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### **Iris Award Report**

During the fall of 2023, the funds from the IRIS award were vital in my research in Taiwan. I used the funds to travel to many cities and visit archives and people related to my research. My timeframe is the twentieth-century Republic of China, a government that moved to Taiwan in 1949 and continues to operate within the island's border. Working on the history of China in any capacity is politically fraught for historians, but being able to travel to Taiwan allowed me to access the necessary documents that I can use to complete my dissertation and Ph.D. research. The IRIS grant supported the trip and allowed me to travel to archives that are difficult for Ph.D. students to access due to monetary barriers.

The government archives in Nantou, English name Taiwan Historica, are one of the largest government documents collections. This archive contained documents that revealed the relationship between scientific associations and the government. I found handwritten reports, official memos, and meeting minutes, all reflecting a particular national ideal for scientists within the Kuomintang (KMT) government. Part of what the IRIS award helped fund was access and the ability to print facsimiles of documents, as pictures were not allowed in some cases. The printing costs can get quite expensive, but with the IRIS award, I could cover the cost without concern.

Along with Taiwan Historica, I visited the *Jinshisuo*, an archive on Academia Sinica's campus. This housed many intuitional documents that were directly connected to my work. Many of my historical actors established or were connected to Academia Sinica, whether directly employed by the institute or working in connection with it. This made this archive ideal for learning more about the working lives of these chemists and pharmacists. While I could capture most of the archives via digital facsimile, I did need to print certain items over several days as certain documents could not be imaged.

The last major archive I visited on the IRIS award was the *Guoshiguan*, the national archive in Taipei. This archive housed military records of my historical actors. I, however, could not enter right away as an application was involved. Once approved, you need to order documents, which are checked and redacted as the government sees fit. This process took several weeks and required me to work around the archive schedule. But in the end, I got all the documents I needed with very little redaction.

I also traveled to Tainan, a city in the southwest of Taiwan. I spent time speaking with and looking over documents with Professor Zhang Hao. He is Taiwan's expert on chemical nomenclature translation, which aligns well with my research. With his help, I was able to develop my research topic further and look at historical materials that are not accessible through any archive. Due to his busy schedule, I needed to be in Tainan for several weeks to see all the documents, which was only made possible by the IRIS funding as I could use the funds to stay in the city and work around Professor Zhang's schedule.

Visiting Taiwan is always a delight, and when I was not inside archives looking over documents, I was out exploring the cities and talking with people. I enjoy speaking Chinese and being in a place where I used it constantly was a highlight. I am incredibly grateful that the IRIS

grant was able to fund my trips and stays around the island, enriching not only my project but my experience in Taiwan. Without the grant, I would have been limited to digital sources, but now I have many primary sources, which will create a well-rounded dissertation.