

A preview of Seminar on ROC founding history

Taipei, Aug. 22 (CNA) A large-scale international symposium on the founding history of the Republic of China is scheduled to be held here Aug. 22-28 with a total of 220 scholars and experts at home and abroad attending.

The symposium, set up to mark the 70th year of the founding of the republic, is jointly sponsored by the Party History Committee of the Kuomintang, Academia Historica, the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica, and the Institute of International Relations. The KMT Party History Committee is organizing the event.

75 scholars and experts

A total of 75 scholars and experts from nine countries and areas have been invited

to attend the academic conference, including 44 from the United States, six each from Japan and South Korea, five from Hongkong, four from West Germany, three each from Britain, France and Australia, and one from Singapore.

Among the noted historians from foreign countries are: C. Martin Wilbur, Robert A. Scalapino, Lloyd E. Eastman, Thomas A. Metzger, Mark Elvin, Domes Jorgen, Gottfried Karl Kindermann, Harold Z. Schffrin, Min Tu-ki and Kenneth N. Grigg.

Many well-known overseas Chinese scholars, such as Yu Yin-shih, Chou Tseh-chung, Liang Chin-tuan and Tang Teh-kan, will also take part in the meeting.

Prof. Chen Jai-hsien of National Taiwan University

indicated that the upcoming symposium will have great political implications. It will clarify some misunderstandings about the founding history of the Republic of China and smash distortive Chinese Communist propaganda, Prof. Chen pointed out.

He further added that the seminar will also help this country clarify its image among academicians around the world.

The organizing committee of the seminar has received 73 papers from foreign and local scholars dealing with politics, military, diplomacy, culture and education, economy and agriculture.

All symposium papers and minutes will be published in Chinese and English versions to mark the occasion of the republic's 70th founding year.

China News
25/8/81

Studying Our History

HISTORIANS from all over the world are here for a conference on the history of the Republic of China.

Some may ask why this should be necessary. Don't we know all about our history?

No one ever knows all about history. It is being continuously rewritten in the light of new evidence and to make history more meaningful to the people of a new generation.

For example, those who fought at Wuchang in the National Revolution didn't know the whole picture. They did know the atmosphere in which their history was being written.

We know a good deal more about the whole picture, but our environment is very different and the history has to be written in terms meaningful to us.

This meeting is important for another reason.

The Communists are continuing their efforts to rewrite the Republic of China's history in such a way as to destroy the Three Principles of the People and depict Dr. Sun as an embryo disciple of Marx.

To put it another way, the Communists are trying to transform Nationalism, Democracy and Social Welfare into Communism, tyranny and social slavery.

Many of the historians who have come here are foreigners. The study of Chinese history has taken on importance in the United States, Europe, Australia and other places.

China is the most populous and one of the biggest lands on earth. Its influence on the rest of the world is going to be greater in the future than in the past.

China's dynastic history is fascinating and meaningful. But for our times, the history of the Republic of China and the threat of Communism have greater immediate importance.

Our Republic made mistakes as well as correct decisions in the period from the overthrow of the Ch'ing Dynasty in 1911 down to the 1949 mainland usurpation of the Communists.

Many mistakes have been corrected during the Taiwan period of the last three decades. Still, the return of the Constitution to the continent remains to be effected.

Study of what happened, especially from about 1925 to 1949, may throw a good deal of light on the road back and the steps necessary to defeat and eradicate Communism.

The views of our foreign friends will be particularly welcome, because they see our history objectively but with constructive intentions.