

スポーツ科学研究, 11, 84-130, 2014 年

Differences in the cognitive understanding of the concept of social harmony in the national traditional games among ethnic minorities in China

Cheng, Chia Chi¹, Sougawa Tsuneo²

¹Graduate School of Sport Sciences, Waseda University

²Faculty of Sport Sciences, Waseda University

In order to protect and promote ethnic sports culture in China, the National Ethnic Games (The Games) were launched in 1953; these Games have been held nine times between 1953 and 2011. Equality, unity, struggle, mutual savings and harmony are important elements for the maintenance of national relationships in China. With that in mind, this study focuses on the 9th Games, held in 2011, with three main aims.

In this study, first, we ask how the Chinese government practiced the ideology of national union and social harmony during the Games. Second, we consider the motivations of local organizers. Finally, we ask: what was

the purpose of athletes at the 9th Games?

Semi structured interview and literature collection was used in this study.

Our study found that the Chinese government operationalized the concepts of unity and harmony during the National Traditional Games. For the local organizers, the 9th Games were an important opportunity to demonstrate to citizens certain capabilities. For many minority athletes, the motivation to participate came from the opportunity that they saw in the Games to improve their way of life; if they won a large award, they would be able to turn their lives around for the better.