

## History of Asia University

### ■ The Department of Asia Development

On March 10, 1939, Koa-Ka -- The Department of Asia Development was established with the objectives of providing "physical and mental education with the appropriate weight of intellectual education and a close relationship between teachers and students" and fostering "excellent young talents who can contribute in solving national crises". The founder was Shigeru Fujiwara. There were 50 students in the first term. A part of a house in Setagaya Ward was used as a dormitory that was named Seisei-Ryo (Seisei Dormitory). The dormitory was relocated for several times and was finally moved to Chofu City. At that time, Chujiro Matsuo provided a forested land eastward of the Tama cemetery and the Meiko-Jyuku for classrooms, which belonged to him. The students cleared the forests by themselves and set up a site for the school. On March 25, 1940, a student dormitory called Nichirin-Sha, which was built by the students themselves, was completed. After a short-lived harmony, the Nakajima Aircraft Company was built on the school site, and the area that took such effort to clear could no longer be used. The school was relocated again to Musashino City, the current location.

### ■ Koa Professional School

On April 8, 1941, Koa Senmon Gakko--Koa Professional School, a specialized school before the World War II, which had a unique school atmosphere with a student dormitory, was established in the current location. The founders were Ainosuke Iwata as the permanent director, Kozo Ota as director, and Chujiro Matsuo as director.



Nichirin-Sha



Seisei-Ryo



Koa Senmon Gakko

### ■ Nihon Keizai Senmon Gakko --Professional School of Japanese Economics

After the war, on September 25, 1945, the school was renamed as Professional School of Japanese Economics, the Department of Japan Proper was expanded and was changed as the Economics Department. The capacity was 220 students. Director Ota Kozo was appointed president and headmaster.

However, director Ota Kozo and dean Shigeru Fujiwara were banished from the public office and teaching duties by the GHQ and left their positions. As a new leader, Professor Saiji Sudo was appointed president in February 1947. In March, the Commercial Department was established and in January 1948, the evening departments of the Economics Department and the Commercial Department were established. Along with the reform of the educational system, the school was changed from a vocational school to a junior college in 1950. Takeo Kikuchi was appointed as the president, and Shigeru Fujiwara was appointed as the dean.

The capacity was set at 240 students in one academic year for the three regular departments, which are Manmoushi-Ka--Department of Manchuria Mongolia and China, Nanyo-Ka--Department of the South Seas, and Naichi-Ka--Department of Japan Proper. The capacity for the Special Department was set at 200 students.

A dormitory system was adopted and there were 5 student dormitories in 1942. Students got up at 5:30 in the morning, and the daily routine included cleaning, exercise, breakfast, morning meeting, classes, extracurricular training, dinner, roll call at 19:00, self-study, and curfew at 22:00.

### ■ Nihon Junior College of Economics

Nihon Junior College of Economics was opened in May 1950. Iwao Kuwatsuka was appointed as the president of Nihon Junior College of Economics. The available departments were Management Department and Trade Department, each of which was further divided into the first and second sections. In May 1952, after their purge was lifted, Directors Kozo Ota, Chujiro Matsuo, and Executive Director Shigeru Fujiwara returned to office.

In September 1953, there was a request to enroll 96 university Chinese nationals who were recruited in Hong Kong. The school decided to accept them despite of the many challenges, such as the refurbishment of the foreign student dormitory, new construction of the dining hall, establishment of the International Student Division, change of the curriculum and instructor organization, application for immigration permission application, etc., and proceeded with the preparations very rapidly. On December 26, 1953, entrance permits were granted and the first batch of international students arrived at the snowy Yokohama Port on January 25, 1954. The school became the pioneer as the first school that accepted foreign students after World War II.

### ■ Toward the establishment of Asia University

On May 7, 1954, Director Kozo Ota was appointed president and general director, and a decision to establish Asia University was achieved at an executive board meeting on May 20. President Kozo Ota showed the roadmap to the future of the university, decided Asia University as the name of the university and "Self-help and Cooperation" as the spirit of establishment. At

that time, the interest in Asia was thin, there were even images linked to war, and there were also many young people who could not read "Asia" in Chinese characters, so some people advised to consider another name for the university. However, President Kozo Ota persistently believed and predicted that this name will be renowned.

### ■ Foundations of development of Asia University

In May 1955, Asia University started its first entrance ceremony. The approval for the examination was obtained in March, and it was not possible to recruit students. It was a very difficult start for a newly-established university that no one has ever heard of. There were only a few students enrolled, and university management was in a difficult situation. Under such a situation, there was meeting that would have determined the future of the university. On March 15, 1956, there was an encounter between President Kozo Ota and Keita Goto of Tokyu Corporation. After another meeting in June, Keita Goto became the head of directors and was provided his fully support.



President Kozo Ota



Keita Goto  
head of directors

The support was put into effect immediately. Construction of the main building, which was suspended due to the absence of cash flow prospect, restarted and was completed on February 28, 1957. At the same time the main gate was renewed, the gate was replaced by the gatepost of the granite of one structure that belonged to Keita Goto, and the "Asia University" sign written by Kigo, a calligraphy artist, was also installed.

### ■ 1955 – 1964

Asia University opened. It started as with a single faculty, the Faculty of Commercial Science. In 1962, the Department of Economics was added to the Faculty of Commercial Science, and in 1964, the Department of Economics was promoted to be the Faculty of Economics. In addition, the Faculty of Liberal Arts was also set up to take care of undergraduate education curriculum. In 1956, Asia Educational Incorporative and GOTO Educational Incorporative signed a partnership agreement, and Keita Goto became president. In 1959, President Keita Goto passed away, and Director Noboru Goto was appointed as president.

The main building was completed in 1957, and in 1962, a four-story building was built at the east side of the main building. In 1961, the university opened a baseball stadium on the north side of the main building. Students' activities were extremely active, such as the first overseas expedition of the Automobile

Club, "Southwest Asia Academic survey corps", sponsored by Suzuki Motor Co., Ltd (now: SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION) and The Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd., and was implemented in 1962, the "First Borneo Investigation Corps" by the Foreign Affair Research Club, held in 1964, the publication of "Indonesian dictionary" in 1962, edited by the Indonesia Research Club, etc.

### ■ 1965 – 1974

This era can be considered as the expansion stage of the University. In 1966, the Faculty of Law was established, and in 1970 the Faculty of Commercial Science was reorganized to be the Faculty of Business Administration. In addition, in 1974, the university opened the Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Economics, and the Graduate School of Law. The "Institute for Asian Studies", which is the core of Asian studies, was established in 1973.

The construction of school buildings continued, building of No.2 was completed in 1965, building No. 1 and No. 3 in 1966, student cafeteria in 1967, gymnasium in 1968, library in 1969, building No. 5 and a student hall named GAKUYU KAIKAN in 1973, and it seems that a new school building is completed each year.

The Meiji Centennial Commemorative Lecture was held in 1967 as a memorial event and the university's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony was celebrated in 1970. In extracurricular activities, the first overseas training was held in 1969 as a pioneer of overseas trainings. In 1966, the Baseball Club obtained their first victory in Division 1 of the Tohto University Baseball League. Students also carried out the first "Asian Highway Academic survey corps" expedition, a joint project between the Automobile Club and the Foreign Affairs Research Club, in 1968, and carried out the second expedition in 1970.

### ■ 1975 – 1984

This period marks the ten years of preparations it took to proceed to the next era. Director Shigeru Fujiwara, one of the founders of the university, passed away in 1978. Furthermore, the first university president, Kozo Ota, passed away in 1981, causing generational shift of university leaders. In 1976, the Faculty of Economics started the Department of International Relations, and the university started Doctorate Courses in the Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Economics, and the Graduate School of Law. For facilities, the Research Building was completed in 1976, the Stacks Library in 1978, the Asia Clubhouse 2 and the Asia Mountain Villa (Tsugaike-kogen, Nagano) were in completed 1980.

In celebration of the university's 40th anniversary in 1981, a celebration ceremony and a special lecture were held in November and October, respectively.