

自由論題 5「人の移動と組織形成」・報告 1

報告テーマ

Japanese Business Leaders and the Rise of Private Economic Diplomacy in the 1960s

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要旨(800字程度)

This presentation is based on a research that focuses on the rise of private economic diplomacy in the 1960s in Japan. The work analyzes the roles of Japanese business leaders, their relevant activities, and why did private economic diplomacy emerge in the 1960s.

According to the previous studies, the term “economic diplomacy” itself appeared after the Second World War. There is no single definition for private economic diplomacy. By referring to the basic strategy and the activities by Keidanren, as well as the activities by the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, the definition of private economic diplomacy is considered as follows: Interactions with political and business leaders that involves 1) organizing and/or participating in conferences with other countries, and/or 2) dispatching economic missions abroad, and/or 3) welcoming political and/or business leaders from abroad. All these activities are ultimately led by the private business sector.

As Japan became an important actor in the global economy, Japanese business leaders began to participate in international conferences. The 1960s was a decade in which many bilateral and multilateral economic committees were established with other countries, mainly among private business people. One of the significant activities was the establishment of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), an organization that was established in 1967 under the combined initiative of Japanese and Australian business leaders. One of PBEC’s later contributions was the collaborations for the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). PBEC’s annual conference attracted not only prominent business leaders but also political leaders such as presidents, prime ministers, and ministers. PBEC is even considered as the organization that helped establish the concept of “Asia-Pacific.” This presentation includes the details of PBEC, of its establishment and development in 1960s, through which, the roles of the Japanese leaders in private economic diplomacy could be analyzed.