

## PREFACE

The present work is the result of a Solicited Research Topic titled “Basic Research on Religious Culture and Politics in Central Asian Mountain Areas in the Last Three Centuries,” which was carried out between 2011 and 2012 at TIAS: the Department of Islamic Area Studies, in the Center for Evolving Humanities, part of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology at the University of Tokyo.

This work introduces the historical documents found and copied from private archives in the villages in the region on the right bank of the Panj River, present-day Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province, the Republic of Tajikistan, during our two expeditions. The work is divided into two volumes: the first one produces facsimiles of the documents (it is already published: KAWAHARA Yayoi and Umed MAMADSHERZODSHOEV eds., *Documents from Private Archives in Right-Bank Badakhshan (Facsimiles)*, Central Eurasian Research Series No. 8, Tokyo: Department of Islamic Area Studies, Center for Evolving Humanities, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, the University of Tokyo, 2013), and the second and current presents the introduction to the documents.

In the course of the preparation of this publication, we received cooperation and assistance from various organizations and individuals. Dr. Stéphane A. Dudoignon (CETOBaC/EHESS) provided us with invaluable scientific advice on various issues at each stage from the formation of our research group to final editing of this book. Dr. Susan Asili (The University of Tehran) diligently assisted in deciphering the documents. During our fieldwork in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province, Mrs. Sabohat Donayorova’s help and support were indispensable. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to these colleagues and supporters for their help and assistance.

This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 25770254 (Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B)).

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