

Member's News

Advisor Shibusawa Masahide's Pilgrimage to the Temple of Confucius in Qufu on May 10–11, 2014

De-min Tao

Mr. Shibusawa Masahide 澁澤雅英 (b. 1925) , President of Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation and an advisor to the Society, led a delegation to visit Qufu 曲阜, Shandong Province, on May 10–11, 2014. The delegation was joined by Mr. Satō Takayoshi 佐藤孝義 (President of the MRA Foundation, Japan) and Mr. Moriya Atsushi 守屋淳 (writer, Japan), who accompanied Mr. Shibusawa from Tokyo to Shanghai to visit the Memorial Hall of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and by Dr. Kimura Masato 木村昌人 (Director of the Research Department, Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation), Dr. Janet Hunter (Professor of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom), Dr. Melissa Williams (Professor of



Mr. Shibusawa's delegation started the trip from Shanghai Station on the morning of May 10. They had a pleasant dialogue with students of Qufu Normal University in the evening.

Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada), Dr. Kim Myungsoo 金明洙 (Professor of Keimyung University, South Korea), and Dr. Ming Xu 明旭 (Postdoctoral Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Peking University), who had just presented the panel discussion “Differing Notions of Economy and Morality” at the Six Annual Meeting of the Society held at Fudan University. Finally, De-min Tao 陶德民 organized the delegation’s visit to Qufu and attendance at the forum “Confucian Entrepreneurs” at Peking University.

The trip had special meaning for Mr. Shibusawa because he fulfilled the dream of his great-grandfather Shibusawa Eiichi (1840–1931) 澁澤榮一 to go on a pilgrimage to the Temple of Confucius 孔子廟 in Qufu. Eiichi was



Shibusawa Eiichi (third from left in the second row) and members of his delegation on the *Chiyō-maru* 地洋丸 during the voyage to Shanghai in early May 1914.

●東京電 澁澤男爵年已七十餘 為日本 商界之 領袖 今日赴華途中 外間對於 男爵此行頗多 猜測 且有謂其為 日本求讓與 權及開拓在 華事業者 實則乃因 增長見聞 此遊商團 初次也 日本國家電報社代表 會實男 爵男爵告以 將於某日 啓程赴華 且余之遊華 蓋丁 久蓄之願 余自 髫年讀中國 經書時即 心嚮往之 且余向 尊孔學久 欲一謁此 中國 先師之 墓而外 聞對余之 此行多所 誤會 余乃 往求讓與 權且謂與 楊子江英 國利益 有礙 云云 其實毫無 影響 余無所求 此行以遊 覽為主 余以研究 中國文字 之故 乃 蓄此極 誠之意 既為 商家則自 當調查 中國經濟 狀況 且得與 該國領袖 商家把晤 傾誠且 余乃 中日興業 公司發起 員之一 余固極 欲得悉 中國實業 現狀 總之此行 實 未挾有 政治使 命也

The May 6, 1914 report by the Reuters Tokyo in Shanghai’s *Shen Bao*. (Tian Tong, ed., *1914 Seze Rongyi Zhongguo Xing*. Wuhan, China: CCNU Press, 2013)

involved in the founding of some 500 enterprises and economic organizations and about 600 organizations for social welfare, education, and international exchange. During his lifetime he strongly believed in the role of individual initiatives and promoted private-sector economic diplomacy. In 1867 he visited France and other European countries as a member of Tokugawa Akitake's delegation to the Universal Exposition in Paris. In 1909 he visited the United States as the head of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan. And in 1914, at age of seventy-five, he visited China as an advisor of the newly established Chū-Nichi Jitsugyō Kaisha (Sino-Japanese Corporation) to promote business partnerships between Japan and China, and to go on a pilgrimage to the Temple of Confucius in Qufu, since he had read the Confucian Analects since age of seven and came increasingly to believe in "the harmony of morality and the economy" in his later years. He expressed this idea in the title of his book *Rongo to soroban* 論語と算盤 (The Analects and the Abacus) in 1916, with some hints from Mishima Chūshū 三島中洲 (1830–1919), an open-minded Confucian scholar who founded the Nishō gakusha in Tokyo and maintained a friendship of thirty years with him by then.

Eiichi started his trip on May 2, 1914, and continued traveling for about a month. He arrived in Tianjin on May 28 after visiting Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Nanjing, Wuhan, and Beijing. Unfortunately, he got ill there and had to give up the plan of going southward to visit the Temple of Confucius in Qufu. After returning back to Japan, he paid homage to Confucius in other ways. He commissioned scholars to compile *A Chronology of the Analects of Confucius* and to translate the *Analects* into Japanese. He even personally copied the book and had it printed and distributed among his relatives and close friends. He also made a collection of the *Analects* and asked Shionoya On 塩谷温 (1878–1962), a professor of Chinese literature at Tokyo University who had studied in China before, to go to Qufu to dedicate several rare editions of the *Analects* at the Temple of Confucius and to recite his address 祭文 to Confucius at the Dachengdian 大成殿 (Hall of Great Achievements).

On May 10, Mr. Shibusawa and his delegation took the high-speed-rail train from Shanghai to Qufu, where they first paid a visit to the Confucius Museum instead of the Temple of Confucius owing to the heavy rain. After dinner with President Fu Yongju 傅永聚, Dean Cheng Jichun 成積春, and Professor Chen Dong 陳東 of Qufu Normal University, members of the delegation had a pleasant and informative dialogue with students from the university's School of the Humanities.

On the morning of the following day, the rain diminished, but the wind was unexpectedly so strong and cold that the delegation members had to buy single-use raincoats when they reached the gate of the Temple of Confucius. And to avoid falling, Mr. Shibusawa, who was 89 years old then, decided to

rent a wheelchair. After a great deal of effort, the group finally reached the Dachengdian and took a commemorative photograph there. Mr. Shibusawa put money in the offertory box, and the visit was successfully concluded. The bad weather was unable to stop him from visiting the temple at Confucius's birthplace on behalf of his great-grandfather.

On the way back to the gate, both rain and wind ceased. The group felt much relaxed and enjoyed looking at the old shrines, bells, and trees in the spacious temple before taking the high-speed-rail train northward to Beijing.



In the commemorative picture after dinner, from the left:
front row: Dr. Ming, Mr. Sato, President Fu, Mr. Shibusawa, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Kim.
back row: Mr. Moriya, Prof. Chen, Dean Cheng, Dr. Kimura, Dr. Tao, Dr. Williams.