

## **Accuracy of place names and their locations in Thailand on *Gaihozu***

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For the area of Thailand, some of old gazetteers in print are available which show place names and their locations at the time of issuing. By these gazetteers, distribution of place names can be reconstructed spatially as a snapshot. *Gaihozu*, the maps prepared by the former Japanese army which cover areas outside the Japanese territory, are not like a gazetteer but also show snapshots of general spatial information of early 20th century including many place names on them. Such old gazetteers and old maps are requisite to compile a changing record of a place name through time.

As I showed some typical examples in the last PNC annual conference, locational accuracy of places in Northeast Thailand drawn on *Gaihozu* is durable in areas along the Mekong River, but is far from reliable in areas far from the Mekong River. Since then, close inspections of name and location of places drawn on *Gaihozu* have been conducted, and about 500 villages are identified their present-day locations even some villages changed their name. Through these inspections done already and more from now, some of typical patterns of wrong locating of villages in Northeast Thailand will be presented in the session. The result of this study will contribute to re-build more accurate map of this area at the time of early 20th century, and to link alias names of a village through the time. Both of upgraded information relating to villages will be an indispensable reference for the historical study of this area.