

Comments & Discussions

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In his paper entitled “The Beginning of the Thai Beer Industry – The Establishment of the Boonrawd Brewery Co., Ltd –”, Dr. Nambara examines the beginning of the Thai beer industry in the early 1930’s. He mainly focuses on Phraya Phiromphakdi, the founder of the Boonrawd Brewery Co., Ltd., which Phiromphakdi established in 1933.

There were several vital factors that contributed to the beginning of the Thai beer industry, Dr. Nambara points out. Changes in the Thai government’s tax policies, such as imposing a customs tariff on imported beer, and an excise tax on domestic beer, and Phraya Phiromphakdi’s ability to negotiate with the government to establish the Boonrawd Brewery were some of the factors he presents. Dr. Nambara used several resources, such as the Thai National Archives, Thai government reports, and Japanese consular reports, to present the Boonrawd Brewery’s early history and confirm the many difficulties Phiromphakdi encountered to create it.

Dr. Nambara’s topic is worthy of his further investigation because while this paper concentrates on the period prior to 1932, during the absolute monarchy, it does not present how Phraya Phiromphakdi negotiated with the constitutional monarch, the new Thai government, after 1932. Furthermore, examining the management of the Boonrawd Brewery and analyzing its profits and losses, its capital, its use of raw materials and technology during the 1930’s would be beneficial in providing a more complete history of the company and its industry.

There were very few indigenous modern manufacturing industries in Thailand in the 1930’s, which makes this topic interesting in terms of understanding Thai economics during this period and since. I expect him to continue his research including the past and present in order to provide a complete history of Phraya Phiromphakdi’s Boonrawd Brewery and the Thai beer industry.

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