베트남 서남부 짬 족의 이슬람
Islam of Cham Ethnic in Southwestern Vietnam

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Islam in southwestern Vietnam was spread by Cham Ethnic, which is one of 54 races in Vietnam. Geographically, Vietnam is located in the intersecting points between western, eastern, northeastern and southeastern cultures. For the Cham race’s origin in Vietnam, there are many theories. According to the Cham race’s distinctive features, they originated from Indonesia, basically. Based on this origin, western and northern Indian elements were also racially intermixed in this culture, together with a Mongolian cultural influence. According to the historical records, the Chiem Thanh Kingdom, originating from the Lam Ap Kingdom, formed in A.D 192, was once called the Hoan Vuong Kingdom. It appeared after the 9 century, in the middle part of Vietnam. This kingdom underwent a lot of changes and struggles against the Chan Lap Kingdom (Cambodia), the Vietnamese Ly Dynasty and the Le Dynasty. Finally, Chiem Thanh was setback to southeastern Vietnam by the southern expansion policy of the Vietnamese Dynasty. Thus, we need to study Cham ethnic in order to understand Islam in Vietnam. In Vietnam, Islam is not popular because Islamic doctrines are not easily accepted by Vietnamese, who are greatly influenced by Confucianism, stemming from Chinese colonial rule during the 11 century. In addition, the Cham ethnic group is a minority group. Furthermore, the Vietnamese Government will not allow religious freedom and free contact with Islamic countries, after communization of Vietnam on Apr. 30, 1975. Islam in Vietnam is a little bit different from other Islamic countries, which were influenced by frequent political changes and existing traditional Vietnamese culture. In the future, Islamic religious influence in Vietnam will probably not be strong, unless Islam manages to break down Confucianism barriers, Cham ethnic’s limitation, and other cultural obstacles.

※ Key Words: Vietnam, Cham Ethnic, Vietnamese Muslim, Chiem Thanh, Confucianism.