

**Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge  
Humanities and Social Sciences Research**  
(Area Cultivation Program)

**Progress Report**  
(Summary of Final Report)

**[Chinese Studies under the New Chinese-language Information Environment:  
A Suggestion for the Next-generation Regional Research]**

**Core-Researcher:** Ken Suzuki

**Institution:** Meiji University

**Academic Unit:** School of Law

**Position:** Professor

**Research Period:** FY 2014- FY 2017

## 1. Basic information of research project

Research Area	New regional research spurred by information media advances
Project Title	Chinese Studies under the New Chinese-language Information Environment: A Suggestion for the Next-generation Regional Research
Institution	Meiji University
Core-Researcher (Name, Academic Unit & Position)	Ken Suzuki, School of Law, Professor
Project Period	FY 2014 - FY 2017
Appropriations Plan (¥)	FY 2014 JPY 3,675,000
	FY 2015 JPY 3,440,000
	FY 2016 JPY 2,634,000
	FY 2017 JPY 2,001,000

## 2. Purpose of research

Despite the fact that the information environment surrounding the Chinese-language contents have changed dramatically in recent years, the existing Chinese studies, or the Greater China studies that are required in the future had not fully taken these trends into consideration. Japan's Chinese studies had also focused on traditional documentary research which relies solely on relations between Japan and China, or observation and analysis through personal connections.

In light of the need for a new framework of Chinese studies that is in line with the global cross-border era of the Chinese-language media, this research aims to provide a new method of information aggregation for Chinese studies, as well as a "global Chinese information platform". Specifically, this research aims to clarify how the sudden changes in the information environment, such as the rise of the global Chinese-language media and the promotion of digitization of information from the top by power, are pressing for correspondence in the Greater China research from three different perspectives: Law, Media Research and Political Society. In addition to collecting and analyzing foreign and domestic Chinese information, we also conducted interviews of cross-border Chinese-language media (print, broadcast, Internet) in western countries, in order to clarify the following three points.

1) Elucidation of the control over the information environment led by the Chinese government and its transformation.

2) Elucidation of the current state of industrialization of media and the formation of Internet public opinion.

3) Elucidation of the development of the Chinese-language media which had spread globally across national borders.

### 3. Outline of research (Including study member)

In light of the fact that the Internet media has become the mainstream of Chinese-language media today, we conducted an investigation on what kind of types of Chinese-language websites are there around the world, as well as their subjects and contents. As a result, it has been made clear that there are roughly four types of overseas Chinese-language media. Most of which are blocked from mainland China.

- 1) Foreign governmental media
- 2) Media operated by Chinese political refugees
- 3) Chinese-language website managed by foreign media
- 4) Media that plays a central role in providing information close to local Chinese.

We have organized these information, and built a basic website named "global Chinese information platform" which summarized the index of Chinese-language information.

[https://ceams.imc.hokudai.ac.jp/data/chinesemedia\\_asia.pdf](https://ceams.imc.hokudai.ac.jp/data/chinesemedia_asia.pdf)

Until now, Japan's Chinese studies has hardly used any information from overseas Chinese-language media as research material. This project has clarified the positioning, values, special roles and limitations of overseas Chinese-language media, as well as their usefulness for research. With a full understanding of the nature and background of each media, they can be very useful information sources for future research.

#### Study Member:

*Ken Suzuki*, Meiji University, School of law, Professor

*Xing Xu*, The University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, Assistant Professor

*Yanshu Li*, Hokkaido University, Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Postdoctoral Researcher

*Kohei Watanabe*, Hokkaido University, Graduate School of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies, Professor

*Ru Xi*, Hokkaido University, Graduate School of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies, Associate Professor

*Mooam Hyun*, Same as above

*Shino Nishimoto*, (former) Hokkaido University, Public Policy School, Lecturer

### 4. Research results and outcomes produced

It has been made clear that information from overseas Chinese-language media can be useful for Chinese studies, such as providing non-public information sources as well as various analysis perspective. From now on, it is expected that the information actually provided by overseas Chinese-language media will be used to public academic work in various fields such as law, political society and media research. It is also a task imposed on the whole society of Chinese studies. By combining information from Mainland China and information from overseas Chinese-language media, we are expecting to develop an innovation in Chinese studies that is different from the past.