'technology' has not been the only factor that led to the industrialization and development of Japan. The modernization of Japan should also be read in the context of the history of Japan's aggression of Asia, including Korea, as well as the history of labor. There were slave labors of Koreans, Chinese, the Allied prisoners of war and countless others.

The strong connection between peace and the World Heritage List is clear as can be seen in the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution, which states that "a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind". We do hope that the inscription of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution would be an opportunity to strengthen 'the intellectual and moral solidarity' among Japan and Korea, and other people in Asia and further build peace in Asia.

This peace building will not be possible without recognizing human rights of victims. They relentlessly fight for justice. Lawsuits have been brought for reparations against, Mitsubishi, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, some of the corporations which had operated in these Sites. The unending story of the victims' sweat, tears, and blood

should be heard in a comprehensive manner.

A sincere investigation by the Japanese government of the historical facts to 'remember the victims of force labor and prisoners labor' in relation to the Sites will be the first step in this direction. We strongly urge the Japanese government to implement sincerely the UNESCO and ICOMOS recommendation to unveil 'the full history' of the Sites. As in the process resulting in the recommendation, we will not cease our efforts in monitoring whether appropriate measures are taken in order to reveal the history of forced laborers.

5 July, 2017

on the second anniversary of the inscription of

Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Korean participants:

The Center for Historical Truth and Justice

Korean Committee of Anti-Yasukuni Joint Counteraction

Forum Truth & Justice

The Korean Council for Compensation for the Victims of WWII

The Past Liquidation Committee of MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society

The Supporting Citizens of Volunteer Labor Corps(Teisintai) Victims.

Japanese participants:

The Truth-Finding Network for Forced Labor

The Supporters of Trial by the Military & Civilian personnel attached to the Japanese Imperial Army

The Supporters of Trial Nagoya Mitsubishi Female Volunteer Labor Corps(Teisintai)

Japan-Korea Joint Action for Legislation for Forced Labor Victims

The Supporters of Trial Japan Iron & Steel

No! HAPSA (NO! enshrinement with war criminals in the Yasukuni shrine



Citizens from Korea and Japan gathered around the Memorial monument to Victims at Zosei Coal Mine (March 2015)



Victims and citizens from Korea and Japan for the comprehensive solution of the issue of forced mobilization (May 2017)

:: About the Organizations

Network for Fact Finding on Wartime Mobilization and Forced Labor

Established in July 2005 with the participation of citizens from various parts of Japan nationwide to support the 'Commission on Verification and Support for the Victims of Forced Mobilization under Japanese Colonialism' in Korea. Activities include the investigation of victims' remains and works in cooperation and solidarity with the Korean Commission, demanding on the Japanese government to reveal and explain the current situation of such issues and to disclose related information on such issues as the deposit of unpaid wages and postal savings. Issued two statements at the time of listing of the 'Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution' as the World Heritage.

The Center for Historical Truth and Justice

Established in 1991 in succession to the spirit of the Commission for Special Investigation of Anti-National Acts which was dissolved abruptly by the pro-Japanese elements in 1949, and the will of the late Mr. Lim Jong-kuk who devoted his life in the research of the pro-Japanese problem. Activities include the research and explication of various issues and tasks in the Korean modern history, the movement to set distorted history aright through the settlement of the past between Korea and Japan, the publication of "Who's Who of the Pro-Japanese", "Dictionary of the Organs of Colonial Government of Japanese Imperialism", and other books, the investigation of victims and their families of forced mobilization, the support for their court cases, the publication of their testimonies, the collection and archiving of related materials, the holding of exhibitions, and other academic researches and practice movements. It also prepares the opening of "Colonial History Museum" in Yongsan, Seoul.

:: Provision of photographs and materials and other cooperation

- Network for Fact Finding on Wartime Mobilization and Forced Labor
- The Center for Historical Truth and Justice, the Korean Council for Compensation for the Victims of WWII
- POW Research Association
- Omuta Branch of the Fukuoka Liaison Association of the Japan-China Friendship Association
- The Committee for the Establishment of the Remembrance Monument to the Chinese Victims of the Atomic Bombing in Urakami Prison Branch
- The Group for the Support of the Trial of the Conscripted Workers of the Imperial Steel Works
- Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum



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