

An Introduction to Taiwan Forestry Archives (1895-1975)

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ABSTRACT

Taiwan Forestry Archives (1895-1975) kept by the Forestry Bureau contain important historical materials of Taiwan from the late Japanese colonial era to postwar years. In April 2005, the Forestry Bureau began a collaboration with the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica on the digital archives program. The digital database of all archives was completed in early 2010 and is made available through access at the “Taiwan Archival Information System”.

This article first introduces the background of the archives, giving details on the development of forestry during Japanese colonization and in the aftermath of the Second World War as well as the history of related institutions. It then presents the contents of the archives including documents from the Taiwan Development Company and Nanpou Forestry Company as well as official papers concerning forestry management and the transfer and take-over of its management. Finally, this article highlights the historical significance of the archives and possible research directions in the hope of enhancing the academic value and usability of the digital database.

Keywords: Archives, Taiwan Development Company, Forestry, Forest Products Management, Nanpou Forestry Company